THE INCREASING FACTORS OF JAPAN'S MILITARY BUDGET IN FACING REGIONAL DYNAMIC UNDER SHINZO ABE

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Abstract

This primary of this research is to analyze the increasing of the Japanese military budget under Shinzo Abe. After the defeat of Japan in World War II, the United States emphasized demilitarization which made Japan into a pacifist state. Pacifism was not only restricting the Japanese military power but also particularly in the limiting of the military budget which could only spent 1% of the Gross Domestic Product. However, 1% limitation in the military budget can be considered as driving forces behind the economic growth and the advanced of the Japanese industrial which made Japan is a superior state. Meanwhile, Japan under Shinzo Abe decides to increase the military budget in order to deal with the change of security issue in East Asia. By using the Constructivism theory, the author will explain the reasons behind the increasing of the Japanese military budget by look at the perception of Shinzo Abe toward the increasing of Chinese military capability and the development of North Korean nuclear weapon test.

Keywords: Military Budget, Regional Construction Perception, Security Issue

INTRODUCTION

After the defeat of Japan in World War II, Japan had no chance except to surrender to United States (US) as an ally. Japan's government decided to surrender as a form of protection for its society. However, before the defeat of Japan in World War II, Japan was known as a state that had strong military forces. But then, the military dynamic occurred to Japan which made Japan became a pacifist state. The Article 9, it is stated about Japan's new military policy which contains that the formerly active Japanese military turned into a passive (Chanlet, 2016). Since that time, Japan began under control by United States in the term of security defense.

The US emphasized demilitarization and democratization and made Japan into a "pacifist state" (Kimijima, 2006). Pacifism was not only restricting Japanese military defense but also particularly in the limiting of the military budget which would be spent in defense sector. Japanese military budget is limited to approximately of 1% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP), an imposed by the Japanese constitution drafted at the conclusion of World War II by General Douglas MacArthur's staff (Kotok, Defense Budgets and Markets & Japan, 2016). In November 1976, the Cabinet decided that for the time being the defense capability is to be based on the criterion that defense expenditures should not exceed 1% of the GDP of each fiscal year, and this ratio has not changed even after the end of the cold war (Ikegami, 2013). Moreover, this decision was made as a Japan's commitment toward the international peace.

Since the Japanese government did not have to spend a portion of its budget on paying the salaries of Soldiers and purchasing tanks and destroyers, the government could channel the large Japanese household savings into investment in promising industries such as automobiles and electronics (Dekle, 1988). However, 1 percent limitation in the military budget can be considered as driving forces behind the economic growth of Japan. Japan was rising with its new economic power. Beside it, the US also had contributed in more focusing to boost Japan economic development. Meanwhile, this innovation triggered Japan's economic in having an important role in international scope up to this day, which has been proven by some significant changes of Japanese economic itself. However, the decreased spending budget on military and defense forces are clearly one of the main reasons for Japan's economic miracle (Takada, 1999).

Meanwhile, Japanese military began change to become an important issue especially after the second administration of Shinzo Abe as a Prime Minister. The emergence of defense policy changing under Shinzo Abe can be seen clearly by the enhancement of the Japanese military

power, particularly in the change of military policy, which is the increasing of the Japanese military budget which surpasses the 1% of GDP due to the expansion of military capability. The Japanese military budget is significantly increased since Shinzo Abe's cabinet approved a record of the military budget (Telesur, 2015).

Japan Military Expenditure 41800 41569 41600 41400 41159 41114.2 41103.2 41200 40939.6 41000 USD Willion 40800 40600 40400 40200 40000 2012 2014 2016 SOURCE: TRADINGECONOMICS.COM | SIPR

Picture 1 Diagram of Military Budget Data

Sources: Trading Economic

In addition, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced that Japan would no longer keep to the 1 percent of GDP limit on military spending. However, the implications for Japan's budget include an increase in military budget, from 1% of GDP to upwards of 2 or 2½% of GDP (Kotok, Defense Budgets and Markets & Japan, 2016).

On the other side, during Japan adopts the pacifism and successful in recovery its economic growth, Japan must face a new challenge in economics sector. In 2012, the economics of Japan was in a slow growth which damage to the trading activity (Nakaso, 2014). Industrial products tumbled as export demand continued to weaken which shows that Japan as a third

biggest economy is in a sign of the recession. This condition causes the Japanese government need to stabilizing the economic policy.

