

## QUADRILATERAL SECURITY DIALOGUE

Representatives of the **United States, Australia, Japan and India participated in the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad)** in Singapore on November 15 on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit. It is the 3rd meeting of the initiative after its reactivation after 10 years in November 2017. The meeting covered a range of economic and regional security issues. Representatives of the four respective states also underlined their support for a “open, and inclusive rules-based order” and ASEAN’s leading role in the regional security complex which should be treated as signal sent towards China. **The meeting did not bring any crucial declarations concerning combined military maneuvers or stronger institutionalization of the initiative.**

### The Chinese factor

The initiative is mainly directed towards China. **All of the four states perceive China’s activities in the South China Sea, East China Sea and the Indian Ocean as a threat to their national interests and as a challenge to the liberal order.** Quad members also share a common perspective on Chinese economic initiatives (*Belt and Road Initiative-BRI*) which, **in a longer perspective, can give Beijing a strategic advantage in Central as well as South Asia.** This is why all of the four states announced in their statements support for **the territorial status quo, peaceful dispute resolution, freedom of navigation, and to settlement of all territorial disputes in accordance with international law.** India also expressed its hope for the creation of institutional framework which will lead to Quad’s greater cooperation with other regional organizations.

### The importance of India for the United States

India’s participation in Quad is crucial for the United States. In 2017 D. Trump’s administration **changed the way how it used to call the region, from Asia-Pacific to Indo-Pacific,** in order to bring India to the regional security structures and to gain New Delhi’s support in the U.S-China rivalry. American *National Security Strategy (NSS)* as well as *National Defense Strategy (NDS)* **position China as the main threat to U.S interests.** The first document also calls for greater cooperation with India which consequently should become one of the pillars of the Indian Ocean security complex. From Indian perspective, **New Delhi’s stronger cooperation with Washington, reflects the policy of balancing China and its economic and military superiority.** India still perceives the Chinese String of Pearls (China’s strategy to create a network of bases and harbors in Southeast and South Asia) **as one of the most significant geopolitical challenges.** It also reflects India’s response to China’s political and military cooperation with Pakistan. Furthermore, **India’s shift towards United States can also be seen as a result of certain shifts in India-Russia partnership.** Due to Western sanctions, Russian administration decided to deepen its cooperation with Beijing, which indirectly affects its relations with New Delhi.

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**CONCLUSIONS:** Reactivation of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue suggests that D. Trump's administration (despite differences concerning economic and political issues) **continues B. Obama's Pivot to Asia**. This continuity is also highly determined by the rise of China in regional as well as global balance of power.

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**It seems very unlikely that Quad will evolve to a formalized collective security treaty organization** (like NATO or SEATO which has formally dissolved in 1977). Informal character of the initiative gives all of the four states (concerning their developed economic and military capabilities) ability to indirectly influence the region of Asia through regional organizations (such as ASEAN).

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India's participations in Quad, combined with the fact that New Delhi also perceives China's rise as a threat to its interests, **can lead to a greater intensification of relations with NATO and EU states**. From Polish point of view, such situation brings certain chances and challenges. On one hand, **it can accelerate the opening of Indian market for Western products**, including the military sector (traditionally dominated by the Russian Federation). On the other hand, **greater American involvement in Asian affairs can decrease the level of U.S military presence in Europe**.

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Based on:

- *The Geopolitics of the Quad*, *The National Bureau of Asian Research*,  
<https://www.nbr.org/publication/the-geopolitics-of-the-quad/>;
- *Quadrilateral Security Dialogue agrees to expand cooperation in indo-pacific*, *Hindustan Times*,  
<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/quadrilateral-security-dialogue-agrees-to-expand-cooperation-in-indo-pacific/story-GVRXixrpSDaMEYkZWmsEAK.html>.