

Week 10 – Japan's Politics and Int. Relations



Japan and America

- The relationship between the two countries has generally been strong since the end of World War II
- The 1940s and 1950s demonstrated that the Japanese and Americans could work together in rebuilding Japan after the war
- Many of the politicians in Japanese government worked closely with American politicians and planners

Japan and America

- Throughout the 1950s, Japan was used as a military base by the Americans, most importantly in Okinawa
- The Americans were able to utilize these bases during the Korean War, which also helped strengthen Japan's economy since it was getting paid for it
- At the same, many of the islands the United States had occupied were given back to Japan, but Okinawa was kept despite mounting pressure





Japan-American Security Treaty

- Treaty was signed in 1951 at the San Francisco Peace Treaty and a revised Treaty was signed in 1960
- Purpose of this treaty was to commit the Americans to defending Japan so long as it continued to carry out Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution
- Has been the lynchpin behind Japan's safety in the region as well as its muscle behind its foreign relations

Japan and America

- By the 1960, Japan's economy began to boom
- The 1960s and 1970s also saw a return of all the American occupied islands to the Japanese, including Okinawa by 1972
- However, despite the return of these islands, many American bases continued to exist throughout Japan, including Okinawa, which has been a major cause for concern due to American mistreatment of Japan's citizenry

Japan and America

- During the 1980s, despite Japan's growing economic troubles with the Americans, Japanese-American relations did very well from political points of view
- Prime Minister Nakasone had established a strong relationship with President Reagan on foreign policy, especially when it came to increasing US military presence in Japan and attitudes towards the USSR
- Japan-US relations were hurt however over the economic issues of trade restrictions



- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XnOnDatqENo>

Japan and America

- After Japan's recession began in the 1990s, Japan-US relations began to balance out economically as Japan opened some of its markets to American goods, alleviating some of the friction
- However, by the 2000s, Japan's commitment to the United States greatly strengthened over the Afghanistan and Iraq Wars under the Bush and Koizumi administrations
- At the same time, China's exploding economy since 1998 had come into the spotlight
- Japan and the US began strategizing against an economically rising China



Japan and America

- Recently China had been seen restoring good relations with Russia, but in 2014, they seem to be reverting back to stronger relations with Japan and the US
- Anyone know why?
- Which does China's relations stand a better chance with, Russia or Japan and America?

Japan and China

- Sino-Japanese relations sink to a new low after Mao Zedong's Communist party takes over China in 1949
- Global Cold War Structures created the dichotomy between Pro-Liberal Democracies vs Pro-Communist-Socialist Systems
- China allies itself with the USSR while Japan allies itself with the USA

Japan and China

- During the 1950s, Japan had sided with the American position that Taiwan was the legitimate government of China, even signing a peace treaty with the Republic of China
- The constant fear of the American military bases in and around Japan also sparked Chinese suspicion of the Japanese
- However, despite rocky relations, the Chinese continued trade with the Japanese, even though the Americans chose not to

Japan and China

- During the 1960s, the Chinese had completely split with the Soviets and were then forced to improve its economic ties with Japan
- This worked for a little while until Japan's pro-Taiwan faction criticized Japan's trade until the Japanese backed out of China
- China also began to fear Japan's economic rise and cautioned its military expenditures

Sino-Japanese Normalization

- Understanding that his party tenure and life were coming to an end, Mao Zedong had not only settled relations with the United States, but with Japan as well
- Sino-American Rapprochement in 1972 surprised the Japanese
- Japanese returned in kind by signing its own normalization of diplomatic relations with China in 1972 with the Sino-Japanese Joint Communique
- Mao Zedong dies in 1976 which ushers in many reforms and development for China, including Japanese trade and investment
- Treaty of Peace and Friendship signed in 1978





Japan and China

- Sino-Japanese relations improved drastically during the 1980s under Deng Xiaoping's leadership of the PRC
- He was far more willing to put issues aside in order to increase China's development and economy by partnering with Japan
- Japan pours record amounts of ODA funding into China
- Both countries also improve their relations with the United States from a diplomatic point of view
- Economically, Japan begins troubles with trade deficits

**ONE MAN'S
COURAGE
THAT SAYS:**

OUR FREEDOM



CANNOT DIE

THIS was one student's incredible act of defiance in Peking's Tiananmen Square yesterday. Alone and unarmed, he boldly challenged the awesome might of the People's Army by standing in front of an advancing column of tanks.