However, based on the data which has been explained above, Japan which for many years after World War II was a pacifist country, particularly adopted "1% limitation" policy in its military budget, but Japan under Shinzo Abe decided to adopt new policy by increasing the military budget while the economic growth of Japan is currently shrinking. However, it emerges a question about the factors, which become a reason behind the increased of the military budget policy in Japan under Shinzo Abe.

THERORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Constructivism is the claim that significant aspects of international relations which are historically and socially constructed, rather than inevitable consequences of human nature or other essential characteristics of world politics (Jackson, 2003). Constructivism is both a social theory and a number of different substantive theories of International Relations; this section is about constructivism as a social theory; the next section is about constructivist theories of International Relations (Wendt, 1999). In constructivism, the main analysis unit also located in the level of the individual (elite) which will be used to explain the problem.

The constructivism emphasizes the existence of the political actor which determines their interest so that they will change the behavior and the state interest. Constructivism also emphasizes the social construction of reality, which means that the human relations include the international relations consists of thoughts and ideas and not about the material conditions and forces. Because according to Alexander Wendt, the fundamental principle of constructivism is:

"1) people's actions are based on meanings, 2) meanings arises out of interaction (Wendt,

1999). Based on these two principles, Wendt stated that interaction among the human will determine their goal which after that become a fundamental of the action that will be decided.

This social world is partly built by the physical entities, but that is the idea and belief about the most important entities; what the entity signifies in the minds of people. The international security and defense system, for example, consists of territory, population, weapons, and other physical assets. But it is the idea and understanding that the asset is will be understood, organized and used for example. In alliances, armed forces, and so on are the most important. Constructivism states that the social environment determines the form of actor identity. Then the identity determines the interests, and the interests will determine the behavior that can be a policy. Identity can also affect the shape of the social environment.

Meanwhile, the theoretical formulation in constructivism claims that a social environment determines the identity of the actor. And then, the identity will determine the interest of the actor, and the interest will determine the form of the behavior, action and the policy from the actor. Interest as the basis of political action or behavior is the product of the identity of the actors. The constructivist theory emphasizes the sources of the emergence of interests by looking at how political actors develop their interests.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research is formulated in two methodologies: method of data collecting and method of explanative research. The method of data collecting is conducted through the library research and also through the media; printed and electronic media, internet, articles or journals and some reference books. The other method is the method of explanative research; a research which studies the connectivity of cause and effect between two phenomena or more. After the data was

collected, this research comes into the data analysis. Here, the researcher checks for the relevancy in order to use as the sources in the final paper arrangement. The analysis of the research is divided into two types; they are causality and the descriptive analysis.

CONTENT

Japan's Military Dynamic

Japan is the one of the country in the world which had an experience in the changing of its defense and state security. In Japan military historical background, especially when Japan was in the Meiji Restoration era, this restoration was impacted to Japan's military. Meiji Restoration was as a restoration of the emperor's power in order to strengthen Japan toward the threat of the colonialist power in that time. The impact of Meiji Restoration was the industrialization implementation in Japan as a modal to attempt the raising of Japan as a military power form. Therefore, the strong military can be built to defend Japan against the external power.

Japan was known as an aggressive state in having some interaction toward other states in the world because of its interest which was as an expansionist state. It was also caused by its effort in order to achieve its desire to be an Asian leader state. One of Japan's roles in that time was the existence of the full military control of China's government which became Japan's target in expansion plan. Beside it, there were a lot of Japanese people which immigrated to China.

Japan was known as a state which had its strong military power and a military aggressive state during the World War II. In 1941, in order to achieve the hegemony, Japan toward East Asia had an operational strategy which triggered Japan to start the war. In 1941, Japan made an attack to the military basis of US Navy in Pearl Harbor in Honolulu, Oahu, Hawaii without any warning before to the US. On June 2nd, 1942, the US revenged Japan attack by drowning Japan's 4 aircraft carries. And then the climax was on August 1945, US droped the bomb in 2 cities of

Japan which is Hiroshima and Nagasaki which damaged both cities ruined at a glance. (The National WWII Museum, 2011).

