



Poland's Foreign Policy Towards Asia. How to Forge Presence into Strength?

The following policy paper's goal is to provide the reader with an evaluation of a proposal which may enhance the effectiveness of Poland's foreign policy towards Asia, and hence, forge its presence into strength. The author underlines the possible benefits that this proposal would offer. Therefore, it could lead to a more effective and efficient foreign policy, better long-term strategy adjustments as well as overall security improvement.

The recommendations are based on the current political and economic balance between Asia and Poland. Poland's positioning, in its overall affiliation to the European Union as well as in current bilateral relations with other countries, may provide her with a competitive advantage in the field of diplomacy. The achievable competitive advantage touches especially upon the areas of long-term strategy planning as well as the development of Poland's influence in the foreign policy and agreement negotiations in the future. This policy paper puts forward that the main issue of Poland's presence in Asia lies specifically in the asymmetry of bargaining power.

In the current issue of the "Pulaski Policy Papers" the best student of the 8th edition of the Academy of Young Diplomats at the European Academy of Diplomacy Mr. Łukasz Przybyszewski analyses Poland's foreign policy towards Asia. "In order to increase the value of Poland for Asia as a EU member as well as an individual state, Poland has to maintain its ideological and political stance and at the same time develop greater intelligence gathering and analytical capabilities which would produce valuable information that could be applied by the foreign and civil service."

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Editorial Staff of the "Pulaski Policy Papers"

Author

Łukasz Przybyszewski

The Casimir Pulaski Foundation is an independent, non-partisan think tank with a mission to promote freedom, equality and democracy, as well as to support actions of strengthening civil society. The foundation carries out such activities as conducting scientific research, preparing publications and analyses, organizing seminars and conferences, providing education and support for leaders in Poland and abroad. The Casimir Pulaski Foundation is one of only two Polish institutions that have a partnership status with the Council of Europe and is a member of the Group Abroad – an umbrella organization of top 40 Polish NGOs working outside of Poland.

Łukasz Przybyszewski

Łukasz Przybyszewski
Graduated from the Warsaw School of Economics (M.A. in International Business, 2012), the University of Warsaw (B.A. in Iranian Studies, 2008) and the 8th edition of the Academy of Young Diplomats at the European Academy of Diplomacy.

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The proposed solutions offer a broad spectrum of applicability as a complementary component which would eventually reinforce the decision makers, the foreign and civil service and specialists with greater resources for even more accurate analytical and advisory material. Consequently, this kind of additional supporting base would improve Poland's position, and hence provide a broader groundwork for respectable strength in Asia.

The challenge of Asia's potential – how to improve Poland's foreign policy leverage?

It is in Poland's strong interest to develop a long-term strategy of foreign policy towards Asia which would consequently turn her presence into strength. Nevertheless, this strategy would have to be supported by extensive analysis of all available information.

Asia hosts 3 out of 5 of the BRICS countries, i.e. Russia, India and China. The GDP growth of the economies of those countries in 2011 was estimated at 4.3%, 6.9% and 9.1% respectively. The current year is expected to show a slowdown of annual GDP growth in all three countries, yet the World Bank forecasts a slow recovery in 2013. The fast growing demand for natural resources and energy supply drives India and China into the international arena with a strong sense of determination in achieving their strategic economic, political and security-related goals. Due to the fact that their economies grow, by capital stock accumulation, at a fast pace and are strongly interconnected with the global economy, the bargaining power and determination of India as well as China is also increasing. The potential internal frictions in the structural and systemic development, caused by the rapid pace of growth may only cause an increased power projection in the region. The importance of the neighboring middle size states is likewise critical in the assessment of future foreign policy of Poland in Asia. Moreover, an important issue is also the proximity of the third Asian BRICS country – Russia – to Europe.

What are Poland's undertakings in Asia currently? One could name the promotion of democracy, human rights and free market economy, establishing culture centers as well as the utilization of political and economic transition experience as a conversion model. These actions are of high value, yet insufficient. The achievement of an agreement on strategic partnership between Poland and China in 2011 may be a basis for a stronger manifestation of Poland's interests. However, if our bargaining power does not increase this partnership may prove to be asymmetric and oriented mainly on China's interests.

Poland's membership in the EU may be utilized as a mean for preventing this to happen.

The bilateral agreements between India, China and other Asian countries, on the national and EU level may be not in the interest of the EU or a given member, but if Poland has something to offer to other Member States then our role, both in the EU and in Asia, will rise. Indeed, the frictions in Europe in approaching Asia are an unacceptable risk.

In order to increase the value of Poland for Asia as a EU member as well as an individual state, Poland has to maintain its ideological and political stance and at the same time develop greater intelligence gathering and analytical capabilities which would produce valuable information that could be applied by the foreign and civil service.

