

# Japan-U.S. Relations After World War II: From the Occupation Regime to the Recapture of Okinawa by Japan

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**Annotation.** After World War II approach of Japan and the US, being withdrawn of the war in Japanese legislation and diplomatic relations, in 1970s Japanese disposal from the US leading occupation regime due to the right strategy chosen by Japan.

**Key words.** Douglas Mak Artur, Cold War, opposite direction, red vanishing, Jozef Dodj – Dodge Line, Yoshida doctrine, Bloody May day, Anpo

Today's developed Japan has experienced many events in its history. He did not retreat, even as his freedom was restricted by the occupation regime, which had been destroyed by the war. It is known that at the end of World War II, Japan was occupied by US-led allied forces with the support of Australia, Great Britain and New Zealand. This was Japan's first foreign invasion. In the early stages of the invasion, the U.S. and other allies, led by U.S. Gen. Douglas McArthur, sought to radically change Japanese policy and society to prevent Japan from threatening peace again<sup>1</sup>. Many of these changes have been formalized in the new Constitution of Japan, translated into Japanese, and passed accordingly by the Japanese parliament. Most notably, Article 9 of the new constitution explicitly prohibits military service in Japan<sup>2</sup>.

As the Cold War escalated, U.S. leaders began to see Japan as an industrial and military fortress with less threat to peace and potential anti-communism in Asia. Accordingly, from 1947 onwards, the U.S.-led occupation regime began to try to reverse many of the changes known as the “reverse direction”. In short, wartime leaders were encouraged to return to government, and trade unions came under pressure. Police decentralization and militarization were also allowed<sup>3</sup>.

In 1950, the government of the occupation regime, in cooperation with Japanese conservatives in business and government, carried out a mass “Red Cleanup” of tens of thousands of communists, socialists and suspected travelers. This cleansing has been done in government, schools, universities and large corporations<sup>4</sup>. In addition to making Japan safer for free market capitalism, the occupation regime sought to strengthen the Japanese economy and handed control over to American banker Joseph Dodge. He has taken a number of drastic measures to fight inflation and limit government intervention in the economy. The policy pursued by Joseph Dodge went down in history as the Dodge Line<sup>5</sup>. On September 8, 1951, Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Yoshida signed the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty. The occupation regime ended in 1952 with the entry into force of the San Francisco Peace Treaty, which effectively restored sovereignty to Japan. The San Francisco Peace Treaty was signed on September 8, 1951 and entered into force on April 28, 1952. As a condition for ending the invasion and restoring its sovereignty, Japan also had to sign a U.S.-Japan security agreement, which turned Japan into a military force in alliance with the United States<sup>6</sup>.

The strategy adopted by Japan during the reign of Prime Minister Shigeru Yoshida, who served as Prime Minister from 1948 to 1954, went down in history as the Yoshida Doctrine. He focused on rebuilding Japan's domestic economy, relying on a security alliance with the United States. The Doctrine of Age originated in 1951 and shaped Japan's 21st century foreign policy. First, Japan is a strong ally of the United States in the Cold War against communism. Second, Japan relies on U.S. military power and minimizes its defense forces. Third, Japan emphasizes economic diplomacy in its global affairs<sup>7</sup>. While most historians acknowledge that this doctrine was beneficial to Japan, some disagree.

The 1952 security agreement created the U.S.-Japan Alliance, but did not allow Japan to become an ally on an equal footing with the United States. Among other provisions contrary to Japan's interests, there was no clear expiration date or means of termination<sup>8</sup>. On May 1, 1952, a few days after the Security Treaty entered into force, there were nationwide protests against the retention of U.S. military bases in the country, even though the occupation regime had officially ended. Protests in Tokyo escalated into what became

known as Bloody May Day<sup>9</sup>. In response, the Japanese government began revising the treaty as early as 1952<sup>10</sup>. However, the Eisenhower administration resisted calls for a review<sup>11</sup>.

Meanwhile, the operation of U.S. military bases on Japanese soil has led to an increase in reaction among the local population, which has led to an increase in the movement of military bases against the U.S. in Japan. The movement began in 1952 with protests against the U.S. artillery range in Uchinada, Ishikawa, and lasted from 1955 to 1957 with a bloody Sunagawa battle over a proposal to expand a U.S. air base near the village of Sunagawa in southern Tokyo<sup>12</sup>. In 1954, a U.S. nuclear test ship in Bikini Atoll dropped radioactive rain on a Japanese fishing vessel, the No. 5 "Lucky Dragon" inspired by the original Godzilla film, and the Girard events, in 1957, when an American soldier killed a Japanese housewife. incidents such as the shooting sparked anti-U.S. sentiment<sup>13</sup>. Finally, the Eisenhower administration agreed to significantly reduce U.S. troops in Japan and revise the Security Treaty. Eisenhower reduced the number of American troops in Japan from 210,000 in 1953 to 77,000 in 1957 and another 48,000 in 1960. Most of them were airborne<sup>14</sup>. Negotiations for a revised treaty began in 1958, and the new treaty was signed by Eisenhower and Kishi on January 19, 1960, at a ceremony in Washington.

Japanese leaders and protesters sought to quickly reclaim the small Japanese islands that were not included in the San Francisco peace treaty and were still under U.S. military occupation. Recognizing its desire to reclaim the Ryukyu Islands and Bonin Islands (also known as the Ogasawara Islands), the United States relinquished control of the Amami Islands group on the northern edge of the Ryukyu Islands as early as 1953<sup>15</sup>. However, the U.S. has not pledged to return Bonins or Okinawa, which were under U.S. military administration indefinitely, for an indefinite period of time, as provided for in Article 3 of the Peace Treaty<sup>16</sup>. As a result of mass propaganda, in June 1956, the Japanese parliament unanimously adopted a resolution calling for the return of Okinawa to Japan<sup>17</sup>.