Japan had a downfall totally in World War II, the downfall became a seed of the anti-military behavior in majority Japanese civilians (Navarro, 2010). The US as the winner in the war saw that Japan was as fascism state with aggressive military and expansionist so that Japan was viewed as a threat to the international security and also became a threat for US interest in the future. For those reasons, US tried to place Japan in a situation where Japan could not be capable to rebuild its military forces by the restriction of the ownership the military forces. Japanese pacifism was also proven by some of the documents which were as a base and factor of the pacifism policy validity which used as guidelines for Japanese leaders (Bendini, 2015):

1. Article 9

This Article 9 marks the beginning of Japanese pacifism or demilitarization policy which also becomes the foundation of the Japanese government in making policy, especially related to military policymaking. Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution reads as:

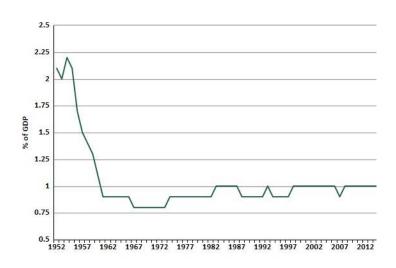
Aspiring sincerely to an international peace based on justice and order, the Japanese people forever renounce war as sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as a means of settling international disputes (Library of Congress, 2015).

2. San Francisco Treaty and U.S.-Japanese Security Treaty

San Francisco Treaty and the US – Japanese Treaty in 1951 are also becoming other foundations as a guideline of the Japanese government which has a content that the parties signing the agreement will keep the peace and not attack each other, either Japan or the US (Price, 2001).

3. Yoshida Doctrine

Yoshida Doctrine is a doctrine of the decision making that brought by Yoshida Shigeru, which declared 3 principles in decision making as follows: (1) minimize the ability of Japanese military, (2) depends on US military, (3) emphasize economic development, these principles came to be known as Yoshida Doctrine. (Wilkins, 2010).



Picture 2 Diagram of Military Budget Data

Sources: (World Data Atlas, 2014)

In the highlight implementation within the Yoshida Doctrine, Japan might only spend the military expenditure which restricted around 1% of GDP only as an obstacle imposed by the Japanese constitution at the end of World War II.

Japan again raised the issue of militarism with the Shinzo Abe government that interpreted article 9 in the 1947 constitution as a response to the regional dynamic issue in East Asia, particularly by the increasing of North Korea and China's military power. A significant transformation was located in the decision making which related to the Japan defense. Shinzo Abe also decided to increase and rearranging the military budget. In essence, Prime Minister Abe

now has a voice to change the constitution so Japan can become more active in its military operations. Japan's military stance has long been a key issue for Abe.

The Development of China and North Korea Military Capability

The increasing of the military capability in these both countries has improved a lot especially in facing the regional security issue. Some of the security issues influence the military development in China and North Korea besides to maintain their sovereignty, it is also to be a prevention form toward the external threat. However, their military developments continued to expand into the next periods.

A. Military Development of China

China transformed itself into a new world power which has a "hard power" or a big military and economic power lastly. China has experienced a rapid progress in economic aspect. China's rise in economic was began when Deng Xiaoping started to unleash the shackles of the national economy in 1979. The goal of Deng was China which rich, modern, strong, and he also wanted to open the door to new relationships by build relations with the Western countries. Therefore, the defense policy of China should be subordinated to support the national economic development. The success of China was not obtained instantly which has been pioneered by the Chinese government for a long time. However, the economic growth becomes one of the driving factors toward China in increasing the military power (Cordesman, Chinese Strategy and Military Modernization in 2015: A Comparative Analysis, 2015). However, the military is encouraged to increase the military operational ability which is combined with the high weapon technology. This doctrine of military-quality modernization became a philosophy which underlies the

military development of China since 1992 up to this day (Ministry of National Defense of the People's Republic of China, 2013).

This modernization emerged from the nationalism of China which has the main goal to achieve the superpower status and the regional supremacy. the data show that Chinese defense spending is on the rise and China currently spends more on its military than any other country in the world save the United States (Center For Strategic International Studies, 2017). Chinese military capability is also about the military technology which is owned by China. In the defense technology, China is a state which has advanced defense technology.

B. Military Development of North Korea

During Japan colonialism, some effort to build the industries and infrastructure was contracted in Northern Korea. Because of Northern Korea have relatively larger natural resources than in Southern Korea. At the end of 1920's until 1930's, in the Kazushige Ugaki's governor, Korea was more constructed to build an industrialization center. Then it was built some heavy industries Centre, such as chemical industry and steel milling industry.

So, it can be seen that the military industry center in that time was located in Northern Korea. And it can be concluded also that the weapon technology of Northern Korea was more advanced than the weapon technology in Southern Korea. Inherited knowledge and technology of Japanese weapons which centered in Northern Korea was the root of the history why the weapon industry in North Korea is more advance firstly than South Korea (Pratt, 2007).

