The Biden administration: The road ahead for Asia

As a new US president takes charge, the journey onwards will be radically different in parts, but it will also have to navigate paths carved out by the Trump administration.

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For The Straits Times

United States President Joe Biden is well-travelled in Asia and is expected to shape US policy with Asia and its geopolitical, economic, and trade relationships. This is a new chapter in the relationship between the US and Asia.

But what lies ahead for the new US administration? How will it approach the challenges of the region? Will it embrace multilateralism or pursue a more isolationist strategy? Will it seek to strengthen ties with traditional partners or pursue new alliances?

The new administration has already made some key appointments, including Anthony Blinken as Secretary of State and Lloyd Austin as Secretary of Defense. These appointments have already sent signals about the new administration’s priorities.

CONTINUITY

There will be both continuity and change in US policy towards the region.

First, the US will continue to maintain its military presence in the region, particularly in the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean. This is a strategy that has been a cornerstone of US foreign policy for decades.

Second, the US will seek to strengthen ties with traditional partners such as Japan, South Korea, and Australia. This is a strategy that has been a cornerstone of US foreign policy for decades.

Third, the US will continue to support democratic governance and human rights in the region. This is a strategy that has been a cornerstone of US foreign policy for decades.

The Biden administration will have to balance these priorities with the changing geopolitical landscape. The region is undergoing significant shifts, with China becoming an increasingly important player.

CHINA

What will the Biden administration do towards China? Will it continue the tough stance of the Trump administration, or will it adopt a more conciliatory approach?

The Biden administration has already taken some steps towards engaging with China, particularly on trade issues. This is a strategy that has been a cornerstone of US foreign policy for decades.

The Biden administration will have to balance these priorities with the changing geopolitical landscape. The region is undergoing significant shifts, with China becoming an increasingly important player.

South Korea

South Korea is one of the US’s most important allies in the region. The Biden administration will have to balance its alliance with South Korea with the challenges posed by China.

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Japan

Japan is another of the US’s most important allies in the region. The Biden administration will have to balance its alliance with Japan with the challenges posed by China.

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Southeast Asia

Southeast Asia is an important area for the US, particularly in terms of trade. The Biden administration will have to balance its engagement with Southeast Asia with the challenges posed by China.

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