

East Asian Strategic Review 2017

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EASR 2017 comprises NIDS researchers' analyses and descriptions based on information compiled from open sources in Japan and overseas. The statements contained herein do not necessarily represent the official position of the Government of Japan or the Ministry of Defense.

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Preface

This edition of the *East Asian Strategic Review (EASR)* marks the twenty-first year of the flagship publication of the National Institute for Defense Studies (NIDS), Japan's sole national think tank in the area of security affairs. As a rare annual report in which Japanese researchers comprehensively analyze East Asian security issues, *EASR* has built up an established reputation both in Japan and overseas, one that is underscored by the English edition's citation in scholarly works and the Japanese edition's use as a university textbook.

EASR comprises chapters examining trends in specific regional countries that have an impact on Japan's security, and chapters covering timely topics in East Asian security. This edition analyzes diverse themes such as the opaque foreign policy of the United States under the new Trump administration, North Korea's rising nuclear and missile threat, the challenges faced by China's neighbors in responding to its growing maritime presence, President Putin's visit to Japan and developments in the normalization of Japan-Russia relations, the ways in which Europe's "multiple crises" affect East Asia, and Japan's efforts to broaden its strategic horizons.

As part of the NIDS editorial policy, *EASR* now lists the names of the authors responsible for each chapter and provides chapter notes indicating information sources, so as to further strengthen its standing as a scholarly text founded on analyses personally made by its contributing researchers. It also adds a wide array of supplementary material to further enhance general readers' understanding of East Asian security, including figures, tables, photos, sidebars, and a list of abbreviations.

EASR 2017 represents NIDS researchers' analyses and descriptions of major security-related developments that took place mainly during the period from January through December 2016, and is based on information compiled from open sources in Japan and overseas. The statements contained herein do not necessarily represent the official position of the Government of Japan or the Ministry of Defense. The titles and ranks of people mentioned herein are, in principle, those that were current at the time of the events described.

This edition was written by: Shinji Hyodo (Introduction); Michito Tsuruoka (Chapter 1); Mari Izuyama and Masahiro Kurita (Chapter 2); Masayuki Masuda (Chapter 3); Tetsuo Murooka and Hiroyasu Akutsu (Chapter 4); Tomotaka Shoji

Preface

and Hideo Tomikawa (Chapter 5); Hiroshi Yamazoe and Shigeki Akimoto (Chapter 6); Shigeo Kikuchi and Hiromu Arakaki (Chapter 7); and Tomohiko Satake (Chapter 8). It was edited by Shigeki Akimoto, Sukeyuki Ichimasa, Seiya Eifuku, Ken Ohnishi, Kouki Kawamura, Ryo Kiridori, Hirofumi Kiriyama, Osamu Koike, Takuya Shimodaira, Ichiro Takahashi, Kiwako Tanaka, and Hikaru Yamashita.

As the world's strategic interests gravitate toward East Asia, it is our hope that *EASR* will help build interest in and understanding of the East Asian strategic environment and will serve as food for intelligent discussion aimed at helping Japan to make better security policy decisions.

March 2017

Shinji Hyodo
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