In the beginning, the weapon technology of North Korea was obtained in Japan colonialism while Japan centered the military industry in Northern Korea. The ability of

North Korean nuclear weapon began to be developed in 1956 by USSR assistance. Nuclear weapon program of North Korea has begun again in 1980's and respectively had some detonation test which has a high explosive.

In the defense technology aspect, North Korea is the one of the states which has an advance in the nuclear weapon. North Korea had been successful in producing some of the missile weapons. Based on some data, while North Korea continued produced the missile weapons, North Korea also has a nuclear weapons testing, which absolutely the nuclear testing can be dangerous to be done in a region, especially, by looking at the distance that can be reached by North Korean missile weapon. However, the nuclear weapon test that was done by North Korea had been done starting from 1993 until 2016 for six times and four times is a test of nuclear weapons tests, starting from 2006, 2013 and 2016.

The Perception of Shinzo Abe toward China and North Korea

The perception of Japan under Shinzo Abe toward the raising of Chinese military and North Korea's nuclear weapons development which can bring a big influence to the security of Japan. Meanwhile, by the increase of military activity of China and North Korea, it can trigger Japan in realizing to commit a protection in order to carry out its interest in the conflict area. Japan under Shinzo Abe attempted to increase the military budget is caused by the consideration of the threat from China military and North Korea activity in its nuclear weapons.

A. Perceptions of Shinzo Abe toward China

China and Japan, these both countries currently have a strong military power. Because of the development of Chinese military, it is also influencing the decision making in East Asia region. Therefore, this condition emerges and strengthens the perception of Shinzo Abe toward China that the military capabilities of China will continually increase and influence Japanese defense and security as a neighbor state.

a. The Increasing of Chinese Military Capability

The perception of Japan under Shinzo Abe toward China since China began increasing is can be seen by the perception that the military capability which currently is owned by China can potentially become a threat to the security of Japan and the stability in East Asia region. The insecurity of Japan becomes more because of the modernization of Chinese militaries, such as the military budget which more increase along with the increasingly improving Chinese economy.

In addition, it can be seen clearly that Chinese military budget also increase annually with the fantastic amount. China's government gives a big portion in the modernization of the military posture. Absolutely, the increasing of Chinese military budget is in line with the increasing of the economic growth in China, which can be marked by the increase of the GDP in every year.

The Top 15 Countries For Military Expenditure in 2016 2016 military expenditure by country and share of global total % share of total expenditure United States 36.0 China [18] 13.0 69.2 Russia = 4.1 Saudi Arabia 🔤 63.7 India 🍱 55.9 3.3 France 55.7 3.3 United Kingdom 💥 💹 48.3 Japan 🔸 46.1 Germany = 41.1 South Korea :: Italy 1 27.9 Australia 24.6 1.5 Brazil 23.7 1.4 UAE 22.8* 1.3 Israel 18.0 cc (i) (=) * Estimate Forbes statista

Figure 3 The Top 15 Countries for Military Expenditures

Sources: Forbes (McCarthy, 2017)

According to the data, in 2016, the amount of military budget in China was in the second position in the world after the US. Meanwhile, we can see that the amount of military budget of Japan which could be only in the eighth position in the world. Therefore, Abe thought that China can be more active in military sector in order to achieve their interest to have a revolution comprehensively. Moreover, China has committed to having a modernization and effort in increasing the capabilities and ability of the armies in facing some threats. China also developed the weapons military which can be proven that in 2013, China was successful in produce the submarine diesel-electric (SONG) which can launch the missile from under the sea and also successful in upgrading other weapons (Andhika, 2015).

However, the increase of military capability also becomes an agenda of China which changes to focus on optimize the development of navy and air force than the ground army. Therefore, this strengthens the perception of Japan under Shinzo Abe about the emergence of the development rival in security matter.

Beside it, the increasing of the military capability of China which happens annually triggers Shinzo Abe in having a perception that China can be more positioned itself as a state which has the biggest military in the Asia Pacific. It also can be meant that recently China is the greatest state in Asia. There is a possibility that China will continue to increase and add their military capability until China achieve the ambition to rule the world.

b. The Aggressiveness of China in Asia Pacific Region

Abe's perception absolutely looked at the aggressiveness of China in Asia Pacific region, especially in East and South China Sea which is such a real threat to Japan. The

conflict became in higher tension after China announced the expanding of Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) in the East China Sea in 2013 (Osawa, 2013). Abe's perception toward the Chinese ADIZ claim assumed this condition is a serious threat because of the ADIZ scheme involves Senkaku Island and its position is overlapping with the existence of the border of Japanese ADIZ that already existed before.

