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Preface

On behalf of my editing colleagues, Ina Hein, Rudiger Frank, and Agnes Schick-Chen, I am delighted to introduce the sixth volume of the *Vienna Journal of East Asian Studies*. Each volume of this journal assembles high-quality research articles with a particular focus on the work of emerging scholars. Once a year the editors invite contributions from staff and from only the most distinguished recent graduates of the Department of East Asian Studies at the University of Vienna, providing a platform to disseminate pioneering local scholarship to a worldwide academic audience. In addition, the editors regularly welcome unsolicited submissions from international scholars, which also have to undergo a rigorous review process.

Volume 6 brings together six papers, which, on the one hand, mirror the vast variety of thriving scholarly activity at the Department of East Asian Studies; on the other hand, they share the same qualitative standard based on methodological rigour, sophisticated proficiency in the target language(s), originality, and clear appreciation of the complexity and relevance of East Asia and the processes that take place in its societies. In the first paper, Nadja Drexel discusses the commonalities and differences concerning knowledge creation between Japanese, South Korean, and Austrian new ventures, drawing on a wide range of collected empirical data and the application of the SECI model. Thomas Stephan Eder goes on to expound on Sino-Russian relations through the prism of the Central Asian energy issue, offering intriguing insights into the pertinent Chinese discourse. The third paper by Stefan Fuchs, relying on a comprehensive lyrics content analysis, introduces a largely unknown rock music oriented subcultural phenomenon in Japan, classifiable as a form of ‘right-wing rock’ (*Rechtsrock*). Next, Erich Havranek delineates the contemporary image of Japanese literature as seen through review articles published in German language newspapers. In the fifth paper, Eva Rohrhofer comparatively examines the media systems in China, Japan, and South Korea, outlining similarities and distinctions and revealing the impact of the political context they operate in. Finally, Antonia Strachwitz surveys, assesses, and likens the policies to improve gender equality and overcome discrimination of women adopted by the Chinese and Japanese authorities between 1995 and 2010 in reference to the Beijing Platform for Action.

The editors are indebted to a number of peers who lent their valuable expertise, critically reviewing the contributions and providing perceptive and detailed comments. Their generous efforts greatly improved this volume. Special thanks go to the guest editors Alfred Gerstl and Wolfram Manzenreiter for their insightful and keen observations. Julia Peitl was responsible for the formal editing and layout, a task she mastered skilfully and efficiently. Laura Vollmer adeptly committed to polishing the language of the manuscript. As ever, the kindness and professionalism of Michael

Ritter of Praesens Verlag made the technical side of this publication pleasantly uncomplicated. This volume would not have been possible without the financial support of the Faculty of Philological and Cultural Studies of the University of Vienna and of the Kulturabteilung der Stadt Wien. In this respect, gratitude is also owed to the team of East Asian Economy and Society at the University of Vienna for securing and administering the required core funding.

Volume 7 (2015) is already under preparation, promising once again to offer the finest scholarship based on a rich diversity of approaches and topics that can be brought to the study of East Asia. It is the editors' hope that this and future volumes of the *Vienna Journal of East Asian Studies* continue to be well received within the scholarly community and beyond.

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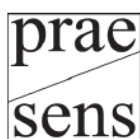
Sino-Russian Relations: The Impact of Central Asian Energy Resources

Thomas Stephan Eder

Abstract

The following paper strives to (1) present the reader with the results of my preceding book on the subject (Eder 2014) and to (2) review the trends that had been predicted therein. It provides a concise analysis of the Sino-Russian relationship's history, an account of post-Soviet regional energy projects, and an analysis and interpretation of the mainland Chinese discourse on the impact of the Central Asian energy issue on this relationship. The issue has been broadly discussed as a possible source of friction since the global financial and economic crisis. Chinese authors predicted that a great deal of co-ordination and compromise would be needed because of Russian sensitivities but conveyed confidence that their country's 'inevitable' expansion of crucial energy relations would be manageable. The book thus predicted a successful handling of competing interests in the short term but still foresaw a challenge to the 'strategic partnership' through the gradually shifting power balance. Over the last 18 months, China has advanced even faster and more comprehensively than anticipated and already overshadows Russia. Now undergirded by a more substantial political strategy, it quietly but resolutely pushes Moscow (and all its schemes of post-Soviet re-integration) aside. Managing ensuing frustrations and more blatant counter-measures will likely test the resolve and aptitude of Chinese policy-makers earlier than expected.

Keywords: China, Russia, Sino-Russian relations, Central Asia, energy



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