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\*\*\*Okinawa Good\*\*\*

Okinawa Good – Alliance/Regional Security

US forward deployment key to alliance – ensures Japanese and regional security – turns the advantage

Timothy D. **Stone**, lieutenant colonel and prosecutor within the Office of the Chief Prosecutor, 2006, “US-Japan SOFA: A necessary document worth revising” originally printed in the 2006 Naval Law Review accessed on Lexis Nexis

**The principles enshrined in** Chapter II, **Article 9 of Japan's** post-war **Constitution places its self-defense forces in a secondary role behind the United States military** when it comes to security issues, both in Japan and the East Asian region. [n1](http://www.lexisnexis.com:80/us/lnacademic/frame.do?reloadEntirePage=true&rand=1279991432419&returnToKey=20_T9806264346&parent=docview&target=results_DocumentContent&tokenKey=rsh-20.702759.586699271#n1) **Since** the attacks of September 11**, 2001, Japan has** steadfastly **supported the U.S. in the Global War on Terror** [n2](http://www.lexisnexis.com:80/us/lnacademic/frame.do?reloadEntirePage=true&rand=1279991432419&returnToKey=20_T9806264346&parent=docview&target=results_DocumentContent&tokenKey=rsh-20.702759.586699271#n2) **and has re-affirmed its security alliance with the U.S**. [n3](http://www.lexisnexis.com:80/us/lnacademic/frame.do?reloadEntirePage=true&rand=1279991432419&returnToKey=20_T9806264346&parent=docview&target=results_DocumentContent&tokenKey=rsh-20.702759.586699271#n3) **The U.S.-Japan alliance is at the forefront of the U.S. defense strategy in Asia, and critical to regional stability and the national security of both nations**. [n4](http://www.lexisnexis.com:80/us/lnacademic/frame.do?reloadEntirePage=true&rand=1279991432419&returnToKey=20_T9806264346&parent=docview&target=results_DocumentContent&tokenKey=rsh-20.702759.586699271#n4) "The alliance is dedicated to preserving the status quo in the Far East, that is, deterring the use of force as a means of altering political borders." [n5](http://www.lexisnexis.com:80/us/lnacademic/frame.do?reloadEntirePage=true&rand=1279991432419&returnToKey=20_T9806264346&parent=docview&target=results_DocumentContent&tokenKey=rsh-20.702759.586699271#n5) **The foundation of the alliance is the forward basing of American**[\*230]  **military personnel in Japan. "The governments share the understanding that Japan's provision of bases to the United States, allowing those forces to implement the United States' strategic plan in the region, balances the U.S. commitment to defend Japan**." [n6](http://www.lexisnexis.com:80/us/lnacademic/frame.do?reloadEntirePage=true&rand=1279991432419&returnToKey=20_T9806264346&parent=docview&target=results_DocumentContent&tokenKey=rsh-20.702759.586699271#n6) "That exchange is the core of the agreement, and neither side considers the arrangement unfair." [n7](http://www.lexisnexis.com:80/us/lnacademic/frame.do?reloadEntirePage=true&rand=1279991432419&returnToKey=20_T9806264346&parent=docview&target=results_DocumentContent&tokenKey=rsh-20.702759.586699271#n7)

US forward deployment key to alliance – recent naval deployments and security issues prove

Hirofumi **Nakasone**, former Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs, 9-26-**2008**, ‘Japan: FM Nakasone greets arrival of USS George Washington accessed on LexisNexis

**A strong Japan-US alliance is the linchpin of Japan's diplomacy**. As you know, the security environment in East Asia remains harsh as illustrated by such problems as North Korea's nuclear issue. The Government of **Japan welcomes wholeheartedly** the **forward deployment to the western Pacific** of an aircraft carrier that bears the very name of a famous Founding Father of the US, symbolizing the firm commitment of the United States to the Alliance. **USS GEORGE WASHINGTON is the first nuclear propelled aircraft carrier to be forward deployed to the western Pacific.** The Japanese people pay particular attention to the issues of nuclear safety. The United States Government has expressed its intention to continue to strictly honour all of its previous commitments regarding the safety of all US nuclear vessels including USS GEORGE WASHINGTON. The Government of Japan will also continue to expend all possible efforts to assure their safety. **2010 will mark the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Japan-US Security Treaty. The firm presence of US Forces in this region under the Japan-US Security Treaty is the very reason Japan has been able to enjoy peace and prosperity for the past half century.**

US troops in Japan are key to the security alliance – turns case

**Daily Yomiuri**, **02-03**-2010 “Cooperation with U.S. key to Japan’s Defense” accessed on LexisNexis

Meanwhile, senior foreign and **defense officials from Japan and the United States entered into discussions in Tokyo aimed at deepening the bilateral alliance**, as the current bilateral security treaty marked its 50th anniversary this year. **Dangers must be considered** It is vital that the acknowledgement of the threats posed by China's military expansion and North Korea's nuclear development presented in the report should be reflected in future discussions. In light of the rapid modernization of China's military, **it is indispensable to strengthen cooperation between the Self-Defense Forces and the U.S. military and to make an effort to strengthen deterrence. The report hammered out a policy to steadily implement the realignment of U.S. forces in Japan, ensuring the long term presence of the U.S. forces in Japan** and the reorganization of U.S. forces in Guam. **It is important that Japan and the United States share awareness of the security environment of Asia and the rest of the world, then continue strategic discussions on** examining **rolesharing** and cooperation. At the same time, to enable such discussions, it is indispensable to resolve the relocation issue of the U.S. Marine Corps' Futenma Air Station in Ginowan, Okinawa Prefecture, by the end of May. Putting off the issue is no longer acceptable.

Plan hurts the alliance – forward deployment is needed to uphold American treaty obligations to Japan

**States News Service**, 12-15**-2009** “U.S. should stay firm on implementation of Okinawa force realignment” accessed on LexisNexis

**Forward Deployment Critical to U.S. Fulfilling Treaty Obligations The forward-deployed U.S. military presence in Japan, including Okinawa, demonstrates Washington's commitment to fulfilling its 1960 bilateral security treaty obligations**. Although not widely known, **the security treaty obligates the U.S. not only to defend Japan, but also to fulfill broader regional security responsibilities.** "For the purpose of contributing to the security of Japan and the maintenance of international peace and security in the Far East,the United States of America is granted the use by its land, air and naval forces of facilities and areas in Japan."[14] **Alliance security objectives extending beyond the defense of Japan have been affirmed in recent bilateral agreements.**

Okinawa Good – Deterrence

U.S. POWER PROJECTION IN JAPAN KEEPS OTHER COUNTRIES FROM LASHING OUT

GEN. (RET.) PETER PACE, FORMER CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF THOMAS PICKERING, RAYMOND F. DUBOIS, SENIOR ADVISOR, CSIS THURSDAY, MAY 13, 2010 10:50 A.M. WASHINGTON, D.C. 2010 GLOBAL SECURITY FORUM: WHAT IMPACT WOULD THE LOSS OF OVERSEAS BASES HAVE ON U.S. POWER PROJECTION? http://csis.org/files/attachments/100513\_bases\_transcript.pdf

Having said that then, obviously, your bases and stations communicate your commitment to your friends. Arguably, our presence in Japan has helped that nation be comfortable with a reduced size of their own self-defense forces and their own weapons. And it also sends a large message to others in the region who might think about getting frisky. On the other hand, governments who tend to look at these things say two decades ago, my predecessor agreed for purpose X, we are kind of still up in the air about purpose Y. How do we, in fact, square the circle on that? Some countries, notably Japan, help us pay for our base structure in their country. That has been both an extremely valuable asset, but also as you can see, some kind of an irritant, even though the Japanese frequently forget that the base structure is fundamentally there to defend the Japanese home islands, something that they over the years, while they are still the sixth largest defense budget in the world, have not seen fit totally to rely upon because our connection to our nuclear capacities is significant to them. On the other hand, since 1945, we have had a very, very stable bottom line, which is that our presence in Japan is as essentially fundamental to their freedom as to our own. And although it has been 14 years now since we said in 10 years, we would fix the problem on Okinawa, although that has – (inaudible) – we have continued, therefore and because of that to continue on with what we had previous to that because both nations understand that although we haven’t quite figured out a better way to do it, what we have is essential to both countries.

Okinawa Good – Deterrence

OKINAWA IS KEY TO DETERRING WAR IN EAST ASIA

Jun Hongo Staff writer The Japan Times November 12, 2009, Thursday Futenma's defenders stress its regional security role ACCESSED ON LEXIS NEXIS

