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Japan a parasite country of U.S.

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Japan is a “parasite country.” Professor Masahiro Yamada, a sociologist, claims that there are as many as 10 million “parasite singles” in Japan, single young men and women roughly between 20 and 34 years old living with and financially depending on their parents. They regard this carefree lifestyle as much better than leading independent lives.

Similarly, Japan, as a country, has no intention of getting independence for a better future, believing that somehow dependence on the United States must be in line with its national self-interest both in economic and military terms.

During the half century between the end of the Asia-Pacific war and the termination of the Cold War, the Japanese people have established a mindset that prevents them from breaking away from the United States. According to Article X of the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between Japan and the United States of America (Japan-U.S. Security Treaty) signed in January 1960, Japan would be able to legally terminate the treaty by giving one-year notice to that effect. However, Japan has never given serious thought to going down an independent path by terminating the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty. This was not so much the elaborated logical calculation that the maintenance of the treaty would be more beneficial to Japan than any other strategy as the easygoing inertia that depending on the United States would be much easier.

In the aftermath of the Cold War in the 1990s, the Asia-Pacific region was searching for its new orientation. In these circumstances, Japan was also seeking a somewhat independent movement in terms of its national security. In August 1994, the Advisory Group on Defense Issues, a private advisory group under the prime minister, presented “The Modality of the Security and Defense Capability of Japan: The Outlook for the 21st Century Advisory Group on Defense Issues.” According to this report, based on the premise that “the United States no longer holds an overwhelming advantage in terms of overall national strength, Japan should ... play an active role in shaping a new order.” The group emphasized Japan’s positive and independent role in terms of its national security issues.

On Sept 17, 2002, Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and North Korean General Secretary Kim Jong Il held a one-day summit in Pyongyang. At the conclusion of their meeting, the two leaders signed the Pyongyang Declaration, a bilateral agreement that marked a major diplomatic triumph for Japan. Koizumi’s visit to North Korea was a welcome attempt to reverse the untenable political situation on the peninsula. In addition, it signaled that Japan was searching for a way to take an independent route in international affairs. Thus, the Koizumi trip can be seen as the first step by Japan to change the nature of a half-century of subservience in its foreign relations with the United States.

Washington takes an ambivalent view of any independent foreign policy moves by Japan, and it reacted quite unfavorably to Koizumi’s opening to North Korea. Washington exaggerated the threats issuing from the Korean Peninsula in order to contain any Japanese independent movement, to convince the regional

countries that the U.S. military presence would be indispensable, and to exercise a controlling hand in the region.

Since the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the United States has been forcing its allied powers to make a clear decision whether they are for or against the U.S. global war on terrorism. If they support the United States, they are requested to demonstrate it by concrete attitudes. Japan made a decision to discard its somewhat independent course and immediately returned to the parasite orientation relying on the United States.

In April 2007, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe conveyed to President George W Bush his strong intention to strengthen the Japan-U.S. alliance at the summit meeting. In May, an bill to facilitate the implementation of plans to realign U.S. military forces in Japan was enacted.

Without asking itself why it becomes a target for terrorist groups, the United States, with its most powerful military forces, insists on a preemptive strike doctrine that justifies U.S. military intervention in any country in the world. Would it be desirable for Japan to continue being a parasite country of the United States in order to build peace in the Asia-Pacific region in the 21st century?

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