

**Abe's defense-Foreign Policy under
his third Cabinet:
Clash of Civilization and
Abe's response**

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Talking Points

- How should we understand “Islam’s” threat?
- What does China aim in asserting new “Asian values”?
- What is Russia’s position on civilization?
- How are the U. S. and Europe responding?
- How is Japan setting its position?
- How should we understand Abe III?
- What should be the future of Japan-China relations?

Islam

- “ISIS” = terrorists, extreme Islam hardly recognizable as Islam
- In “moderate” Islam = necessity to understand their civilization
- Some strangeness on the “freedom of speech” at the Charlie’s case

China

- China's new assertion that Asia should be handled by Asians
- It is economic, political, militarily and cultural/civilizational.

Russia

- Putin's search: strong Russia, economically and militarily
- Russia needs a geopolitical buffer between Europe = Ukraine
- But he also seeks Russian honor and identity. They are civilizational values.
- Kiev is Russia's motherland & 19th century Crimean War is their national narrative.

America

- All three challenges are directed against America and Europe behind it.
- These challenges are political and military, but they include civilizational aspect.
- America looks ready to take up these challenges.

Japan

- Japan never targeted by Islam. Now it is, by fanatic ISIS, but not by moderate Islam.
- Rise of China and its assertion as the leader of Asia is a crucial issue for Japan.
- With Russia it shares common identity of dichotomy between the West and non-West.
- With US, it shares certain common values and history of alliance after WWII, but it is time to seek slow “self standing” (自立).
- Time for Japan to seek its civilizational identity

Abe III

- He is looking for a Japan with its identity: “Getting out from Post-war regime”
 - Proactive Pacifism = Pacifism with system and power to become proactive. In progress.
 - Society with less “Gain and loss 損得”; More of Nature, Culture & Community Mind. Really?
 - Past and history: Is he humble enough to understand the pain caused by Japan???
- Comfort Women, Yasukuni, 70th Statement

Abe Proactive Pacifism

- National Security Council
- National security Strategy: maintaining the path of pacifism, contribute more positively peace, stability and prosperity of international society
- Revision of interpretation of Article 9
- Possibly, a “permanent law” to enable UN Security Council” based contribution
- Protection of national secrecy law
- Greater defense spending

Japan-China

- Do Japan and China share common Asian identity? Yes, undoubtedly.
- When was the time of “happy coexistence”?
Edo period: 260 years of peaceful coexistence.
- But since then we both have passed a different path. China is China; Japan is a dichotomy between West and Asia/Japan.
- Can Abe and Xi find a new way of coexistence?