The government's flip-flops on where to move Futenma's operations have reignited a long-running diplomatic headache with the U.S. and drawn strong criticism from experts and lawmakers deeply worried about the military alliance so vital to Japan's security. "We are talking about the deterrent aspect of the Marine Corps - not the navy or the army or the air force," Liberal Democratic Party Lower House member Shigeru Ishiba pressed Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama during a Diet session last week. Ishiba, a former defense minister known for his expertise on military matters, stressed that the U.S. Marines specialize in quick deployments and would provide the first response if a crisis erupts in the region. Ishiba urged Hashimoto to consider the consequences if Futenma is shifted to a location where it can't play this role. "There is significance to the Marine Corps' presence" in Okinawa, he said, adding that its deterrence factor protects not only Japan but the entire Far East. According to the U.S. Forces Japan Web site, U.S. military strength in Japan is about 37,000 service members ashore and 13,000 afloat. The forces are dispersed among 88 facilities around Japan varying in size from major bases to small antenna sites. U.S. Marine Corps Bases Japan consists of approximately 9,000 marines and civilians, working at two air stations and camps in Okinawa and mainland Japan. Futenma served as a major base when the U.S. was fighting in Korea, Vietnam and Iraq, expanding and developing to accommodate each occasion. Experts confirm Ishiba's assertion that the Marine Corps provides the leadoff units that land in and secure enemy territory, and Futenma is a linchpin against regional tension. In 2006, LDP member Fumio Kyuma argued that U.S. Marine Corps in Japan plays a key role in keeping China from making incursions on Taiwan. He warned that relocating the marines outside of Okinawa would be detrimental to the the prefecture's security, arguing that Chinese military power would have a greater influence in the region. "If Taiwan is taken by China, Okinawa won't have the luxury of making carefree comments," said Kyuma, who served twice as defense minister. Indeed, the main island of Okinawa is only 630 km from Taiwan, reachable within an hour by commercial jet. The U.S. military considers Okinawa Island the "keystone of the Pacific," given its strategic importance. While precise details about Futenma are not disclosed and often change, about 70 aircraft consisting mainly of helicopters are believed to be stationed there. The base also has an airstrip that measures 2,800 meters long and 46 meters wide, according to the city of Ginowan. Transport aircraft and patrol planes from the nearby Kadena air force base, as well as navy F/A-18 Hornet fighters, also conduct flight training in the area. Futenma helicopters frequently travel between Camp Schwab, Camp Hansen and other training facilities, making the Ginowan facility the marines' operational center. If an emergency breaks out in the region, the marines at Futenma are conveniently close to Sasebo, Nagasaki Prefecture. Assault ships stationed there, including the USS Essex, would steam to Futenma to load troops and helicopters and take them to their destination. For this reason, Washington remains unyielding on the relocation issue, agreeing in 2006 only to close Futenma and relocate its aircraft operations to Henoko, farther north on Okinawa Island, adjacent to Camp Schwab. There are no alternatives to that road map, Defense Secretary Robert Gates said last month in Tokyo, pressuring the Hatoyama administration to abandon any hope of moving Futenma outside Okinawa or the country. Experts say this is because bases in Japan play a vital role in sustaining the American presence in the Pacific, with past operations demonstrating its influence can reach as far as Iraq. In addition to the advantage of keeping Futenma's operations in Okinawa, keeping them ear Camp Schwab - where units conduct live-fire training - is also a key component of how the U.S. plans to operate in the future. Although Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada brought up the old notion of moving Futenma's operations to Kadena, the U.S. Defense Department has been unwavering in rejecting that proposal. The U.S. says operating the fixed-wing aircraft already at Kadena and Futenma's helicopter units at the same place would be technically very difficult and dangerous. Experts add that Futenma also serves as a key backup to Kadena - the hub of the U.S. Air Force in the Asia-Pacific region - and that integration would hamper U.S. capability if a crisis erupts in the region. "Operationally, it is unworkable," Pentagon Press Secretary Geoff Morrell said last month on merging Kadena with Futenma. "You cannot consolidate the air force operations, the Marine Corps operations at that facility and do all the things that we need to do to provide for the defense of Japan," he said.

Okinawa Good – Deterrence

OKINAWA IS KEY TO DETERRENCE, AND IF WE PULL OUT THEN ALL HELL COULD BREAK LOOSE.

Max Boot, Max Boot is the Jeane J. Kirkpatrick senior fellow for national security studies at the Council on Foreign Relations and a contributing editor to Opinion Los Angeles Times May 31, 2010 Monday

Home Edition America in decline? Not in today's world ACCESSED ON LEXISNEXIS

It was not a declining power that I saw in recent weeks as I jetted from the Middle East to the Far East through two of America's pivotal geographic commands -- Central Command and Pacific Command. The very fact that the entire world is divided into American military commands is significant. There is no French, Indian or Brazilian equivalent -- not yet even a Chinese counterpart. It is simply assumed without much comment that American soldiers will be central players in the affairs of the entire world. It is also taken for granted that a vast network of U.S. bases will stretch from Germany to Japan -- more than 700 in all, depending on how you count. They constitute a virtual American empire of Wal-Mart-style PXs, fast-food restaurants, golf courses and gyms. There is an especially large American presence in the Middle East, one of the world's most crisis-prone regions. For all the anti-Americanism in the Arab world, almost all the states bordering what they call the Arabian Gulf support substantial American bases. These governments are worried about the looming Iranian threat and know that only the United States can offer them protection. They are happy to deal with China, but it would never occur to a single sultan or sheik that the People's Liberation Army will protect them from Iranian intimidation. In the Far East, a similar dynamic prevails. All of China's neighbors happily trade with it, but all are wary of the Middle Kingdom's pretensions to regional hegemony. Even Vietnam, a country that handed America its worst military defeat ever, is eager to establish close ties with Washington as a counter to Beijing. What of America's two most important allies in Northeast Asia -- South Korea and Japan? Not long ago, relations with Seoul were frosty because it was pursuing a "sunshine policy" of outreach to North Korea that the George W. Bush administration (rightly) viewed as one of the world's most dangerous rogue states. More recently, relations with Japan became strained after the election of the Liberal Democratic Party in 2009 on a platform of cozying up to China, rethinking the 50-year-old alliance between the U.S. and Japan, and moving U.S. bases out of Okinawa. Now Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama has had to undertake an embarrassing U-turn by agreeing to an earlier plan that would move a U.S. Marine Corps air base from one part of Okinawa to another but keep it on the island. In justifying his reversal, Hatoyama said that "we cannot afford to reduce the U.S. military deterrence" because of "political uncertainties remaining in East Asia." There is no shortage of such uncertainties with the Chinese navy becoming increasingly assertive in moving into Japanese waters and with North Korea, which has missiles that can easily hit Japan, sinking a South Korean naval ship. The latter incident naturally has focused attention in Seoul and served to accelerate the reaffirmation of close American-Korean ties that had already begun with the election of the more conservative President Lee Myung-bak in 2008. The anti-Americanism that had been prevalent in South Korea only a few years ago has all but disappeared, and it is not only (or even mainly) because of President Obama's vaunted charm. It is largely because South Korea has tried detente and found that it did nothing to moderate the aggressive behavior of the North Korean regime. China is South Korea's largest trade partner by far, but Beijing shows scant interest in reining in Kim Jong Il. Chinese leaders fear that North Korea will collapse, leading to a horde of refugees moving north and, eventually, the creation an American-allied regime on the Yalu River. Rather than risk this strategic calamity, China continues to prop up the crazy North Korean communists -- to the growing consternation of South Koreans, who can never forget that Seoul, a city of 15 million people, is within range of what the top U.S. commander in South Korea describes as the world's largest concentration of artillery. South Korea knows that only the U.S. offers the deterrence needed to keep a nuclear-armed North Korea in check. That is why the South Koreans, who have one of the world's largest militaries (655,000 activity-duty personnel), are eager to host 28,000 U.S.

Okinawa Good – Deterrence

OKINAWA KEY TO DETERRING, IF WE PULL OUT, THEN JAPAN IS VULNERABLE TO AGGRESSIVE COUNTRIES

Masami Ito, Staff writer The Japan Times February 18, 2010, Thursday Top marine says Okinawa bases are vital ACCESSED ON LEXISNEXIS

The U.S. bases in Okinawa are strategically necessary and marines are prepared to die to protect Japan, the commander of the U.S. Marine Corps of the Pacific said Wednesday in Tokyo. During a speech hosted by the Tokyo American Center in Minato Ward, Lt. Gen. Keith Stalder said the U.S. understands that the alliance is not symmetrical, as Japan bears no responsibility to protect the United States, but it does shoulder the obligation of providing bases to U.S. forces. "I want to make this clear - all of the marines standing in this room, all of my marines on Okinawa are willing to die if necessary for the security of Japan," Stalder said. "That is our role in the alliance. Japan does not have a reciprocal obligation to defend the United States, but it absolutely must provide the bases and training that U.S. forces need." Marking the 50th anniversary of the Japan-U.S. security treaty, top Japanese and U.S. officials have been engaged in a series of discussions to deepen bilateral ties. But at the same time, the Hatoyama administration's decision to review the relocation of U.S. Marine Corps Air Station Futenma from Ginowan, Okinawa, has strained relations. "Foreign governments are watching to see whether the United States-Japan alliance is strong enough to find a solution to the current issues again and ensure that the awesome deterring power of the U.S. Marine Corps remains based on Okinawa for decades to come," Stalder said. "Potential enemies of Japan and the U.S. are watching . . . because if (the alliance) can be weakened today, perhaps it can be weakened further tomorrow." Japan agreed with the U.S. in 2006 to move the Futenma aircraft operations, mainly chopper, to Camp Schwab in farther north on Okinawa Island, in the Henoko district of Nago. Stalder declined comment on alternative plans that have been floated, including moving Futenma's operations to Guam, **but** he stressed the importance of the bases in Okinawa and said marine helicopters must remain close to the ground forces. "In order to fulfill our alliance responsibilities to defend Japan, the Marine Corps, the expeditionary, rapidly deployable branch of the U.S. military and the only forward-deployed and available U.S. ground force between Hawaii and India, must be based on Okinawa and must have its helicopters near its ground forces," he said. Stalder also pointed out that the presence of U.S. forces in Okinawa is about more than deterrence because it also involves disaster relief missions. He estimated hundreds of thousands of lives were saved in the last 50 years because of the U.S. bases in Okinawa. "Okinawa is in the center of an earthquake-cyclone region. There is probably nowhere better in the world than which to dispatch marines to natural disasters," he said. "Hours matter during such tragedies. Time saved means lives spared in the aftermath of these terrible events."

