

**THE PROBLEM OF RECONSIDERATION
OF THE JAPAN – US STRATEGIC ALLIANCE**

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Alliances are a necessary function of the balance of power operating within a multiple-state system. Nations, competing with each other, have three choices in order to keep and improve their relative power positions. They can augment their own power, they can add to their own power the force of other nations, or they can withhold the power from the opponent. When they make the first choice, they start an armaments race. When they decide upon the second and third alternatives, they choose a policy of alliances.

The system could consist of two dimensions plus a third element, the ruler of the balance or the «balancer». The holder is not constantly identified by the politics of any nation or group of nations. It's an only objective within the framework of the system is the keepeng of the balance, regardless the concrete politics the balance would serve.

The balancer should become in a relatively short period of history coherently the friend and foe of all major powers, provided they all consecutively threaten the balance by approaching predominance over the others and are in turn threatened by others about to gain such

predominance. To paraphrase a statement of Palmerston: while the holder of the balance has no permanent friends, it has no permanent enemies either; it has only the permanent interest of maintaining the balance of power itself. [1, p.102]

The United States' policies in Japan after Japan's defeat in the World War II were fundamental to the support of what has become well-known as Japan Incorporated.

The period 1945-52 is generally referred to as the Allied Occupation. The occupying countries were the United States of America, Great Britain and Australia, however the Great Britain and Australia sent fewer troops than the United States, which was commanded by Douglas MacArthur, the Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers (SCAP). The main goals of the occupation were three-fold: Japan's demilitarization; the trial over the war criminals; and Japan's democratization and economic resuscitation. The United States was stipulated to create a Western-style capitalistic and democratic society. [2, p.99]

At the beginning of the XXI century the US authorities were interested in strengthening their power in the Eastern Asia, which was close to adequately adapt to new challenges and to oppose weakening positions of America under the changing balance of powers. And the aim of keeping the Eastern Asia as a —pivotll of USA in the Eurasian area and Pacific after the Cold war remained as earlier. A famous specialist of geopolitics Zbigniew Brzezinski discussed this fact in his book —The Grand Chessboardll. [3, p. 208] For instance, he underlined that —effective policy of America in relation to Eurasia lies in having the pivot in the Far East. This need will not be provided in case if America is expelled or leaves Asian continent on her own accordll.

American authorities consider reinforcement of military alliances in the Eastern Asia under their guidance as a crucial point furthering the maintenance of American control and dominance in the region. This policy led to conclusion of Joint Japanese American Security Declaration signed by President Clinton and Prime-Minister Hashimoto in April 1996. This act confirms the importance of the Security Treaty for the sake of promoting peace and stability in the region. In 1997 a joint document called Guidelines of Japan American cooperation in the field of defense was signed. The main particularity of this document is that for the first time in the history of bilateral relations it declares the spread of its operation on the areas of the Far East.

After the end of the Cold War Japan's foreign policy has become characterized with nationalistic features being apparent in Tokyo's concernment to strengthen the East Asian regionalism without the USA. For example, Japanese diplomacy started to demonstrate independence in taking decisions towards North Korean direction, so such behavior far from satisfying America that over years of conducting six-sided negotiations on a nuclear program of North Korea has been keeping a tough line regarding Kim Cheng Ir's regime.

Nonetheless, American policymakers are convinced that there is no any alternative for a main stand-by of the US in the East Asia: Japan in any case remains a loyal ally of the USA. In this relation, those who call for better vigilance regarding China and Russia considers coalition with Japan as a the most appropriate pledge of American presence in the region. Cooperation with Japan will deepen which includes unforeseen circumstances. Those who stand for rapprochement with China also do not doubt about need of enlargement of cooperation with Japan as well to enhance American positions in China as to keep Japan within the US eyeshot. Frankly speaking, there is a considerable part of American politicians who still suspiciously treat Japan leaving open the possibility of hostile politics towards the USA.

But even the cooperation with Japan as it is today is regarded somehow as a tool of control and restraint from undesirable tendencies in its policy. A military and political alliance grants the USA visible and evident tools of influence and Americans require it.

The bilateral trade imbalance is widening. As a result of the collapse of its —bubble economyll in the early 1990s, Japan entered a recession that has led to an increasing trade surplus in response to declining imports and stable exports. The U.S. bilateral trade deficit with Japan reached a new record of US\$ 59 billion in justification for protectionist measures in North America and stronger political pressures from the United States. [4, p. 363]

American authorities consider Japanese participation in the expansion of the BMD system in the Eastern Asia within a wider context of Japanese American strategic relations. This is because the United States is aware of Japan's striving to get free from military and political dependence on the US. From one side, being a reliable ally of the USA Japan actively supported America in its struggle against international terrorism after the September 11th 2001. But from the other side, there is an obscure vision of future reaction of Tokyo to continue maintenance of American military bases in case of peaceful unification of two Koreas or Pyongyang refusal from further nuclear and missile programs development. [5, p. 267]

However, under new international circumstances, it's essentially needed to maintain legitimacy and to bring a new content to the military commitments of Japan on rendering enough support to the United States in East Asia and other parts of the world too.

Nowadays Japan and the USA generally have a full right to reckon on mutual support considering each other as a safe partner in a new unstable system of international relations wherein the US are going to preserve their leadership. The development pathway of their partnership established during a 60-years of history is characterized by a strong approval of population in both states as Japan and America depend on military and political support of one another. It's remarkable, that criticism of Japanese abuse of the American nuclear guard and settlement of the security issues for free that was typical for the US political elite spread during the Cold War, became a thing of the past. In the Japan actions against military alliance with the USA at present are supported only by marginalized groups of left and right. It is also indicative that even inhabitants of the Okinawa island and other areas where American military bases are located, put very hard and often their backs their presence, today are reluctant in demanding immediate withdrawal of the American troops and Japan's withdrawal from the Security Treaty with the USA.

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