At the same time, U.S. military intelligence and its successor, the CIA, intervened in Japanese politics and helped former Class A war criminal Nobusuke Kishi come to power. C.I.A. (Central Intelligence Agency) In 1955, he helped unite Japan's conservative parties into the Liberal Democratic Party<sup>18</sup>. Thus, in 1955, Japan established a system of conservative, anti-communist domination in domestic politics<sup>19</sup>. A trusted ally, Kishi believed that the U.S. Security Treaty could be revised only after he became prime minister in 1957. From the 1950s to the 1970s, the C.I.A. It spends millions of dollars influencing elections in Japan to support the LDP against more macro parties such as the Socialists and Communists, although these costs were revealed by The New York Times in the mid-1990s. would not be disclosed<sup>20</sup>.

From a Japanese perspective, the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty, revised in January 1960, is known in Japanese as Anpo. The U.S. is committed to protecting Japan from military attacks, which means a significant improvement over the initial agreement, which requires prior consultation with the Japanese. The government removed the clause allowing the suppression of internal unrest before sending U.S. troops abroad to Japan and set a first 10-year period, after which the agreement could be terminated by either party with a one-year notice<sup>21</sup>.

As the new agreement was better than the old one, the Prime Minister expected the man to ratify it in a relatively short period of time. Accordingly, he invited Eisenhower to visit Japan from June 19, 1960, in part to celebrate the newly ratified treaty. If Eisenhower's visit continued as planned, he would be the first incumbent U.S. president to visit Japan<sup>22</sup>. However, the left of the Japanese and even some conservatives hoped to set a more neutral course in the Cold War. They hoped to get rid of the treaty and the US-Japan alliance completely. Therefore, even though the revised treaty was clearly superior to the original treaty, these groups decided to oppose ratification of the revised treaty. This led to the 1960 Anpo protests. As a

result, the incident became the largest protest in modern Japanese history<sup>23</sup>. Meanwhile, Kishi was hoping to ratify the new treaty during Eisenhower's scheduled visit<sup>24</sup>. On May 19, 1960, he took the desperate step of physically expelling opposition lawmakers from the Japanese parliament and implementing the new treaty only with the participation of members of his Liberal Democratic Party<sup>25</sup>.

The anti-democratic movement of the people provoked protests all over the country, and since then the protests have intensified sharply<sup>26</sup>. At the height of the protests on June 15, violent clashes between anti-parliamentary protesters and police led to the death of university student Michiko Kanba<sup>27</sup>. The man who failed to guarantee Eisenhower's safety was forced to resign and take responsibility for his misconduct in resolving the contract issue<sup>28</sup>. Nevertheless, the agreement was adopted, strengthening the US-Japan alliance and making it more equitable. The crisis of the security agreement has seriously damaged US-Japan relations. The anti-American nature of the protests and the agreement to Eisenhower's visit brought U.S.-Japan relations to their lowest level since the end of World War II. After the protests, new U.S. President John F. Kennedy and new Japanese Prime Minister Hayato Ikeda worked to normalize relations. Kennedy and Ikeda also planned to hold a summit in Washington in 1961. Ikeda became the first foreign head of state to visit the United States under Kennedy<sup>29</sup>. At the summit, Kennedy promised Ikeda that he would continue to treat Japan as a close ally like Britain. Historian Nick Kapoor noted that the summit was a success and led to a significant shift in the direction of U.S.-Japan cooperation<sup>30</sup>. Kennedy appointed O. R. Edwin, a benevolent Japanese expert and Harvard professor, as ambassador to Japan. The ambassador sought to resolve a recent rift in U.S.-Japan relations. O. R. Edwin made "equal partnership" the motto of his time as ambassador, and constantly sought to treat Japan equally<sup>31</sup>. O.R. Edwin also began a national listening tour in Japan; he visited 39 of the 47 prefectures. O. R. Edwin's career as ambassador was successful, and he remained in that position until 1966, and did not relinquish his position under Lyndon Johnson. However, his career as an ambassador ended in tragedy. O. R. Edwin was increasingly forced to defend the U.S. war in Vietnam and began to feel uncomfortable doing so, which led to his resignation<sup>32</sup>. Article 3 of the new treaty finally promised to return all Japanese territories occupied by the United States after World War II<sup>33</sup>. In June 1968, the United States returned the Bonin Islands (including Iwo Jimani) to Japanese control<sup>34</sup>. In 1969, the problem of the Okinawa reversal and Japan's security ties with the United States became the main points of party political campaigns. In November 1969, Prime Minister Sato Eisaku visited Washington, and the situation calmed down after a joint statement signed by President Richard Nixon announced that the United States had agreed to return Okinawa to Japan by 1972. In June 1971, after eighteen months of negotiations, the two countries signed an agreement in 1972 to return Okinawa to Japan<sup>35</sup>.

In conclusion, World War II ended with the defeat of Japan. During this period, Japan was turned into a zone of strict isolation by the U.S.-led coalition. It later became clear that Japan could be a reliable partner for the United States in the Far East. Also, due to Japan's renunciation of the war and the will of the Japanese people, the occupation regime introduced by the United States and its allies has slowly begun to soften. By the 1970s, Japan had not only escaped the effects of the occupation, but had also reclaimed most of the islands it had lost. All this is due to the well-chosen policy of Japan and the diplomacy formed on its basis.

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