

Japan's Role in Promoting Peace and Prosperity in East Asia

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1. East Asia at a Glance

Japan

- A hint of economic recovery
- Political scandals and frustrated people
- Alliance with the U.S. in its 51st year
- Limited, but increased role in international security matters
- Increasing dependence on China
- Warming attitudes towards Korea
- Rich, safe, but irrelevant?

China

- Continuing economic growth
- Continuing control by the party
- Not so transparent military establishment
- Widening economic disparity among people
- Little political freedom tolerated
- Stable, but guarded relationship with the U.S.
- Taiwan, Tibet, North Korea in the global context

The United States of America

- 9.11 and its aftermath
- Increased interest in East Asia
- Increased focuses on alliances with Japan and Korea
- North Korea as a member of the evil axis
- Concern about the growth of the Chinese power in the region
- National missile defense program

2. Conditions for Peace and Prosperity in East Asia

Lessons of the past: Turmoil resulted when:

China was divided and weak

Japan was aggressive and interventionist

Korea was unstable and weak

The United States stayed out of the region

The United States market closed for exports and immigration

Arms race heated up

Common interests and values were lacking

Conditions for future stabilization

China is unified, restrained, and open to the world

Japan remains non-aggressive and stays out of the continent

Korea is stable and prosperous

The United States stays in the region

The United States (and the Japanese) markets remain open

Increasing common interests and common values

3. Japan's Role in Promoting Peace and Prosperity in East Asia

Japan's role model in the future

England in the East (sea power)

Germany in the East (land power)

Albania in the East (closing the door)

Japan as England in the East

Japan as an island country outside the Asian continent

Japan as a bridge to Asia for other sea powers

Japan as a credible naval power

Common grounds and interests with other sea powers

Japan as a buffer against threats from the continent

Japan never again directly to intervene in the continental affairs

Japan maintains alliance with the U.S.

Japan protects her sea-lanes to the Middle East

Japan as an investor in the continent

Japan as Germany of the East

Japan as part of the Asian continent

Japan as a buffer against threats from the seas

Japan as a gate to the seas for other continental powers

Japan cooperates, identifies and works with other continental powers

Japan to be a member of the future continental federation

Japan eventually to sever her alliance with the United States

Japan to be increasingly dominated by China

Japan as Albania of the East

Japan as a stand-alone and isolated island country

Japan to be self-sufficient

Japan to build and equip herself with a full set of military capabilities

Japan to distance herself both from the continental and sea powers

Japan to leave the world organizations

Japan's roles as a sea power to promote peace and prosperity in East Asia

Japan to keep the United States in the region

Japan to continue a friendly and cool-headed China policy

Japan to maintain a close relationship with Korea

Japan to play an increased role in maintaining peace in East Asia

Japan to remain an active economic player in the region