

Japanese Conceptions of Security in the 21st Century

Tom Le Associate Professor of Politics Pomona College

October 23, 2021

Roadmap

The Basics

- Useful Concepts and Definitions
- History and Context
- Research Question

Hardware

- Demographics
- Technology

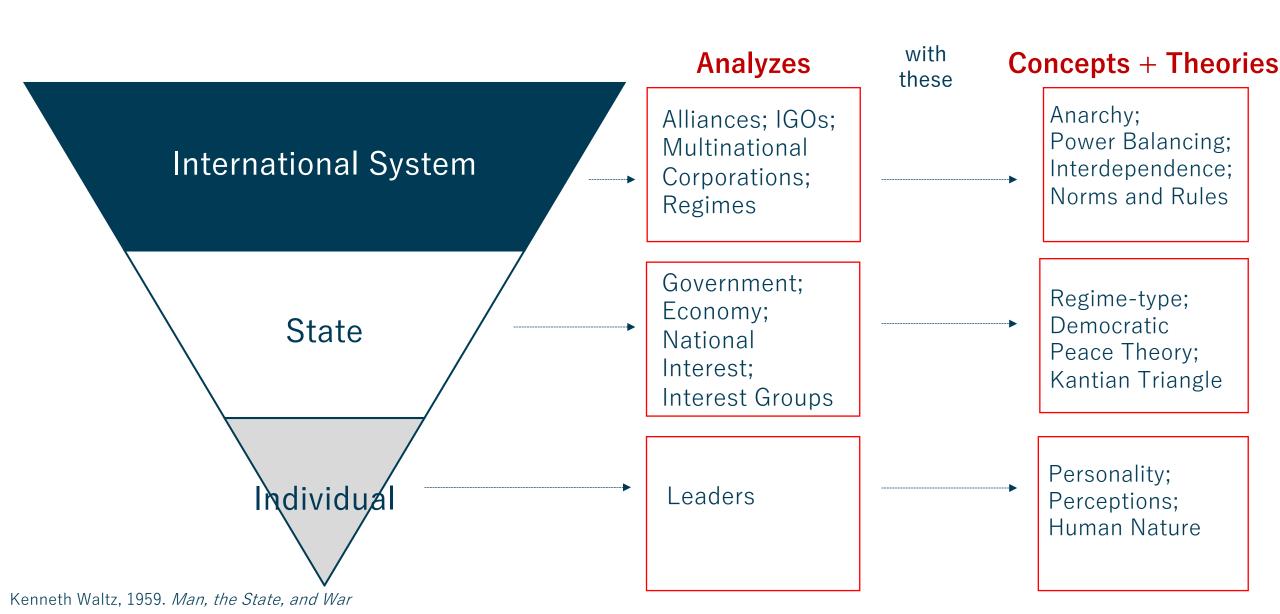
Software

- Politics
- Rules and Rule

Useful Concepts and Definitions



THREE IMAGES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



WHAT IS POLITICS?



- "who gets what, when, and how"
- Harold Lasswell

- "[rules] tell us how to play the game"
- Nicolos Onuf





- "the authoritative allocation of values for a society"
- David Easton

PATH DEPENDENCE

Key Components

- History matters
- Commitment to a path due to structural properties or beliefs and values
- Early decisions have a larger impact than later decisions
- The cost of change increases over time



Some History and Context



JAPAN: PACIFISM OR PASSING THE BUCK?

Yoshida Doctrine

- Economic development
- Low military footprint

Fukuda Doctrine

- ODA
- Promotion of institutions

Abe Doctrine

- Proactive contribution to peace
- Strengthening US-Japan alliance





Three Non-Nuclear Principles

Non-Exports Principles

 Will not sell arms to any country that can engage in conflict

Article 9

 Renounces the right to war for settling international disputes

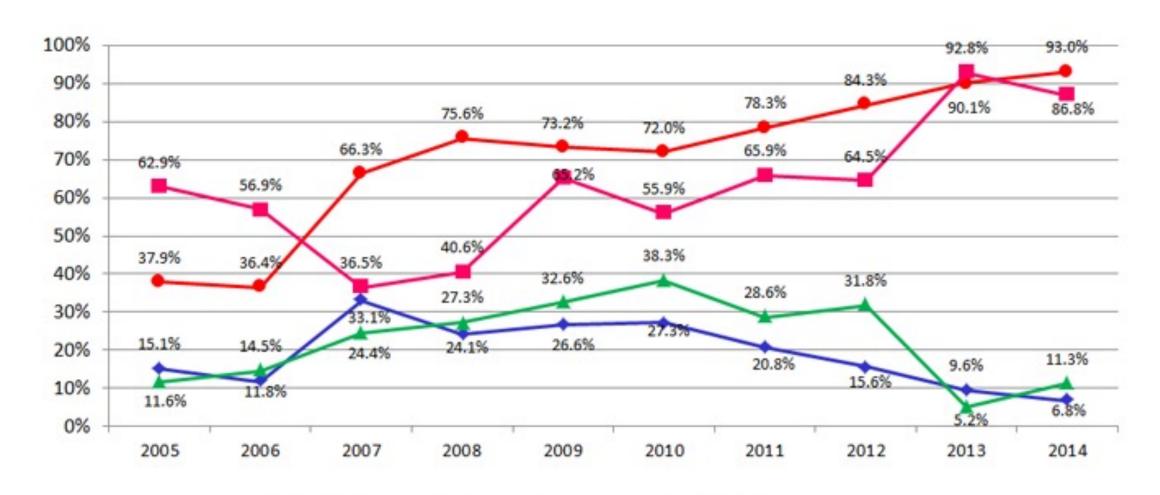
"Peace Culture"

- Blames military for hijacking the nation in WWII
- Guilt stemming from war conduct
- Significant presence of pacifist left in education, political, and general society





EAST ASIA REGIONAL POLITICS



- --- Public opinion in Japan. Favorable or relatively favorable impression
- -- Public opinion in Japan. Unfavorable or relatively unfavorable impression
- --- Public opinion in China. Unfavorable or relatively unfavorable impression

GLOBAL POLITICS



The Tragedy of Great Power Politics



"Japan's path to militarization"

- The Atlantic, July 11, 2016

"Why the US is no threat to China, but a remilitarized Japan, led by Shinzo Abe, may well be"

South China Morning Post, November 5, 2017

"A pacifist Japan starts to embrace the military"

- The New York Times, August 29, 2017

"Japanese politicians want the ability to bomb North Korea first before being 'destroyed'" – Newsweek, March 27, 2017

"Japan mulls over more aggressive military stance as North Korean threat looms" - CNN, March 30, 2017

"Is Japan's militarization normal?" - The Diplomat, March 18, 2015

"To deter North Korea, Japan and South Korea should go nuclear"

- The Washington Post, October 10, 2017

JAPANESE SECURITY CONCERNS

Social

- Aging/declining population
- Marriage
- Work-life balance



State



- Rising China
- Nuclear North Korea
- Terrorism
- Piracy

Environmental

- Natural disasters
- Climate change
- Natural resources



Economic



- Anemic Growth
- Global competition
- Supply chains and resource dependence
- BRI

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

What determines the content and direction of Japanese security policy?

- How is the use of force legitimized in domestic politics and international relations?
- How do Japan's anti-militarism culture and institutions evolve in response to changes to the domestic, regional, and international environments?

