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The Structure of Korea-Japan Relations: Their Evolution and Present Situation

KIMIYA, Tadashi July 23, 2013

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3 Emergence of DPRK as an Actor and Its Impacts on the South Korea-Japan Relations: DPRK-Japan Relations, North-South Relations, and the Nuclear Crisis

3 The Structural Changes of the South Korea-Japan Relations

- (1) The power balance has become more level.
- (2) Shared values are spreading in each country's establishment.
- (3) The South Korea-Japan Ties are becoming more diverse and multi-tiered.
- (4) Mutual interest is becoming more equal in quantitative and qualitative terms.
- (5) A new sense of identity has been enabled through an accumulation of cooperative experiences.

Structure of the South Korea-Japan Relations

Vertical ⇒ Horizontal

Different ⇒ Similar

Simple ⇒ Pluralistic

Asymmetrical ⇒ Symmetrical

Exclusively Competitive ⇒ Cooperative

4 Recent Frictions in the South Korea-Japan Relations

1 The South Korea-Japan Relations under the DPJ and Lee Government

The Japanese Liberal and the South Korean Pragmatism, but Stalemate

The South Korean Judiciary Judgments and the Reemergence of History Problems, especially the Problem of Comfort Women Their Consequences for Mutual Distrust

President Lee's Visit to Dokdo /Takeshima, and the Consequent Frictions

The South Korea-Japan Frictions under the New Leadership, Prime Minister Abe and President Park Geun Hye South Korea resigned the right wing-declining Japan, Japan resigned the obstinate South Korea.

5 Diagnosis of the Contemporary South Korea-Japan Relations

- 1 Limits to their Common Interests, and Zero-sum Aspects of their Competitive Relations 2 Thoughts to the Conditions needed for Political Choices that can pave the way to New Possibilities 3 Overestimation and Underestimation of Japan by South Korea
- 4 The Japanese Resignation of South Korea
- 5 The Remaining Possibilities not only for Japan but also South Korea
- Converging Mutual Interests, but Mutual Distrust and Competitive Relations

(1) The Policy toward DPRK:

the most similar interest

the necessity of overcoming the DPRK Strategy of "USA First and Bypassing South Korea"

(2) The Policy toward China:

Their Different Stance,

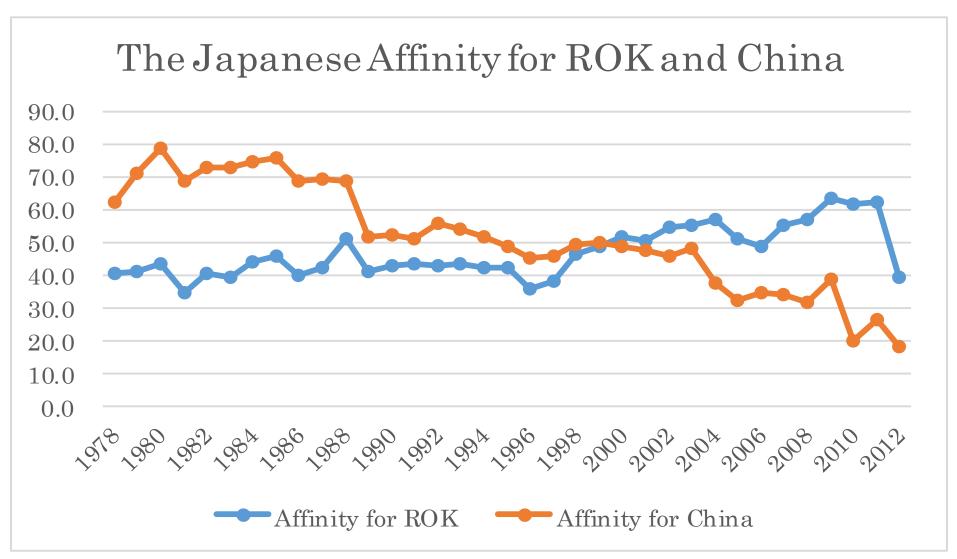
but

the most similar for the Purpose of persuading China to be a Responsible Great Power

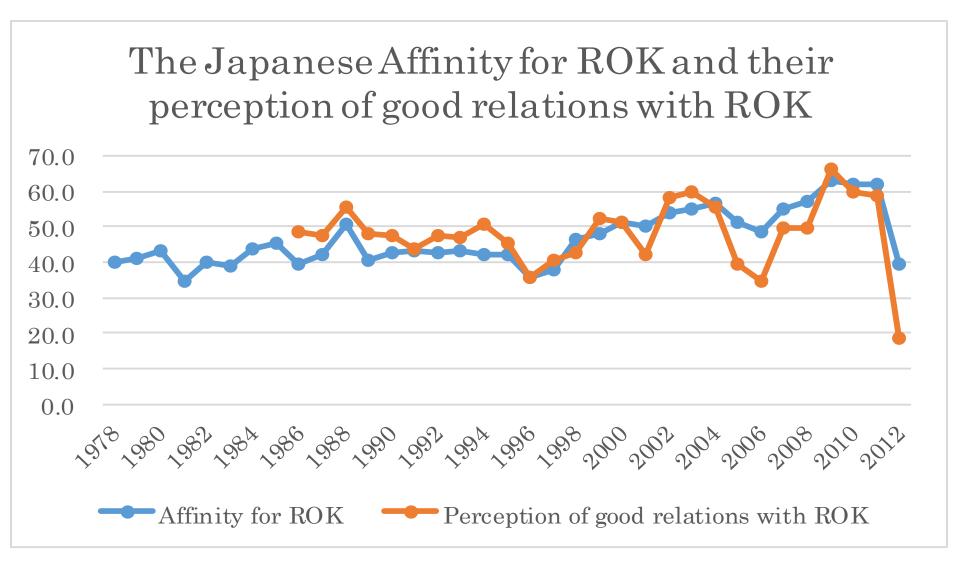
(3) Their Shared Alliance with the USA:

