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The role of strategic culture in international relations. How culture determines the use of force in Asia?

The main purpose of this paper is to present how cultural traditions of Asian countries such as China and Japan determines the state actions in the international community. At the beginning of the XXI century the subject of Asian values, cultural determinism and strategic culture rise again.

Secondly, the paper covers current international conflicts in the Far East. Sino-Japanese rivalry over the Senkaku / Diaoyu archipelago, the conflict in the South China Sea and the territorial disputes between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of India are the basis for analysis. Author tries to find the cul-

ture pattern in the political actions of state analysing the official documents, cultural heritage, international treaties and the history of multilateral relations.

China has a long and very complicated strategic culture. Each dynasty added its own elements to the mainstream of Chinese culture modifying its defensive or offensive nature. The XX Century brought the end to Chinese Empire, civil war and the communist regime. PRC in some ways is the successor of traditional strategic culture however communism, globalization and the revolution in military affairs changed the Chinese cultural military patterns.

On the other side is the Japanese military traditions. An example of a total change of strategic culture patterns was Japanese patterns during

the Second World War. Prior to the end of war the Empire of Japan was probably the most militaristic society in the world. The samurai traditions combined with Meiji nationalism created the cultural phenomenon which Ruth Benedict called the *Chrysanthemum and the Sword*. In the aftermath of the second world war Japan strategic culture changed. Japanese society accepted more pacifistic viewpoint. At the beginning of the XXI Century those patterns are under pressure to change again.

Summarising this paper covers one of the most important aspects of international relations such as use of force and conflict management in those two cultures of the Far East. Additionally it tries to explain how the current situation in the region is determined by the strategic culture.