Germany and Peace Operations

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3-30

Germany’s record of peace operations in the post-Cold War era reveals (1) a shift from the UN to the EU and NATO as preferred operational frameworks and (2) a gradual expansion of contributions to the military aspects of peace operations. This article explains these changes first by identifying the framework of the Bundeswehr’s activities (greater integration into the West, its “culture of restraint” in the use of force, and provisions in the Basic Law) and then by tracing how these elements, which used to complement each other in the Cold War period, started creating tension among themselves. The history of German peace operations can be seen as a process of adjustment of the domestic constraints (strategic culture and legal provisions) to international pressures, a process that was marked by four turning points (the Gulf War, the Federal Constitutional Court decision of July 1994, Kosovo, and Afghanistan).

Finally, the article suggests that although there are several significant differences between Germany and Japan in peace operations, most notably concerning the existence of regional security organizations and the nature and role of domestic legal constraints, Germany’s history of policy adjustment and its consequent quest for a “comprehensive approach” to conflict management provide useful experiences for Japan.

Japan-Europe Security Cooperation
—How to “Use” NATO and the European Union

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31-56

There is growing room for security cooperation between Japan and Europe as both actors expand their respective international political and security roles. This means that greater benefit can be gained from such cooperation. This article will examine how Japan can “use”
NATO and the European Union as a means to advance its policy objectives around the world. It will be argued that NATO can be seen as (1) a political partner, (2) an operational partner, (3) another means for cooperation with the U.S., and (4) a multilateral school. In a similar manner, the EU can be seen as (1) a partner, (2) an operational partner, and (3) as a non-American partner. Regarding these aspects, this article will argue that cooperation with NATO and the EU from a Japanese point of view is of great value. Nevertheless, the meaning of Japan-Europe security cooperation has long been overlooked.

Distance and Military Operations
—Theoretical Background for Stronger Defense of Islands

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57-80

The significance of distance in military operations is considered using the principle of “loss of strength gradient” advocated by Kenneth E. Boulding. Even today, when the capabilities of aircraft, missiles, etc. to deliver force have advanced, it is not easy to conduct full-scale military operations in remote theaters far from home. In this respect, the principle “loss of strength gradient” still applies to military operations. The threat of distant violence affects the Self Defense Forces, which has a fundamental policy of nonaggressive self-defense and has conducted actions within Japan in principle. For instance, defensive operations in remote islands far from the mainland are expected to pose significant difficulties in information collection, control of command and communication, mobility of troops, continuity of logistic supplies, and protection and evacuation of residents. It is therefore desirable to have large war facilities and support bases close to such remote islands. However, the most effective means to retain the power of a nation is to station war facilities that do not require transportation in unstable zones during peacetime. Thus, the static presence of a forward deployment is important as a deterrent and as a response force.
A notice of assessment for constructing housing for the families of US military personnel on the former site of a magazine area in Zushi City, Kanagawa Prefecture was announced in August 1982. Since the local government and residents had demanded that the former magazine area, which had been idle and was a valuable green space, should be handed over, three consecutive mayors had dealt with this issue between the City Assembly/citizens and the State/Prefecture. After the mayor who announced acceptance with conditions resigned in 1984, a new mayor was elected who was against the acceptance and who opposed the State, which had started construction work, and aimed to reach a political settlement. However, he was unable to accept the arbitration proposal due to opposition by citizens. The succeeding mayor proposed unconditional abandonment, but switched to a policy of settlement as the work progressed. In November 1994, the State, Prefecture and City reached a settlement, and the construction of all residences was completed in March 1998.