Premises

- Security policy is what a state can do, as much as it is what it should do
- Politics is a *normative* exercise
- Antimilitarism is a type of militarism

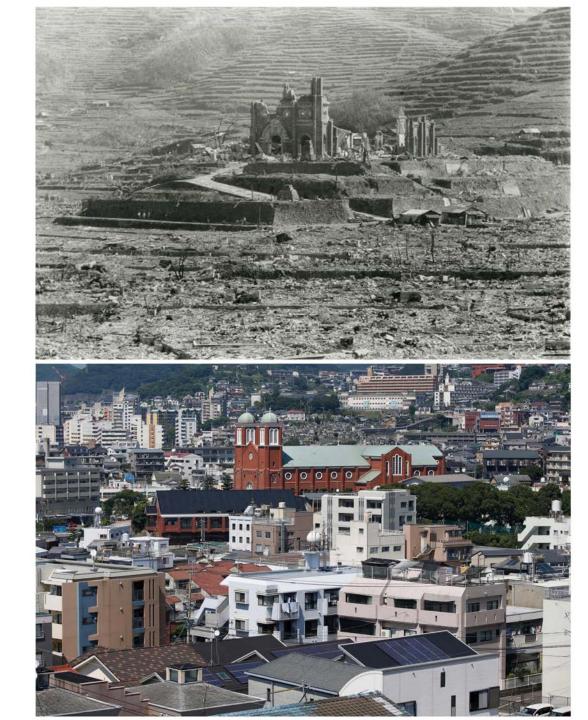
Argument

- Interaction of material and ideational forces create constraints and restraints on the JSDF
- Antimilitarism is reified through time, experiences, and practices. We can call this an antimilitarism ecosystem



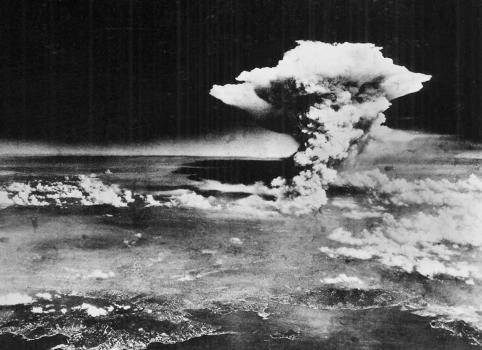


















MULTIPLE MILITARISMS



Pacifism (←antimilitarism) (remilitarization→)

Militarism

Role of the Military

- Security
- Policing

- State building
- Diplomacy

Engineering and construction



Defense of Japan

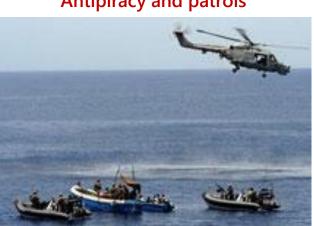


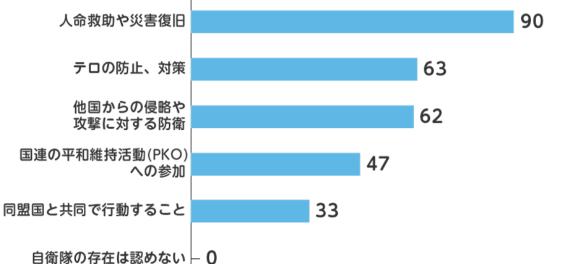
Port visits and exchanges



Antipiracy and patrols

100





ANTIMILITARISM ECOSYSTEM

Social-Structural

- Aging/declining population
- Article 18 (no conscription)
- Weak recruitment



Technical-Infrastructural

- Underdeveloped military-industrial complex
- Lack of combat experience
- Outdated infrastructure
- Defense-oriented technologies











Political

- US-Japan alliance
- Japanese "neutrality" outside of East Asia
- Reassurance policy
- International stigma



Normative

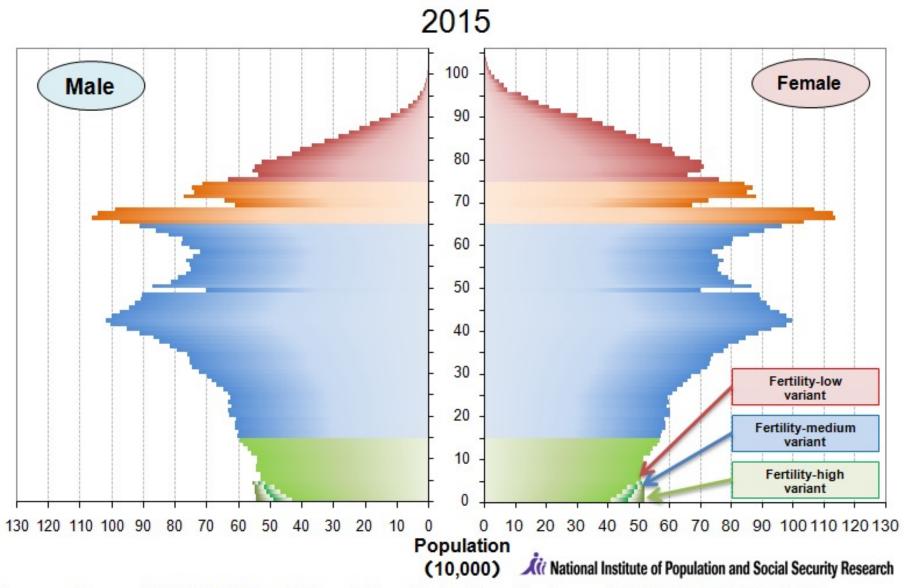
- "Peace Constitution"
- Non-nuclear principles
- Peace activism
- 1% of GDP defense spending limit
- Arms exports ban