Okinawa Good – Deterrence

FUTENMA PROVIDES NECESSARY DETERRENCE FOR UNPREDICTIBLE COUNTRIES

Kyodo News Service, Tokyo, in English 1202 gmt 27 Apr 10 BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific - Political Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring April 27, 2010 Tuesday Foreign minister stresses US marines' role for Japan's defence ACCESSED ON LEXISNEXIS

Tokyo, April 27 Kyodo - (EDS: UPDATING) Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada told representatives from Okinawa on Tuesday that US Marines are "necessary deterrence" to defend the lives of Japanese and their property against threats from overseas, as Okinawa politicians and citizens called for the removal of a Marine base from the prefecture. Zenshin Takamine, chairman of the Okinawa prefectural assembly, quoted Okada as saying he does not think of relocating the US Marine Corps' Futenma Air Station abroad and that the Marines' presence is indispensable as the nation's Self-Defence Force alone cannot defend Japan. Prior to the meeting, Okada said in a press conference that the SDF "has limits in appropriately responding to any contingency on the Korean Peninsula and military buildups of Asian countries such as China." Okada declined to comment on possible relocation sites for the Futenma facility, which sits in the centre of a residential area in Ginowan, and did not respond to a request by the representatives to make sure that the airstrip will be transferred out of the prefecture, the assembly chief said. Japan and the United States reached an accord in 2006 to relocate heliport functions of the Futenma facility to a less densely populated coastal area of the Marines' Camp Schwab in Nago, also in Okinawa, by 2014. According to government sources, the government is considering modifying the current Japan-US relocation plan. A pile-supported platform would be built in shallow waters off the coast in Nago, which is expected to reduce the impact on the local marine environment compared with the existing one requiring land reclamation. Nago Mayor Susumu Inamine, a member of the delegation, joined a sit-in in front of a Diet members' building earlier in the day and said he "believes in" Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama, who has pledged to try to move the Futenma airstrip out of Okinawa or even abroad. "I'd like the premier to clearly show a road map" towards the base relocation out of the prefecture, he said. After meeting with Okada, Inamine told reporters that Nago residents cannot accept either the existing relocation plan or a modified one, because "nature would be damaged anyway by land reclamation or pile-supported platform." "Every Cabinet minister said the government will take seriously the popular will of the 90,000 Okinawa citizens, but the message did not sound true to us. We got the impression that our passion did not reach (the government)," he said. Takamine said if Hatoyama visits Okinawa with a plan to transfer the Futenma airstrip within the prefecture, he will refuse to meet with the premier. Naha Mayor Takeshi Onaga, who conveyed the Okinawa people's request on the base transfer to the US Embassy in Tokyo, said that Political Minister-Counselor Robert Luke told the delegation that the United States believes the existing Futenma transfer plan to Nago is the best one. Takamine also met with Okinawa affairs minister Seiji Maehara, who told the representatives that he personally feels "ashamed" that the government has not realized the return of the land occupied by the Futenma facility 14 years after Japan and the United States agreed on that. The two countries agreed in 1996 that the land of the Futenma base will be returned to locals within five to seven years, after a gang-rape of a local schoolgirl in the prefecture the previous year fuelled outrage among residents. Maehara said he was "startled" to learn of the pile-supported platform construction plan in Nago by news reports, according to the assembly chief. In a meeting with Maehara which was partially open to the media, Nago resident Etsuko Urashima highlighted the economic plight of the city and asked the government not to implement policies that would divide local residents over the base relocation. "Over the past 13 years, Nago city has been increasingly depopulated. Many nice buildings have been built with state subsidies, but our community has become poorer," she said.

Okinawa Good – Deterrence

U.S. PRESENCE IS KEY TO DETERRING NORTH KOREA AND CHINA

Masami Ito STAFF WRITER The Japan Times January 30, 2010, Saturday Roos stresses need for U.S. forces in Japan ACCESSED ON LEXISNEXIS

The United States must maintain forces in Japan to react swiftly to urgent threats in the region, including the biggest concern - North Korea - with its missiles and ongoing succession issue, U.S. Ambassador to Japan John Roos said Friday. In a speech at Waseda University in Tokyo, Roos expressed concern over Pyongyang's development of ballistic missiles and the possibility of regime collapse. Its current leader, Kim Jong Il, reportedly suffered a stroke in August 2008 and is thought to have passed the torch to his youngest son, Kim Jong Un. "The possibility of a regime collapse particularly in the context of leadership succession is a growing concern," Roos said. "A North Korea that falls into internal disarray would pose monumental security challenges to this region." Roos asserted that the U.S. military presence in Japan was important to deal with such risks as North Korea and China, with its "well-funded military modernization." "The fundamental role of U.S. forces in Japan is to make those who would consider the use of force in this region understand that that option is off this table," Roos said. "The forward deployment of U.S. forces puts us in a position to react immediately to emerging threats and serves as a tangible symbol of our commitment." Japan-U.S. ties have been strained recently over the relocation of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma in Ginowan, Okinawa. While stressing the importance of deterrence, Roos also said it was vital that the U.S

Okinawa Good – Deterrence

OKINAWA ISN’T LIKED, BUT IT’S KEY TO KEEPING JAPAN SAFE FROM THREATING COUNTRIES IN THE REGION

By Mark Thompson / Washington Tuesday, Jun. 08, 2010 Read more: Why Japan and the U.S. Can't Live Without Okinawa Read more: <http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1994798,00.html#ixzz0ueOe9AH9>

Despite the Hatoyama government's intentions, Washington refused to back down from a 2006 pact between the two nations permitting its continued base rights on Okinawa, nearly 1,000 miles south of Tokyo. A legacy of World War II, 47,000 U.S. troops are based in Japan within two or three days' sail of potential hot spots on the Korean peninsula and the Taiwan Strait. Hatoyama's fall suggests that despite the Japanese people's desire for a reduced U.S. military presence, they aren't ready to give up the protection it offers. "Hatoyama got into difficulty with the Japanese people because it was perceived that he was weakening the security of Japan," says Tom Schieffer, U.S. ambassador to Japan from 2005 to 2009. "The security of Japan is tied to the U.S.-Japanese alliance, and it has been that way since the end of the war." (See TIME's photo-essay "Japan Then and Now.") Japan's new Prime Minister, Naoto Kan, confirmed his nation's inherent conservatism on Sunday. In a 15-min. phone call with President Obama, the new Japanese leader pledged that he would work to fulfill the 2006 deal under which the U.S. Marines' Futenma air base on Okinawa would be relocated from its current cramped quarters to a more remote part of the island. Kan honored the agreement by confirming on Tuesday that he would move the base to a less-crowded part of Okinawa, as well as try to reduce the burden on the island for hosting the many U.S. military bases that are part of the joint security pact. With the region increasingly jittery following North Korea's alleged sinking of the South Korean warship Cheonan in March — and amid increased Chinese muscle-flexing — Hatoyama ultimately acceded to Washington's demands. "[Removing the U.S. base from Okinawa] has proved impossible in my time," Hatoyama said when he announced his decision to step down. Not since 1960 — when Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi resigned after pushing through an unpopular U.S.-Japanese security treaty — has a Japanese leader been forced from power over the country's military ties with the U.S. "Someday," Hatoyama said, "the time will come when Japan's peace will have to be ensured by the Japanese people themselves." (See five reasons to visit Okinawa.) That's not going to happen anytime soon, in part because both sides benefit from the current agreement. The U.S. gets to station a potent punch amid one of the world's most dynamic but unsettled regions, while Japan is relieved of an additional defense-spending burden that would do little to help revive its flagging economy. (See TIME's photo-essay on the political life of Yukio Hatoyama.) The U.S. made clear shortly after Hatoyama's election that it had no intention of retreating from East Asia. Last October, Defense Secretary Robert Gates called the Marines' continued presence on Okinawa the "linchpin" of Washington's East Asian strategy. "This may not be the perfect alternative for anyone," he said in Japan, "but it is the best alternative for everyone." In February, Lieut. General Keith Stalder, who commands Marines in the Pacific, put it more bluntly. "All of my Marines on Okinawa are willing to die if it is necessary for the security of Japan," he told a Tokyo audience. "Japan does not have a reciprocal obligation to defend the United States, but it absolutely must provide the bases and training that U.S. forces need." That U.S. security umbrella, he pointedly added, "has brought Japan and the entire region unprecedented wealth and social advancement." Indeed, under the world's only pacifist constitution, Japan spends about 1% of its gross domestic product on defense. But the Japanese — and especially the Okinawans, whose island was under U.S. control until 1972 and which currently hosts 75% of the U.S. military presence in Japan — have expressed growing irritation at what they perceive as their junior status in the relationship. Japan, they noted, has paid some $30 billion to the U.S. to support the U.S. military presence in Japan since 1978. The reason for the 2006 agreement to move Futenma to a new facility in a less-populated part of Okinawa is that the city of Ginowan now encroaches on the the current facility from all sides. The $26 billion deal, to be largely funded by Japan, also calls for shifting 8,000 Marines from Okinawa to Guam by 2014. For many in Okinawa, Futenma and its 2,000 American personnel have been a perpetually noisy and polluting symbol of continuing U.S. dominance. But U.S. military leaders insist that as long as the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force is based on Okinawa, they need the air base, which allows them to rapidly deploy Marines throughout the region. Stalder uses the analogy of a baseball team to explain why the force can't do without its aircraft: "It does not do you any good to have the outfielders practicing in one town, the catcher in another and the third baseman somewhere else."

Okinawa Good – Deterrence

U.S. PRESENCE IN JAPAN IS KEY TO POWER AND STABILITY

By Gilles Campion (AFP) – Dec 16, 2009 <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5juEfESbaAWg38jTZvGfE13AY0HEw> “Despite base dispute, US-Japan security alliance solid”

Since its defeat in World War II, officially pacifist Japan has relied on a massive US military presence to guarantee its security, initially as an occupier and later as an ally. But the dispute over Futenma has raised fears among some Japanese that this alliance might cool, at a time when a rising China is making its presence felt across Asia. Jean-Vincent Brisset, a researcher at the Institute of International and Strategic Relations in Paris, says Washington is unlikely to abandon its ally, despite recent irritations. **"**The US needs Japan's 'unsinkable aircraft-carrier**,**'" he said, referring to the name sometimes given to Okinawa, which is home to more than half of the 47,000 American forces stationed in Japan. "They know that China one day may trigger a conflict and that most probably it will at first be a naval conflict," said Brisset, a former general. "For the US army, the bases in Japan are forward deployments in case of a regional conflict. They would also protect Japan if the Chinese or the North Koreans attacked the archipelago. It would mean an attack against the United States that would trigger an automatic response." Tim Huxley, an Asia expert at the Institute of International Strategic Studies in Singapore, said the US military presence in Japan provides a mental fillip to Washington's allies and suits the Pentagon well. "Having forces in the region -- not just troops, but also navy and air force units and personnel -- provides psychological reassurance to US allies and security partners, while providing important logistic support that would be vital for launching and sustaining large-scale operations," he said. Huxley said the US military presence "is important to the US and serves Washington's interests in the region by facilitating the projection of US power in East Asia. This capacity would be crucial in the event of regional crises -- for example, relating to Taiwan or Korea. "America would be doing less, less convincingly, if it relied only on aircraft carriers." Huxley said that if one day Japan decides to rely on its own Self Defence Forces, "it would need to increase its defence effort considerably, possibly causing alarm in other parts of Asia, particularly China and Korea, and sparking a regional arms race." Dujarric said it is in the interest of the Obama administration to give Hatoyama some time to find a solution on Futenma. He said Tokyo needed the space to resolve the base question in a way that was acceptable to those who object to the strong US presence in the country if the young government was to thrive. "This government is the best hope of a revival of Japan since a very long time ago," he said. "If the Futenma issue ends badly, Hatoyama's position will be weakened."

