

**Review Comments on the Best Paper Award-Winning Article of the 2019 Asia Pacific Conference  
“India’s Foreign Policy towards Japan: Strategic Partnership and Regional  
Transformation” by Astha Chadha**

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The paper analyzes the evolving strategic partnership between India and Japan from the perspective of India’s strategy. The paper argues that the rise of China as a realist factor and India’s “non-aligned” ideology as a constructivist factor are both useful in explaining India’s strategy toward Japan. The paper also presents an argument that the bilateral partnership extends diplomatic opportunities into South Asia, Africa and Middle East.

The paper has a good organization and smoothly flowing arguments. Some key events and terms need to be elaborated to provide more contexts for the discussion, without assuming all readers are empirically knowledgeable. Richness of empirical support is a major strength of this paper, but time since its writing has mostly robbed this strength by the time of entering the Best Paper Award competition. For publication, the paper needs to be updated.

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