Demographics

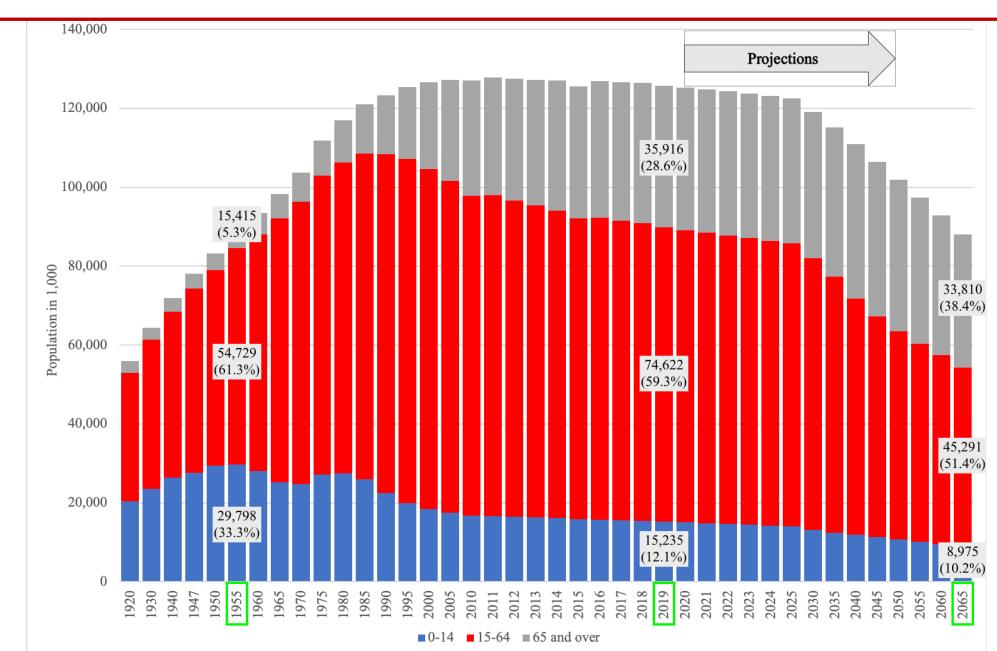


DEMOGRAPHIC CRISES

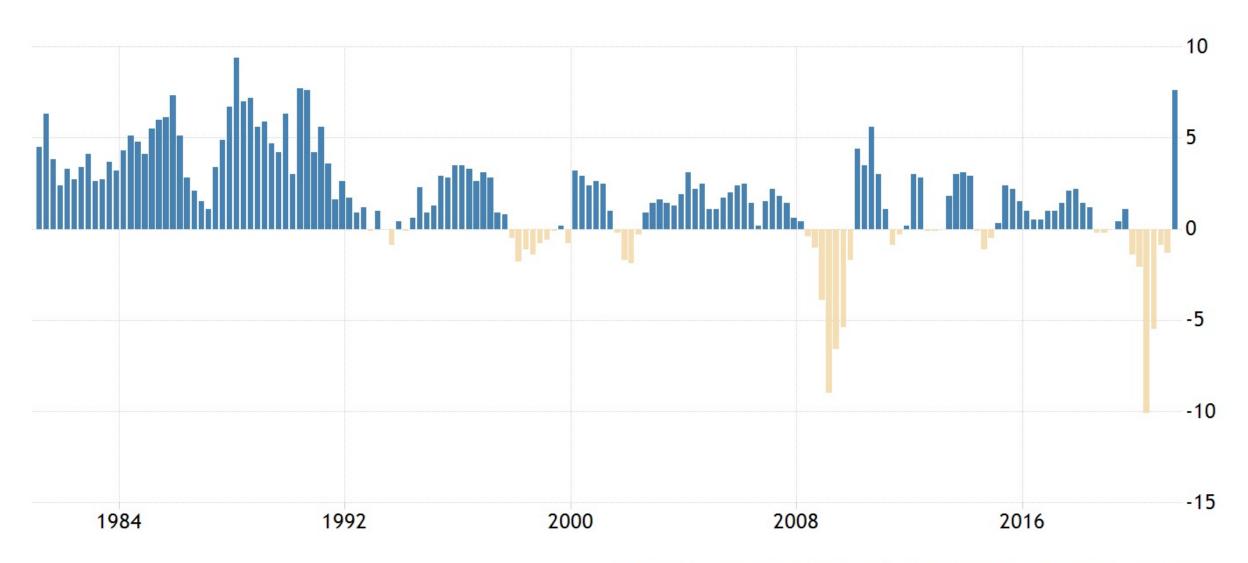


Sources: Census (1920-2010) and "Population Projections for Japan:2011-2060" (2015-2060)

