Japanese Perspectives on China’s Reemergence: Defense and Security Policies

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Key Elements of China’s Defense and Security Strategy

- Pursuing “core national interests”
  - Achieving territorial integration
  - Sustaining economic development
  - Maintaining CCP’s political dominance

- Goals
  - Recovering the “lost territories”
    - Taiwan, Spratlys and Senkakus
  - Protecting maritime rights and interests
    - Natural resources, SLOC safety

- Means
  - Military buildup and modernization
  - Strengthening power projection capabilities
PLA’s Efforts in Modernization

- **Deterrence**
  - Strategic: ICBM and SLBM
  - Regional: IR/SRBM and cruise missile

- **Control**
  - Sea: Submarine, Aegis destroyer, ASCM
  - Air: 4\textsuperscript{th}-gen. fighter, AWACS, ADIZ

- **Amphibious**
  - Type 071 LPD, Zubr LCAC, Type 081 LHD
  - Frequent landing exercises in SCS

- **Anti-US Intervention (A2AD)**
  - ASBM, space and cyber

- **Far Seas Operation**
  - Large supply ship, anti-piracy operation
China’s Grand Strategy

- Great Rejuvenation of Chinese Nation
  - Strong and prosperous China under the CCP rule
  - Reestablishing traditional status in Asia
  - Predominance in strategic and economic spheres
  - Security strategy supports a part of grand strategy

- Tensions between Security and Foreign Strategy?
  - Security strategy tends to cause frictions
  - Foreign strategy stresses stable environment
  - “Neighboring diplomacy” seeks to shape periphery
  - Strong military helps increase influence in Asia
Recent Nature of China’s Security Policy

• Increasingly Assertive and Aggressive
  ◦ Growing presence in East and South China Seas
    • White hulls’ regular patrol in SCS since 2009
    • Intrusion into Japanese waters since 2008
    • Physical obstructions against foreign vessels
  ◦ Expansion of control over shoals in SCS
    • Seizing Scarborough shoal in 2012
    • Obstructing Filipino logistic operation for Second Thomas Shoal
    • Reclamation of shoals for increasing military presence

• Provocative Behaviors of the PLA
  ◦ Directing FCR against Japanese destroyer in 2013
  ◦ Harassing safety navigation of USS Cowpens
  ◦ Dangerous interceptions to US and Japanese aircraft

• Challenging the Status-Quo in East Asia
  ◦ Utilizing its growing power for making changes
  ◦ Taking higher risks, a sign of adventurism
**Trajectory of PLA’s Modernization**

- **Modernization Efforts will Continue**
  - Strong PLA is essential for achieving strategic goals
  - “New normal” economy can provide necessary budget

- **Problems the PLA Faces**
  - Weakness in deterring US operations
  - Low level of joint operations
  - Less experience of real war fighting
  - Lack of ASW capabilities
  - Relying on foreign military technologies
END