

NEW MARITIME SILK ROAD: THREATS TO SEA-LANE SECURITY*

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ABSTRACT

The «Maritime Silk Road» strategy focuses on geopolitical and security objectives, pushing China to increase its naval presence to prevent terrorist and piracy threats along the sea routes along the Malacca and Singapore Straits: China's vital energy corridor through which 75% of its oil imports transit. The theme of energy security and the geographical diversification of import routes and supplier countries —developing alternative energy routes both by sea and continent to source oil from Middle Eastern and African suppliers by circumventing these straits— is combined with China's fundamental interest, through the implementation of international cooperation models, to achieve the protection and security of the so-called Sea Lines of Communication implementing the «21st Century Maritime Silk Road».

Keywords: security, maritime piracy, international cooperation system, regional cooperation, maritime communication route.

SUMMARY: I. INTRODUCTION.—II. OUTLINE OF THE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK.—III. PIRACY SUPPRESSION PROCEDURE.—IV. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND LAW ENFORCEMENT OVER THE STRAITS OF MALACCA AND SINGAPORE.—V. FINAL REMARKS.—VI. BIBLIOGRAPHY.

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