Since open-source intelligence along with cyber intelligence or business intelligence are a growing need for maintaining strategic goals, the semi-private/private intelligence gathering and consulting companies or government organizations should be established. The need for such entities in Poland is clear: they could significantly reinforce the foreign and civil service by, e.g. preliminary data evaluation. Since Poland possesses a considerable potential of highly educated workforce in the fields of IT, engineering, political science, cultural studies or linguistics, the establishment of such entities would be relatively prompt. Achieving this goal would also lead to the further development of a modern knowledge-based economy by exploiting the full capabilities of the potential workforce in Poland. Business bodies such as the National Open Source Enterprise (U.S.), International Crisis Group (HQ in Brussels) or companies like BAE Systems (UK), Control Risks (UK), Aegis (UK), Infosphere AB (SE), Hakluyt & Co. (UK) or GK Sierra (U.S.) may be treated as useful examples. Although the most of the mentioned entities are based, due to liberal regulations, in the U.S. or the UK, they often employ experts of various nationalities, as well as possess multinational advisory boards consisting of, among others, senior executives from leading companies. While the detailed or general activity and achievements of such firms and organizations may be in many cases confidential and classified, their effectiveness is noteworthy. For example, as for 2006, more than a half of DAX companies were clients to just one, at least, of the above mentioned enterprises. Above this, having just 41 employees one other of those firms made, as for June 2011, a profit of approx. 8.8 million USD, which represents customer satisfaction, on approx. 46 million USD of revenue. Such results have to be attributed to highly educated workforce with exceptional soft and hard skills, operating on best IT solutions available. A proof of the growing need for similar endogenous entities in Poland may be the emergence of numerous business consulting companies focusing on Asian countries. However, the scope of their services is, for the time being, dedicated primarily to other fields. Nevertheless, they must not necessarily require such heavy financial resources and investments in order to deliver high quality products. Therefore, if such projects would be carefully managed, the competitive advantage may be at hand in a relatively short period.

The establishment of such companies/organizations in Poland would lead to:

1. Decreasing the unnecessary workload in the government institutions by process economization (data gathering, translations, etc.);
2. A higher efficiency of the government institutions (focusing on the most critical matters);
3. Increasing the data-of-value amount available for analysis;
4. Improving the quality of gathered and evaluated data;
5. Decreasing the risk of under- and over-prediction;
6. 24-hour extensive monitoring if needed;
7. Accurate adjusting of the foreign policy and ways of conducting it;
8. Supporting novice diplomats with high-quality data needed to improve the development of their skills and in-depth knowledge;

9. A stronger position of the government and business representatives during the investment and agreement negotiations;
10. Improving overall security level, also of Polish citizens abroad;
11. Investing in human capital and preventing its' depreciation over time;
12. The possibility of higher information-trading level with key partner states;
13. Raising the level of bargaining power of the Polish foreign service and companies abroad.

Conclusions

Overall, the above mentioned benefits may consequently reinforce the creation of a strongly needed competitive advantage, which would in sum lead to the future improvement of Poland's position in West, Central and East Asia; from a presence – to soft strength. Achieving this is possible by increasing the foreign policy leverage and implementing the following recommendations:

1. The Polish government should maintain its current ideological and political stance in Asia;
2. The Polish government should enable and support the creation of open source intelligence-gathering by semi-private/private companies and organizations;
3. Ensure high level of security by an internal legal framework set up jointly by the CLO (Chief Legal Officer), CISO (Chief Information Security Officer) and CSO's (Chief Security Officer) of these companies/organizations. Only highest quality standards and effectiveness acceptable;
4. The possible to reach know-how and management organization strategy of such entities should be investigated by interested entrepreneurs with the government's assistance, and, if necessary, applied;
5. The data provided by these companies/organizations, if acquired, must be critically evaluated by the foreign and civil servants, analysts and all other key specialists, who are consulted either by the government or businesses investing abroad;
6. A cluster formation of business consulting companies with OSINT (Open Source Intelligence) firms can serve as a further reinforcement. Cooperation with scientific research centers at universities is also advisable.

The Casimir Pulaski Foundation

is an independent think tank which specializes in foreign policy, with a mission to promote freedom, equality and democracy, as well as to support actions of strengthening civil society. The foundation carries out activities both in Poland and abroad, among others in Central and Eastern Europe and in North America.

The Casimir Pulaski Foundation was founded due to political changes that took place in Poland after 1989. The principal values of Casimir Pulaski (freedom, justice and democracy) are an inspiration for every initiative undertaken by the Foundation. A few of the Foundations activities include: conducting scientific research, preparing publications and analyses, organizing seminars and conferences, providing education and support for leaders (www.instytutprzywodztwa.pl).

The Foundation is the main organizer of the Warsaw Regional NGOs Congress (www.warsawcongress.pl), the co-organizer of the Academy of Young Diplomats (www.diplomats.pl) and publisher of the Communication Platform for Non-Governmental Organizations (www.non-gov.org).

The Foundation also awards the Casimir Pulaski Prize “The Knight of Freedom” to outstanding people who have made a significant contribution in promoting democracy. So far the prizewinners were: Professor **Władysław Bartoszewski**, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland, historian Professor **Norman Davies**, **Alaksandar Milinkiewicz**, leader of democratic opposition in Belarus, **Lech Wałęsa** and **Aleksander Kwaśniewski**, former Presidents of Poland as well as **Javier Solana**, former High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy, **Valdas Adamkus**, former President of Lithuania, and **Bernard Kouchner**, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of France.

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