POPULATION PROJECTIONS

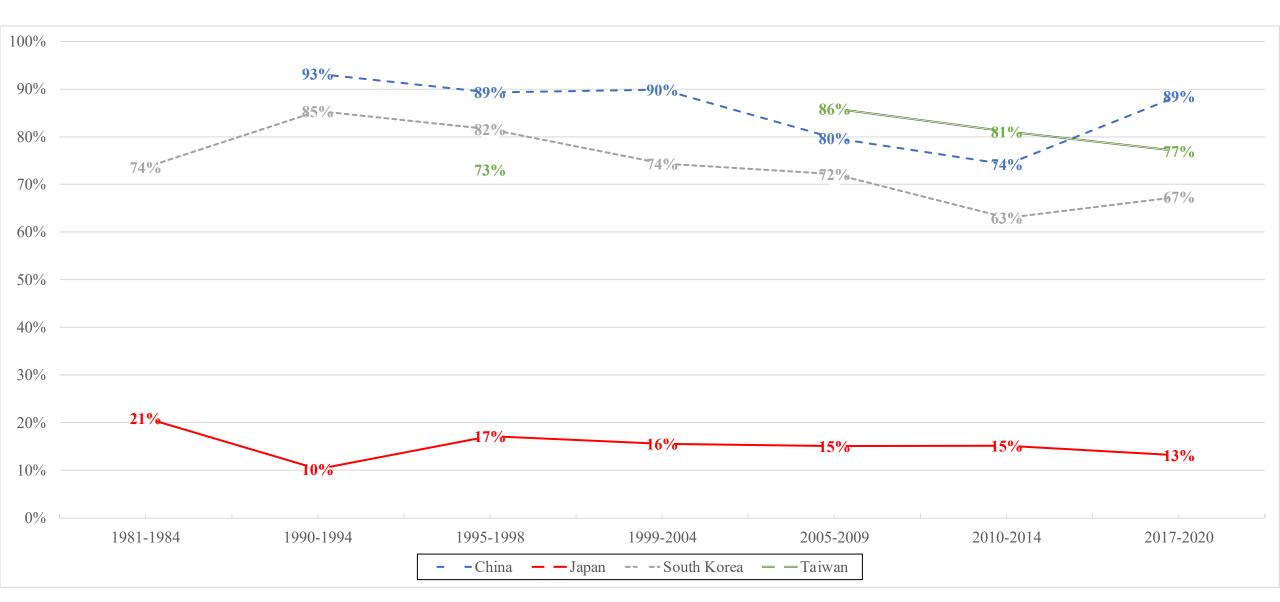


JAPAN ANNUAL GDP GROWTH



SOURCE: TRADINGECONOMICS.COM | CABINET OFFICE, JAPAN

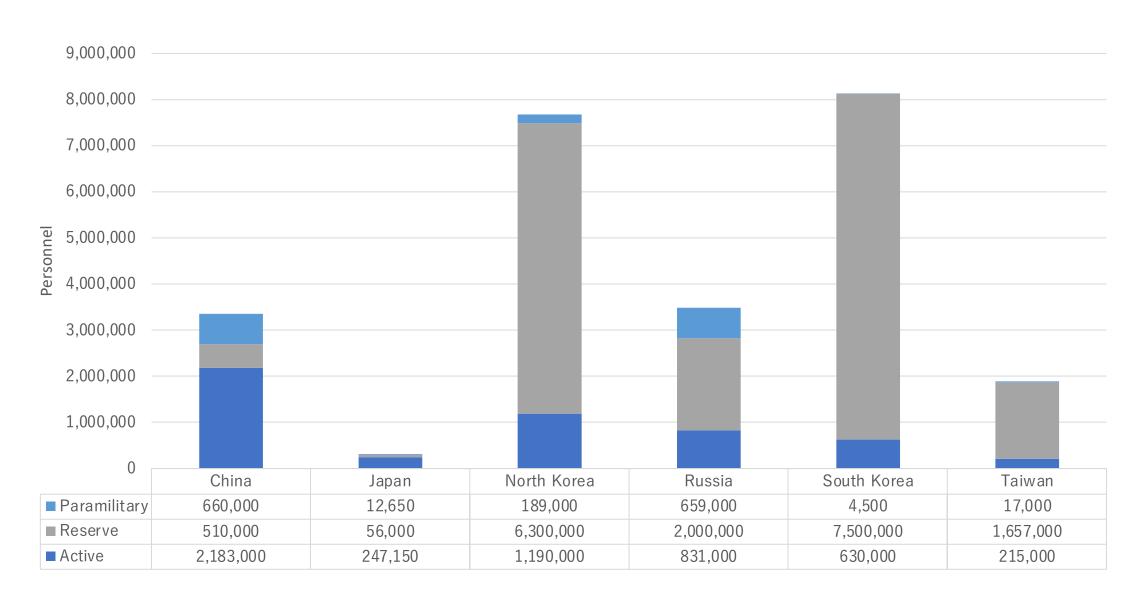
WORLD VALUES SURVEY: WILLINGNESS TO FIGHT FOR YOUR COUNTRY



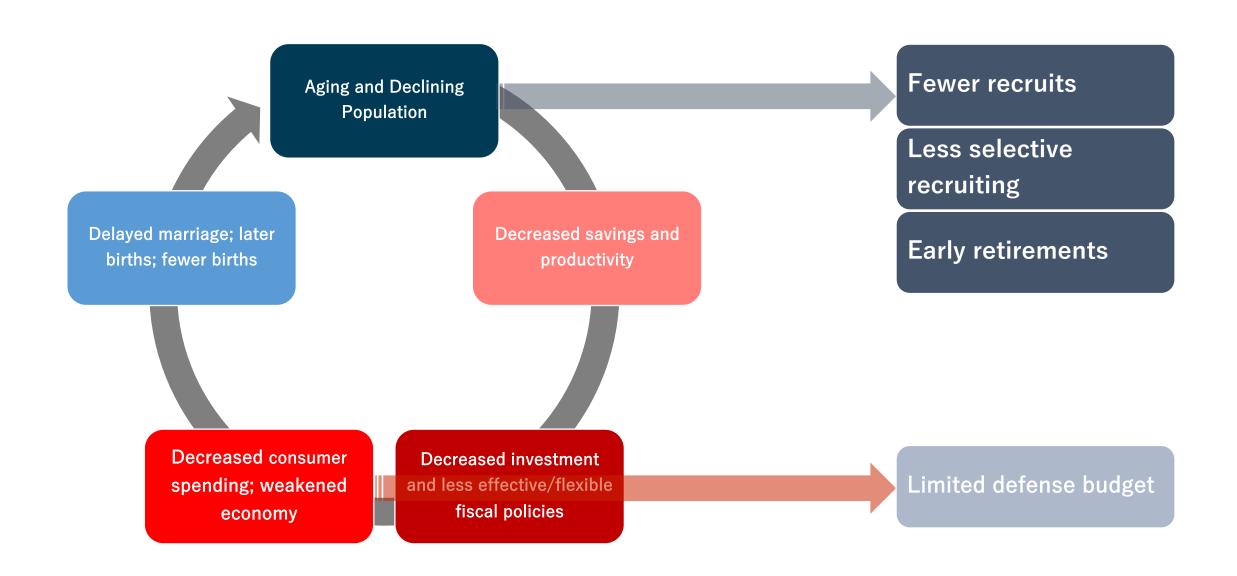
JSDF FORCE SIZE (AUTHORIZED AND ACTUAL) (1976-2019)



MILITARY FORCE SIZE IN EAST ASIA



IMPACT OF DEMOGRAPHICS ON FORCE STRENGTH



Peace Culture: Rule and Rules



CONSTITUTION OF JAPAN

Preamble

We desire to occupy an honored place in an international society striving for the preservation of peace, and the banishment of tyranny and slavery, oppression and intolerance for all time from the earth. We recognize that all peoples of the world have the right to live in peace, free from fear and want.

Implications

- Comprehensive view of security
- Desire to contribute to the international community

Article 9

Aspiring sincerely to an international peace based on justice and order, the Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes.

In order to accomplish the aim of the preceding paragraph, land, sea, and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained. The right of belligerency of the state will not be recognized.

Limited use of the Japan Self-Defense Forces

 Significant legal roadblocks to expansion of responsibilities

Article 25

All people shall have the right to maintain the minimum standards of wholesome and cultured living.

In all spheres of life, the State shall use its endeavors for the promotion and extension of social welfare and security, and of public health.

 Multi-pronged approach to security (ODA, HA/DR, diplomacy)

Non-military Preemptive security

ANTIMILITARISM AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Nuclear Weapons

- Hiroshima and Nagasaki (200k+ deaths)
- Bikini Atoll and Lucky Dragon no. 5
- Cold War



Antimilitarism

- Non-nuclear principles
- Nuclear "allergy"
- Militarism is blamed for Japan's suffering





Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons

- Black rain
- Sadako and the paper cranes
- Environmental catastrophe

Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Disaster

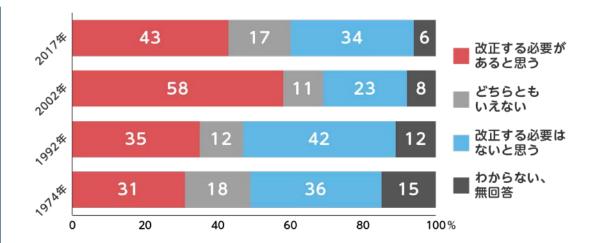


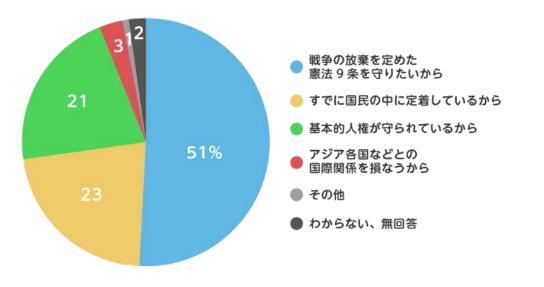


ARTICLE 9 AND MILITARISM

"Aspiring sincerely to an international peace based on justice and order, the Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes. In order to accomplish the aim of the preceding paragraph, land, sea, and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained. The right of belligerency of the state will not be recognized."

- Civilian control of the military
- Justifications for the use of force
- Role of the Japan Self-Defense Forces
- Is an amendment of the "Peace Constitution" needed in today's world?