Withdraw Bad – Resolve

WITHDRAWAL WOULD MAKE U.S. LOOK WEAK, FUTENMA MUST STAY FOR EVERYONE’S BEST INTEREST

Kyle Mizokami Posted on April 15, 2010 Thoughts on Futenma, Part Four <http://japansw.wordpress.com/2010/04/15/thoughts-on-futenma-part-four/>

In a practical sense, closing Futenma would not really affect America’s defense matrix for the Western Pacific all that much. But while some would laud the United States for respecting the wishes of the current Japanese government and the Okinawans, others would see it as a retreat of American power. The United States cannot afford to be seen as giving ground in the face of a rising China. Closing Futenma and relocating it to Hawaii, Guam, or mainland Japan mixes the message. The Americans are digging in their heels and are reluctant to renegotiate the 2005 agreement. That may sound arrogant and imperious, but the reality may be that they understand the situation entirely too well, that there is no good alternative, and that despite the hardships endured by the locals it may just be best for everyone to keep there base where it is.

\*\*\*AT: Alliance Advantage\*\*\*

AT: Alliance Advantage – Resilient

Alliance resilient – security treaty, Japanese politics, and empirics

**International Herald Tribune**, 11-16-**2009** “Japan-U.S. relations: Let there be dischord” accessed on Lexis Nexis

The **worry-mongers** tend to ignore not only the treaty's historical significance, but also the cataclysmic changes that have occurred in Japan since the elections in August. They err mostly, however, by considering the treaty as the only link between the two Pacific rim partners, **overlook**ing **the range and depth of a** far more **complex friendship binding Tokyo and Washington. First the treaty itself**: For the United States it is but one among similar important bilateral security alliances. **For Japan**, however, **it has deep psychological and moral ramifications, touching upon a myriad of issues, from national pride and self-esteem to a collective sense of guilt towards Okinawa**.As long as Japan remains under America's protective umbrella - what historian John Dower calls its "subordinate independence" - it shall be hard pressed to exercise on the international stage a leadership role fully commensurate with its economical status or peace credentials, even in the nuclear arena, despite its moral authority as the only atomic-bombed nation in history. The Japanese may ultimately conclude that their security pact with the United States is indeed in their own best strategic interest, or at least unavoidable for the time being. But the new government is right to want a national conversation around the alliance's full implications. Harried and impatient visits, like the one offered last month by U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates - whose demeanor resembled more an irritated parent than an ally or friend - not only enforce the caricature of Americans as culturally insensitive but also deeply wound Japan's sense of fair play. The Japanese rightly felt that the Americans would never tolerate such a disdain for the imperatives of their own domestic politics. **Second, the new political landscape in Japan**: America has yet to grasp just how essential a change has occurred in Japan. **For the first time in decades, ordinary Japanese seem genuinely proud of their political leadership.** Except for a brief spell under Junichiro Koizumi - admired maybe more for his personal integrity than for any lasting accomplishments - **until recently Japanese were all but resigned to deplorable politicians wheeling and dealing behind closed doors**. True, the new government of Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama may also stumble along the way. But for now **people are relishing a new era and breed of politician** - qualified, articulate and frequently young - **able and willing to address the real problems facing this nation**, leaving no sacred cows untouched. Swept into power with a huge popular mandate for change, **it would be irresponsible**, to say the least, **for Hatoyama not to question the security alliance with the United States. Most importantly**, however, the grumblings in Washington tend to underestimate **the depth and strength of a friendship that binds one of the world's youngest to one of its oldest nations. Few countries could have emerged from a bloody war,** the **atomic holocausts** in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, **and a long, humiliating occupation to retain such genuine bonds with their former enemy and victor**. Nowhere am I reminded of this sentiment more strongly than here in Hiroshima, where the motto "forgive but not forget" is the underlying spirit animating the citizens' campaign for nuclear disarmament. **One is hard-pressed to ever hear**, at least openly, **any hatred for the Americans**. Two years ago the remarkable mayor of Hiroshima, M.I.T.-educated Tadatoshi Akiba, went so far as to nominate an American to head the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation, an entity that spearheads the city's peace initiatives

Single issues can’t collapse the alliance

**AFP**, 07-13-**2007** “Testy times seen for US-Japan ties” http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5ik8nJTXYfpog9IKgooU7U9d3Fecw

But some **experts believe the US-Japan alliance is rock solid and cannot be shaken by a single issue.**"**Japan's retreating from a mission like that will be very unfortunate, sends a bad signal and certainly be a disappointment to the US but with continued engagement between the close allies, I think they will find a way to move ahead," said** Nicholas **Szechenyi of the** Washington-based **C**enter for **S**trategic and **I**nternational **S**tudies. "My sense is that Japan in the long run will continue to maintain its leadership role," he said. Bruce Klingner, a Northeast Asian expert at the conservative Heritage Foundation in Washington, cautioned against using Japan's military mission in Afghanistan as the sole benchmark to gauge bilateral ties.

AT: Alliance Advantage – Resilient

Alliance won’t collapse – fear of China  
Frank **Ching**, writer for the Korea Times, 11-18**-2009**, “Support for Japan-US alliance” Korea Times

http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/opinon/2010/05/171\_55695.html

Marxists like to say that the economic base determines the superstructure, which may suggest that stronger Japan-China economic relations will shape their political relationship.  **But political suspicions between Japan and China are a fact of life** and **given Japanese apprehension of China's intentions** as it grows not only economically but also militarily, **Tokyo is unlikely to want to weaken its security relationship with Washington**.  Moreover, the United States under the Obama administration is keen to make up for lost time and bolster its influence in East Asia.   That being the case**, the Japan-U.S. relationship is likely to remain strong for as long as China remains viewed as a potential threat by Japan** and other countries in East Asia.

AT: Alliance Advantage – Alt Causes

Alt causes – conflicting security priorities kill the alliance  
Bruce **Klingner**, senior research fellow at the Heritage Foundation, 08-26**-2009**, “How to save the US-Japan Alliance” published on heritage.org

http://www.heritage.org/Research/Reports/2009/08/How-to-Save-the-US-Japan-Alliance

Conflicting Security Priorities*.* **The U.S. strategic threat environment changed considerably after 9/11**, as well as due to the increasing North Korean and Chinese military capabilities. As a result, U.S. objectives and expectations of its allies have evolved. For its part, **Japan remains focused on an alliance in which Tokyo relies on U.S. military presence as a low-cost defense of its country. As a result of the Bush Administration's decision to delist North Korea as a state sponsor of terrorism, Tokyo now questions U.S. support for Japanese foreign policy priorities. Japan perceives a difference in the U.S. approach to Iran's and North Korea's nuclear programs**. Although North Korea already has nuclear weapons, **Tokyo perceives the U.S. as not expending the same level of effort toward Pyongyang, causing some Japanese officials to question whether Washington believes that protecting Israel is more important than protecting Japan**.

\*\*\*AT: DPJ Advantage\*\*\*

Japanese Politics DA Shell [1/3]

Kan’s is pushing his tax reform bill in the squo – he thinks it will fix the Japanese economy

Foster 7/7/10 [Malcolm Foster, writer for the Associated Press, 07-07-2010, “Tax hike talk dominates Japan’s weekend election” published on forbes.com http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2010/07/07/general-as-japan-politics\_7746872.html?boxes=financechannelAP]

TOKYO -- **Proposing a tax hike** is normally a sure way to lose an election. Yet **Japanese Prime Minister** [**Naoto Kan**](http://topics.forbes.com/Naoto%20Kan) **insists that's just what the country needs to do to rein in its bulging national debt**. In office just a month after his predecessor abruptly resigned, Kan has put repairing the country's strained finances at the center of the campaign for this Sunday's parliamentary elections. The polls, in which half the seats in the 242-member upper house are up for grabs, is viewed as a referendum on the Democratic Party's 10 months in power since defeating the long-ruling conservative [Liberal Democratic Party](http://topics.forbes.com/Liberal%20Democratic%20Party). The Democrats have promised to cut wasteful spending and bring greater transparency to politics, but have had a mixed record in achieving that so far. **A social progressive and fiscal hawk, Kan has declared that** [**Japan**](http://topics.forbes.com/japan) **needs to reform its tax structure and should seriously consider raising the sales tax from 5 percent to 10 percent within two to three years. He has warned if Japan doesn't take dramatic steps soon, it could face a similar crisis to** [**Greece**](http://topics.forbes.com/greece)**.**

LDP won’t work with the DPJ on anything until they drop the election pledges that they believe they copied from the LDP manifest – Tax hike bill

Kyodo News 6/18/10 [Kyodo News;6/18/10; ‘LDP chief criticizes DPJ's suggestion of future sales tax hike’ Kyodo News; <http://www.japantoday.com/category/politics/view/ldp-chief-criticizes-dpjs-suggestion-of-future-sales-tax-hike>]

Liberal Democratic Party chief Sadakazu Tanigaki criticized the ruling Democratic Party of Japan on Friday as cozying up to the main opposition party by suggesting that it would use the LDP proposal to raise the current 5-percent consumption tax rate to 10 percent as a reference point.      ‘‘The DPJ oscillates in a wide range,’’ the president of the main opposition LDP said on a radio program. ‘‘It was trying to do everything different from the LDP during the Hatoyama government, but now, it seems to me as if it is cozying up to the LDP.’‘      Tanigaki’s remarks came a day after his party made the proposal and DPJ President and Prime Minister Naoto Kan, who took office last week following the resignation of his predecessor Yukio Hatoyama, said it will be ‘‘one of the references.’‘      During the radio program, Tanigaki rejected a DPJ proposal on Thursday to hold cross-party talks on reforming the country’s tax system, including a possible consumption tax hike.    ‘‘While it’s important for major political parties to have a common understanding (on the need for a hike), it would not stop at 10 percent as long as last year’s money-scattering DPJ campaign platform remains unchanged,’’ Tanigaki said.      ‘‘I refuse to get drawn into the debate unless they take back the election pledges,’’ he added.

