
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY DYNAMICS IN THE RYUKYU ISLANDS: THE UNITED STATES-CHINA BALANCE OF POWER

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ABSTRAK

Kawasan Kepulauan Ryukyu merupakan sebuah wilayah dari Kerajaan Ryukyu yang merupakan mitra diplomatik bangsa Tiongkok dan bangsa Jepang sekaligus beserta dengan negaranya masing-masing. Posisi kawasan ini secara geopolitik berhubungan dengan kontestasi kekuatan antara Amerika Serikat dan Tiongkok. Oleh karena itu, dengan menggunakan analisis teori perimbangan kekuatan dengan berfokus pada peran identitas atau identifikasi, berdasarkan perspektif historis dari kawasan ini, beserta dengan metode penelitian kualitatif, maka peneliti menemukan bahwa inti dari konflik antara dua negara besar ini, Tiongkok dan Amerika Serikat, terletak pada perbedaan interpretasi resolusi konflik pasca Perang Dunia II—termasuk klausul yang memengaruhi status teritorial Kepulauan Ryukyu. Oleh karena itu, Kepulauan Ryukyu dan penduduk Ryukyu merupakan garis depan pertemuan antara takdir atau konsekuensi sejarah dengan perebutan kekuasaan antara dua kekuatan besar. Ketidakpercayaan dan kecurigaan timbal balik antara Amerika Serikat dan Tiongkok harus menjadi fokus utama, dan saya merekomendasikan untuk kembali menyoroti pentingnya geopolitik Kepulauan Ryukyu sebagai masa depan rekonsiliasi.

Katakunci: Amerika Serikat, Dinamika Keamanan, Kepulauan Ryukyu, Perimbangan kekuasaan, Tiongkok

ABSTRACT

The Ryukyu Islands region is a territory of the Ryukyu Kingdom, a diplomatic partner of both China and Japan, along with their respective countries. The region's geopolitical position is linked to the power struggle between the United States and China. Therefore, using balance-of-power theory analysis focusing on the role of identity or identification, based on a historicist perspective of the region, along with qualitative research methods, the researcher found that the core of the conflict between these two major powers, China and the United States, lies in differing interpretations of the post-World War II conflict resolution, including clauses affecting the territorial status of the Ryukyu Islands. Therefore, the Ryukyu Islands and the Ryukyu people are on the front lines of the intersection of fate or historical consequences with the power struggle between the two great powers. The mutual distrust and suspicion between the United States and China should be a primary focus, and I recommend re-emphasizing the geopolitical importance of the Ryukyu Islands as a future for reconciliation.

Keywords: Balance of power, China, Ryukyu Islands, Security Dynamics, United States

BACKGROUND

In a realist perspective, states will use power to prevent their opponents from responding undesirably. A balance of power occurs when a state has the ability to deny another party the opportunity to gain an advantage from the action it is trying to prevent, not just the capacity to impose punishment (Snyder, 1960). However, states, in determining their opponents and ensuring that undesired responses do not occur, also pay attention to their respective histories. There are four historical modes in International Relations: constructivism at the mega-macro level (with a high level of generalization), historical sociology with a historicist nature at the middle level, and traditional and radical historicism with a particular and deconstructionist nature at the micro level with the lowest generalization (Lawson & Hobson, 2008).

The Ryukyu Islands are an area to the east of the East China Sea and to the west of the Pacific Ocean, as well as to the north of the Philippine Sea and Taiwan, which includes the territory of the former Ryukyu Kingdom, a Japonic kingdom (Akamine 2017, 1-8), which was once fully sovereign during its heyday in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, and continued to exist until 1879 through the annexation by the Great Japanese Empire known as the Ryukyu Disposition to become Okinawa Prefecture (Central Intelligence Agency of the United States). After World War II, the Ryukyu Islands region fell under the sovereignty of the United States, approximately from 1945 to 1972, before returning to Japanese sovereignty. However, the military alliance of the United States and Japan led to the long presence of the United States Armed Forces in this region, not only when the United States established the administration in this region (Central Intelligence Agency of the United States), but also after the Reversion of Okinawa to Japan (Mason, 2019). Okinawa Prefecture, the present-day administration, is the home of 70.6% of the Japanese, which is exclusive to U.S. military facilities under the United States Forces Japan, which accounts for only 0.6% of the total land area of Japan as the nation-state (Okinawa Prefectural Government). It is related to the Japanese nation-state as the signatory of the Japan-United States Security Treaty, since January 19th, 1960, making it one of the United States security allies on a larger scale (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan). Since then, the debate over how the Ryukyu Islands should be sovereign has continued to be debated by various parties in the East Asian region, especially among China, South Korea, and North Korea, due to their own foreign policies related to their own national sovereignties. It is also understood that Okinawa Prefecture, especially, becomes the key to Japan's survivability of its national sovereignty, nowadays, in the middle of Sino-American contention.

