

# **A Roadmap of Historical Reconciliation with ROK and China: a View from Japan**

**Kazuhiko Togo**

**Kyoto Sangyo University**

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# Introduction: Machiavelli



# Reconciliation with ROK:

## (1) Fundamentals

- Why relations so bad between the two?
- Under the rise of China ROK sees more to China, and Japan sees more to US.
- But is not ultimate objective of both to become more autonomous & assertive?
- That search for greater autonomy distorted the relations under Abe & Park.
- Roadmap: Can we unwind that distortion and ensure mutual respect?

## **(2) Six Issues which Separate**

- Lack of Trust between Abe and Park
- Comfort women issue (Korean Constitutional Court decision in 2011)
- Enforced Labor issue (Korean Supreme Court decision in 2012)
- Takeshima/Dokto
- Yasukuni visit (since December 2013)
- Article 9's revision (since July 2014)
- -----From Vicious cycle to positive cycle

## **(3) Comfort Women**

- It is still the most “perspective” window.
- Korean negative reaction to the Report has some reasons.
- But in Tokyo unexpected window of opportunity is emerging for the supporters of further agreement.
- The opportunity should be grasped.

## **(4) Revision of Article 9 Interpretation**

- Battle between “one country selfish irresponsible pacifism” vs “responsible and positive pacifism”
- Had to be revised in early 90’s; impossible
- The gist: getting greater autonomy from US
- Compromise: Collective defense to be mobilized only when Japan is threatened!
- No fear by surrounding countries expected

# Reconciliation with China:

## (1) Fundamentals, totally different

- From Japan: Rise of China on all fronts
- Need to cope with, but ultimate objective is to create mutually beneficial and respectful relations
- From China: why is China so negative against Japan? What does China expect from Japan????? Need to be enlightened

# Reconciliation with China:

## (2) Senkaku

- Overcoming Senkaku; Need to find a status quo satisfactory to both
- For Abe: China ceases to enter to the territorial waters of Senkaku
- For Xi:?: Are Three Noes of “No landing, No constructing, No researching” satisfactory? If yes, there is hope
- Roadmap: Start dialogue: Nothing prevents



# Reconciliation with China:

## (3) Others

- CBM at sea: yes, both sides gain
- Mutual fear and rebuke on security: Xi should think more
- Prewar history and transmission to next generation: Abe should think more
- Economic Interdependence: useful but not decisive to overcome nationalism

# Conclusion: Ahn Jung-Geun