Japanese Politics DA Shell [2/3]

DPJ doesn’t know what they are doing with the tax hike bill Kan has proved this with his inability to have proper debate on the subject as well as his answers to questions changing by millions of yen – Economic Collapse is inevitable without a working bill

The Daily Yomiuri 7/13/10 [Akitoshi Muraoka; writer for The Daily Yomiuri; POLITICAL PULSE; Kan's tax hike strategy only a cheap trick; The Daily Yomiuri – Lexis]

The consumption tax Is being used to put a lid On "politics-and-money" problems The consumption tax Doesn't jive With Kan's style They nicely express voter suspicion and distrust about remarks made by Prime Minister Naoto Kan concerning a possible increase in the consumption tax rate. Voter suspicion and distrust can be considered the largest reason why voters did not allow the ruling parties to keep a majority in the upper house in Sunday's election. However, the election results do not mean voters rejected a hike in the consumption tax rate. In an exit poll Sunday by The Yomiuri Shimbun and NTV, more than 60 percent of respondents said they thought raising the consumption tax rate "is necessary in the near future," while a little more than 20 percent said they thought such a tax hike "is not necessary." If this is the case, what was behind voters' lack of trust? Starting with a remark about the consumption tax rate in mid-June when Kan announced the Democratic Party of Japan's election manifesto, the prime minister gave the impression he wanted to distract people from issues such as the relocation of Futenma Air Station and scandals involving politics and money, rather than projecting determination to accomplish fiscal reform. Kan said he would aim at drafting a tax reform plan within the current fiscal year that would include plans for an ideal consumption tax rate, saying he would use the 10 percent rate proposed by the Liberal Democratic Party as a reference. If this remark was made to blur the lines of contention over the consumption tax issue by co-opting an LDP campaign pledge, the tactic was a cheap trick as an election tactic and was the root cause for the DPJ's major setback. In reality, there were no signs before the campaign that the government and ruling parties had coordinated to ensure an increase in the consumption tax rate would be consistent with the tax system as a whole, or with the government's New Growth Strategy. Later, when it became readily apparent that Kan did not know much about the details of a possible consumption tax hike when asked for more detailed explanations, voters must have sensed that he lacked accurate knowledge about the tax system and that there was little prospect of realizing the rate hike. At first, Kan clearly stated that starting a debate on raising the consumption tax rate to 10 percent was a campaign pledge. However, he later backtracked, saying the pledge was nothing more than a promise "to call for suprapartisan discussions" on the issue. When asked about measures to lessen the burden a consumption tax hike would have on low-income earners, he brought up the possibility of a tax reimbursement program. However, the income caps he mentioned during campaign speeches differed greatly--ranging from 2 million yen to 4 million yen. On top of all this, he was unwilling to participate in debates between party leaders and sometimes even refused to answer reporters' questions. Kan seems to run away from disadvantageous things. When his weak points are touched on, he responds by saying only things he wants to say. This selfish attitude quickly changed the hope voters felt when his administration was launched to disappointment, distorting a proper debate over the consumption tax rate. Since the DPJ-led administration was launched in September, the government and the DPJ have been going off track. The problem stems from the DPJ's manifesto from last year's House of Representatives election, which was full of inconsistent policies and programs with unassured sources of funding. The party chose to basically adhere to this manifesto in the upper house election. But this time the DPJ, while continuing to support dole-out policies such as the child allowance program, asked voters to accept a consumption tax hike. It is inevitable the public would think the DPJ was trying to force them to bear the burden of compensating for the party's policy missteps. The nation's finances are now in a critical situation and must be rectified as soon as possible. The consumption tax issue should not be left in disorder. Kan needs to fundamentally revise his party's latest manifesto and consolidate its basic stance on tax reform and fiscal rehabilitation. Then, he should humbly ask the opposition parties for their cooperation. If necessary, he should take the bold step of changing coalition partners, or even taking the lead in making a political realignment. I would like him to make use of the divided Diet brought about by Sunday's election as an opportunity to accomplish such things.

Japanese Politics DA Shell [3/3]

Economic recovery is key to prevent war – empirically proven.

Mead 9 Walter Russell Mead, Senior Fellow in U.S. Foreign Policy at the Council on Foreign Relations, 2009

[“Only Makes You Stronger,” The New Republic, February 4th, Available Online at http://www.tnr.com/story\_print.html?id=571cbbb9-2887-4d81-8542-92e83915f5f8, Accessed June 29, 2010]

None of which means that we can just sit back and enjoy the recession. History may suggest that financial crises actually help capitalist great powers maintain their leads—but it has other, less reassuring messages as well. If financial crises have been a normal part of life during the 300-year rise of the liberal capitalist system under the Anglophone powers, so has war. The wars of the League of Augsburg and the Spanish Succession; the Seven Years War; the American Revolution; the Napoleonic Wars; the two World Wars; the cold war: The list of wars is almost as long as the list of financial crises.Bad economic times can breed wars. Europe was a pretty peaceful place in 1928, but the Depression poisoned German public opinion and helped bring Adolf Hitler to power. If the current crisis turns into a depression, what rough beasts might start slouching toward Moscow, Karachi, Beijing, or New Delhi to be born? The United States may not, yet, decline, but, if we can't get the world economy back on track, we may still have to fight.

Links- LDP Blocks

LDP is going to block the DPJ’s agenda now – tax bill is first on the list

Tan 7/19/10 [Charmaine Tan; member of the International Enterprise of Singapore; Japan unlikely to avoid fiscal crisis; <http://www.iesingapore.gov.sg/wps/wcm/connect/ie/My+Portal/Market+Guide/Market+Information/North+Asia/Japan/News/Japan+unlikely+to+avoid+fiscal+crisis>]

Japan’s plan to increase consumption tax has little support from the public, although its implementation will help the nation avoid a fiscal crisis. The unpopular tax has jeopardised the political fortunes of Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan’s Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ). Additionally, in the wake of the DPJ’s dwindling fortunes, rating agencies are threatening to downgrade Japan’s debt ratings. This could destabilise Japan’s political and economic environment. While the head of the opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Sadakazu Tanigaki had also proposed a consumption tax rise, the DPJ and LDP are unlikely to agree on the tax. The LDP is expected to block the decision and unseat the DPJ. The increase in consumption tax is important to boost tax revenues. Japan’s consumption tax currently generates 18 per cent of the country’s domestic product (GDP), which the International Monetary Fund (IMF) says is small by international standards. The IMF recommends Japan to raise the consumption tax from 5 per cent to 15 per cent gradually, starting with a one percentage increase in 2011. Japan’s annual budget deficit has increased steeply from 2.5 per cent of the GDP in 2007 to 10.13 per cent in 2009. This is expected to be 9.75 per cent in 2010 despite the government’s fiscal measures. The outstanding debt to GDP ratio has soared to 215 per cent of GDP on a gross basis, and 110 per cent on a net basis.

Links- LDP Blocks

LDP and their conservative allies are prepared to block the DPJ’s agenda by taking advantage of the divided diet – the only way to the DPJ to get anything done is to make concessions

Taiwan News 7/15/10 [Taiwan News; 2010-07-15; ‘Divided Diet again may paralyze Japan’; Taiwan News; [http://www.etaiwannews.com/etn/news\_content.php?id=1318839&lang=eng\_news&cate\_img=46.jpg&cate\_rss=news\_Editorial](http://www.etaiwannews.com/etn/news_content.php?id=1318839〈=eng_news&cate_img=46.jpg&cate_rss=news_Editorial)]

Japan's government may enter another period of paralysis after the governing Democratic Party of Japan failed to maintain its majority in the upper House of Councillors Sunday as voters displayed plunging confidence in DPJ governance and anger over plans to hike consumer taxes. Prime Minister Kan Naoto, who has only been in office for a month, witnessed the loss of his party's majority in both houses vanish as the centrist DPJ won only 44 seats of the 121 slots in the 242 - seat upper house, pushing its total share down 10 seats to only 106 and leaving the DPJ and its coalition partners with only 110 seats. Moreover, the conservative Liberal Democratic Party, which only lost power to the DPJ last August, won 51 seats to boost the size of its caucus by 13 to 84 seats, a boost which gave the LDP and its smaller allies a total of 120 seats. However, the LDP does not have a majority and the balance of power is likely to be held by the Japan Communist Party (with six seats), the Social Democratic Party of Japan (with four seats) and the People's New Party (three seats). Moreover, it is still possible that the DPJ may still retain control over the speakership of the upper house, in part in deference to the fact that it did still received a plurality, if somewhat narrower, in both the at-large proportional votes for parties and in constituencies. Since the DPJ - led governing alliance still has a solid majority in the lower House of Representatives, its hold on power is not threatened by Sunday's unfavorable polls, but its loss of a majority of the House of Councillors indicates that Japan has again entered a period of a divided Diet after less than a year of a DPJ majority in both houses. Since the DPJ did the setback, less than a year after its victory in the Aug. 30 lower house polls ended two decades of LDP rule, indicated that many voters are already disappointed with the DPJ administration and decided to use the upper house polls to "teach it a lesson." In the wake of Sunday's polls, the Japanese political media was filled with speculation of another Cabinet reorganization, only a month after former DPJ prime minister Hatoyama Yukio resigned in the wake of his administration's failure to fulfill a campaign promise to negotiate the removal of the U.S. Marine Corps Air Station at Futenma in Okinawa and allegations of influence peddling by "shadow shogun" former DPJ secretary-general Ozawa Ichiro. No less worrying than the prospect of yet another prime ministerial change is the longer-term prospect of paralysis in the Diet that could block the passage of key legislation opposed by the LDP and its conservative allies and thus keep Japan caught in more years of political stagnation. Since the DPJ has lost control over the House of Councillors, its budgets and legislative initiatives will be blocked unless Kan is able to achieve issue by issue backing from the JCP, SDPJ and the PNP on social welfare issues or even the LDP on issues such as a consumer tax hike. The combination of Kan's need to put dealing with Japan's worsening public debt crisis first and the lack of stability in Japan's domestic politics will inevitably hinder efforts by the DPJ administration to put forward a more forceful and independent diplomatic strategy.

