

The Alliance and Asian Institutionalism (Talking Point)

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1. Overview of the Security Environment in Asia and Japan's Security Policies

- a. Difference between the security environments in Asia and Europe
 - i. Some nations have socialist governments, while others are dictatorships.
 - ii. Diverse characteristics due to the mixture of land and ocean states and premodern, modern, and postmodern states.

- b. The security challenge in the region consists of
 - i. subregional issues, and
 - ii. a symmetric risk and danger.

- c. The current critical agenda for Japan's security policies consists of
 - i. the U.S.-Japan Alliance,
 - ii. North Korea's nuclear and missile development,
 - iii. the People's Liberation Army (PLA) modernization program, particularly, naval and air power,
 - iv. reunification of North and South Korea, and
 - v. the permanent law for dispatching Self-defense forces (SDF) overseas.

2. Asian Institutionalism

- (1) Every nation in Asia was concerned due to the lack of a regional framework to deal with any challenge after the end of the Cold War era. In the post-Cold War era, Asian nations established regional institutions, such as ARF, APEC, ASEAN + 3, EAC, CSCAP, and 6-Party Talks, which are similar to dialogue frameworks.

- (2) Each institution has progressed in terms of improving mutual understanding and cooperation. However, their progress has been hindered to an extent

due to the reluctance of some countries to accept institutionalization.

- (3) The 6-Party Talks are expected to progress toward the achievement of the extreme objectives of CVID with regard to nuclear development. However, the Northeast Asia Security Architecture appears to be premature due to the distrust among member states, the slow progress of nuclear development, and the issue of abductions.

3. Strategic Relationship among Major Powers in East Asia

- (1) Russia, which has confidently managed its economy and nationalistic direction against the U.S., intends to be a “great power.” Russia expects the Asian countries to invest in the development of natural resources in the Far East.

Further, it is cautious about the rapid economic growth and military development of China, and is reinforcing naval and air power in the Pacific.

- (2) China’s priority is to make domestic society more stable. Economic development is the most effective method to achieve this purpose. The PLA has been undergoing the process of modernization in order to improve power projection capabilities in the Pacific Ocean.

China prioritized its relationship with the U.S., which is its significant partner for foreign investment and trade.

- (3) The U.S. does not intend to engage in ground battle with other nations in the Asian continent. However, it is determined to protect its national interests in the Pacific Ocean with the cooperation of allied nations, and has deployed more naval and air power to the Pacific Ocean than the Atlantic.

- (4) Japan has prioritized the U.S.-Japan Alliance. Japan also intends to form a better relationship with China, although China is reluctant to compromise with Japan with respect to territorial issues, energy resources, historical events, and defense issues.

Japan wishes to improve its relationship with Russia and resume the territorial dialogue. Russia is concerned about the U.S.-Japan missile defense (MD) deployment in the Sea of Japan, while Russia expects Japan to invest in energy development in the Far East.

4. The U.S.-Japan Alliance—Future Prospects

- (1) There is no alternative besides sustaining the Alliance in order to secure the national interests of Japan. However, the Alliance should redefine its rationale.
- (2) The U.S. and Japan should strengthen mutual defense cooperation in order to share each role and mission. Japan should make more efforts to improve the credibility of the U.S.-Japan Alliance, particularly in the areas of HNS, defense transformation, MD, intelligence management, collective self-defense right, defense efforts, and international contribution.
- (3) Japan is expected to improve and expand its contribution toward international peace and security by a permanent law, which will be the most critical political agenda this year.
- (4) As the U.S. and Japan will reassess and redefine the rationale of the Alliance, it is expected that the Alliance will seek common values and ideology rather than a common enemy. Moreover, the Alliance can be developed into a regional multilateral security framework that includes nations that can share the same values, ideology, and like-minded behavior.