

The US Japan Alliance

Northeast Asian Security Dynamics

2020: Where are we now?

- Xi's China
- Taiwan's vulnerability
- South Korea's Uncertainty
- North Korea's Determination
- Japan's New Leadership





A Brief History...



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- **In 1996**, in the wake of the Taiwan Strait Crisis, Pres Clinton and Prime Minister Hashimoto issued the Joint Declaration on Security. **Since then...**
 - Expansion of geographical scope
 - Expansion of Japan's capabilities – intel & mil
 - Expansion of jointness in both planning and operations (Alliance Coordination Mechanism)
 - Expansion of Japan's military focus from north to Southwest
 - Expansion of Japan as a “hub” itself
 - Expansion of “federated capabilities” through trilateral with Australia
 - Expansion of the remit of the Alliance



Where have we yet to go...?



The US-Alliance: Foundation for Multilateralism

- While the US' Hub & Spokes System is often characterized as defining regional security architecture for decades, the lack of a NATO-like structure was originally due to Japanese opposition.
- Japan – as the third largest regional power after China and India – is reasserting itself as a “normal power”. The Indo-Pacific concept was originally a Japanese formula designed to make India a player in the Pacific.
- Japan's support for the US system will continue as long as...
 - Japan benefits from the US-order (global commons, open trading system)
 - China continues to hold history against Japan and minimize its role in the future of Asian integration

Discussion Points

- 1. What led to the US-Japan Alliance evolving over the past?
- 2. How does the US-Japan Alliance impact security in NE Asia?
- 3. Where do you see the US-Japan Alliance evolving over coming years?

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