

Chinese Foreign Policy: The Debate and Ambiguity

Presented at the Brookings Institution

27 February 2015

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The Debate over Foreign Policy Continues

Assertive or Conciliatory Foreign Policy

★ Deng Xiaoping's line of "*tao guang yang hui*" (low profile, conciliatory diplomacy) is out of date. Must switch from "you suo zuo wei" (achieving something) to "fen fa you wei" (exerting yourself)

★ We must stick to Deng's line. China is still a developing country. We thrive in the current world order. We must not lose our good image.

Cf. Aggressive discourse in the media (2008--)

Related Debates

China Model of Development or Reforms

★ 2008 World Financial Crisis shattered the American Model and the Washington Consensus: the era of the China Model and the Beijing Consensus has come. Deny universal values.

★ Without privatisation, liberalisation and distributive reforms, and those coming soon, China will be in trouble. Accept universal values.

Response to the US Pivot to Asia

Two-fold:

★ Return to low-profile diplomacy towards the US, promoting the “New Major Power Relationship”

★ Heighten alert against containment/encirclement (“US is a global tiger, Japan is an Asian wolf”)

Divided Views on the Senkakus

Hardliners: Japan's act of purchasing the islands was open provocation and challenge to sovereignty

Moderates: Japan's act was to cool things down, had nothing to do with sovereignty

NB Affinity b/n neo-Maoism
and chauvinism/xenophobia
Cf. CCP's traditional method to
unite the Party and the nation

= set a target of struggle



Information Gap b/n Japan & China

e.g. Trawler Collision Incident, Sept.2010

The Chinese Version

① 昨日 10 时 15 分，一艘有 15 名船员的中国拖网渔船在钓鱼岛附近海域进行捕捞作业时，日本海上保安厅一艘巡逻船“与那国”号赶到现场，并冲撞渔船。

② 日方又派出两艘巡逻船跟踪渔船。其中一艘巡逻船又与中国渔船发生碰撞。

③ 13 时左右，日本巡逻船上的 22 名海上保安官登上航行中的中国渔船，命令渔船停止航行，并宣布违反日本“渔业法”时渔船进行检查。

钓鱼岛及其附属岛屿自古就是中国领土，我们要求日本巡逻船不得在钓鱼岛附近海域进行所谓“执法”活动，更不得采取任何危及中国渔船和人员安全的行为。——外交部发言人

日本巡逻船“与那国”号
服役日期：2009年2月2日

舰长：89米	舰宽：11米	吃水：5米	排水量：1300吨	动力：4台柴油机
航速：30节	编制：30人	武器装备：1门探照灯，1门高功率电	电子设备：树山指挥系统；激光雷达等	
舰载机：舰载机库及加油系统	舰载机：2艘高速救生艇，2艘多用途救生艇			

http://news.xinhuanet.com/world/2010-09/08/c_12529310.htm

Information Gap b/n Japan & China e.g. Trawler Collision Incident, Sept.2010

The Japanese Version



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sVVM2AmvD5U>

Information Gap b/n Japan & China

e.g. Abe's Visit to the Yasukuni Shrine

Chinese view: Abe went to arouse nationalistic sentiments, unite the nation and increase his popularity

Japanese survey results

Asahi: 41% Good that he went;
46% Should not have gone

Sankei Fuji: 38% Positively appraise it;
53% Do not positively appraise it

Gentle Words, Tough Deeds

★ Oct. 2013 Peripheral Diplomacy Workshop

--conciliatory policy line announced: **intimacy, sincerity, benefit, tolerance** (親、誠、惠、容: four Chinese characters added by Xi Jinping)

★ Oct. 2013 Speech at the Indonesian Parliament

“With regard to differences and disputes between China and some Southeast Asian nations on territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests, peaceful solutions should be sought, and differences and disputes should be properly handled through equal-footed dialogue and friendly consultation in the overall interests of bilateral ties and regional stability.”

Gentle Words, Tough Deeds

- Nov. 2013 Announcement of the Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) in the East China Sea
- May 2014 Deployment of an oil rig near the Paracels; land reclamation and base construction
- Intrusion by Chinese patrol boats into the Senkaku territorial waters continues
- Airmiss b/n Japanese & Chinese military planes (May & June 2014)

NB Usual tactic against Japan: to justify China's assertive action by using the history card

Lack of Coordination

★ Lack of horizontal coordination in Chinese bureaucracy—a perennial problem

MoFA: conciliatory

Propaganda Dept: nationalistic

PLA & Oil Dept: secure interests,
create *faits accomplis*



What do the Chinese want?

★ Conflicting targets

- to unite the Party & the nation: struggle with the neighbours proves useful
 - peace and prosperity: cooperation with the neighbours is useful and necessary
 - to establish control in the Western Pacific: hopefully without fighting, but by increasing presence – implementing Sun Zi's Art of War
- ← unacceptable to all the neighbours & US