Aukus submarine deal signals new Indo-Pacific balance of power

More transactional US and aggressive China will push the region to reach an eight-stage mutually destructive nuclear balance

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For The Straits Times

The decision by the United States to finally resume submarine nuclear deterrence with Australia and the UK is a major shift in the balance of power in the Indo-Pacific region. It is aimed at containing China, whose growing influence in the region is perceived as a threat to regional stability and security. The deal will give Australia and the UK access to advanced submarine technology and nuclear propulsion, enabling them to build submarines capable of carrying nuclear weapons.

China's concern

China is likely to view the Aukus submarine deal as a direct threat to its strategic interests. The Chinese military has repeatedly stated its commitment to maintaining regional stability and peaceful development, but the nuclear submarine deal is seen as a violation of this commitment. The Chinese government has also expressed concern over the US and UK's intentions to deploy nuclear missiles in the region, which could undermine the principles of non-proliferation and disarmament.

The implications

The Aukus submarine deal will have significant implications for the balance of power in the Indo-Pacific region. It is likely to increase tensions with China, with Beijing responding by increasing its own military capabilities. The deal could also have implications for other countries in the region, such as Japan and South Korea, who may feel compelled to develop their own nuclear capabilities as a deterrent.

Conclusion

The Aukus submarine deal signals a shift in the balance of power in the Indo-Pacific region, with the US and UK seeking to contain China. The deal is likely to increase tensions in the region and could have far-reaching implications for regional security and stability.