

*Japan's Foreign Policy, 1970s-80s* by R. Sh.-A. Aliyev is a comprehensive study of the foreign policy of Japan which is presently one of the major international economic centres. The book analyses a range of important issues, including the process of shaping and implementing foreign policy, decision making mechanism, the role of traditions and the influence of political culture on the Japanese diplomacy accounting for Japan's behaviour on the international scene, correlation between the overall strategy and regional tactics of the Japanese ruling circles as well as Japan's policy towards the US, USSR, Western Europe and the Pacific nations.

Drawing on the analysis of relations among the participants in the foreign policy process the author concludes that Japanese monopoly capital predominantly shapes the country's overall foreign policy pattern and that among the government institutions MITI (Ministry on International Trade and Industry) is playing the crucial role.

Japan's unprecedented economic growth is closely related to its foreign political and economic interests. The book outlines the basic reasons for discrepancy between Japan's economic potential and its political role in the world. The author contends that up to now Japan has not turned into a "power focus" though it has acquired and retains the status of the international economic centre.

Important observations are made on Japanese military policy and the evolution of its military and political relations with the US. The author is drawing attention to the increased tendency of the early 1980s leading to militarization of the country. This tendency is paving its way in the struggle with anti-militaristic movement represented by the oppositional parties, pacifists and also by business community. This struggle hampers the pace of militarization that has not yet met the expectations of the right wing in the Liberal Democratic Party as well as those of the US administration.

Japan faces grave difficulties in trade and economic relations with the US and Western Europe, which are both its partners and rivals. The policy of comprehensive national security measures that had to link Japanese interests with those of their Western

allies could not resolve or reduce the existing contradictions. The study outlines various forms and basic features of the contradictions between Japan and Western Europe and between Japan and the US. Asia and the Pacific region are areas of special interest for Japanese monopoly groups. Japan's economic policy has led to the establishment of rather stable and lasting relations with Australia, South Korea and ASEAN countries. Sino-Japanese relations have been showing dynamic development in the past decade. Problems facing Japan in the Asian-Pacific region are analysed against this background.

The book also deals with the evolution of Japan's policy towards the Soviet Union. The author states that anti-Sovietism that has become manifest in the official Tokyo line in the 1980s will undermine the very idea of increasing Japan's political role in international affairs. This line contradicts the doctrine of comprehensive security. Hostility towards the USSR and other socialist countries of Asia leads only to deterioration of the international situation in South-East Asia and the Far East. Many political figures of repute understand this danger. They stand for reconsideration of the Japanese attitude towards the Soviet Union on the lines of good neighbourhood and cooperation.

The author emphasizes that Japan has all objective requisites for attaining the authoritative international status that would be compatible with its economic power. This, however, requires that Japan's political actions correspond to the realities of international relations.

The book is based on numerous empirical and theoretic sources dealing with various aspects of Japan's foreign policy. The presentation of the most important political issues makes it an interesting contribution to the studies into contemporary Japanese politics.