Japan in International Society – international relations, defense, contributions to international society

Today's Class

- Active Learning & End of Term Exam
- Japan in international society
- Security and military issues
- International trade and aid
- Final discussion …

Active Learning

End-of-term Exam

- Information should have reached you now from the Student Affairs Division. But …
- Monday 27 January, 12:40, Room 227
- There will be a make-up exam on an earlier day for those with university approved reasons for missing the exam.
- Don’t forget, only writing equipment and your Data Sheet (see the class homepage) are allowed in the exam.

Japan in International Society

- This year is 2020 … and Reiwa 2 … and Sengo 75.
- Very broadly, Japanese history can be categorized as:
  1. Relative isolation (to 1850s)
  2. Aspiring to join the imperial powers (to 1945)
  3. A focus on economic growth within the American sphere (to today)

Postwar Japan

- Framed by the Constitution.
- Dominated by the issues stemming from Japan’s defeat in 1945. E.g. 60 Years. The Path of a Nation Striving for Global Peace.
- A model member of the United Nations.
The US-Japan Alliance

- Born in defeat and occupation.
- The 1960 Japan-US Security Treaty signing (and article on protests at MIT’s Visualizing Cultures).
- The controversy continues to the present with the 2015 protests over “collective self-defense”.
- One of the most contentious issues is the continued presence of US military bases in Japan, mainly in Okinawa.

Defense, Territory, History

- Let’s look at “Defense of Japan 2019”, which gives an overview of Japan’s situation.
- Japan has territorial disputes with China (Senkaku Islands), South Korea (Takeshima), and Russia (Northern Territories).
- The “history issue” has also been a thorn in relations with China and South Korea in particular. To learn much more about this you can take my class on the topic in the 3rd year.

Politics & Economics

- Military alliance but economic friction with the USA.
- Strong economic ties but difficult political relations with China.
- A strong presence in the EU (and recent free trade deal).
- Relations with the “global south” tend to be more unbalanced and revolve a lot around ODA.

International Trade

- Let’s look at “Defense of Japan 2019”, which gives an overview of Japan’s situation.
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ODA

- “First, after WWII, Japan developed some unique principles and characteristics in its aid programs, which were products of its successful experience in this period of rapid economic growth period (1950s to mid-1970s). It came to put significant weight on infrastructure development, large-scale projects, government-led growth schemes, and the use of loans rather than grants. Second, in the 1990s, Japan shifted away from this traditional model. Other donor and recipient countries had criticized Japan’s traditional model for various reasons, and Japan began to pursue a new set of policy goals that was more compatible with Western countries. However, in recent years Japan has returned to the traditional model, with an even stronger emphasis on infrastructure development assistance. Third, this recent policy shift was induced by such factors as the growing demand for infrastructure systems, political rivalry with China, redefinition of the principles of aid policy, and strengthened political leadership in decision-making.” (p. 1045).
• Generally a very positive, peaceful contribution and this is reflected in images of Japan. But …

Finally …

• In the remaining time, let’s have Q&A about any parts of the course …
  
  • Otsukaresama deshita!