

CHAPTER V CONCLUSION

Japanese decision in increasing the military budget was not separated from Shinzo Abe's perception toward China and North Korea. 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. Because of its aggressiveness, by some operational strategy, Japan attempted to achieve its hegemony toward East Asia by starting the war.

The involvement of Japan in World War II was such a beginning to the transformation of the military dynamic for Japan. Japan was lost in World War II which was marked by the bombing in two cities in Japan, Hiroshima, and Nagasaki, and made Japan surrender to the ally. As the winner in the war, US was looking at Japanese ability in the military force which was as a fascist 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. Japan's defeat in World War II made Japan restricted in the military which then Japan is as a pacifist state.

Meanwhile, as a pacifist state, which could only apply a passive military, Japan was focusing to boost its economic development as a recovery and reconstruction of its state development which aimed to rebuild a new image of Japan in the global. Japanese government realized that as a pacifist state, Japan had no role in involving to the military expansion overseas. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Yoshida Shigeru's policy for Japan's postwar recovery consisted of focusing the country's resources on economic production support. Besides it, in the highlight implementation within the Yoshida Doctrine, Japan might only spend the military expenditure which is restricted around 1% of GDP only as an obstacle imposed by

the Japanese constitution at the end of World War II. However, 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.

The pacifist condition in Japan means that Japan could be only a passive military state. And that condition made Japan had no defense system and all of the security necessary is in US role. In addition, Japan also could not involve directly in the military issue whether it is in the regional scope or even in international scope. Japanese military could be only as a defensive form. Moreover, some security issue begins develop in the international world which impacts to the change of defense system in Japan. 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 the Japanese government. By arranging the military budget of Japan, Shinzo Abe proposed to the cabinet by the Cabinet Office and after that Cabinet Office admitted the budget proposal to the Ministry of Finance which is as a responding the rising of North Korea and China. The existence of the policy shifting in the defense of Japan more focused on the spending to practice, intelligence and preparedness capabilities.

The increasing of Japanese military budget was triggered by the perception by Shinzo Abe toward China and North Korea. Firstly, Shinzo Abe looks at with the military capability that currently be owned by China and potentially become a threat to the security of Japan and the stability in East Asia region. Meanwhile, the insecurity of Japan becomes more because of the modernization in China's military along with its increasing military budget. Therefore, it emerges

perception of Shinzo Abe that it does not rule out that China can be a new military power on the global and regional scale, which previously Japanese position is a superior state with the advancement of its economy and industrial sector. And that condition can threaten the role of Japan because of the emergence of China military which rapidly increase.

Beside it, the increasing of Chinese military also made China in expanding its territory by claiming some region which is in East and South China Sea. The territory dispute among Japan and China in the East China Sea leads to the conflict of Pacific China Sea in protecting the sovereignty which is Senkaku island and focuses attention to the aggressiveness of China military in that region. Meanwhile, China's aggressiveness in expanding its military also fully claimed in the conflict of East China Sea. Issues of territory and possession of the constellation of the Diayou or Senkaku islands which is up to this today still often ignite the battles between China and Japan. The perception of Shinzo Abe toward the raising of the Chinese military is due to the increase of Chinese military capabilities, the role of China becomes more aggressive and not only in the East China Sea, China also has a territorial 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. The seizure of the island that holds the potential resources made Shinzo Abe must take a control the movement over China especially the use of military attributes which used in maintaining and controlling the territory of the dispute.

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 begun to 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 in order to maintain the security of Japan.

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 impacts directly toward Japanese security. However, Shinzo Abe in increasing the military budget is such an effective opportunity to Japan in a fight against North Korean nuclear weapon testing and the increasing of the 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. So that, in maintaining the state defense and security of Japan, Shinzo Abe is relying on Japanese military capabilities by increasing the military budget. And also, the decision of Japan under Shinzo Abe in increasing military budget also because of two factors which from external factor and internal factor. The external factors are caused by the development of the dynamic security change in East Asia which is the increasing of China's military capability and the development of North Korean nuclear weapon. Meanwhile, the internal factors are because of the emergence of Shinzo Abe's perception toward China and North Korea, which then it triggered Japan in order to maintain the security as the Japanese interest. However, the perception of Shinzo Abe is focusing in the increasing of Chinese military capabilities and its aggressiveness in conflict

dispute claimed and also because of the nuclear weapon testing of North Korea which can impact to the security of Japan. So that, these conditions further strengthens Shinzo Abe in deciding the defense policy by increasing the military budget as a prevention form.