Internal Links/Links – LDP Blocks/Tax Hike Bill Bad

The DPJ’s tax hike bill is horrid – Kan’s inability to explain the bill, the inconsistency of his remarks – and even the copying of the idea from the LDP’s campaign pledge – this is the main cause of their downfall in the elections as the public want to keep the DPJ from running wild – and the LDP’s obstructionist strategy will do just that

The Yomiuri Shimbun 7/13/10 [The Yomiuri Shimbun; 13-07-2010; ‘Japanese voters give DPJ policy the thumbs-down’; Asia News Network; <http://www.asianewsnet.net/news.php?id=13083&sec=3>]

Voters have passed a stinging judgment on the Democratic Party of Japan's 10 months in government since it came to power following last summer's general election. The DPJ suffered a crushing defeat in Sunday's (July 11) House of Councillors election and fell far short of the 54 seats targeted by Prime Minister Naoto Kan, who also is DPJ president. Justice Minister Keiko Chiba lost her seat. The DPJ and its tiny coalition partner, the People's New Party, failed to hold their majority in the 242-seat upper house, including uncontested seats. The election has led to a divided Diet in which the House of Representatives is controlled by the ruling camp and the upper chamber by opposition parties. To gain a majority in the upper house, the DPJ has no alternative but to stitch together a coalition with one or more opposition parties. At a news conference after the election, Kan insisted he would stay on, saying, "I would like to continue to responsibly manage the government." However, Kan's political clout has undeniably been weakened. Political chaos is all but certain as moves grow within the DPJ demanding the party leadership--including Kan--take responsibility for the election loss. Kan's handling of the consumption tax issue was the biggest factor behind the DPJ's setback. Kan hinted the rate could be lifted to 10 percent, a move echoing the Liberal Democratic Party's campaign pledge. But Kan failed to properly explain the purpose of the tax increase and how the revenue would be used. He compounded his problems by making inconsistent remarks on tax refunds for low-income earners. The DPJ was not unified on the consumption tax. Some party members openly opposed Kan's tax policy. Of course, other factors also contributed to the election defeat, including political funding scandals that tainted former Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama and former party Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa; the Hatoyama administration's bumbling of the relocation of the US Marine Corps' Futenma Air Station in Okinawa Prefecture; and deadlock over handout policies such as child-rearing allowances. LDP's strategy successful The LDP won the most seats contested Sunday, topping the number snared by the DPJ. The LDP's election tactics, such as fielding rookie candidates handpicked from public applicants, proved successful. Nevertheless, it is premature to conclude the LDP has made a full recovery. The LDP rode to victory largely thanks to the DPJ's shortcomings. The LDP fared worse than the DPJ in the proportional representation bloc elections. Many voters probably were counting on the LDP to prevent the DPJ from "running wild." Your Party made major gains by attracting voters disillusioned with both major parties. The party called for slashing the number of government employees and abolishing amakudari--a practice in which high-ranking government officials parachute into cushy jobs after retirement. The party now has a responsibility to act in a manner befitting the number of seats it holds. The party might have to rethink some of its policies and behavior that smack of populism. Party leader Yoshimi Watanabe, who had set the goal of positioning his party to hold a decisive say in the Diet, should not whip up political turmoil by taking advantage of the seats his party gained in Sunday's election.

With the DPJ not having a big enough majority to override the power of the upper house – the DPJ has no choice but either political paralysis or making concessions to the LDP especially on the tax hike bill seeing as how all other parties have made it public that tyhy wik

The Yomiuri Shimbun 7/13/10 [The Yomiuri Shimbun; 13-07-2010; ‘Japanese voters give DPJ policy the thumbs-down’; Asia News Network; <http://www.asianewsnet.net/news.php?id=13083&sec=3>]

A hallmark of this election campaign was that the two major parties--the DPJ and the LDP--did not sidestep debate on a consumption tax hike. According to a Yomiuri Shimbun survey during the campaign, two-thirds of respondents said a tax hike will be "necessary." This indicates public understanding of a consumption tax hike has solidified. On the campaign trail, Kan called for suprapartisan discussions on sweeping tax system reform, including an increase in the consumption tax. The LDP, for its part, wants a similar roundtable discussion on the matter. But it is unreasonable to launch such a debate while the DPJ-led government charges ahead with child-rearing allowances and other cash handouts. A responsible government would only enter discussions on a consumption tax hike after reviewing such handout policies. The DPJ and the LDP both should make concessions to start talks on the matter. The end of August is the deadline for deciding on a construction method for a runaway at a replacement facility for the Futenma base and other relocation details. The government must follow through on the Futenma agreement reached with the United States and get bilateral ties back on track before US President Barack Obama visits Japan in November. The DPJ's election loss could embolden a group of party members who support Ozawa to strengthen moves to shake up the party leadership ahead of the party's presidential election in September. But if Kan changes tack on the consumption tax and Futenma issue in the face of intraparty opposition, public confidence in his government will fade even further. Kan should maintain the pragmatic approach to domestic and diplomatic issues he adopted in a major break from the line taken by the Hatoyama administration. The DPJ commands an absolute majority in the lower house. But the DPJ and the PNP hold fewer than two-thirds of the seats in the lower house, the threshold at which the ruling bloc can approve again--and pass--a bill voted down in the upper house. Consequently, the Kan administration will face a more difficult job in steering Diet business than the LDP-led administrations of three former prime ministers--Shinzo Abe, Yasuo Fukuda and Taro Aso--that also found themselves in a divided Diet. Policy-based coalition needed At the news conference, Kan said he would reach out to opposition parties to hold policy discussions and try to build a coalition government. He should remember that the coalition with the Social Democratic Party blew up in the DPJ's face because their security policies had little in common. The major premise for a coalition government should be that the parties involved share basic policies. With the next lower house election in mind, many opposition parties have said they will not join a coalition government. Therefore, the government will inevitably pursue a noncabinet partnership or a partial coalition with an opposition party on certain bills. Many hurdles loom for the Kan administration, including an extraordinary Diet session and a DPJ presidential election.

China-Japanese Relations Impact

LDP is key to Japanese-Chinese relations have deep beneficial political ties with the Communist Party of China

Xinhua 11/17/09 [Xinhua; 11/17/09; “Senior CPC official vows to cement friendly exchanges with Japan's LDP” Global Times; <http://china.globaltimes.cn/diplomacy/2009-11/485753.html>]

A senior official of the Communist Party of China (CPC) vowed Monday to maintain friendly exchanges with Japan's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). Li Yuanchao, head of the Organization Department of the CPC Central Committee, made the remarks in his meeting with a delegation led by Taro Kono, director-general of the LDP International Bureau. Underscoring the importance of China-Japan relations, Li said leaders of the two countries had several successful meetings since the new Japanese government took office in September and bilateralties witnessed a good start. He spoke positively of the LDP's efforts to enhance China-Japan relations, expressing his hope that the party would continue to play an active role in increasing bilateral political trust, deepen mutual understanding and cement mutual beneficial cooperation. Taro Kono told Li he cherishes the friendly ties between his party and the CPC, and hopes the two parties to expand exchanges and cooperation in various areas.

Japanese-Chinese conflict would end in nuclear annihilation since Japan is virtually nuclear armed and China has huge stockpiles already

Ogura 97 [Toshimura Ogura, Economics Professor at Toyama University, MONTHLY REVIEW, April 1997, [http://findarticles.com/p/articles/m...\_19693242/pg\_8](http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m1132/is_n11_v48/ai_19693242/pg_8)]

