

Jan Kunstýř

*Koncept aliance: americko-japonské bezpečnostní spojení*

B.A. Dissertation Evaluation

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Unlike NATO, the post-World War II alliance between the United States and Japan is a topic that does not receive very much attention in Europe. Therefore, it is good that Jan Kunstýř has chosen this topic for his B.A. dissertation. Jan's supervisor, Honza Bečka, is a very capable Asia scholar and overseeing works such as this one comes naturally to him. The dissertation is very readable and well organized. It contains an introduction, two detailed main chapters, and a conclusion. Above all, the work is analytical in nature, not descriptive.

In the introduction, Jan emphasizes that the U.S.-Japanese alliance came to be not because of World War II, but rather on account of Cold War considerations. He states that the alliance is asymmetric in nature and is necessarily so because of Japanese political and constitutional obstacles. The sources consulted are analyzed well and the structure of the remainder of the dissertation is well laid out.

Chapter 1 discusses the meaning of the term alliance and is heavily dependent on the ideas of Austrian scholar, Stefan Bergsmann. Other authors are mentioned, but Jan gives the main intellectual weight to Bergsmann. Jan does so because Bergsmann's definition and criteria for an alliance make the topic more manageable and worthy of analysis. According to Bergsmann, an alliance is an agreement between states (countries) involving national security matters that involves a mutual commitment. Basically, by sticking to Bergsmann's definition of what an alliance entails (which contains many specific criteria), Jan is able to

analyze the nature of the U.S.-Japanese alliance and to what extent Bergsmann's criteria are fulfilled.

Chapter 2 represents the bulk of Jan's analytical work. He meticulously demonstrates how the U.S.-Japanese alliance either mutually or one-sidedly fulfills each of the criteria formulated by Bergsmann. He argues that the United States seems to be the "workhorse" (my comment) in this "alliance" and that true mutuality does not exist in the given conditions. This makes the alliance asymmetric.

In the conclusion, Jan recapitulates that the Japanese side does not meet seven of Bergsmann's eight criteria for an "alliance." Jan arrives at the opinion that the relationship is more a "one-sided security guarantee" by the United States towards Japan. Above all, there has not yet been an event serious enough to test this "alliance."

Jan Kunstýř has done very well in his analysis of the U.S.-Japanese alliance. By taking the most applicable theory (i.e. Bergsmann) and seeing whether the criteria of this theory have been met, he has drawn his own conclusions. The bibliography is excellent and the argumentation is sound throughout the treatise. I recommend an **excellent** mark.

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