Maximize Benefit

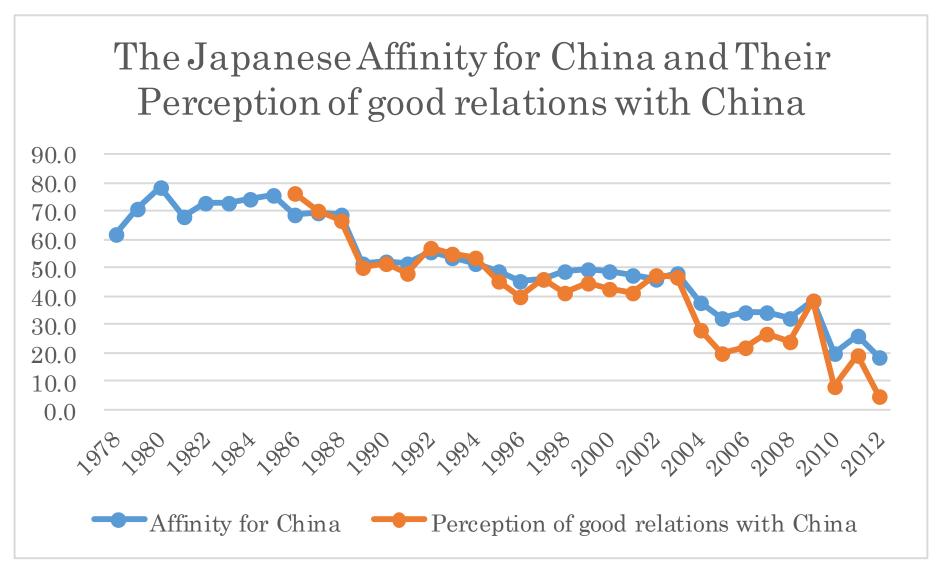
Minimize Cost



Source: "Public Opinion Survey on Diplomacy" by the Cabinet Office, Government of Japan http://survey.gov-online.go.jp/index-gai.html



Source: "Public Opinion Survey on Diplomacy" by the Cabinet Office, Government of Japan http://survey.gov-online.go.jp/index-gai.html

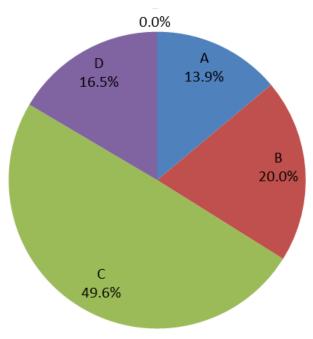


Source: "Public Opinion Survey on Diplomacy" by the Cabinet Office, Government of Japan http://survey.gov-online.go.jp/index-gai.html

The Joint Public Opinion Research of EAI in South Korea and the Media NPO in Japan, March 2013

Comparisons of the Importance of South Korea or Japan and China





A: Its relations with South Korea or Japan are more important than its relations with China.

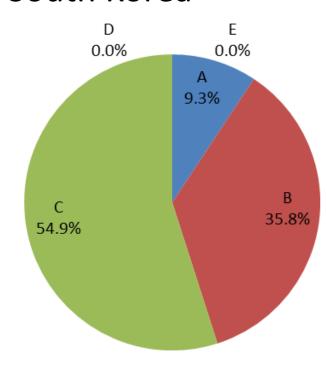
B: Its relations with China are more important than its relations with South Korea or Japan.

C: Its relations with South Korea or Japan are as important as its relations with China.

D: DK(don't know)

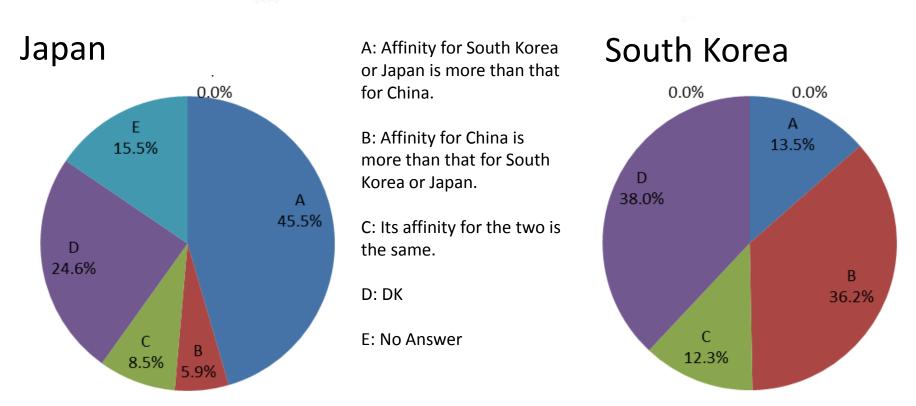
E: No Answer

South Korea



Source: "Analysis Report in the Comparative Data (The First Joint Japan-Korea Public Opinion Poll)" by the Genron NPO and the East Asia Institute, May 2013. http://www.genron-npo.net/english/opinionpoll js 1.pdf

Comparison of Its Affinity for South Korea or Japan with Its Affinity for China



Source: "Analysis Report in the Comparative Data (The First Joint Japan-Korea Public Opinion Poll)" by the Genron NPO and the East Asia Institute, May 2013. http://www.genron-npo.net/english/opinionpoll js 1.pdf