

Japan and America's Buck-passing strategy to contain China

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Article Info	Abstract
<p>Original Article</p> <p>Main Object: International Relations Scope: China, Japan, USA</p> <p>Received: 11 November 2024 Revised: 26 November 2024 Accepted: 30 November 2024 Published online: 08 December 2024</p> <p>Keywords: America, Buck passing, China, coalition-building, Japan.</p>	<p>This article examines the US's devolution strategy in the face of China's growing power and Japan's key role in this regard. Japan's security concerns regarding China's intentions, especially in the field of territorial disputes, have made this country play a more security role and cooperate more closely with the United States. In recent years, the distribution of power in the Pacific has experienced significant changes that have forced the United States to reconsider its policies. Considering the security threats from China, the US and Japan have strengthened their military and security cooperation to maintain the balance of power in the region. This article examines the question of how Japan has played a role in the US offshore balance strategy and how to form a coalition to contain China. The findings of the article have shown that due to the increase of unilateral costs in neutralizing China, the United States, relying on the strategy of Buck pass in economic and military dimensions through bilateral or multilateral agreements, economic and military-security alliances with Japan, has been trying to create a collective balance in order to restrain China. These collaborations include updating mutual defense guidelines and developing joint military capabilities. This article explains the position of Japan in the offshore balancing strategy of the United States of America to contain China with a descriptive-analytical method and based on library sources.</p>

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Extended Abstract**Background**

This article examines the US's devolution strategy in the face of China's growing power and Japan's key role in this regard. Japan's security concerns regarding China's intentions, especially in the field of territorial disputes, have made this country play a more security role and cooperate more closely with the United States. In recent years, the distribution of power in the Pacific has experienced significant changes that have forced the United States to reconsider its policies. Considering the security threats from China, the US and Japan have strengthened their military and security cooperation to maintain the balance of power in the region.

Aims

Examining how Japan plays a role in the Indo-Pacific region under the American offshore balance strategy in order to limit China's power is the main goal of this article.

Methods

This article explains the position of Japan in the Offshore Balancing Strategy of the United States of America to contain China with a descriptive-analytical method and based on library sources.

Discussions and Results

China as the first threat and the most important actor challenging the hegemonic order in the Indo-Pacific region, especially after 2008, has not only taken steps towards neutralizing the American order, but also seeks to build order in the regional and extra-regional arenas. This issue has caused the United States to take steps within the framework of the Neo-Containment strategy in order to neutralize the expanding power of China, which is referred to as the most important geopolitical challenge of the United States. The U.S. Offshore Balancing Strategy involves maintaining a favorable balance of power in a region by coalition-building toward great powers, rather than directly intervention. In East Asia, this means using the leverage of the United States and allies such as Japan to create a balance against China; The US and Japan have updated their mutual defense guidelines to focus on containing China's regional ambitions, including through the joint development of anti-access/area denial capabilities. To complement US power and prevent Japan from getting closer to China, America has been pushing Japan to play a greater regional security role despite domestic opposition. Japan's concern about China's intentions, especially regarding territorial disputes, is aligned with US interests in maintaining stability and the status quo with the US.

In line with bilateral or multilateral coalition building and in order to contain the challenging power, Japan is defined as one of the main

players in the circle of US allies in order to limit China's order in East Asia within the Integrated Deterrence Doctrine. China's security threats against Japan and the country's special position in this region have led to security integration with the United States, and it plays a major role against China within the integrated deterrence system. Japan, as one of America's united actors, can play a major role in the form of Offshore Balance Strategy due to its power components, including its presence among major economic countries, its geo-economic, geo-strategic and geo-political importance, and its geographic proximity to China. Taking advantage of allied countries in order to limit challenging power is one of the main strategies in American foreign policy. In this regard, it can be acknowledged that Japan, as one of America's strategic allies in East Asia, is one of the active forces in America's offshore balance strategy. Investigating how Japan plays a role in the Indo-Pacific region under the American Offshore Balance Strategy in order to limit China's power is the main goal of this article. In this regard, the United States, emphasizing the discourse of turning to Asia in two or more dimensions and in military-security and economic-commercial fields through bilateral trade, multilateral coalition building, and military and security agreements, has been trying to establish a strategic link with Japan is trying to contain China.

Conclusion

Collective balancing, coalition building, and Buck passing are proposed as strategies to curb challenging powers. In order to moderate the costs caused by the liberal hegemonic strategy that emphasized maximum interventionism, the United States has moved towards an Offshore Balancing Strategy since Obama's time and has used allies and partners to Buck pass to erode the power of competitors, takes in the sense that the United States, by sharing the costs of confronting the challenging power, by focusing on a cost-effective and managed presence in sensitive areas, itself stays away from the major challenges.

One of the main regions is the Indo-Pacific region. In order to contain China in this region, three strategies- collective balance, coalition building and Buck pass- which are complementary to each other, are being pursued multilaterally by the United States. A fundamental transition in the nature and hierarchy of world power centered on Beijing is emerging, and it is natural that the evolution and maturation of this process not only causes structural action in the hegemonic state, but also causes the growing concerns of Washington's allies in East Asia and the weakening of American Indo-Pacific order. One of the most important allies of the United States in this region is Japan, which plays an active role in containing China in the framework of the shift of American responsibility in East Asia to other allies. By increasing trade exchanges and moving towards the implementation of friend-shoring policy, security-military agreements and multilateral

alliances with the participation of Japan, the United States has tried to use the capacity of regional countries, including Japan, to contain China by implementing the policy of buck passing. The findings of the research showed that due to the increase in unilateral costs in neutralizing China, the United States, relying on the strategy of buck passing in economic and military dimensions through bilateral or multilateral agreements, economic and military-security alliances with Japan, has taken a step towards collective balancing and curbing China.

Conflict of interest

The authors declared no conflicts of interest.

Authors' contributions

All authors contributed to the original idea, study design.

Ethical considerations

The authors have completely considered ethical issues, including informed consent, plagiarism, data fabrication, misconduct, and/or falsification, double publication and/or redundancy, submission, etc. This article was not authored by artificial intelligence.

Data availability

The dataset generated and analyzed during the current study is available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

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