By look at the military perspective in Asia especially in East Asia, the Chinese the maritime power is the greatest. It can be seen by the amount of the asset in maritime military of China which compared by other maritime military assets of some countries in East Asia. Japan has 42,400 personnel, 52 warship PSC, 7 ground and sea combat equipment, 16 submarines and no one aircraft carrier. And if it is compared with the maritime military asset of China, Japan still left far behind (Nankivell, The Rise of Asia, 2015).

China has been successful emerge as a new power in Asia by the amount of military capability. By the military capability of China which continues improve annually, and the security policy of China becomes tend to be expansive in the region. It can be seen by the ambition of China which always expands their territory in the East China Sea and the South China Sea. Abe as a threat to Japanese security and stability in Asia Pacific region.

The Japanese government's belief in the coming threat of the increasing Chinese military capability is stronger. China's aggression in expanding its military also fully claimed in the conflict of East China Sea. This conflict is continuing in high tension which triggers Japan and China at the same time order their military troops to have a

patrol in the East China Sea almost every week. The tension of both military armies happened not only in the sea but also in the air (FORUM Staff, 2016).

Meanwhile, the territory claimed by China is not only done in the East China Sea which directly becomes a threat to Japan. China which tends to expansive also wants to take a control in the South China Sea which has a strategic location in East Asia region. This also happens in the South China Sea which becomes a conflict by some states in East Asia and Southeast Asia. The conflict dispute in the South China Sea has been disturbing stability in the security of East Asia, especially for China which becomes aggressive in claiming that region.

Actually, Japan is not a country which also claims the region in the South China Sea and also not a country which also directly involved in that dispute. But, in order to maintain the national interest of Japan which exist in China Sea, Japan tried to involve within the dispute. China becomes more expansive in the South China Sea because it is supported by its military capability which becomes stronger.

China becomes so aggressive in expanding its military power especially in fully claiming over the East China Sea and the South China Sea. China's aggression eventually also made Japan consider the emergence of the threat potential from China toward Japanese territory and regional stability in East Asia. However, Japan under Shinzo Abe decided to increase the military budget could not be separated from the global security transformation in East Asia, which absolutely can influence to the Japanese identity as a superior state.

B. Perceptions of Shinzo Abe toward North Korea

The ownership and the development of the nuclear weapon can threaten the stability and world-peace. The nuclear proliferation for weaponry which becomes a serious attention in the global is currently the nuclear proliferation of North Korea. However, the development of North Korean nuclear test could threaten the stability territory of Japan, which made Japan decided to take an action to enhance the military power as a prevention form by look at the perception of Shinzo Abe toward North Korea.

a. The Development of Nuclear Weapons

The development of nuclear weapon in North Korea was done secretly. The international world has no valid information about the process of the nuclear weapon development in North Korea. Beside it, there is no information too about the amount that be resulted by North Korea. This unclear data and information which damage the insecurity emerge among the states in the world especially Japan.

North Korea develops the nuclear weapon also in order to maintain its existence of the state which after all this time North Korea was ignored among the international states, because North Korea wants to guarantee the continuity of the regime in order to fulfill the national interest. Beside it, North Korea uses the nuclear weapon as a security support in North Korea.

Geographically, Japan is located in one region with North Korea in East Asia. The distance between Japan and North Korea are close enough so that it does not rule out the possibility that the impact of North Korean nuclear weapon testing can be felt and reach Japan. Beside it, the thing that make a condition becomes more in tension is during 2013 and 2014, North Korea aggressively had some nuclear weapon testing activity in the

territorial waters of the Eastern Sea. As much as 28 times, the nuclear weapon testing that be done by North Korea threatened the security of Japan which geographically those testing directed and could reach the territorial region of Japan (North Korea: Four ballistic missiles fired into sea, 2017). North Korea also has been successful in testing the three short-range missiles to Japan Sea. In addition, in the beginning of 2016, North Korea also had nuclear weapon testing that passed Southern of Okinawa Island. The action that violated the sovereignty made Shinzo Abe increasingly in high tension toward that action.

By looking at the threat condition, Japan initiated some Japanese Self-Defense Forces (SDF) member to put the Patriot Advanced Capability-3 missile interceptor unit in Department of Defense in Ward Shinjuku, after North Korea announced the threat to launch again the ballistic missile. The placement of missile conveyor was done by Japan as an anticipation effort toward the nuclear testing that can be done by North Korea anytime without any notification.

