

## CHAPTER V CONCLUSION

Since the end of World War 2, Japan, who lost the war, had been living under pacifism under United States drafted Article 9. The constitution disallowed Japan to be involved in any abroad military activities including transferring and exporting military hardware. It was known that Japan had partially and later totally restricted itself from involving in global arm trade since 1967.

Japan was surprisingly bounced back into the global community as Japan could actually take the exclusive benefit from the pacifism. First, Japan was living under United States security umbrella, the world largest hegemonic power. Second, since Japan did not have to work and pay for military budget as a pacifist country; Japan could allocate their resource for economic development. It was the root cause of Japan economic miracle on its post war era under Yoshida Doctrine. Third, Japan could get the major support from its society who later loves peace, after long decade living under militaristic and fascist society. By these facts, the status quo should be very ideal and lucrative for Japan.

The major anomaly came out when Shinzo Abe, a conservative prime minister, took his office back in 2012. He was gradually driving Japan back to be a “normal” country with active military, step by step abandoning Japan deep rooted pacifism. One of its militaristic policies was revoking Japan military export ban in 2014, allowing Japan to transfer and export military weaponries abroad. This was later becoming the major research question of this undergraduate thesis; to found out the reason behind the military export ban lift in 2014 by Shinzo Abe administration.

To puzzle out the void in the research, this undergraduate thesis utilized one concept and one model; Balance of Power Concept by Morgenthau and Foreign Policy Decision Making Model by William Coplin. Balance of Power Concept described a situation where a state(s) power is used to

balance the other state power to achieve the stability. It was a situation where there is a state that has the potential to dominate other state; therefore instability is prone to occur. While Foreign Policy Decision Making Model by Coplin mainly argues that there are 3 vital determinants in the foreign policy making; domestic factor, economic-military factor, and international context.

Looking into the other side of Japan, it had a long history with People's Republic of China, in this case in the tensional security issues over the disputed Senkaku/Diayou Islands in East China Sea. Since 1971, Japan and People's Republic of China had been frequently clashed over the Islands following the discovery of abundant number of oil and gas reserves surrounding the Senkaku/Diayou. For decades, the issue of the territorial tension over the Islands remained unsolved.

The biggest tension escalated occurred in 2012 when Japanese central government nationalized the Senkaku/Diayou Islands from the private control. People's Republic of China, in November 2013, later responded with unilaterally establishing East China Sea Air Defense Identification Zone over the disputed Islands, unilaterally allowing People's Republic of China aircrafts to fly over the Senkaku/Diayou Islands under the name of patrolling. Under Xi Jinping administration, People's Republic of China was later excessively building up its military.

Japan military export ban lift in 2014 was a militaristic response by Shinzo Abe toward the assertive People's Republic of China in East China Sea. Through this military export ban lift in 2014, Shinzo Abe expected to achieve the balance of power against People's Republic of China in East China Sea. It was known that in East China Sea, there as imbalance of power among Japan and People's Republic of China. From the military budget and amount of military weaponries, Japan was far away dwarfed by People's Republic of China. Therefore, the instability due to imbalance of power was prone to be occurred.

Diplomatic and legal approach had been tried to resolve this issue, but the result was a deadlock among two parties. Subsequently, hard militaristic way was seen as an alternative by Shinzo Abe. By military export, the balance of power could be achieved through two ways; internal military buildup and increasing defense ties with countries that were similarly threaten by People's Republic of China. The internal military buildup would be achieved as through military export, Japan defense contractors could gain more profit for the military technology development and produce a bigger number of weaponries. While the increasing military ties with the allies would be achieved as Japan could distribute its weaponries toward its allies aiming to balance People's Republic of China expansion. Japan namely distribute its weaponries to India to face People's Republic of China in Indian Ocean while it also distributed Philippines and Vietnam its aircrafts to maintain the stability in South China Sea against People's Republic of China.

Beside that, there were also 3 influencing determinants to make this policy passed under Shinzo Abe tenure. First, in domestic factor, despite of the deep rooted pacifism among Japanese society, Shinzo Abe was still able to pass this policy since his Liberal Democratic Party of Japan had an unchallenged domination in parliament. So as partisan influencer, Liberal Democratic Party led by Shinzo Abe was able to influence the decision making to pass this policy. Second, in economic-military factor, despite of robust economic miracle under Yoshida Doctrine, Shinzo Abe still needed to export weaponries to stimulate Japan economy that had been stagnant for about two decades using Abenomics. Exporting weaponries would succeed Abenomics, in which the good economy would enable Shinzo Abe to increase military budget for his revisionist agenda. Third, in international context, despite of United States security umbrella for Japan, Shinzo Abe perceived that it was still necessary to gradually remilitarize using this military export ban lift in 2014 since United States economic power was declining, therefore Japan should back it up to maintain United States hegemonic power

in Asia. The support of United States was conducted through joint military development, as it would ease United States burden in the Japan-United States alliance since Japan could play a bigger role and supply weaponries parts to United States.

Therefore, this research concludes that the reason why Shinzo Abe revoked this military export ban in 2014 was because Japan needs to balance People's Republic of China in East China Sea. The balance of power could be achieved as Japan could conduct its internal military buildup and increasing the alliance to contain People's Republic of China power. It was also supported by Shinzo Abe domination in parliament, Japan stagnant economy and declining United States economic power that impacted to its position in Asia.