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Keeping the Peace: The Field of International Peace Cooperation Activities of Japan and the Republic of Korea between 2000 and 2010

A comparative analysis of the participation in and contribution to international peacekeeping and global peace supporting activities of Japan and the Republic of Korea between 2000 and 2010

Topic and Research Question

The field of international peace cooperation not only comprises peacekeeping operations (PKO) but also a broad variety of other areas for states to participate in cooperative action and to contribute to world peace and security. The goals of global peace and security have dominated international relations for a long time. With the formation of the League of Nations in 1919, the theory of liberal institutionalism gained importance. Being influenced by a decade of war it also further promoted the idea of institutionalized, international cooperation to generate and maintain global peace as well as to achieve common goals of security and stability. Facing growing threats of terrorism, regional conflicts, hostilities and illegal proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), it has become more important for states now to take collective action and to provide mutual assistance in order to promote overall peace.

The aim of this research paper is to present a comparative analysis of Japan's and the Republic of Korea's actions and efforts to promote and maintain regional and global peace between 2000 and 2010 as being two major regionally and internationally important states. How do the peacekeeping and global peace supporting activities of both states compare to each other and what differences and/or similarities can be identified? What are their approaches towards international peace cooperation?

State of the Art

International relations and institutionalized cooperation have become important topics for researchers. In terms of international cooperation, the relations between institutions and states make up a large percentage of the available literature, including organizational performance, regime dynamics, institutional efficiency and the role of states within institutions, see for example Young (1982), Keohane (1982) and Jørgensen (2009). The majority of these reports deal with the United States and the European Union. However, the aim is to analyze how Japan and the Republic of Korea are engaged in peacekeeping and peace supporting activities rather than measuring the effectiveness of their participation. So far, there are several papers about the participation of states in peacekeeping missions. Unfortunately, few comparative reports can be found on the deeper issues

of peace and security. In the field of international peace cooperation the works of Bobrow and Boyer (1997), Gill and Huang (2012), Hong (2009), Hirono and Lanteigne (2011), Hwang (2012), and Huang and Patman (2013) have provided important input.

Methodology and Approach

The first part of the thesis deals with the theoretical foundation of international cooperation. Influenced by liberal thinking and especially neo-liberal institutionalism, the paper examines the concept of institutionalized cooperation and its relevance for global peace and security, including a discussion of the concept of collective security and the role of power and interests in international cooperation. Furthermore, the paper deals with the complexities of global governance. Particular emphasis is set on the United Nations Organization as the most prominent "peacemaking body" and on the main elements of international peacekeeping.

The second part examines the field of international peace cooperation in more detail, including the efforts and measures of both states to promote global peace and stability. The method of research is a comparative case study approach. The chosen core criteria, including a variety of sub-criteria, are extracted from the reviewed literature and provide a new framework for the comparative analysis:

- The evolution and nature of international peace cooperation and peacekeeping activities of both states including their legal framework
- The internal structure of coordination of peacekeeping cooperation and national decision-making processes
- Areas of contribution in peacekeeping operations
- Personnel contribution to peacekeeping operations
- Financial contribution to peacekeeping operations
- Human resource development in the field of peacekeeping (including training centers, joint training exercises etc.)
- Peace and security related cooperative agreements: political dialog on global security and peace cooperation (including joint security declarations, multilateral programs or initiatives, conferences etc.)

Main Facts

Japan started its participation in international PKOs in 1992. In the same year, it also passed its *United Nations Peacekeeping Operations Cooperation Law* (PKO Act) which regulates Japan's peace contribution especially with regard to Article 9 of its constitution. Article 9 plays a major role in Japan's approach towards international peace cooperation. It limits the use of military force of Japanese personnel. Peacekeeping personnel can only be deployed to non-combat areas and only when ceasefire is maintained (excluding participation in nontraditional peacekeeping operations, Chapter VII missions). However, Japan's peace cooperation efforts include support for international PKOs via primarily civilian personnel as well as financial and material contribution in non-combat areas. Due to its legal restraints, Japan puts much focus on the concept of human security including humanitarian assistance. Human resource development has become an important element in its peace approach during the examined period, including the establishment of training centers as well as increasing participation in training exercises and cooperation with others. Japan also started to acknowledge the growing demand for participation of military peacekeeping personnel in peacekeeping activities.

South Korea's first participation in an international PKO took place in 1993. In 2009 the government passed the *Law on Participation in the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations*, which was primarily established to facilitate the overall deployment of military peacekeeping units. In PKOs, South Korea's voluntary deployment of military units outreached Japan's. However, it missed out on improving and expanding its peace cooperation and contribution in other forms and areas, also in terms of human resource development. In order to deepen its peace building skills and to strengthen its position as peace-builder nation, it needs to expand and improve its training facilities and cooperation with others. These efforts are necessary to credibly represent its *Global Korea strategy (seggyehwa)* in the long run and to further promote the importance of overall regional and global stability and security.

Results

1. Japan established an extra state-institution within the Prime Minister's Cabinet, the International Peace

Cooperation Headquarters (IPCH), that is responsible for the coordination of Japans' peace cooperation activities. In South Korea, the decision-making process is a close cooperation primarily between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of National Defense. In both states, the legislative branch has to be included concerning the dispatch of military peacekeeping units.

2. Due to legal restraints Japan's participation in international PKOs is primarily characterized by international election observation and humanitarian relief assistance with limited deployment of military personnel compared to its civilian personnel. South Korea puts very much emphasis on the participation in traditional peacekeeping activities (i.e. ceasefire observation, public order and security surveillance, border controls) including the dispatch of several large military peacekeeping units, followed by reconstruction and humanitarian assistance.
3. Peace and security related cooperative agreements play an important role. Between 2000 and 2010 Japan established three important bilateral security declarations, which also focus on close cooperation in terms of peacekeeping and peace supporting activities. South Korea established only one new bilateral security agreement (the second in total). In general, both states have acknowledged the need of close bi- and multilateral cooperation on security and peace related issues to further promote global and regional peace, also based on common strategic interests.

References

All references can be found in the full version of the MA thesis available at <http://othes.univie.ac.at/>

About the Author

Andrea Aumayr holds a BA degree in Transcultural Communication with the working languages German, English and Mandarin Chinese from the University of Vienna. In the course of her studies she spent several months as an exchange student in the PRC China.

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