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JAPAN AS A 'GLOBAL PACIFIST STATE'

Its Changing Pacifism and Security Identity

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Abstract

This book examines Japan's changing pacifism and its implications for Japan's security identity from 1945 to the present. Existing literature overlooks a correlation between the shift in the nature of Japan's pacifism and its changing security identity. Moreover, earlier scholarship tends to focus on a particular theoretical perspective, and therefore, offers limited theoretical analyses. Accordingly, the main aim of the study is to contribute to filling this research gap by applying an alternative framework combined with an eclectic approach and offering a comprehensive analysis of Japan's pacifism and security identity.

To examine the shift in Japanese pacifism, this research employed the concept of 'negative pacifism' (Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution) and 'positive pacifism' (the Preamble of the Constitution) as an analytical framework. The conceptualisation is derived from a definition of 'negative-positive peace' (Galtung 1969). To analyse multiple factors which facilitated the shift in Japan's pacifism, the author applied 'analytical eclecticism' (Katzenstein 2008) and integrated the analytical framework (negative-positive pacifism) with orthodox international relations theories and approach. In an application of analytical eclecticism, this study proposed four theoretical perspectives of Japan's security identity: (a) pacifist state (classical liberalism/negative pacifism); (b) UN peacekeeper (neo-liberalism/positive pacifism); (c) normal state (classical realism/domestic pressure); and (d) US ally (neo-realism/external-structural pressure).

The main argument of this book is that there has been an incremental shift from negative pacifism to positive pacifism in response to domestic and external pressures and that this shift has influenced Japan's security identity. The core questions asked were: 1) What factors caused the shifts from 'negative pacifism' to 'positive pacifism'?; 2) Has Japan been 'normalising' its military power by participating in international peace operations?; and 3) How have the shifts to 'positive pacifism' influenced Japan's 'core security identity' as a 'global pacifist state'?

In order to substantiate the main argument and examine the questions, this research investigated the following case studies: (a) Japan's

security policy from 1945–1990; (b) Japan’s contributions to UNPKO in Cambodia and East Timor; (c) Japan’s responses to the US-led War on Terror; and (d) the Japanese constitutional revision issue in relation to Japan’s ‘core security identity’ as a global image. This study concluded that although Japan’s security identity is fluctuating between the four models above, its core security identity has become, and remains that of a ‘global pacifist state’. The findings of this research demonstrated that an analysis based on the concept of ‘negative-positive pacifism’ as an analytical framework combined with ‘analytical eclecticism’ as an alternative research method assists in a comprehensive understanding of Japan’s pacifism and security identity. In this way, this book made an important contribution to the study of Japanese politics and to the application of theories of peace research and international relations.