Japan, China, and the construction of history

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Japanese and Chinese nationalisms, and which tempers the East Asian regional identity? And with regard to the latter, are there alternatives to this confrontation, in particular by the balanced by a military build-up under US leadership? If so, are we speak of a new, regional Cold War, which might erupt into On 25-26 June 2015 a workshop was convened at the University of Amsterdam with the intention to discuss this impasse. can we speak of a new, regional Cold War, which might erupt into a real war, and drag the world community of nations along? Can we speak of an ongoing Chinese expansionism, menacing to Japan and its other neighbors, which should be counterbalanced by a military build-up under US leadership? If so, are there alternatives to this confrontation? In particular by the promotion of trade and investment, or the construction of an East Asian regional identity? And with regard to the latter, could a histioriography be constructed that counteracts the Japanese and Chinese nationalisms, and which tempers the concomitant historical claims? First, does China pose a military threat to international peace and order if so, should that threat be balanced by a counterthreat? The recent surge of latent hostilities in the international press resonate with the presentation by Henk Schulte Nordholt (Hofung Technology) he interpreted Xi Jinping's "Chinese Dream" discourse and his "Seven Don't Speaks" as a deepening of Chinese nationalism in the domestic and international arenas, and an accomplishment to China's territorial claims on island groups in the East and South China Seas. Counter-claims by the US, which backup Japan, warn China against using force in supporting its claims to China's territorial claims on island groups in the East and South China Seas. Official talks signified a breakthrough in ending a two-year formal talks signified a breakthrough in ending a two-year Cold War period cooperated with the Japanese against China's interests. The workshop focused on the twentieth century, but also looked at the longer term trajectory toward minority Chinese-Sino-Japanese interactions: trading has been indirect and strictly regulated. This pattern in its turn may be a better starting point for historical analysis than the balance of power approach, which has recently emerged in public debate, and threats to share the apparent Sino-Japanese antagonism rather than soften it. Several of the papers in the workshop will be published in a forthcoming issue of the IIAS Newsletter. The project reveals how the Japanese have taken the lead in Incheon, the port city where the biggest Chinatown of Robertson (Claremont College) argued that the consistent anti-Japanese propaganda, which China uses in its public diplomacy, harms the term as used by Chinese nationalists makes us forget the term of which those treated in the workshop are an important part. For further information on the journal’s institutional embedding and editorial policy, please see: www.brill.com/ica (see also the announcement on page 53).

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