Passage of the PKO legally enabled the right wing dream of resuming Japan's military engagement in other countries. Thus, the PKO resulted in the dispatch of the Self-Defense Force to Cambodia and Somalia one after another, and now the government is considering another dispatch of similar scale to the Golan Heights. One dangerous possibility of the PKO is the sending of the Japanese troops to the Korean peninsula if any military collision or dispute occurs there. The PKO thus can serve the right wing's purpose of regaining Japanese military and economic hegemony in East Asia. The content of Japanese hegemony in East Asia includes economic exploitation of neighboring countries and the consolidation of the ideology of Japanese supremacy. The conservative wing of the Liberal Democratic Party retains much of the legacy of ultra-right wing racism and imperialism toward other ethnic groups in Asia. The racist orientation of the Japanese right wing has been carefully concealed by its anticommunist ideology. After the collapse of Soviet Union, these conservative politicians in Japan began to argue openly that the Pacific War, which they call Daitoa Senso [The Great East Asian War], was not a Japanese invasion into neighboring East Asian countries, but a war of liberation from Western imperialism. The majority of these revisionists ironically constitute the pro-South Korean faction in the Liberal Democratic Party. This irony implies that pro-South Korea sentiment in Japan is nothing but a facade for Japanese imperialism and a strategic use of South Korea for Japanese hegemony vis-a-vis North Korea and China. In an interview with Asahi Shimbun, Okuno Seisuke, an influential politician in the Liberal Democratic Party and chairman of a pressure group against the "no-war resolution" in the Diet, insisted that Daitoa Senso be a war of self-defense and liberation from Western imperialists for Asian peoples. He and other party members opposed the "no-war resolution," which the Diet eventually passed. To these revisionists the resolution literally meant to give up the right of invasion for self-defense. This term, "self-defense," therefore, means not only self defense for the Japanese people but any form of Japanese invasion into other neighboring Asian countries in the name of self-defense. This revisionist logic, if maintained and applied to other international conflicts, can legitimize not only nuclear armament but also possible invasion into Korea during emergency situations. And this is why we argued above that the unification of two Koreas alone will not solve other security problems apparent in this region. The reunification of Korea, a political solution for an old ideological conflict between the East and the West, by no means is a long term solution to a more fundamental problem of the historical clash of ultra-nationalism that has been strong on both sides of the Korean Strait. Conclusion North Korea, South Korea, and Japan have achieved quasi- or virtual nuclear armament. Although these countries do not produce or possess actual bombs, they possess sufficient technological know-how to possess one or several nuclear arsenals. Thus, virtual armament creates a new nightmare in this region - nuclear annihilation. Given the concentration of economic affluence and military power in this region and its growing importance to the world system, any hot conflict among these countries would threaten to escalate into a global conflagration.

LDP Solves Alliance Advantage

The party that is in power in Japan doesn’t matter when it comes down to the US-Japan Alliance seeing as all major parties and an overwhelming amount of the public want a more robust and equal relationship with the US – LDP solves the alliance advantage

Twining 7/20/10 [[Dan Twining](http://www.realclearworld.com/authors/?author=Dan+Twining&id=4375); Senior Fellow for Asia with the German Marshall Fund; July 20, 2010; ‘Assessing Japan's Election: Is the Sun Setting or Rising on Reform’; <http://www.realclearworld.com/articles/2010/07/20/assessing_japans_election_is_the_sun_setting_or_rising_on_reform_99074.html>]

This tendency has created a degree of political ferment unimaginable in Japan just a few years ago - pressuring the ruling DPJ to perform, encouraging the old LDP to renew itself and elevating smaller reformist parties into potential kingmakers in any coalition government. These trends are progressive and encouraging - even as they vex a Japanese political class unused to such voter flux and demands for accountability. As is often the case in democracies, Japan's voting public is ahead of its leaders in recognizing the need for change. Slow-to-no economic growth and historic debt levels are not sustainable in a world turned upside down by rich country debt crises and a new intensity of economic competition from [China](http://realclearworld.com/topic/around_the_world/china/?utm_source=rcw&utm_medium=link&utm_campaign=rcwautolink), [India](http://realclearworld.com/topic/around_the_world/india/?utm_source=rcw&utm_medium=link&utm_campaign=rcwautolink) and other emerging giants. The transformation of Japan's external security environment from [North Korea](http://realclearworld.com/topic/around_the_world/north_korea/?utm_source=rcw&utm_medium=link&utm_campaign=rcwautolink)'s nuclearization to China's ascendance demands Japanese adaptation to new realities. The good news for America is that there now exists in Japan a cross-party consensus on strengthening the U.S.-Japan alliance, including the DPJ - a relief for Washington after previous Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama rattled the alliance with a botched attempt to renegotiate American basing rights on Okinawa. Public support in Japan for a robust (and more equal) alliance with the [United States](http://realclearworld.com/topic/around_the_world/united_states/?utm_source=rcw&utm_medium=link&utm_campaign=rcwautolink) is by some measures at historic highs. Expanding Japan's international leadership is the flip side of domestic revitalization. Japan could start by intensifying strategic and economic relations with like-minded countries beyond the United States. This could include enhanced ties with [South Korea](http://realclearworld.com/topic/around_the_world/korea/?utm_source=rcw&utm_medium=link&utm_campaign=rcwautolink),[Australia](http://realclearworld.com/topic/around_the_world/australia/?utm_source=rcw&utm_medium=link&utm_campaign=rcwautolink) and India, including in trilateral partnerships with each of these countries and America. Washington and Tokyo could work with Brussels to launch a U.S.-Japan-EU trilateral concert to coordinate on global governance. NATO could use this November's Lisbon summit to enhance operational ties with the Japanese military to defend the global commons - particularly the sea lanes on which Japan is uniquely dependent. Japan could also join the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade initiative to boost prosperity across the Pacific Rim. Domestic constitutional and market reforms would strengthen Japan's hand abroad, reinforcing Japanese competitiveness in a globalized world. At the same time, its leaders may find that expanding Japan's economic, diplomatic and strategic horizons can help catalyze domestic renewal.

\*\*\*Japan Rearm\*\*\*

AT: Japanese Constitution

Japanese Constitution Prevents Rearm

TERRY MCCARTHY, independent director. He served as our director and interim chief financial officer,12- 4- 1993, Japan dogged by military taboo: Government minister and political reform laws fall foul of post-war constitution, The Independent, http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/japan-dogged-by-military-taboo-government-minister-and-political-reform-laws-fall-foul-of-postwar-constitution-1465202.html

THREE short sentences written by an American in 1947 have again returned to dog Japanese politics, and may have derailed attempts of Morihiro Hosokawa, the Prime Minister, to pass political reform laws before the end of the year. They are the anti-war provisions in Article 9 of the Japanese constitution, which were designed by US occupation authorities to prevent Japan rearming after the Second World War. Under the provisions of Article 9, Japan 'forever renounces . . . the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes' and also declares that 'land, sea and air forces . . . will never be maintained'. But on Wednesday the Defence Minister, Keisuke Nakanishi, said the constitution was outdated and should be changed to allow full Japanese participation in United Nations peace-keeping missions. Although he was speaking at a private reception for his own party, the Japan Renewal Party, his remarks sparked a political uproar. Japan already maintains a substantial army, navy and airforce, which are euphemistically called Self-Defence Forces. But the Japanese soldiers who took part in the UN operation in Cambodia this year were given special treatment to keep them out of dangerous situations - a concession that was criticised by other states. Mr Nakanishi's view that Japan should accept the same responsibilities as any other nation in UN peace-keeping missions are shared by many politicians in Japan. 'While we respect the spirit of the peace constitution,' he said, it needed to be changed to 'correspond to reality'. But such is the taboo surrounding the constitution and Article 9 in particular that few politicians dare to speak their mind openly. The comments were pounced on by the opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) in the Diet (parliament), who have been seeking any excuse to disrupt Mr Hosokawa's attempt to clean up the political system. Their protests paralysed legislative business and forced Mr Hosokawa to ask Mr Nakanishi to resign on Thursday. Yesterday Mr Hosokawa struggled to disassociate himself from the comments made by his defence minister and he apologised to the Diet. 'I would like to make clear my cabinet has no plan to take up any form of constitutional amendment on the political agenda and will continue to respect and uphold the current constitution,' he said. The disruption came at a bad time for the government, whose political reform legislation was already being held up by deliberations on an emergency budget to stimulate the economy. Mr Hosokawa is also being forced to concentrate on the opening of Japan's rice market to keep in line with the Gatt trade liberalisation talks in Geneva. Mr Hosokawa earlier pledged to resign if he could not get political reform laws through the Diet before the end of the year. This is now unlikely.

AT: No Link – DPJ

DPJ doesn’t solve the risk of prolif-

Wittner Lawrence, prof of history at SUNY-Albany, 2009 Japan's Election and Anti-Nuclear Momentum, http://www.zmag.org/znet/viewArticle/22524

At the moment, the degree to which the Japanese elections will increase the clout of this burgeoning nuclear abolition campaign remains uncertain. The DPJ faces a number of challenges if it is to implement its nuclear-free promises. Although public sentiment in Japan is strongly antinuclear, there is also a rising fear of North Korea's nuclear program - a fact that might lead to an erosion of the new administration's nuclear-free doctrine. Compromise on maintaining a nuclear-free Japan is alluring, as Japan has the scientific and technological capability to produce nuclear weapons easily and quickly. Furthermore, many Japanese (and particularly LDP members), though uneasy about Japan's development of nuclear weapons, feel comfortable under the U.S. nuclear umbrella. Thus, they might resist international efforts to create a nuclear-free world.

**AT: Japan Economy – Going Up**

**Japan’s Economy Rising**

The Associated Press, Information about the world's oldest and largest newsgathering organization, 7-14-2010, Kyodo economic news summary, AP INTERNATIONAL NEWS, http://www.mlive.com/newsflash/international/index.ssf?/base/international-34/127918326777110.xml&storylist=international

TOKYO - Bank of Japan Governor Masaaki Shirakawa said Thursday that he thinks the Japanese economy will continue its recovery, although the yen's rise and sluggish stock prices may serve as "pressure." "We want to continue to carefully watch moves on the foreign exchange market and stock prices," he told a press conference held after the BOJ's two-day policy meeting ended the same day

New Tang Dynasty Television, 7-24-2010,

Japan's trading partners may be experiencing a slowdown, but companies and the central bank in the world's No. 2 economy have become more optimistic. A Bank of Japan survey last week showed large manufacturers with their best business confidence in two years, while the BOJ is expected to revise up its own growth forecast soon. The central bank would hike GDP to a 2.5 percent growth forecast in the current year, up from an earlier 1.8 percent, based on strong exports to Asia that have boosted factory output. Worries remain such as the eurozone debt crisis, along with the strength of the U.S. and Chinese economies, but the government has already hiked its own expansion view to 2.6 percent from 1.4 percent. Japan's economy grew faster than Europe and the U.S. in the first quarter, but signs that export strength may be moderating have emerged. On Monday, a senior BOJ official said Europe has made little progress in dealing with its problems and it would take time for market confidence to return. Even with the forecast upgrade, some analysts say the central bank may keep its overall assessment unchanged, eyeing the rising yen and falling share markets. The yen is near a seven-month high against the dollar, sending shares of Japanese exporters to multi-month lows last week.