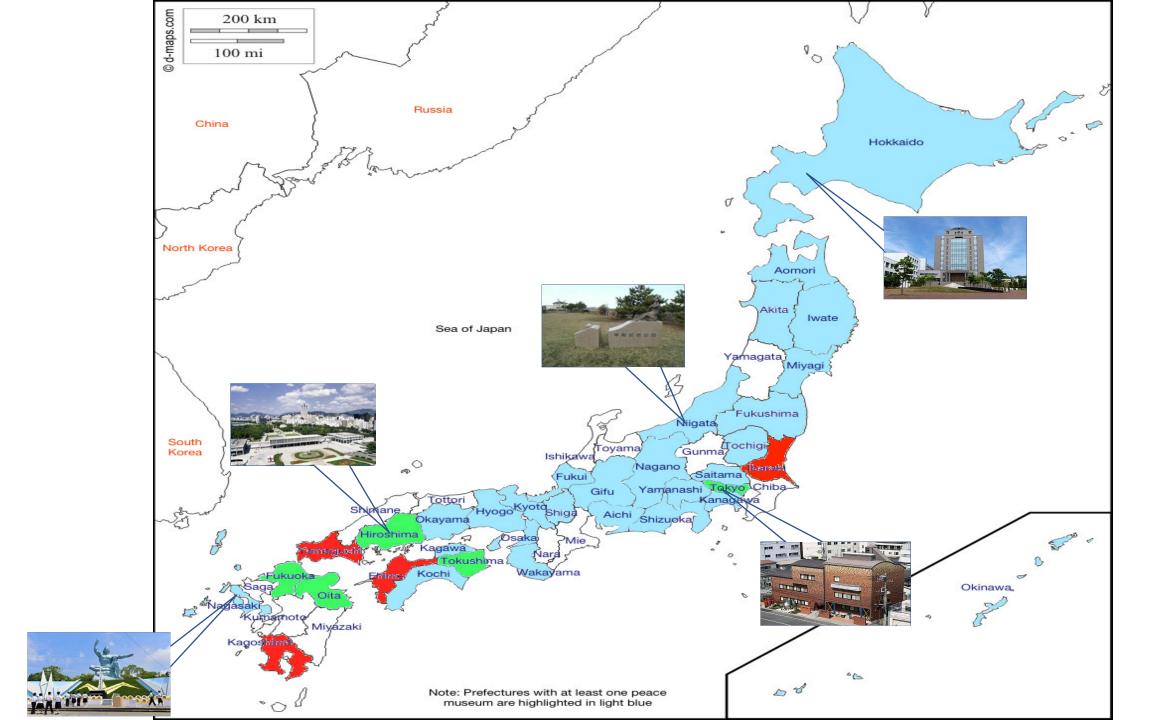




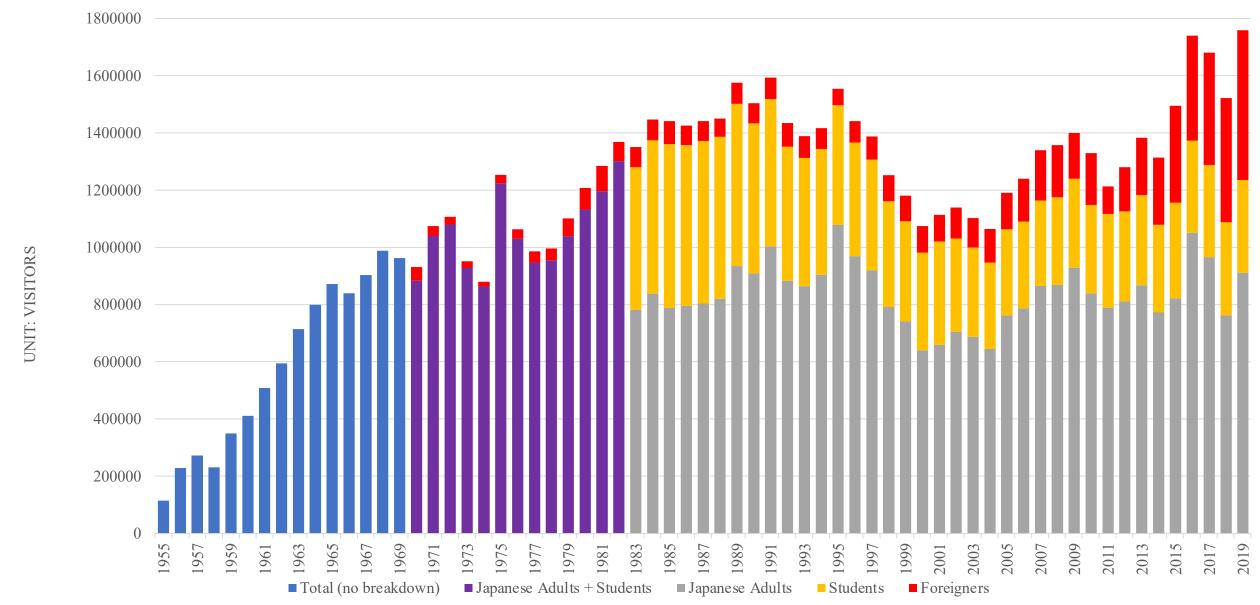




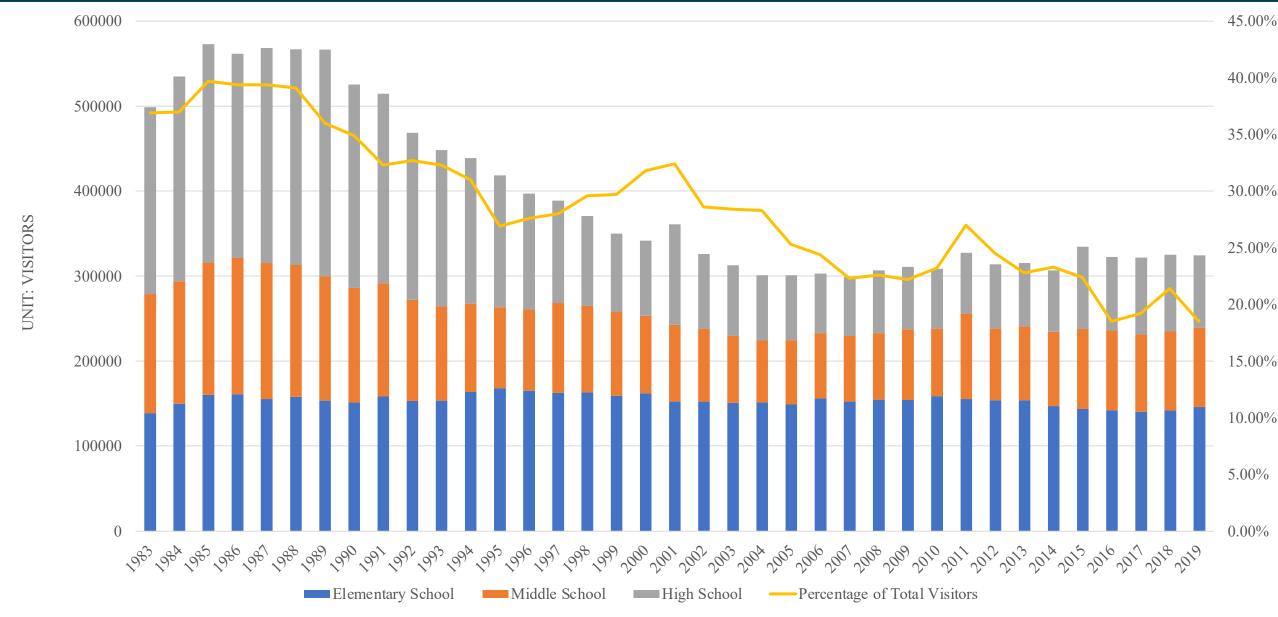
WSJ



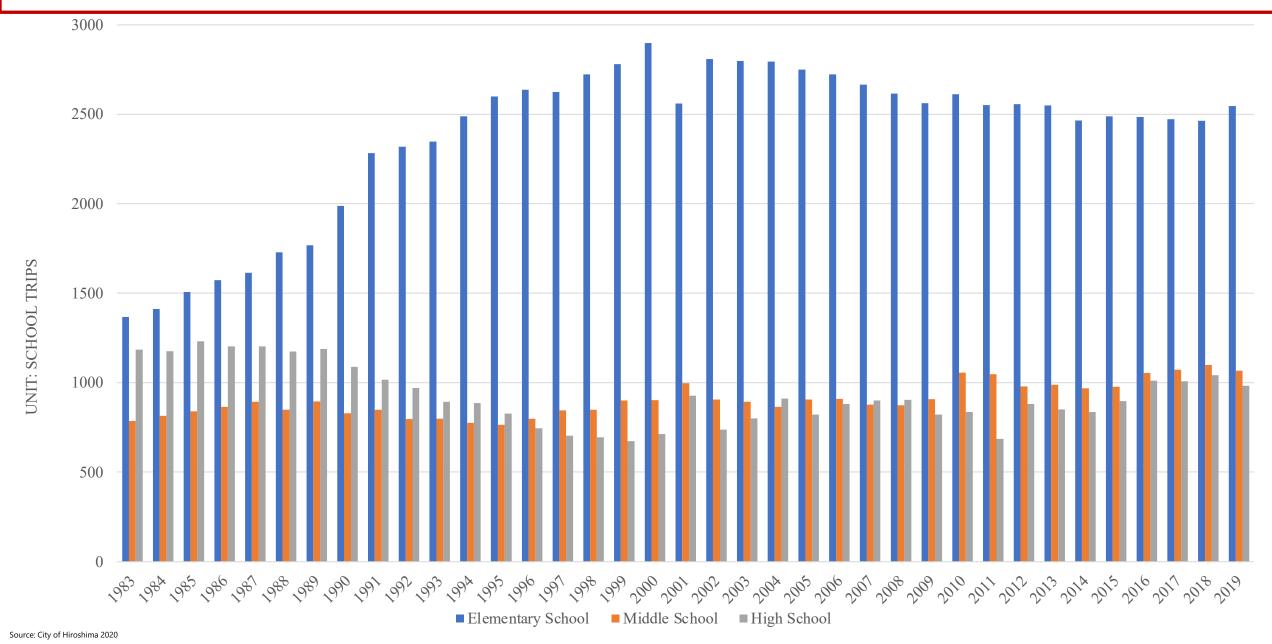
HIROSHIMA PEACE MEMORIAL MUSEUM ANNUAL VISITORS (1955-2019)



ANNUAL HIROSHIMA PEACE MUSEUM STUDENT VISITORS (1983-2019)



ANNUAL SCHOOL TRIPS (1983-2019)













Thank you.

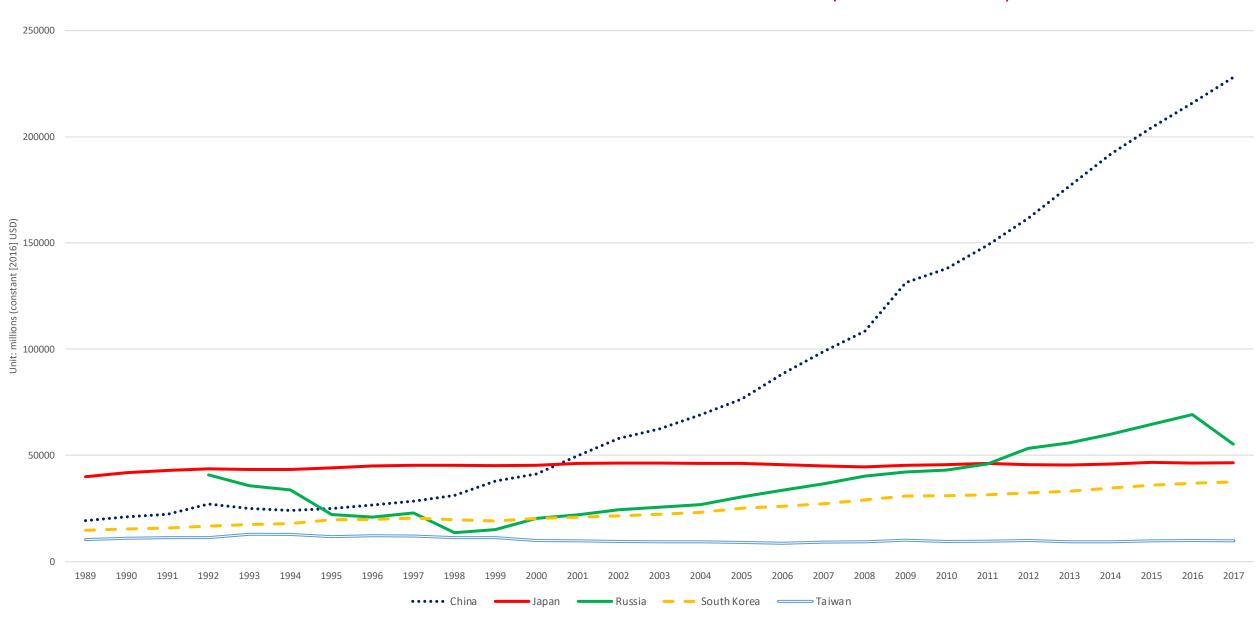
Questions?



