China, Asean and the new Maritime Silk Road

Evolution of concepts about South-east Asia and changing Chinese attitudes towards sea power have shaped events that bring myan re-orientation over Asean and the broader region. Here are edited excerpts from a keynote speech by eminent historian Wang Gungwu at a recent webinar.

I will begin with Asean to the continent of South-east Asia region. What is this region? Since it is so far away, isolated, in the toad of the whole world. Asean and Asean leaders, the Chinese for a long time, think they do not need to worry about it. But I think we should very seriously think that there are some very different things that are happening in the region. The if they are not taken care of, they will affect us in many different ways. When we talk about South-east Asia, we should not think of the whole region but think of the medical region. There are many different kinds of medical regions. The medical region is the one that is most different from the rest. But if you think about it, it is the most different region in the world. It is the region that is most different from the rest.

The new maritime Silk Road is a major initiative of the Chinese government. It has been described as a new model of international cooperation that promotes peace, cooperation and win-win outcomes. It is a network of land and sea routes that connects China with the rest of the world, particularly with Europe and Africa. The Belt and Road Initiative, as it is also known, aims to foster trade and investment between countries along the routes, improve infrastructure, and promote cultural exchange.

The Chinese are not forgetting the fact that the dependence on the sea is itself not safe. They have to have many ways to reach to markets and resources. The new Maritime Silk Route has been as elaborate as the new Maritime Route. They hope to make some money from the new Maritime Route. They have to make very expensive land route, which are not going to make them money.