

US-Japan Defense Cooperation in the Maritime Domain

- How maritime strategy to deter
China might look like? -

July 20, 2021

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What Do We Deter?

- Coercion and destabilizing behavior toward others in the region, which undermines the rules-based international system
- Freedom of navigation and overflight and other lawful uses of the sea based on the international law
- Recent disruptive developments in the region, such as the China Coast Guard law
- Unilateral action that seeks to change the status quo or to undermine Japan's administration of Senkaku Islands
- Peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait
- Unlawful maritime claims and activities in the South China Sea
- Human rights situation in Hong Kong and the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region

Three Features of 2+2 Joint Document

1. More concerns than ever about China's activities, and for the first time the US-Japan alliance has expressed serious concerns, with criticizing China by name.
2. What Japan and the United States concerned was China's behavior, not its political system.
3. All behaviors other than “human rights issue” should be dealt with in the Maritime Strategy.

China's behavior that the U.S.-Japan Maritime Strategy Should Deter:

- Coercion and destabilizing behavior toward others in the region, which undermines the rules-based international system
- Freedom of navigation and overflight and other lawful uses of the sea based on the international law
- Recent disruptive developments in the region, such as the China Coast Guard law
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Japan and the U.S. can Work Together:

1. To maintain rule-based maritime order in the South China Sea
 - a. To enhance “Rule of law”, while to deny “Rule by law”
 - b. Japan’s more proactive engagement in the South China Sea
2. To maintain peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait
 - a. Tokyo should be freed from 50 year-old Taiwan Policy
3. To establish Cooperative Maritime Strategy by identifying common strategic objectives
 - a. Possible differences in enthusiasm for maintaining peace in the Taiwan Strait and sense for crisis might widen a gap in alliance’s cooperative stance regarding Taiwan Strait.

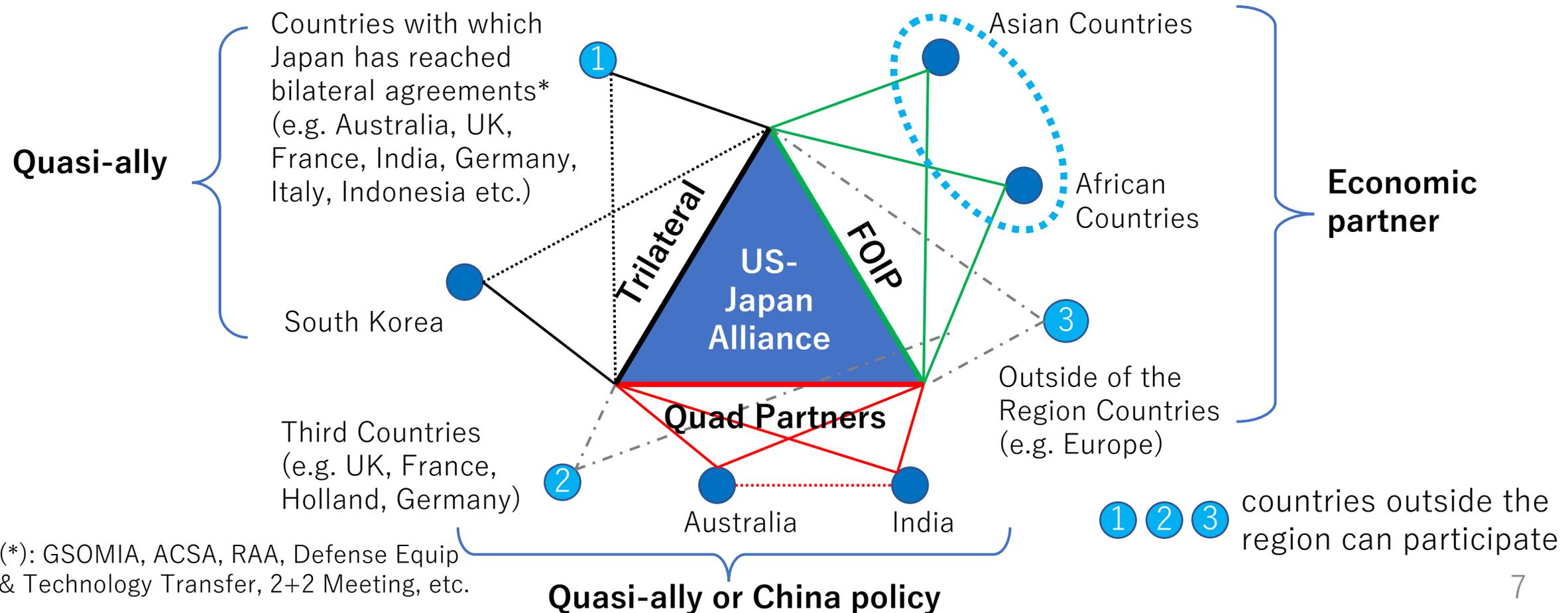
Value of Multilateral Frameworks as a Means of Deterring China's Misbehavior

“To strengthen the Alliance comes from our shared values and is amplified by our network of close partnerships with like-minded democracies; such as **QUAD** on shared vision of a free, open, and inclusive region anchored by universal values and unconstrained by coercive power, as well as **ASEAN** and **ASEAN Outlook.**”

Joint Statement of the U.S.-Japan Security Consultative Committee (2+2) on March 16., 2021

US-Japan Alliance Can Play a Key Role

- **Linchpin** to connect regional countries
- **Platform** to link countries outside the region to the region



Trilateral Naval Cooperation



October 2016



November 2019

"We believe this increased trilateral cooperation will help secure a future that not only serves the interests of our three nations but the interests of all nations who depend upon the free flow of commerce and trade through the global maritime commons." *Trilateral Cooperation Agreement (October 20, 2016)*



Source: Royal Navy

UK Carrier Strike Group 21 will enter the Western Pacific soon.