

The End of Japan's UN-based Foreign Policy

Japan is lucky not seating in the two-year term U.N. Security Council in this critical moment of war and peace. Koizumi did not go to Pentagon to deliver a speech with America's defense (war) secretary (Australia's Prime Minister did so and was denounced by his own parliament); Japan needed not to be another Spain either. Where is Japan's position in the new world order of US-UK vs. France-Russia-China-German?

For decades, "kokuren gaiko" (UN-based policy) has become Japan's foreign policy pivot, and Japan's foreign policy has not met serious challenge. The reason is simple: Japan's foreign policy mentor did not challenge the UN per se during the whole Cold War and post-Cold War periods until a new President was selected to the White House.

Now, rather than divided under blackmail, the majority of UN nations are encouraged by the world people's peace demonstration and united against a barbarian war. Recent media polls in Japan also show that about 80 percent of the population opposes a military strike against Iraq (IHT/Asahi: March 4, 2003), the democratically elected Japanese government should follow its people's will and its peace constitution, should continue its successful "kokuren gaiko," and act accordingly. At least, like France or German, Japan should have the courage to disagree with the U.S. The Bush Administration has to abandon its "either with us or against us" dogma since it cannot list France or German as new enemies.

However, Japan and Australia were the only two nations out of Security Council giving speeches to support the passage of a new U.N. resolution to authorize a war on Iraq. Instead of seeking a peaceful resolution and respecting the UN charter and international law, Japan pulled its diplomatic efforts to press the six swing Security Council members (Angola, Cameroon, Chile, Guinea, Mexico and Pakistan) to vote for the war. For Tokyo, the bottom line is relatively simple. It wants to dilute anti-war sentiment in the event the United States and the UK wage war unilaterally. Will Koizumi still write large checks to cover the costs of a war violating the UN charter?

The hijacked American foreign policy with all America's might is floating without navigation (principles, international law, the UN). Japan's foreign policy, through the corrupt politics restructure after the Cold War, is under transformation. By abandoning the eroded "kokuren gaiko," Japan is losing its foreign policy independence.

With commodities being made in China, policies being made in Washington, what are made in Japan?

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March 2003