



# Japan's foreign policy

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# Major issues

- Two main pillars of Japan's foreign policy
- Japan's international contribution
  - Economic aid (ODA)
  - PKO activities
  - Humanitarian aid (SDF dispatch to Iraq)
- Japan's quest for UNSC permanent membership
- Free Trade Agreements

# Two main pillars of Japan's foreign policy

- UN centrism (UN centered diplomacy)
- US-Japan alliance



# **Japan's international contribution (Economic aid)**

# Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA)



- Japan has provided assistance to a total of 185 countries and regions
- Japan's ODA was ranked as the world's top ODA provider from 1991 to 2000 (One-fifth of the world total ODA) → High contribution of ODA

# ODA (Grant aid)



- **Socioeconomic Infrastructure:** Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, and Sri Lanka.
- **Water:** provides water supply to more than 40 million people throughout the world.
- **Public Health:** Japan provided polio vaccinations for 600 million children from 1993 to 2001.
- **Human Resources Development:** 70,000 experts and more than 25,000 Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers have been dispatched to 166 countries and regions.

# ODA (Loan aid)

- May 10, 2005, Thailand Second Bangkok International Airport Development Project April 1, 2005
- Madagascar Debt Relief

Japan is the largest contributor to international organizations including the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Asian Productivity Organization (APO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and the African Development Fund (AFDF).

# ODA

## Criticism

1. Japan links ODA to enhancement of its international economic position
2. Japan tied its foreign aid program to export promotion
3. ODA is more in the form of loans (to be repaid) than grants \*[ODABluebook.pdf](#)

Japan's efforts were dismissed as  
**'Checkbook diplomacy'**





**Japan's international contribution  
(United Nations Peace Keeping  
Operations)**

# What is PKO

- Peacekeeping operations are one of the ways in which the United Nations tries to maintain international peace and security.
- The main responsibility lies with the Security Council.
- If the Security Council recommendations are not followed by the parties involved, it can call for action by the international community ⇒ asking Member States to make armed forces to settle international disputes.

# Japan's PKO and participation

- UN Charter does not oblige Japan to contribute military to PKO
- Japan's PKO has always been non-military participation i.e. protection of human life, election monitoring, humanitarian aid, post-conflict economic rehabilitation

1992: UNTAC Cambodia (removal of mines)

1993: Mozambique (50 personnel)

1996: the Golan Heights

1994: Zaire



# Japan's PKO

## Criticism

*Japan's involvement in PKO is linked to  
Japan's bid for permanent Security  
Council Membership!*



# **Japan's International Contribution (Humanitarian aid)**

# Development in Japan's foreign policy (humanitarian aid)

It has been influenced by 'Gaiatsu' (Foreign Pressure) and **the Gulf War, 1991**

i.e. US pressure → active role and military role for Japan (1990s)

## International Peace Cooperation Bill (PKO Bill) – 1992

SDF is allowed to participate in all non-military PKOs, including supervising elections and transporting refugees.

## Lessons from the Gulf War, 1991

- Despite massive monetary contribution of USD\$13 billion, Japan experienced severe international criticism and loss of face.
- Engaged mainly in mine sweeping activity

**Japan offers money but not blood!**

# SDF dispatch to Iraq



- Up to 600 Ground Self-Defense Force troops have been stationed in Samawah in southern Iraq since early 2004 to repair schools and roads and provide clean water and medical aid.
- About 200 Air Self-Defense Force troops stationed in Kuwait are transporting goods and U.S. military personnel to and from Iraq.
- SDF dispatch to Iraq is likely to be extended another year



# Japan's quest for UN permanent membership



# What is the Security Council ?

Purpose:

- Maintenance of international peace and security
- Investigate any dispute or situation that could lead to international friction
- Recommend methods for adjusting disputes and terms for settlement
- UNSC alone has the power to make decisions which all Member States are obliged to accept and carry out.