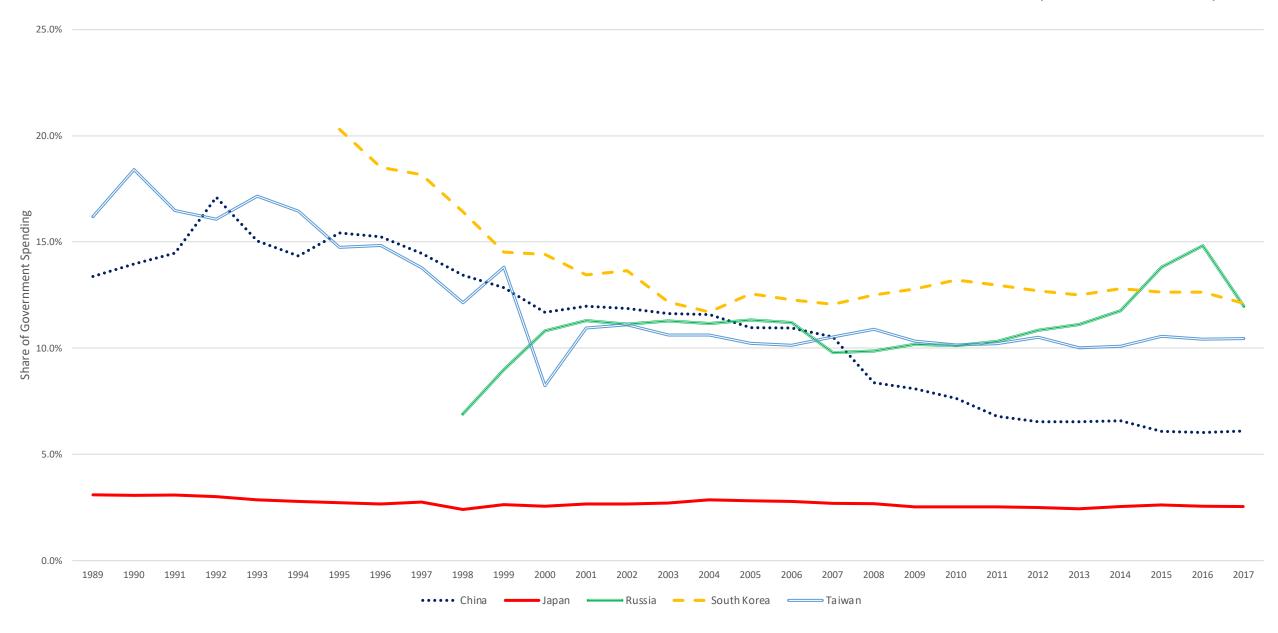
UPDATING PEACE CULTURE

New Actors	global; tech savvy; new skillsets; independent hierarchical; underpaid; small and specialized	
Old Habits		
New Motivations	environmental; economic	
Established Methods	cross-networked; cultural roadblocks	
New Context	interdependent; climate change	
Embedded Power	Lack of government dynamism; history "settled"; peace discourse	

