

China seen from the perspective of Belt and Road Initiative A View from Japan

7th World Forum on China Studies

December 10–11, 2017

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BRI before Early 2017

- Serious lack of interest.
- Economic dimension: keeping distance, fair governance and transparency? fair conditionality vis-à-vis existing organizations?
- Military dimension: military forces, especially naval forces provide strong assurances for realizing Chinese dream; First and Second Island chain, Nine Dash Line; String of Pearls analogy
- Political dimension: Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO); Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA)

Japan's Attention to Asia Pacific Region



Japan's Pacific regionalism

- Pacific regionalism: Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC): 1980's
- Asia-Pacific regionalism: Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (APEC) → Free Trade Area of Asia-Pacific (FTAAP): 1990's
- East Asian regionalism: ASEAN Plus Three (APT); ASEAN Plus Six (APS); East Asia Summit (EAS) → Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP): 2000's
- Pacific regionalism: Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) → 2010's → Japan joined in March, 2013

Changing Political Background since early 2017 → Trump in America

- ‘America First’ in economic arenas → exclusive bi-lateral negotiations and negation of multilateralism including TPP → Japan needs to restructure its multilateral policy
- ‘America First’ in foreign security arenas → readiness to use military power to ensure American national interest
- North Korea happen to be the first real issue → Trump and Abe view that China’s cooperation essential → seeking channel for better relations
- Abe now has reasons to seek areas where Japan and China might work cooperatively

Xi Jinping's contrasting policy

19th Party Congress

- Time Frame: ~2020 moderately prosperous society; ~2035 ~middle of the century
- 'Great modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious and beautiful'
- BRI: emphasized in economic and political section
- Economic aspect of BRI may be areas where Japan and china might cooperate usefully.

Additional reason to cooperate on BRI

- Japan-China relations are not without difficulties
- Senkaku/Dyaoyutai territorial disputes
- Yasukuni Shrine issue
- Wider ramification of historical memory issues
- Need to find areas of common ground for both countries so as not worsen the relationship, and prepare for better future
- BRI may be that area where the two sides may be able to find common interest

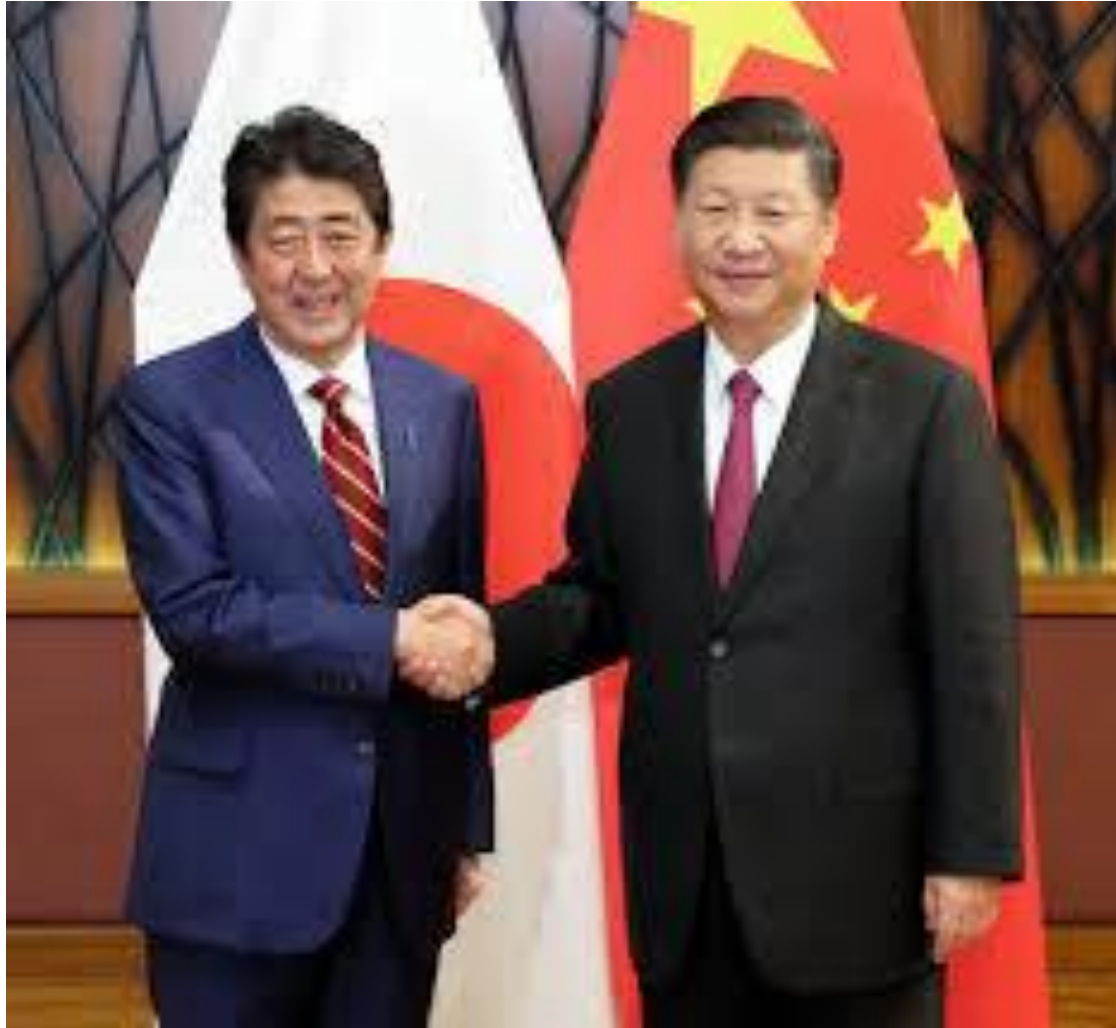
What did P.M. Abe do?

