

Current US-Japanese Relations

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Current US-Japanese relations has been improved. Especially, a good deal of the attention that has been focused on US-Japanese relations has been resulted from a personal relationship between two leaders, president of Bush and prime minister of Koizumi.

Under the back grounds such as ABC (Anything But Clinton) of Bush policy, Japan bashing Japan passing, fall of USSR, rise of China, and emergence of Japanese “normal” nation theory, Richard L. Armitage and Joseph S. Nye. Like reported "The United States and Japan: Advancing toward a mature partnership" that continues to emphasize the importance of the US-Japan alliance and the role of Japan in the US' Asia strategy.

Armitage-Nye Report 2000

- ◎ U.S.-Japan ties: "more important than ever"
- ◎ Japan:
 - "the world's second-largest economy"
 - "a well-equipped and competent military"
 - "our democratic ally"
- ◎ Need for “improving, reinvigorating, and refocusing the U.S.-Japan alliance"
- ◎ U.S.-UK "special relationship": "a model for the [U.S.-Japan] alliance"

Armitage-Nye Report 2007

- ◎ “Greatest strategic asset in the region—the close U.S.-Japan alliance”
- ◎ “No denying the advances made in our security relationship”
- ◎ “The key ... is for the alliance ... to evolve from an exclusive alliance based on a common threat toward a more open, inclusive alliance based on common

interests and values”

However, some argue that if we rely too much on the U.S.-Japan alliance, we and Japan will be isolated in Asia. They point to the immediate tensions between Japan and China and between Japan and Korea over historical issues and advocate a shift in our long-term strategy to China. We believe this construct would needlessly weaken our greatest strategic asset in the region—the close U.S.-Japan alliance. The alliance can and should remain at the core of the United States’ Asia strategy.”

US-Japanese Military Talks

- “Common Strategic Objectives”
<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2005/42490.htm>
- Combined basing and training
- Reduction of Marines on Okinawa

Japanese Defense Policy

- “Japan is keeping military expenditure at ... 1% of GDP”
- “Japan's posture is ... defensive ...with no weapons of mass destruction, no long-range bombers, no middle or long-range missiles, no aircraft carriers and no nuclear submarines”
- “... a \$41.75 billion spending plan for fiscal year 2007 ... down ... some 0.3 percent, from 2006”
- “... Japan’s defense spending in reality is at about the same level with those of South Korea and Taiwan”

It is needed to focus on the conflicts between Japan and neighbor countries. Chinese recent expanding of military expense is not just the cause of existence of Japan but the cause of US-Japan security cooperation. Historical/territorial issues between Japan and Korea or China is the key of improving the relations between those countries.

Lastly, following is a better U.S course recommended by Prof. Staub.

- Strengthen ties with Japan *and* PRC
- Encourage Japanese balance of history sensitivity and security cooperation
- Support PRC economic/political development
- Develop Northeast Asia security mechanism
- Improve relations with ROK