

Japan's Foreign policy under a Global Uncertainty

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In this article the author delineates and analyzes the direction of Japan's foreign policy during the period of a major structural transition after the end of the Cold war. He first discusses Japan's international security issues with the heading of the Gulf and Gorbachev, its economic issues under the heading of the GATT and Group Seven, and its regional issues under the heading of the project Europe 1992, the North American Free Trade Area, and the East Asian Economic Grouping. Then he examines the domestic cleavages and competitions along the four dimensions: left versus right, private versus public sector, politicians versus bureaucrats, and interministerial rivalries. Lastly, he concludes that Japan's foreign policy direction exhibits many features, reflecting a global uncertainty, with both rigidity and flexibility, both reactivity and proactivity, and both the failure and success of structural adaptation in world politics.