- P.M. Abe changed his policy!

Abe's change of policy

- May 16th: General secretary of LDP Toshihiro Nikai participated in 'BRI International Cooperation Forum': "Observe with sympathy"
- June 5th: International Exchange Conference 'Future of Asia' Abe's speech: "BRI has a potentiality to connect East and West,...Japan is willing to cooperate...taking into account shared views of international society."
- July 8th: Summit with Xi in G20 in Hamburg
- November 11th: Summit with Xi in APEC in Danang

Smile! For the First Time....



Just to look Back

- **Japan's Past
relations with Silk
Road!**

Ending Point of Silk Road at East (1)

- Shosoin in Nara around 8th Century



Ending Point of Silk Road at East (2)

- Marco Polo in the 13th Century
- “Jipang, Country of Gold”

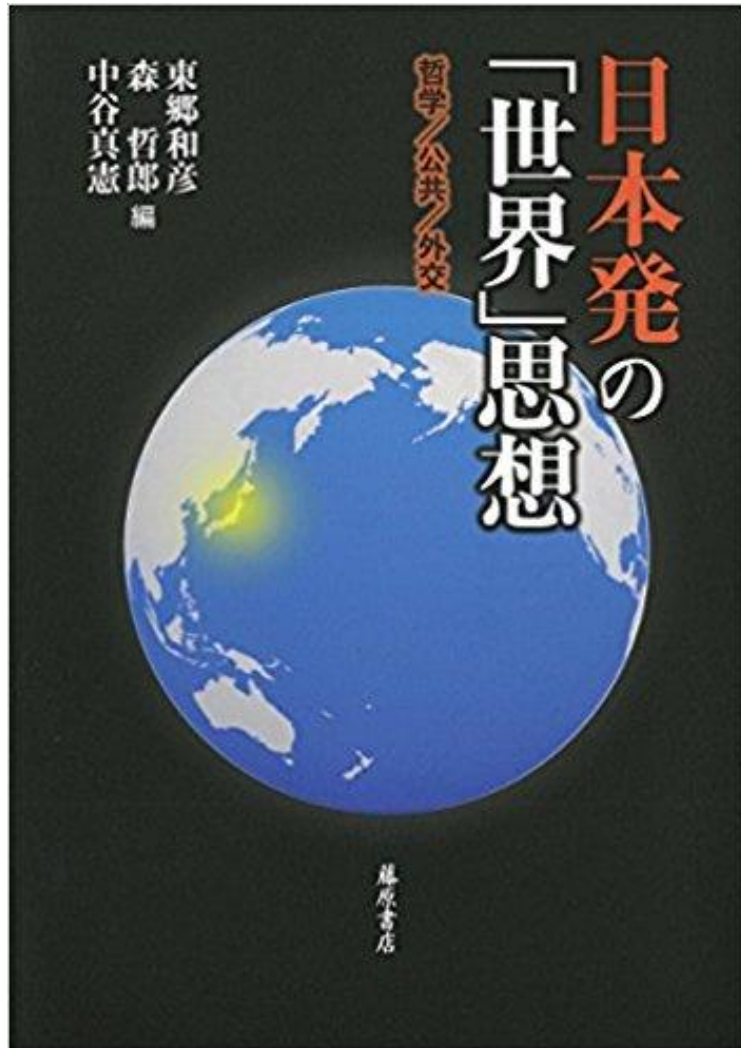


Who proposed Silk Road diplomacy?



- Ryutaro Hishimoto: July 24, 1997, Japan Association of Corporate Executives:
- Recalling Shosoin
- **Silk Road Diplomacy = “Central Asia & Caucuses”**
- Advancing Political dialogue
- developing Economic and natural resource cooperation
- enhancing peace and stability

BRI → Another area of Cultural and Civilizational Dialogue



- ‘World Thinking Emanating from Japan: Philosophy; Public Policy; Foreign Policy’ (January, 2017)
- “Once Accepting different civilization and yet at some point switching it to something of its own and universal”