It was a gesture that symbolised the

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CHINA CLOSE TO CIVIL WAR: Pages 2 and 3

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Japan and China

- By 1989, China's handling of the Tiananmen Square Massacre created a foreign relations disaster
- Many of the world's nations stopped diplomatic and trade relations with China over the event
- Japan, however, was the first nation to begin relations with China around 1993

China and Japan

- Japan's relations with China have since had highs and lows
- Economically they are each others' largest trading partners
- However, culturally these nations have been continuously at odds with each other
- Why might this be from a systematic reason?

Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands

- Territorial disputes such as the Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands have constantly drained the relations between the two countries
- Roughly 100 Billion barrels of oil and natural gas are potentially located under these islets
- What other reasons are there for wanting these territories?





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Senkaku/Diaoyu

- Historically speaking, China had potentially mentioned these islands in writing from the Ming Dynasty
- However, Japan has occupied these islands since the 1880s based on the notion of Terra Nullius
- These islands, however, happen to fall within Taiwan's range of borders
- Where does the debate go from here and what can be done?

Sino-Japanese History Dilemma

- China has criticized Japan of not addressing its history
- On one side, the Japanese government is criticized for not acknowledging its part in World War II
- Japanese school boards have also been criticized for inserting problematic statements in its textbooks
- How does Japan go about correcting this or have they?

Japan and Korea

- Japan has a rocky relationship with both Koreas
- This primarily stems from Japan's colonization of Korea and mistreatment of Korean citizens
- They have mostly been able to maintain relations due to the similar bond they share with being America's ally

Japan and North Korea

- Relationship has generally been terrible over the years
- North Korea has abducted many Japanese citizens since its establishment
- Also North Korea continues the threat of firing ballistic missiles over the Sea of Japan



Japan-South Korea

- Relationship was primarily forced upon by the Americans, kind of like a parent trying to get two siblings to make up after a fight
- The 1965 Treaty of Basic Relations between Japan and the Republic of Korea reintroduces diplomatic relations between the two countries
- Most economic trade is conducted with little cultural exchange up until recently

Japan and South Korea

- Until 1988, South Korea was a military dictatorship that invoked strong censorship on its people
- After it became a democracy, cultural imports began to ship into the country and abroad
- This includes Korean pop culture into Japan and vice-versa, but in less quantity

Takeshima/Dokdo

- Territorial disputes over these islands have also led to nationalistic sentiment between the two countries
- This disputes is primarily centered around fishing rights and Exclusive Economic Zones rather than natural gas
- Currently South Korea occupies it





Japan and Russia

- Japan and Russia till this day have not signed an official peace treaty to end World War II
- Their relationship has mostly been problematic due to history, territorial disputes, and the Cold War structures
- At the end of the war, the USSR had taken the Northern Territories/Kuril Islands during its advancement on Japan
- This territorial dispute has been behind the majority of bad relations between the two countries

Japan and Russia

- During the 1950s, both nations signed a declaration that would restore relations between the two and end the war, but not officially that would resolve issues such as the territorial dispute
- The USSR had offered what is known as the Two-Islands Return which would return the islands of Habomai and Shikotan to the Japanese as a way of drawing the Japanese away from the Western bloc, but the Americans intervened and stopped this from happening

Japan and Russia

- Japan's relationship with the USSR has generally been strong from an economic point of view
- However, Japan and the USSR/Russia have never been able to formally agree upon the territorial dispute which always leaves cultural relations stagnant and bitter
- It also prevents them from finalizing a formal peace treaty to end the war

Japan and Russia

- During the 1970s and 1980s, Japan began to align itself closer with China as well as recommitted itself to the United States. This created a somewhat coalition that the Soviets viewed as anti-USSR
- Prime Minister Nakasone had tightened his relations with the United States and increased American presence in Japan
- By the 1990s, the Soviet Union collapsed and Russia's domestic situation deteriorated



Northern Territories/Kurile Islands

- Four islands: Habomai, Shikotan, Kunashiri, and Etorofu
- Claims of ownership stem from interpretation. Russia claims that they had been occupied by Russians until the Russo-Japanese War
- Japan claims that they had taken back the islands in which the Ainu people had lived that and that the Soviets had invaded those islands at the end of WWII



