

and Macau is now known) and the inland Chongqing provide good examples for more detailed analysis, even though other regions are not ignored. In southern China, the Hong Kong–Guangdong relationship certainly has become less hierarchical and more balanced, but social and political tensions within Hong Kong have curbed some enthusiasm among Guangdong cities for greater integration with the territory. Summers notes that official Chinese planning documents over the past decade have studiously advocated ‘cooperation’ rather than ‘integration’, but, in reality, speeches and comments by national and local Chinese leaders do contain the phraseology of ‘integration’, a term which is received with mixed views by Hongkongers and even foreign businessmen. Nonetheless, physical and social connectivity within the region has increased significantly and the business networks across the region have become more variegated.

Chongqing is an inland city, but one which has been massively transformed since the early 2000s. From a primarily industrial city, it has now become an important logistical hub, with rail links to Europe, river linkages to the sea through the Yangze river and overland connections with Yunnan and south-east Asia. Although Summers does touch on Chongqing’s involvement with rival city Chengdu and also with the Yangze river economic belt, this aspect needs to be developed a little more if Chongqing is to satisfy the definition of a ‘region’.

Particularly fascinating is Summers’s dissection of the regional origins of the BRI, which has now attracted so much global attention. He argues that not only has ‘provincial agency ... been instrumental in creating the foundation on which the national-level silk road vision rests’ (p. 87), but close analysis of the provincial implementation plans shows a considerable degree of continuity with pre-existing regional or provincial linkages and aspirations. Xinjiang’s role on the land route to central Asia and Fujian’s maritime strategy fit well into this perspective.

One sub-theme which runs through the book is the impact of the global financial crisis of 2008–2009. It not only raised new debates about the benefits and costs of globalization (within China as elsewhere in the world) but also showed that even an economy as large as China’s could not remain unaffected. The impact may have been greatest in forcing an upgrading of the manufacturing industries of the coastal regions, but, as Summers cogently demonstrates, it also reinforced and further stimulated the differentiation of regional economic attributes within China.

Given that so much popular attention is given to the emerging ‘Pacific century’, it is intriguing that Summers leaves us with the thought that the global economy might actually become ‘more Eurasian and less Pacific if China’s continental disposition outweighs its maritime one, as it has at various points in the past’ (p. III).

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South Korea at the crossroads: autonomy and alliance in an era of rival powers. By **Scott A. Snyder**. New York: Columbia University Press. 2018. 376pp. £20.00. ISBN 978 0 23118 548 6. Available as e-book.

South Korea at the crossroads provides readers with a well-written chronicle of South Korea’s contemporary foreign policy history, particularly regarding its relations and security alliance with the United States. The book is an easy read for non-experts on foreign policy or Korea but it should be of interest to academics too. The first seven chapters give an overview of the evolution of South Korea’s foreign policy, when the country navigated between its desire for autonomy and its alliance with the United States, as well as the country’s

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economic and social progress since its independence from Japan in 1945. In the other three chapters, Snyder lays out South Korea's foreign policy options regarding three significant policy issues. Chapter eight outlines South Korea's aspiration to escape the geographical constraints of its region, where it is surrounded by Great Powers, to earn its place at the global governance table as a middle power. Chapter nine considers determinants of South Korea's strategic choice between a rising China and its long-time security ally the United States. Snyder argues that South Korea will continue to rely on the US due to sunk costs of the alliance, institutional binding between the allies and value differences with China. Chapter ten speculates on potential scenarios about Korean unification and concludes that it is distant and unfeasible, unless North Korea cooperates or collapses.

Snyder does well to show that neither domestic political developments in the United States (changes of government) or South Korea (democratization and changes of government) nor the shifts in balance of power in the region and in the world (the Vietnam War, the end of the Cold War, the rise of China, North Korea's denuclearization and the consolidation of South Korea's material capabilities as a developed middle power country) shattered the United States–South Korea alliance. Furthermore, the book demonstrates that all governments since the one headed by the country's first president, Rhee Syngman, showed only small or short-lived deviations from an institutionalized reliance on the alliance as the backbone of the country's foreign policy. According to Snyder, the major change in Korea's foreign policy has been the shift from a 'parochial' orientation under authoritarian governments—which coincided with the constraints that Cold War *realpolitik* imposed on the country—to an 'international' orientation under democratic governments—which coincided with the end of the Cold War and the improved economic status.

However, the book lacks the theoretical rigour necessary to support this conclusion. In the first seven chapters, Snyder suggests that South Korean domestic politics and ideology matter in its foreign policy behaviour. But he does not give enough weight to the possibility that foreign policy changes were determined by shifts in the balance of power, such as South Korea's and China's increased economic and military capabilities and the end of the Cold War. This would undermine the argument that South Korean domestic politics, and democratization in particular, influenced the country's foreign policies—maybe with the exception of those towards North Korea. This tension is apparent at several places in the book. For example, Snyder suggests that South Korea aspired to an international orientation under the Park Chung-Hee and Chun Doo-Hwan governments, but was constrained by its limited capabilities and by Cold War realities. Furthermore, although it was democratic governments which consolidated the country's economic and military capabilities as a middle power country, they also happened to be in office during the post-Cold War period. These arguments would suggest that democratization and ideological changes in the leadership may not have played much role in determining South Korea's foreign policies. Finally, Snyder takes South Korean governments' rhetoric on 'middle power diplomacy' for granted, without looking for actual evidence of 'middle power behaviour' in global governance-related areas, including green growth, development, nuclear non-proliferation and international financial governance.

Overall, the book will be a foundational text for anyone who wishes to learn about South Korea's foreign policy choices. In particular, foreign policy stakeholders in the United States and China will find the book very helpful in making sense of Korea's policy options and the potential determinants that influence the country's strategic decision-making.

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