Five UNSC permanent members (P5) with veto rights :  
US, France, UK, Russia and China – veto power

10 non-permanent members: two-year terms on a rotational basis

# UNSC reform

## Major issues for the reform

- Veto power – Should new Security Members be allowed to have the veto power or veto power itself should be eliminated?
- Expansion of UNSC membership:  
Is their need to expand UNSC permanent membership? If so, who are qualified?

Possible candidates for the membership (Japan, Germany, India and Brazil) and the opponents

- Japan vs. China and South Korea
- Germany vs. Italy
- India vs. Pakistan
- Brazil vs. Mexico

# Is Japan qualified to become the UNSC permanent member?

- Japan's financial contribution to the UN is the second largest (19.5%).
- Japan has contributed to the international community through development aid, i.e. ODA, loan
- **Enemy clauses in the UN Charter must be deleted (it refers to Japan)**

**Ultimate restoration of Japan's world prestige**

## ADDRESS BY KOIZUMI PRIME MINISTER

- For the last sixty years, Japan has determinedly pursued a course of development as **a peace-loving nation**, making a unique and significant contribution to the peace and prosperity of the world.
- Japan is convinced that Security Council reform is a just cause for the international community - as is **the deletion of the long obsolete "enemy state" clauses from the UN Charter**. In a reformed Council, **Japan is ready to play a larger role as a permanent member**.

(AT THE HIGH - LEVEL PLENARY MEETING OF THE 16th SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UN in 2005)

# What must Japan do in order to win support from UN member states?

- Win support from P5 nations
- China: Strongly against
- Boost cooperation toward a common goal of gaining permanent Security Council membership with other possible candidates (i.e. India, Germany)
- Win support from UN member states → Likely to win support from most African nations and some Asian nations ⇒ Economic influence (ODA)



**Free Trade Agreements (FTA)**  
**Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA)**

# How are FTA and EPA good for Japan

- Strengthen Japan's economic power
- Solve political and diplomatic issues
- Help strengthen Japan's position in international negotiations such as at the WTO
- Help secure and diversify stable imports of food and other resources for Japan (Abolishes tariffs)
- Better access to economic blocs emerging in Europe, North America, Southeast Asia and South America

# Japan's FTA & EPA

Japan has concluded EPA (with FTA elements) with four countries:

- **Singapore** in 2002 (No agriculture)
- **Mexico** in 2005 (This could boost Japan's exports by 400 billion yen per year. By shifting production to Mexico, Japanese firms would be able to ship products to the US and Canada tariff-free through NAFTA)
- **Philippines**
- **Malaysia** in May 2005 (goods, services, agriculture and marine products and economic cooperation)



# Japan's future EPA and FTA

- ASEAN: a framework has been agreed
- South Korea: began negotiation in 2003 hopes to conclude by the end of 2005
- Chile: Japan and Chili decided to launch negotiations to conclude an EPA
- Canada: signed the Japan-Canada Economic Framework Document

The 10 members of ASEAN, Japan, China and South Korea hope to conclude a free trade agreement ⇒ **East Asian Community (EU version of Asia)**

# East Asian community

- The government approved in late 2004 a basic plan to promote free-trade agreements, prioritizing accords with Asian trading partners to help build an East Asian community
- East Asian Community means to enhance regional cooperation based on the ASEAN-plus-three process involving ASEAN states, Japan, China and South Korea.

## Questions

- **Question 1: Japan is in quest of obtaining a UNSC permanent membership. Is Japan qualified to become a permanent member? What are the purposes and what does Japan want to achieve? Will the US and China support Japan's UNSC permanent membership?**
- **Question 2: Japan has concluded a number of FTAs in Asia and other countries. What are the purposes and what does Japan want to achieve?**
- **Question 3: Japan has dispatched the SDF to Iraq for humanitarian aid. Why has Koizumi made such a decision, what are their activities and how are their activities evaluated?**



**End of lecture**  
**(Japan's foreign policy)**