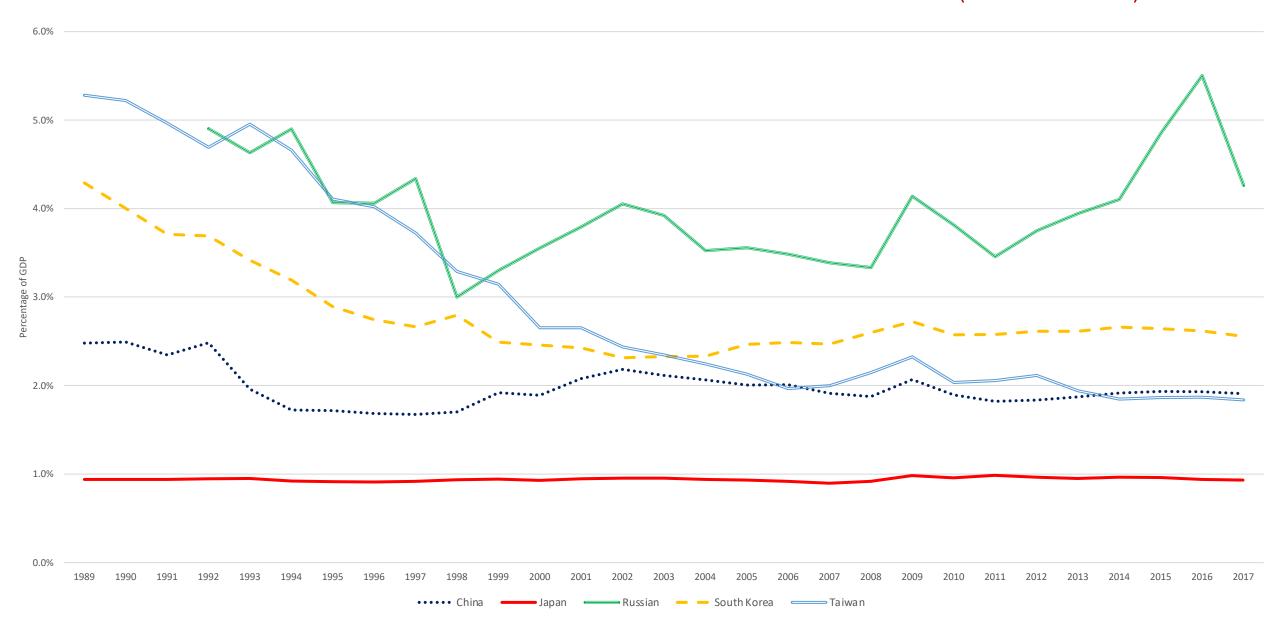
DEFENSE EXPENDITURES IN EAST ASIA (1989-2017)



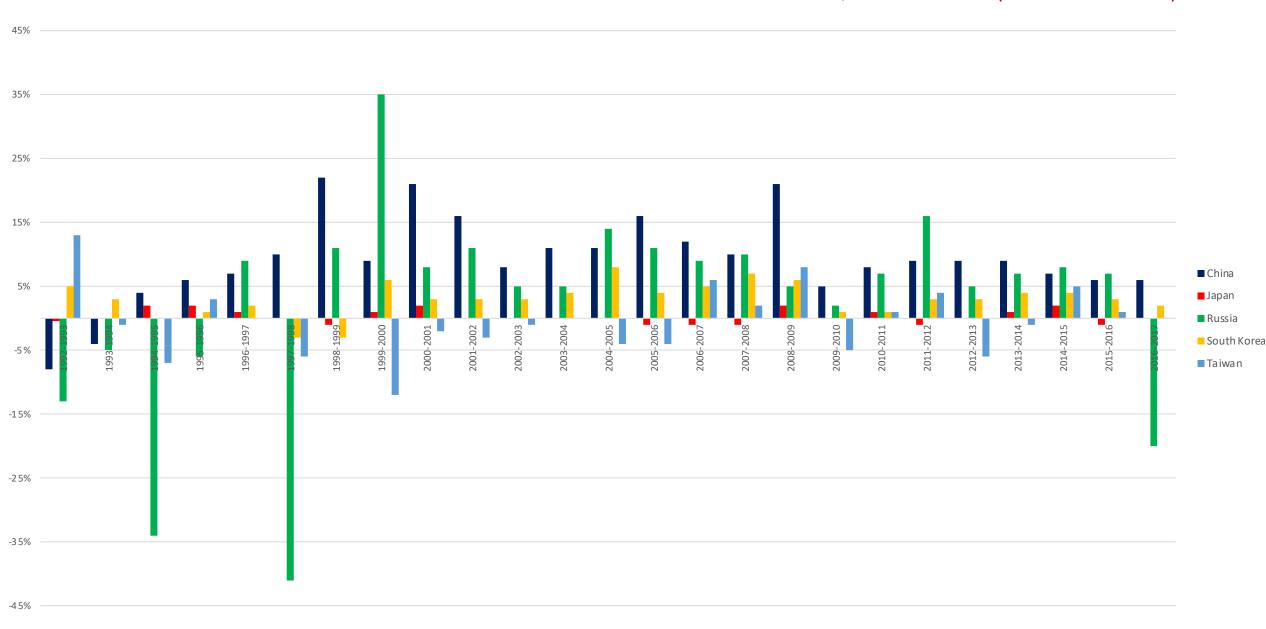
DEFENSE EXPENDITURES AS SHARE OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING (1989-2017)



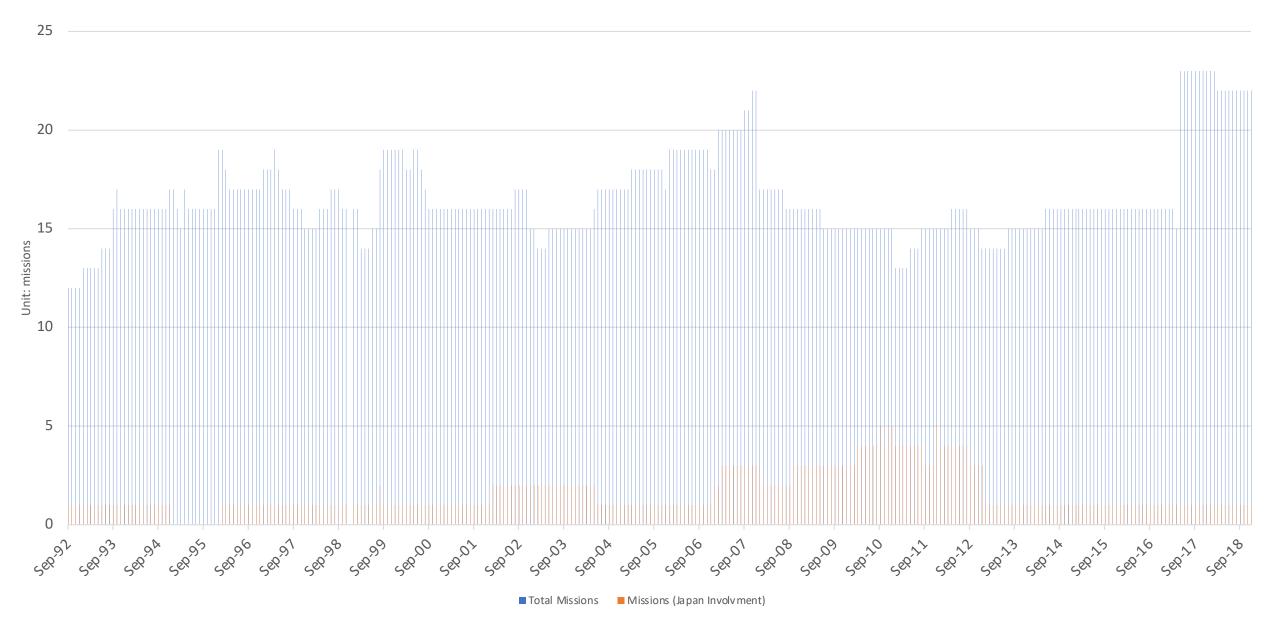
EAST ASIA DEFENSE EXPENDITURES BY SHARE OF GDP (1989-2017)