AT: No Japanese Nuclear Capability

Japan has the capability to possess nuclear weapons.   
Steven Aftergood, senior research analyst and director of the Federation of American Scientists, 2000 “Nuclear Weapons Program,” April 16, <http://www.fas.org/nuke/guide/japan/nuke>

Having renounced war, the possession of war potential, the right of belligerency, and the possession of nuclear weaponry, it held the view that it should possess only the minimum defense necessary to face external threats. The Japanese government values its close relations with the United States, and it remains dependent on the United States nuclear umbrella. During the Sato cabinet in the 1960's, it is reported that Japan secretly studied the development of nuclear weapons. On 17 June 1974, Japanese Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata told reporters that "it's certainly the case that Japan has the capability to possess nuclear weapons but has not made them." This remark aroused widespread concern in the international media at that time. Japan's nuclear power program based on reprocessed plutonium has aroused widespread suspicion that Japan is secretly planning to develop nuclear weapons. Japan's nuclear technology and ambiguous nuclear inclinations have provided a considerable nuclear potential, becoming a "paranuclear state." Japan would not have material or technological difficulties in making nuclear weapons. Japan has the raw materials, technology, and capital for developing nuclear weapons. Japan could possibly produce functional nuclear weapons in as little as a year's time. On the strength of its nuclear industry, and its stockpile of weapons-useable plutonium, Japan in some respects considers itself, and is treated by others as, as a virtual nuclear weapons state.

Japan could create missiles equal to or better than those of the US.

FAS, group of scientists that analyze complex global issues that hinge on science and technology including biosecurity and strategic security, 4-16-2000 “Missile Program,” http://www.fas.org/nuke/guide/japan/missile/index.html, 5/25/2010

Japan has an active commercial space launch program using several types of solid- fuel rockets, which could provide the basis for a long-range ballistic missile program. Under the conditions set by the Allied Powers following World War II, Japan was forbidden to develop rockets until 1955.(1) The solid-propellant M-4S, capable of placing a 180 kg payload in a 250 km orbit, was started in 1963 and four vehicles were launched in the period between 1970 and 1972. The M-4S is no longer in production or in service. The M-3C (195 kg in 250 km orbit) and the M-3H (290 kg in 250 km orbit) were the next generation of rockets first launched in 1974. They also are no longer in production or service, having been superceded by the M-3S-II (780 kg in 250 km orbit), first launched in 1985. The initial M-3S-II launches injected Japan's first interplanetary probes, Sakigake and Suisei, toward Halley's Comet.(2) The M-3S-II is also considered to be capable of a surface-to-surface range of 4,000 km with a 500 kg payload(3) Development of the new M-V rocket was begun in 1989 and first launched in 1995. The M-V is more than twice the weight of the M-3S-II (130,000 kg vs. 61,700 kg). It will is able to place a 1,800 kg into low earth orbit or inject a 300-400-kg payload into space for planetary surveys.(4) Apparently, the M-V would be capable of intercontinental range as a ballistic missile. 1 - A comparison of Japanese solid rocket motor launch vehicles and American ICBMs is interesting. Although precise calculations would be even more interesting, these rough numbers indicate rather clearly Japanese competence in this field. If converted to ballistic missile applications, the M-5 would seem likely to give Japan an ICBM roughly equivalent to the MX Peacekeeper, and the J-1 would probably give Japan an ICBM surpassing the perfomance of a Minuteman 3.

AT: No Japanese Nuclear Capability

Japan Plans For a Civil Nuclear Sector

MARI IWATA, reporter Dow Jones, is a leader in news and business information world-wide, 7-7-2010, Japan Sets Group For Nuclear Deals, The Wall Street Journal, http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704862404575350511096532110.html?mod=googlenews\_wsj TOKYO—

Japan moved to secure its role in the global, civil nuclear sector Tuesday by setting up a government-backed organization to promote Japanese technology and fight off competition for multibillion-dollar contracts from rivals such as South Korea. Six companies—Tokyo Electric Power Co., Chubu Electric Power Co., Kansai Electric Power Co., Toshiba Corp., Hitachi Ltd., and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd.—said Tuesday that they have set up a preparatory organization to sell nuclear-power-plant construction and operation technologies overseas. "This is the first, important step toward promoting Japan's nuclear-power technologies in emerging countries by private- and public-sector cooperation," said Masayuki Naoshima, Japan's Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, following the joint announcement. The Japanese government hasn't disclosed the value of its planned investment in the group. The group is targeting a second-phase nuclear-power project in Vietnam, as well as projects in countries that plan to introduce nuclear power but have little experience, officials at the partner companies said. Vietnam said last month it plans to build 13 nuclear reactors with a combined capacity of 15 gigawatts by 2030, while Thailand and Indonesia are among nations considering whether to build nuclear reactors. Malaysia's state-owned power company Tenaga Nasional Bhd. said in late June it expected to sign an agreement soon with Korea Electric Power Corp., or Kepco, for initial work on what would be Malaysia's first nuclear-power plant. The new Japanese organization will start drawing up marketing plans and risk assessments for Vietnam, and in the fall the government will join to form a national joint venture, the officials said. Of the six companies, Hitachi and Mitsubishi Heavy already are in cooperation with General Electric Co. and Areva SA in the nuclear-power sector. The two Japanese concerns' participation in the six-company organization won't affect their current relationships, and they will continue to work with GE and Areva when necessary, spokesmen at Hitachi and Mitsubishi Heavy said. "We will quickly deal with any policy challenges on our side, including high-level talks between governments, efforts toward more nuclear cooperation agreements [with other countries], necessary support such as related education and legislation, and more risk-taking by governmental organizations," Mr. Naoshima said. The effort is a response to Japanese companies suffering bitter losses when bidding for nuclear-power contracts in the United Arab Emirates and Vietnam. The losses were a huge disappointment for Japan, where the government hopes to prop up the economy by selling low-carbon technologies overseas. In December, a government-led South Korean consortium won a $20.4 billion contract to build four nuclear reactors in the U.A.E., beating a U.S.-Japanese consortium involving GE and Hitachi, and a French consortium that included Areva. The Nikkei reported this year that the Russian government had won a 1.5 trillion yen ($17.1 billion) contract for Vietnam's first-phase nuclear-plant project in exchange for military support. Japan's private-public marriage "is a reasonable step, given that the nuclear-related business needs government involvement to prevent [weapons] proliferation, including cooperation between governments," said Hirofumi Kawachi, analyst with Mizuho Investors Securities Co. Last week in Tokyo, Japan had its first meeting regarding nuclear cooperation with India, after long hesitating to open such talks with New Delhi, a nonsignatory of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The talks came after rival South Korea began such talks with energy-hungry India earlier in June. French energy companies—state-controlled behemoth Electricite de France SA, nuclear-engineering company Areva, engineering group Alstom SA, utility GDF Suez and oil major Total SA—have no formal arrangement when considering international contracts and tend to work together on an ad hoc basis. The French government commissioned a report in December after the lack of a formal arrangement was blamed for the failure to win the nuclear-plant contract in the U.A.E. The report is classified because it involves military issues and it remains unclear whether the government plans to act on any recommendations the report may contain. By contrast, Russia's nuclear industry is tightly controlled by the government. The country's former president and current prime minister, Vladimir Putin, has helped negotiate several deals around the world for state nuclear agency Rosatom. Russia recently completed delivering equipment for two reactors in India, and is hoping to get in on India's ambitious project to build 16 new reactors. In March, Mr. Putin offered India a stake in one of the world's biggest uranium fields, in a move that demonstrated how it can leverage its huge reserves in natural resources to win contracts. China is another enormous potential market for Japan. Japanese companies already have a strong presence there. China is undertaking a massive expansion in nuclear power, expanding its current nine gigawatts of nuclear capacity from 11 reactors to 70-80 GW by 2020 and 200 GW by 2030. Last month, Gu Jun, president of Sanmen Nuclear Power Co., said China plans to sign a new agreement with Westinghouse Electric Co. of the U.S., a unit of Toshiba, to build more reactors at the Sanmen nuclear plant in eastern China. China agreed in July 2007 to buy four third-generation pressurized water reactors from Westinghouse—two at Sanmen and two at Haiyang city in the northern province of Shandong. That agreement involved the transfer of advanced nuclear technology to China.

AT: No Japanese Nuclear Capability

Japan has enough plutonium to make over 1000 nuclear weapons, and this number is growing. Emma Chanlett-Avery, specialist in Asia affairs, and Mary B. Nikitin, Analyst in Nonproliferation, Analyst in Nonproliferation, 6/30/2010 “Japan’s Nuclear Future: Policy Debate, Prospects, and U.S. Interests,” Congressional Research Service, http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/nuke/RL34487.pdf, pg. 4, 6/30/2010

Two of the more controversial aspects of Japan’s civilian power program are its large stocks of separated plutonium and advanced fuel cycle facilities. Plutonium is a by-product of the uranium fuel used in all nuclear reactors. Plutonium in spent fuel is not weapons-usable. Once this reactorgrade6 plutonium is separated out of spent fuel through reprocessing, it is potentially directly usable in nuclear weapons.7 This separated plutonium can also be “recycled” into MOX fuel for light-water power reactors. France, India, Japan, Russia and the U.K. currently all produce reactor fuel through reprocessing. The global stockpile of separated plutonium is estimated to be about 500 tons, including military and civilian stocks.8 Stocks of civilian separated plutonium are growing around the world. Japan possesses 6.7 MT of civilian stocks of separated plutonium stored in Japan, and 38 MT of separated plutonium stored outside the country.9 This material has the potential to make over 1,000 nuclear weapons. Japan’s civilian separated plutonium stockpile is expected to grow to 70 tons by 2020.