American pivot to Asia: Social discourse and instrumental action

Michal Kolmaš, Metropolitan University Prague

The paper compares the legitimization and practical policy of the American pivot to Asia under Barack Obama and Donald Trump. It argues, that the pivot never really materialized with either of the two. Obama was stronger in legitimacy-building through connection to international norms and liberal world order, but there was a significant gap between his words and actions. Donald Trump speaks and acts pragmatically without interest in norms or international acclaim, but his actions are not that much different from Obama’s. Neither of them, however, have fully followed the original pivot components.

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For more information or the article itself, contact me at michal.kolmas@mup.cz.