

U.S. Strategy towards East Asia and Views on Japan

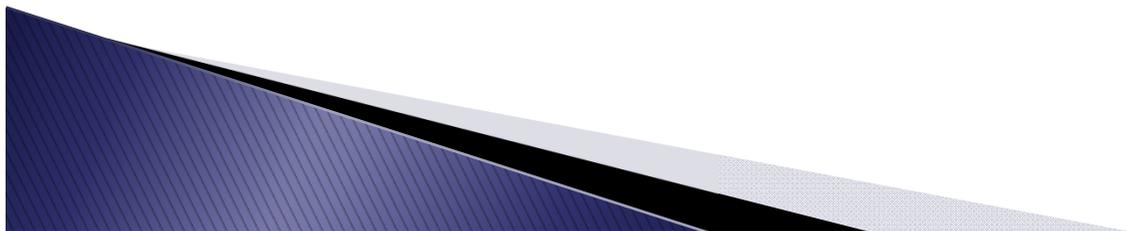
Zhao Quansheng
趙全勝

American University
zhao@american.edu

Fujitsu Research Institute
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Overview

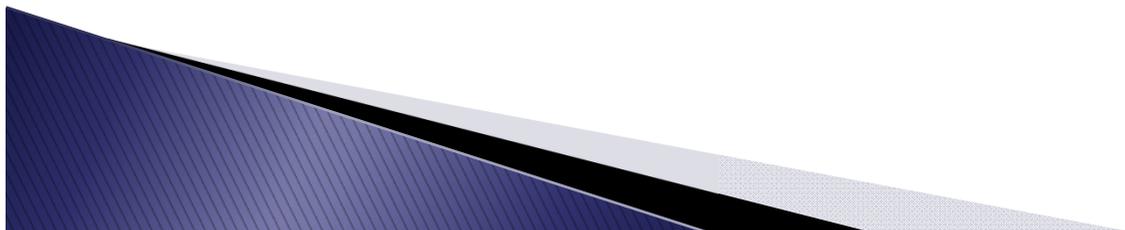
- ▶ U.S. Strategy toward East Asia
- ▶ Major Players in the Region
- ▶ General US Opinion of Japan
- ▶ The Role of US Media
- ▶ Militarily and Security
- ▶ Politics
- ▶ Issues of History
- ▶ Economics Issues



U.S. Strategy toward East Asia

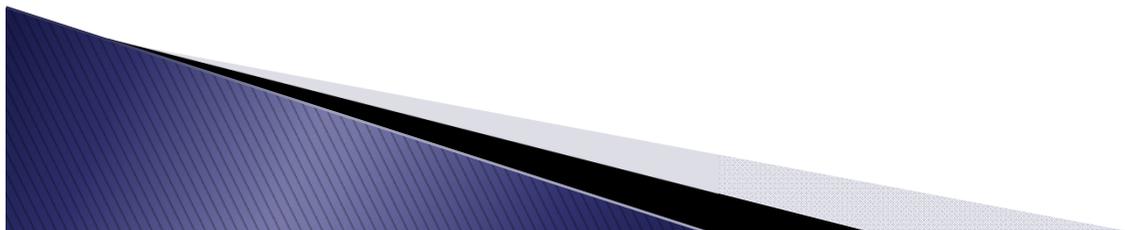
▶ Obama's Rebalancing toward Asia-Pacific Region

- Expand and deepen a commitment across the region.
- Strengthening U.S. -Japan & U.S.-ROK Alliances.
- Facilitating Partnerships with Emerging Powers.



Major Players in the Region: U.S. and China

- ▶ A Stable and Constructive Relationship
- ▶ Peaceful Rise and Power Transition
- ▶ “Dual Leadership”—
Complimentary



A New Style of Great Power Relations

- ▶ Xi Jinping and Obama's meeting
 - Nuclear free Korea
 - Reaffirm opposition to trade protectionism
 - Global governance
 - Financial crises
 - Symbolic gestures
- ▶ Cooperation in regional affairs



U.S. and Korean Peninsula

- ▶ North Korea—Threat of Opportunity?
- ▶ U.S. diplomatic and military reactions
- ▶ U.S. strategies
 - Sticks V.S. carrots
 - Alliances: Japan and ROK
 - The policy of patience
 - An explicit co-management with China



Resuming Six Party Talks?

- ▶ All parties favor returning to talks; But
- ▶ China favors no preconditions to talks
- ▶ US, Japan, and South Korea first want North Korean commitment to denuclearization
- ▶ North Korea rejects talks without recognition as a nuclear state



U.S. Views Japan: General Opinion

- ▶ Public Opinion remains very high
 - 81% Favorable
 - Third highest after Canada, Great Britain, and Germany

Next, I'd like your overall opinion of some foreign countries. What is your overall opinion of [RANDOM ORDER]? Is it very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly unfavorable, or very unfavorable?

