**Essay 1**

**Topic: Does your assigned role support the norm of responsibility to protect for military intervention in Ukraine?**

**Student ID: 20229075**

**Student Name: Akhunov Shukhratbek**

**Assigned Role: Japan**

**Introduction**

**On February 24, 2022,** Russian soldiers initiated a series of **rocket assaults** against targets close to Kyiv. It's a complicated subject with a lot of variables. Japan has taken involved in the dispute between Ukraine and Russia in several approaches, including by contributing **defense materials** (**military equipment**) and **humanitarian help** and engaging in **diplomatic attempts** to settle the conflict. Japan and the US have a solid partnership, and **the US is spearheading NATO's reaction** to Russian aggression.

**SWOT Analysis**

Following the devastating Russian attack on Ukraine, the Ukrainian government reached out to Japan for military supplies to aid in their defense efforts. Mainly, they requested **anti-tank weapons, ammunition, digital detectors,** and **bulletproof clothing**. In response, the Japanese government quickly modified its regulations concerning the shipment of weapons. By early March, they dispatched a Boeing KC-767 tanker plane outfitted with protective gear to the Ukrainian front lines.

In addition to this military aid, Japan has pledged significant humanitarian aid to Ukraine. Specifically, they have committed **$5.5 billion** in aid to assist with the aftermath of the Russian invasion. This represents a significant increase from their previous aid to Kyiv, demonstrating Japan's deep commitment to helping Ukraine during this difficult time.

Furthermore, Japan is actively working to reduce its reliance on Russian energy, although this has proven challenging. While Japan continues to import liquefied natural gas, they are gradually eliminating and prohibiting the importation **of Russian coal and oil**. This represents an important step towards energy independence and underscores Japan's commitment to ensuring its security and stability, even in the face of outside threats.

**Stance and Possible Responses**

The government of Japan has expressed its unwavering support for Ukraine's territorial ­integrity and sovereignty, denouncing Russia's flagrant violation of international laws and human rights. Furthermore, Japan has taken concrete actions to demonstrate its solidarity with Ukraine, including imposing **sanctions on Russia** and providing aid to the beleaguered nation.

Despite these efforts, the relationship between Russia and Japan has significantly deteriorated in recent times. Russia has gone as far as to label Japan as an "enemy country" and has suspended discussions regarding a peace agreement. Russia claims that the Northern Territories issue, which is also known as **the Kuril Islands** in Russia, has already been resolved. Such developments have created a palpable sense of tension between the two nations, further complicating their already fraught relationship.

**Conclusion**

The involvement of Japan in the Ukraine-Russia conflict is multifaceted and complex, with various approaches taken, such as supplying **defense materials** and **humanitarian assistance**, and **engaging in diplomatic initiatives**. Japan's commitment to Ukraine extends to increased financial support and efforts to decrease dependence on **Russian energy resources**.

However, this has strained Russia-Japan relations, resulting in Japan being designated as an "adversarial nation" by Moscow, and peace treaty negotiations being terminated due to the **Northern Territories dispute**.

**Words: 469**

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