

船橋洋一著「Keeping Up With Asia」Foreign Affairs, September - October 2008 を読む

Keeping Up With Asia

1 . What Asia wants and needs is an open and internationalist United States. Without a partnership between Asia and the United States, the twenty-first century's potential as "the Asian century" is unlikely to be realized. Leaving aside all partisan sensitivities, one thing is certain: Asia is still U.S. territory. The United States engaged in three major wars in Asia in the past century — the Pacific war, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War — and the impact has been profound. The United States is bound to the Asia-Pacific region by history, trade, and ideas; it is an indispensable fixture in the security, economic, and social fabric of the region. And although its image has declined somewhat, the United States maintains a sturdy influence and great prestige across Asia.

2 . At the same time, Asia is now far more than a bystander. It is no longer waiting to be led; it is an able and willing partner and expects to be treated as such. On matters of economic growth and development, nation building, antiterrorism, and global warming alike, valuable ideas and resources have come and will continue to come out of the region. Asia has a complementary role to play with the United States, and this is a fact that Washington cannot afford to overlook, especially as the balance of global power continues to shift eastward. Whether Democratic or Republican, the next U.S. president would be well advised to renew the United States' commitment to Asia and devote due attention to the concerns and interests of its Asian friends and allies.

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[コメント]

アジアとアメリカの関係をどう考えたらよいのか。船橋洋一氏のように世界的に読まれる雑誌に英語で意見を述べ続ける姿勢は、日本の国益のために極めて高く評価される。

- 2009年2月10日 林明夫記