

ABSTRACT

This undergraduate thesis aimed to answer the reason why Japan revoked its self-imposed military export ban in 2014 despite of its ideal status quo under pacifism for more than 7 decades. One of the pacifism implementation was partial and total military export ban, consecutively in 1967 and 1976. Under the pacifist tenet, Japan could attain United States exclusive protection, robust economic development under Yoshida Doctrine and supportive anti-war society. Therefore, it becomes problematic when Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe wanted to gradually remilitarize through rescinding the self-imposed military export ban, abandoning pacifism. To puzzle out the oddness, this undergraduate thesis utilized Balance of Power Concept by Morgenthau and Foreign Policy Decision Making Model by Coplin. This research found out that Shinzo Abe grand vision for involving in arm export and transfer is to balance People's Republic of China in East China Sea by : (1) distributing weaponries to states that were in conflict with People's Republic of China and (2) enhancing internal military buildup, as arm export stimulated their domestic defense industry development. In influencing determinants, Japan involvement in global arm trade was caused by United States decline in Asia (international context), Japan "Lost Decade" stagnant economy during military budget increase plan (economic-military factor) and Shinzo Abe conservative Liberal Democratic Party strong dominative influence in the Japan's parliament (domestic politics factor).

Keyword(s): Military Export Ban Lift, Balance of Power, Foreign Policy, East China Sea