YEAR-TO-YEAR DEFENSE EXPENDITURES GROWTH/DECLINE (1992-2017)



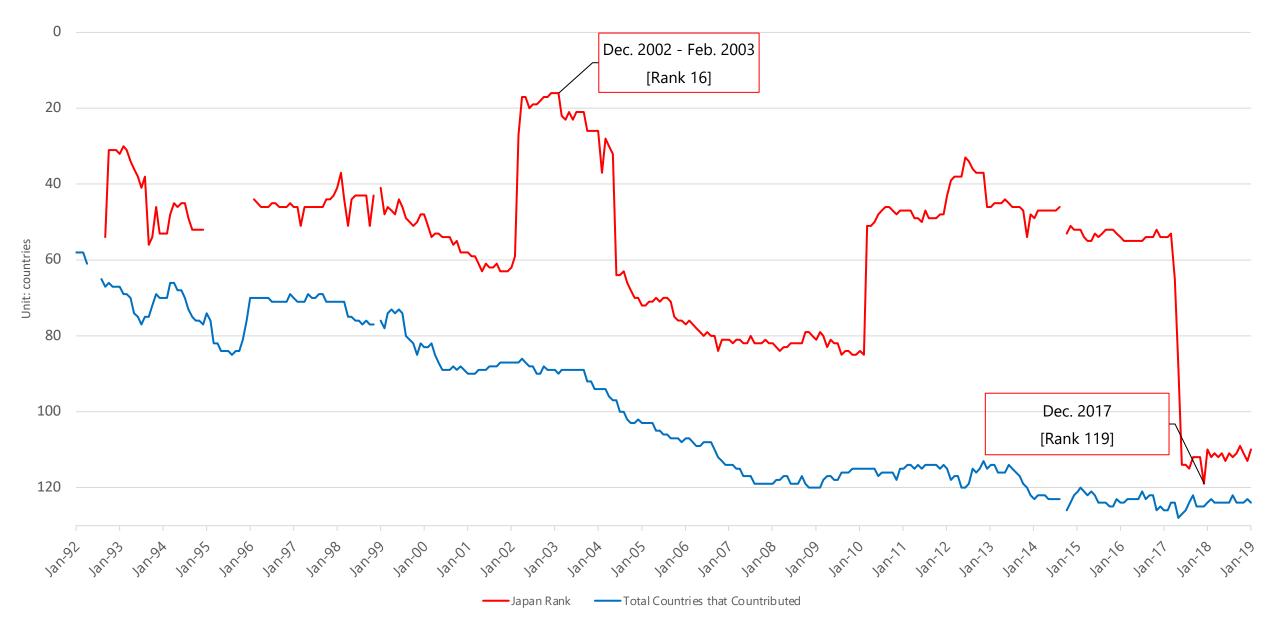
UN AND JAPAN PKO MISSIONS (SEPTEMBER 1992 – JANUARY 2019)



UN AND JAPAN PKO MISSIONS (SEPTEMBER 1992 – JANUARY 2019)



JSDF PERSONNEL CONTRIBUTIONS TO UN MISSIONS (09/92 -01/19)



	Prime Minister	What's the deal?	Status
	1) Tomiichi Murayama (JSP)	1994-1996. Upended decades of LDP rule. Socialist PM. 50 th Anniversary Apology Statement	Retired. Traveled to DPRK to improve relations. Led AWF.
	2) Ryutara Hashimoto (LDP)	1996-1998. Came up with the Futenma base agreement (STILL ONGOING).	Scandal forced him to resign. Dead.
9	3) Keizo Obuchi (LDP)	1998-2000. High point in Japan-ROK relations due to Obuchi-Kim statement and lack of spoilers. "Future-oriented relationship based on reconciliation."	Suffered stroke and died while in office.
	4) Yoshiro Mori (LDP)	2000-2001. "Heart of a flea, brain of a shark." Either racist, or dumb.	Resigned. Now head of 2020 Olympics.
	5) Junichiro Koizumi (LDP)	2001-2006. A "maverick" who was very popular. Kingmaker who remade LDP. Empowered PMship significantly. Known for Yasukuni Shine visits, assertive foreign policy, economic reform (privatization of economy) and support for GWB.	Retired. Weak kingmaker. Anti-nuclear.
()	6) Shinzo Abe (LDP)	2006-2007. Came into power due to North Korea negotiations.	Resigned. Comes back in 2012.
	7) Yasuo Fukuda (LDP)	2007-2008. Son of former PM. Got nothing done.	Resigned. Some diplomacy work.
	8) Taro Aso (LDP)	2008-2009. Only PM to start term with below 50% approval rating. Gaff prone. Lost LDP power.	Resigned. Current Minister of Finance. Deputy Prime Minister.
(a) (a)	9) Yukio Hatoyama (DPJ)	2009-2010. Political blue blood. 4 th gen. politician. Great grandfather founded LDP. Asia-focused foreign policy. Disliked by US and Japanese bureaucracy.	Resigned due to scandal. Visits Asia often to given apologies. Stage actor.
	10) Naoto Kan (DPJ)	2010-2011. Non-elite. Worked his way up government ranks. Increased sales tax; couldn't jumpstart economy. PM during 3/11. All downhill. From there.	Resigned. Sitting Diet member. Member of CDP.
	11) Yoshihiko Noda (LDP)	2011-2012. Focused on US-Japan alliance (Obama's Pivot to Asia). Pushed for TPP. Nationalized Senkaku Islands. Party lost election to LDP.	Lost. Sitting Diet member. DP.
	12) Shinzo Abe (LDP)	2012-2020. Indo-Pacific Strategy. Abenomics. Wants to revise constitution. Very pro-US. Friends with Trump. Improved relations with China. Poor relations with ROK, despite 2015 deal. Numerous scandals. Got the Olympics. Strong legacy with the "west;" unpopular in Asia.	Longest-serving PM. Just resigned
	13) Yoshihide Suga (LDP)	2020-present. Abe's Cabinet Secretary. Non-elite. Wants to continue Abe policies. Will have to deal with COVID, gender equality, the Olympics, East Asia issues, US presidency, demographics, immigration	Current PM.