Sorted by "Total favorable"

	Total favorable	Total unfavorable
	%	%
Canada	91	5
Great Britain	88	8
Germany	85	10
Japan	81	15
France	73	22
India	68	23
Israel	66	29
Mexico	47	49
Russia	44	50
China	43	52
Venezuela	40	47
Egypt	40	53
Saudi Arabia	36	58
Cuba	34	59
Libya	20	72
Iraq	19	76
Afghanistan	15	80
The Palestinian Authority	15	77
Syria	14	75
Pakistan	14	81
North Korea	12	84
Iran	9	87

Feb. 7-10, 2013

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Positive Opinions

- ▶ Sticks to security treaty commitments
- ▶ US Asia Pivot--Japan is key for any US military presence in Asia, particularly navy and air force
- ▶ For traditional hot spots:
Korean Peninsula/
Taiwan Strait



Military and Security

- ▶ With a rising China and instability on the Korean peninsula, the US needs Japan for bases and cooperation
- ▶ US Pivot to Asia
 - Shift 60% of US Navy to Asia-Pacific
 - More focus on Asia security issues



Japanese Soft Power

- ▶ By 2000s Anime and Manga became a main-stream part of pop culture in the US
- ▶ The popularity of Japanese pop culture in the US has fueled positive feelings towards Japan among ordinary Americans



On the Negative Side

- ▶ However...
- ▶ Victor Cha: US should pay more attention to the issues that are important to people in Asia
 - Has Japan sufficiently recognized history? e.g. comfort women
 - Moving towards a more proactive, comprehensive view of Japan



The Role of US News Media

- ▶ “Japan’s Offensive Foreign Minister”
 - February 2006, New York Times
 - Editorial on Aso Taro’s inflammatory comments on Japanese imperialism being good for Taiwan and Korea
- ▶ 3/11 Earthquake, Tsunami, and Fukushima Crisis
 - Covered widely for several months
 - Raised strong sympathies and positive feelings

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EDITORIAL

Japan's Offensive Foreign Minister

Published: February 13, 2006

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People everywhere wish they could be proud of every bit of their countries' histories. But honest people understand that's impossible, and wise people appreciate the positive value of acknowledging and learning from painful truths about past misdeeds. Then there is Japan's new foreign minister, Taro Aso, who has been neither honest nor wise in the inflammatory statements he has been making about Japan's disastrous era of militarism, colonialism and war crimes that culminated in the Second World War.

Besides offending neighboring countries that Japan needs as allies and trading partners, he is deserving the people he has been pandering to. World War II ended before most of today's Japanese were born. Yet public discourse in Japan and modern history lessons in its schools have never properly come to terms with the country's responsibility for such terrible events as the mass kidnapping and sexual enslavement of Korean young women, the biological warfare experiments carried out on Chinese cities and helpless prisoners of war, and the sadistic slaughter of hundreds of thousands of Chinese civilians in the city of Nanjing.

That is why so many Asians have been angered by a string of appalling remarks Mr. Aso has made since being named foreign minister last fall. Two of the most recent were his suggestion that Japan's emperor ought to visit the militaristic Yasukuni Shrine, where 14 Japanese war criminals are among those honored, and his claim that Taiwan owes its high educational standards to enlightened Japanese policies during the 50-year occupation that began when Tokyo grabbed the island as war booty from China in 1895. Mr. Aso's later lame efforts to clarify his words left their effect unchanged.

Mr. Aso has also been going out of his way to inflame Japan's already difficult relations with Beijing by characterizing China's long-term military buildup as a "considerable threat" to Japan. China has no recent record of threatening Japan. As the rest of the world knows, it was the other way around. Mr. Aso's sense of diplomacy is as odd as his sense of history.

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Japanese seniors volunteer for Fukushima 'suicide corps'

By Kyung Lah (CNN)
June 1, 2011 10:10 p.m. EDT

Recommend 12,975 people recommend this.

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Elderly volunteers for nuclear crisis Source: CNN

Politics: Prime Minister Abe

- ▶ ‘Nationalist Hawk’
- ▶ Favors revision of Article 9
 - Some Americans support the revision as it allows for a more equal US–Japan military partnership
- ▶ Favors revising earlier apologies for WWII and ‘comfort women’
 - Strongly discouraged by US politicians



Politics: Right-Wing Concerns

- ▶ Strong right-wing, militaristic views in Japan are counter-productive for US
 - However, average Americans are not aware of right-wing Japanese politics
- ▶ Gen. Tamogami Toshio, Air Self-Defense Force Chief of Staff
 - 2008: published an essay stating that Japan was not an aggressor in WWII and that Tokyo Trials were unjustified
 - Dismissed by government for his comments
- ▶ Such views challenge US-Japan post-war agreements