C. The Change of Japanese Preference under Shinzo Abe

According to the identity type, Japan is as a Superior State, which means that it is the one of the factors which contributed to influence Japanese decision making toward the increasing of Chinese military capability and the development of the North Korean nuclear weapon. The existence of Japanese identity is as Japanese respond toward China and North Korea, which triggered Shinzo Abe as Japanese Prime Minister decided to enhance the military power particularly increasing the military budget.

By analyzing the perception of Shinzo Abe toward China and North Korea, we can see that Japanese government felt the Japanese identity that had been a foundation of Japan felt threatened because of the increasing of the external threat from China and North Korea. By the increase of Chinese military capability, it can trigger a rival development as we can see that China has an ambition to rule Asia Pacific region by continuing to increase its military capability. On the other side, the development of North Korean nuclear weapon testing can influence the identity of Japan as a superior state. Meanwhile, China and North Korea which are as neighbor states of Japan began show their power whether it is in the military capability or even in the development of the nuclear weapon. Therefore, Shinzo Abe assumed that it is important to Japan to take an action as a prevention effort which is by increasing the military budget.

Basically, it can be concluded that Japan has no interest in global security issue because Japan declared as a pacifist state, but it would be different when the global security issue impact directly toward Japanese security. However, Shinzo Abe in increasing the military budget is such an effective opportunity to Japan in fight against North Korean nuclear weapon testing and the increasing of Chinese military. Therefore, by increasing the military budget, Shinzo Abe has a commitment to Japan in order to be harder to continue in maintaining the regional security.

However, the Japanese military capability continued increasingly, which means that it is as a respond of Shinzo Abe perception toward the rising of Chinese military and the development of North Korean nuclear testing, so Abe thinks that it is important to expand the military role in facing the security issue.

CONCLUSION

The issue of security dynamic has changed in East Asia region which can trigger the security stability among the states. Historically, Japan was known as a state that had a strong

military power and had an aggressive military before the World War II. The involvement of Japan in World Word II was such a beginning to the transformation of the military dynamic for Japan. Japan was lost in World War II which made Japan became a pacifist state.

As pacifist state, Prime Minister Yoshida Shigeru's policy for Japan's postwar recovery is consisted of focusing the country's resources on economic production supported. Beside it, in the highlight implementation within the Yoshida Doctrine, Japan might only spend the military expenditure which restricted around 1% of GDP only as an obstacle imposed by the Japanese constitution at the end of World War II. This condition was considered as driving forces behind the economic and industrial growth of Japan, which made Japan is successful and then Japan has an important role in the global as a superior state because of its rapid progress.

But then, Japan again raised the issue of militarism under the Shinzo Abe government that interpreted article 9 in the 1947 constitution as a response to the regional dynamic issue in East Asia. The security issue in East Asia was changing since by the increasing of Chinese military capability and the development of North Korean nuclear weapon testing. Because of these changing conditions, it becomes such a consideration for Japanese government in order to decide the increase of military budget. The increasing military budget by the Japanese government absolutely is because of some reasons, which is because of the emergence of the perception by Shinzo Abe toward China and North Korea.

Firstly, the perception of Shinzo Abe toward the raising of Chinese military is due to looks at with the military capability that currently is owned by China and potentially become a threat to the security of Japan and the stability in the East Asia region. Meanwhile, the insecurity of Japan becomes more because the modernization in China's military along with its increasing

military budget. Beside that, the role of China becomes more aggressive and not only in the East China Sea, but also China which had a territory dispute in the South China Sea. It makes the military capability that owned by China trigger Chinese role to take a lead in the Asia Pacific.

Secondly, the consideration of the threat potential from the development of nuclear weapon testing by North Korea also become the reason Japan increased the military budget. Under Shinzo Abe perception, the nuclear weapon testing which continued to be done by North Korea becomes such a threat to the Japanese territorial region and the stability of East Asia. Geographically, Japan is also located in one region with North Korea in East Asia. The distance between Japan and North Korea are close enough so that it does not rule out the possibility that the impact of North Korean nuclear weapon testing can be felt and reach Japan.

By analyzing the perception of Shinzo Abe toward China and North Korea, we can see that Japanese government felt the Japanese identity that had been a foundation of Japan felt threatened because of the increasing of the external threat from China and North Korea. Meanwhile, China and North Korea which are as neighbor states of Japan began show their power whether it is in the military capability or even in the development of the nuclear weapon. Therefore, Shinzo Abe assumed that it is important to Japan to take an action as a prevention effort which is by increasing the military budget.

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