

China' Foreign Strategy and Japan Policy in the Cold War Era

GUI Yongtao

China's Japan policy not only need to address bilateral issues, but also need to serve its overall foreign strategy. China's foreign strategy in the Cold War era went through four phases, namely "lean to one side," anti-imperialist and anti-revisionist, align with the United States and resist the Soviet Union, and independent foreign policy of peace. Supporting world revolution, safeguarding national security, and developing foreign economic relations were the three major goals pursued in China's foreign policy during that time. The top priority goals in each phase determined the theme of China' Japan policy. In the first three phases, China's Japan policy was heavily influenced by the Cold War system and revolutionary ideology and did not achieve anticipated goals. It is only in the fourth phase that China's Japan policy found firmer and more durable strategic bases in a time of peace and development.



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Japan in China's Foreign Strategy

Review China's Japan policy in a strategic point of view

Understand Japan's changing position in China's foreign strategy

Search for strategic basis for a long-term stable Sino-Japanese relationship



Four Phases in China's Foreign Strategy during the Cold War

1949-1958 lean to one side

1959-1968 oppose two hegemons

1969-1978 align with the U.S. and resist the Soviet Union

1979-1991 independent foreign policy for peace



1. Lean to One Side (1949-1958)

United front against America

- Align with the Soviet Union and oppose the U.S.

United front for peace

- Peaceful coexistence

Hope the Japanese people to be comrades on the two united fronts



China's Japan Policy (1949-1958)

Japan is a country controlled by imperialists and reactionaries

- Prioritize the relationship with the Japanese people over that with the Japanese government
- Support Japanese people's anti-American struggle

People-to-people diplomacy

- Trade agreements, fishery agreement, return of Japanese war criminals



Zhou Enlai's View of Japan

China and Japan can peacefully coexist only when both are industrialized

Countries of different systems can peacefully coexist and friendly cooperate

Japan is shifting from imperialism to nationalism

China wants Japan to be peaceful and independent, and does not want Japan to be a socialist country like China



2. Oppose the Two Hegemons (1959-1968)

Oppose both the U.S. and the Soviet Union

See Japan as a Middle Zone country and hope Japan to join China's struggle against the U.S. and the Soviet Union



China's Japan Policy (1959-1968)

Economic difficulty caused by the deterioration of the China-Soviet relations

- Long-term trade agreement with Japan

The American imperialist is common enemy of the Chinese and Japanese people

- Demonstrations supporting anti-American movement in Japan



Mao Zedong's View of Japan

Two groups of Middle Zone countries

- Asia, Africa, Latin America
- Europe, Japan, Canada

Japan is unhappy with the U.S.

Japan is unhappy with the Soviet Union

The U.S. and the Soviet Union attempt to control the whole world



3. One Line (1969-1978)

United front against the Soviet Union

- Align with the U.S. and resist the Soviet Union
- One line: uniting China, Japan, Pakistan, Iran, Turkey, Europe and the U.S. against the Soviet Union
- Theory of Three Worlds

Hope Japan to join the united front against the Soviet Union



China's Japan Policy (1969-1978)

Normalization

Peace and Friendship Treaty

- Does not touch the U.S.-Japan security treaty
- Prioritize the resistance against the Soviet hegemonism



Mao Zedong Meeting Tanaka Kakue

Tanaka: I went to the United States and talked to President Nixon. The U.S. also believes that my visit to China meets the inevitable trend of the world

Mao: That is also what President Nixon told me.



4. Peace and Development (1979-1991)

Shift focus to economy

An independent foreign policy for peace

- Peace and development are the two themes of contemporary world (first time in PRC history)

See Japan as an economic power and one pole in a multipolar world



China's Japan Policy (1979-1991)

China-Japan Friendship as a long-term national policy

China-Japan cooperation should become a model for the cooperation between countries of different social systems, and between developing and developed countries

Concerns

- Japan's view of wartime history
- Japan becoming a military power



Deng Xiaoping's View of Sino-Japanese relations

The Sino-Japanese relations should be considered and developed from a long-term perspective. The first step is to develop the relations through the 21st century, and then into the 22nd and 23rd century. The people of the two countries should be friends forever. This is more important than anything else between China and Japan.



Summary

China's national identity	China's view of Japan
1. a socialist country	1. a capitalist country
2. a revolutionary country	2. a Middle Zone country
3. a third world country	3. a second world country
4. a developing country	4. a developed country

Lessons

Failure in phase 1, 2, 3

- Cold War constraint
- Revolutionary view of the world
- Lack of contact and mutual understanding
- Japan's foreign policy restrained by the U.S.-Japan alliance

Success in phase 4

- Complementary economic relations
- A balanced position between the U.S. and the Soviet Union



Thank You!

