

Summary

The title of my doctoral thesis is: *“Changes of Japanese defense policy and its social perception at the turn of the 20th and the 21st century.”*

The first research problem of my doctoral thesis is changes of the Japanese national security policy and strategy at the turn of the 20th to the 21st century, their directions, determinants and effects. Precisely, I tried to find out, what is the condition of the contemporary Japanese national security policy and strategy, are there any significant changes in it, if there are, what their directions are, what factors cause them and what their effects are.

The second research problem of my doctoral thesis is social perception of eventual changes of the Japanese national security policy and strategy at the turn of the 20th and the 21st century. Precisely, I tried to find out how Japanese society perceives eventual changes in the Japanese national security policy and strategy, are there any significant changes in its perception, and if there are, what factors cause them.

Therefore, in my doctoral thesis I was looking for the answers of five research questions, which were as follows:

1. *What is condition of the Japanese defense policy and strategy at the turn of the 20th to the 21st century?*
2. *Are there any significant changes in the Japanese defense policy and strategy at the turn of the 20th to the 21st century? If there are, what are these changes? What are their directions?*
3. *If there are some changes in the Japanese defense policy and strategy at the turn of the 20th to the 21st century, what factors have a significant impact on their directions?*
4. *What is the social perception of the Japanese defense policy and strategy at the turn of the 20th to the 21st century?*

5. *What factors have a significant impact on the social perception of the Japanese defense policy and strategy at the turn of the 20th to the 21st century?*

The core hypotheses of my doctoral thesis were as follows:

1. *The more external threats, such as: power of Japanese neighbor states or international terrorism rise, the more Japanese defense policy and strategy become assertive.*
2. *The more internal threats, such as: natural disasters, and external threats, such as: power of Japanese neighbor states or international terrorism rise affect Japanese society, the more Japanese social perception of the Japanese defense policy, strategy and the SDF become moderated.*

The structure of my doctoral thesis is as follows:

In the first chapter, entitled: “*Major Determinants of the Japanese National Security Policy and Strategy*” I introduced unique features having impact on the Japanese national security policy and strategy. Precisely: geographical features, cultural features and historical features. This chapter helps readers to understand background of the Japanese national security policy and strategy.

In the second chapter, entitled: “*Evolution of the Japanese National Security Policy, Strategy and Defense Capability*” I introduced Constitution of Japan, and discussed its institutional impact on the Japanese national security policy and strategy. Then I analyzed main directions of the Japanese national security policy and strategy in the Early Post War Period and recent. After World War II, Japan was rebuilt as a pacifistic state without armed forces and the Constitution of Japan restricted Japanese national security policy and strategy. Nevertheless, recently we can observe changes in it. Precisely, it becomes more assertive than before.

In the third chapter, entitled: “*Social Perception of the Japanese National Security Policy and Strategy*” I discussed problem of the ideological confrontation in the Post War Japanese society, and the social perception of recent Japanese national security policy and strategy. After World War II, pacifist education and political parties and movements had a significant impact on the social perception of the Japanese national security policy and strategy.

In the fourth chapter, entitled: “*Recent Threats and Their Impact on the Japanese National Security Policy and Strategy*”, I identified and discussed recent threats having impact on the Japanese national security policy and strategy. Precisely, neighbor states power rise (China, Russia, North Korea and South Korea) and international and domestic terrorism.

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