Politics: Mayor Hashimoto

- ▶ Hashimoto Toru
 - Mayor of Osaka
 - Co-leader of Nippon Ishin no Kai Party
- ▶ May 14, 2013
 - Comments in a meeting with military in Okinawa
 - ‘Comfort Women’ system was necessary
 - Encouraged Okinawa marines to make use of ‘entertainment and amusement industries’ to release ‘sexual energies’



Asian Reactions to Hashimoto

- ▶ Have been calls for years for stronger apologies and individual compensation
- ▶ South Korea
 - ‘Deep disappointment’ and student
- ▶ China
 - Criticized for disregarding history and justice
- ▶ Philippines
 - condemned



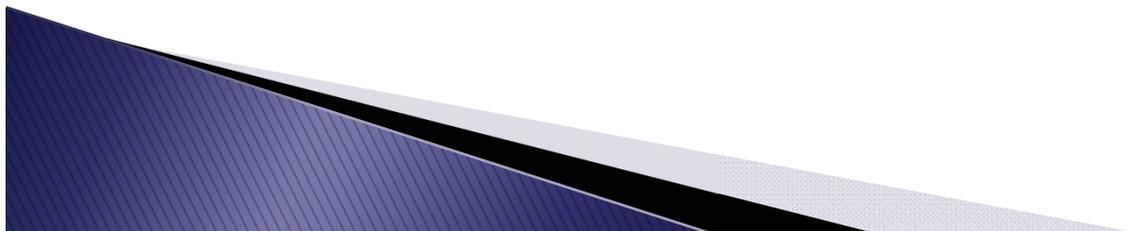
US Reactions to Hashimoto

▶ Reactions from US

- State Department openly condemned as 'outrageous'
- Pentagon calls his remarks ridiculous
- Urges Japan to reconcile with neighbors

▶ In Hashimoto's Defense

- Hashimoto's Rebuttal: US Soldiers abused Japanese women during post-war occupation
- The media has blown up and misinterpreted his remarks



Issues of History

- ▶ ‘Comfort Women’
 - 2007: US House of Representatives passed resolution asking for apology from Japan
 - Effort led by Rep. Mike Honda (CA)
- ▶ Yasukuni Shrine Visits
 - Honors 14 leading war criminals
 - Visits always result in protests from China and Korea
 - Less clear-cut for Americans



The Senkaku/Diaoyu Controversy

- ▶ US officially takes no stance on the ultimate sovereignty of the islands
- ▶ However, they fall under the US–Japan Security Treaty
- ▶ A settlement between China and Japan should be reached peacefully



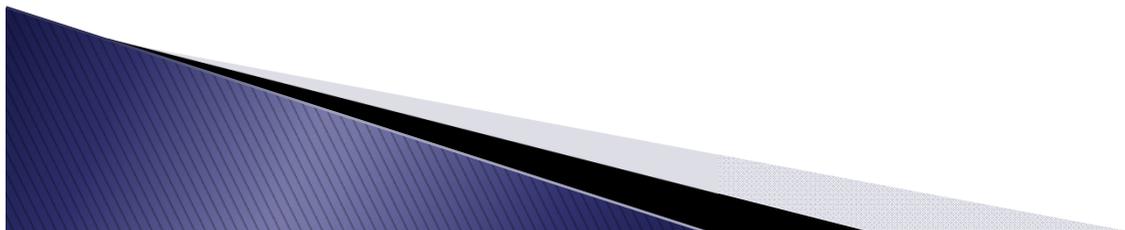
Economics Issues: TPP

- ▶ Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)
 - Led by US
 - Would have to resolve import restrictions on US beef, cars, etc.
 - US auto makers' concerns
 - Japanese farmers also protest
 - Expands both US and Japanese economic leadership in the region
 - China's latest move



Economics and Trade

- ▶ Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)
 - ASEAN +3+3
 - Includes China but not US
 - Although not in conflict with TPP, seen as a competition between China and US
 - Japan is in negotiations for both TPP and RCEP
- ▶ Abenomics
 - Stimulus package
 - US Treasury warned Japan against competitive devaluation



Conclusions

- ▶ In general, US still holds a favorable opinion of Japan
- ▶ The attitude towards US–Japan alliance is overwhelmingly positive
- ▶ However, US increasingly considers other Asian countries' views on regional issues
- ▶ Even though the US believes it is unlikely for Japan to return to militarism, one function of the US military presence is to watch Japan
 - e.g. US would not allow Japan to develop nuclear weapons
- ▶ A stable Washington–Tokyo–Beijing relationship is in line with US national interests
 - Avoid military confrontations at all costs
 - Feb. 2012, Noda and Obama issued a joint statement calling for US–China–Japan cooperative mechanisms
 - 2+2+2?

