

PANELISTS DEBATE

Thierry de Montbrial, Founder and Executive Chairman of Ifri and the WPC

Very interesting but also a bit Impressionistic. Before giving the floor to Yim Sung-joon, I will ask the first three speakers one question, but please answer with yes or no, or something like that, it is a binary answer. My question is, is the Indo-Pacific concept primarily a security concept or an economic concept?

Hiroyuki Akita, Commentator of *Nikkei*, Japan

Both.

Thierry de Montbrial

You remind me of President Macron, for whom every issue is yes and no.

Hiroyuki Akita

70% security, 30% economy because without security we cannot prosper.

Thierry de Montbrial

That reminds me of Deng Xiaoping saying that Mao Zedong was 70% or 80% right.

M. K. Narayanan, Executive Chairman of CyQureX Systems Pvt. Ltd., former Senior Advisor and National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister of India (Manmohan Singh)

I think the person who came up with the Indo-Pacific concept thought of it as primarily as a defense or military alliance. India does not fully subscribe to it, but I think is gradually moving in that direction.

Douglas Paal, Distinguished Fellow at the Asia Program Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, former Senior Director of Asian Affairs and Special Assistant to the President in the US National Security Council

I agree that most of our Asian partners would view this as primarily economic and the United States would view it as primarily security driven.

Thierry de Montbrial

In their minds it is primarily security.