The researcher understands that in the literature published before this research, there has been an assumption that the national interests of several East Asian countries, such as China, South Korea, and North Korea, are still related to their

national identification with Japan's military actions in the mid-20th century. The researcher understands that in a historicist aspect, the foreign policies of many nation-states in the East Asian region still consider the foreign policy of the Japanese Government, with attitudes of fear and hatred that are still strong and politically active towards Japan (Buzan & Segal, 1994). However, within a rational scope, the researcher argues that nation-states need to be aware of the potential for *zero-sum games* to *negative-sum games* in negotiations (Correa, 2001). In addition, international legal factors such as the interpretation of the 1895 Treaty of Shimonoseki are also taken into account in understanding the dynamics within the East Asian region in general, and in particular, Sino-Japanese relations. Therefore, the researcher suspects that the social and political situation within the Ryukyu Islands region has created a security dilemma for the Chinese government, particularly the Chinese Communist Party as the ruler, thus causing the Chinese government to securitize discourses regarding international security dynamics within the Ryukyu Islands region. This assumption contradicts general findings regarding China's relations with modern Japan, as well as China's relations with the United States. Therefore, in this study, the researcher describes "why are international security dynamics in the Ryukyu Islands creating the balance of power between China and the United States?" as the research question.

Based on the problem background and theoretical basis, the researcher divided the research flow into several parts. First, the discourse on security dynamics in the Ryukyu Islands within the Chinese Government. In this section, the research will focus on existing discursive movements along with the Chinese Government's views regarding contemporary security dynamics in the Ryukyu Islands. This view also refers to opinions from the perspective of the Chinese state elite regarding contemporary security dynamics in the Ryukyu Islands, as well as the perspective of the local people of the Ryukyu Islands. Second, a discourse on the history of the Ryukyu Islands. This section will also explain the history of the Ryukyu Kingdom, known, according to archaeological artifacts, as a tributary state of China, particularly during the Ming and Qing dynasties, and how the United States influenced it when it ruled over the Islands.

Third, the relationship between China and the United States regarding international security in the Ryukyu Islands. This section will explain the differences in interpretation of the post-World War II conflict resolution—which affects the territorial status of the Ryukyu Islands—between the Chinese and the United States governments, based on existing instrumental documents, as well as the dialogue efforts between the Chinese and the United States governments to determine the territorial status of the Ryukyu Islands. Furthermore, the views of *the United States Forces Japan* regarding the contemporary status of the Ryukyu Islands will also be explained in this section. Finally, there is the conclusion.

Chinese military power is based on the provision of strong strategic support for the realization of the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation and to make new and greater contributions to the building of a shared future for mankind. Accordingly, China's stated defence policy is to resolutely safeguard its sovereignty, security, and development interests, including in support of China's broader regional and global ambitions. China's military strategy is based on the concept of active defence, a combination of the principles of strategic defence and offensive action. Chinese military writings on "effective control" and "war control" stipulate using all domains of national power to control the timing, pace, scope, and scale of escalation from peacetime through crisis and war. Several implementations are related to this doctrine are becoming the operations of opposing and containing "Taiwan independence" or cracking down on proponents of separatist movements such as "Tibet independence" and the creation of "East Turkistan"—which become culminated as "safeguarding national sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity and security, also China's maritime rights and interests" (United States Department of Defense, 2025).

LITERATURE REVIEW

The study places respect on the balance of power theory within the realism. In a realist perspective, states will use force to prevent their opponents from responding undesirably. One of the actions taken by a state is through deterrence, with the ability to deny others in their efforts to gain benefits from actions that the state wants to prevent (Snyder, 1960). There are two types of deterrence. Immediate deterrence concerns the relationship between opposing states where at least one side is seriously considering an attack while the other is mounting a threat of retaliation in order to prevent it. General deterrence relates to opponents who maintain armed forces to regulate their relationship, even though neither is anywhere near mounting an attack. The states that become the deterrents bring less to give credibility to the threat than to clarify the circumstances in which the threat would be activated (Freedman, 1989). General deterrence is said to prevail when two powers, taking all potential benefits, costs, and risks into account, generally prefer peace to war, in the extreme, even to a victorious war, whether crisis stability exists or not, therefore becoming the basis of the balance of power (Mueller, 1988). Balance-of-power theory itself assumes that if the desire of survival supplies the basic motivation of states, it indicates the responses that the constraints of the system encourage, and describes the expected outcome; therefore, the desire erases the guarantee aspect of the international structure (Waltz, 1967).

Besides this, by examining the research background and paying attention to the historical background that occurred in the Ryukyu Islands region, the theory of securitization, understood from a more constructivist realist perspective, was then chosen to be the theoretical, conceptual, or analytical basis needed to understand the

security dynamics in this region. Securitization Theory itself was developed by Barry Buzan, Ole Waever, Japp de Wilde, and their colleagues, within the Conflict and Peace Research Institute (COPRI) in Copenhagen, Denmark, in the 1990s. The theoretical aspects put forward include a focus on the role of identity or identification, bureaucratic routines, ethics, the role of agents and discourse, *illocution versus perlocution*, audiences, securitization in non-democratic environments, and securitization with figural language (Stritzel, 2014). In the East Asian context, the aspects of identity and identification carried out by each nation are still related to the historical approach carried out by the elites within each country (Stritzel, 2014). What is happening in the East Asian region fulfills Wæver's (1995) thesis, which states that security carries with it history and a series of unavoidable connotations, especially related to the power of Japan (Buzan & Segal, 1994), as well as the United States in this region (Nishiyama, 2019).

Theoretically, there are several criteria in which an utterance is called a securitization utterance that can give rise to security policies within the framework of *speech act results* according to Austin (1961a, 1961b, 1962), namely locution which refers to how something that is seen as true, false, or unreasonable is talked about; illocution which refers to how something locutive is conveyed such as how the action is carried out when saying it or post-talking actions; and perlocution, which refers to the consequences or effects of saying it, namely, the act of saying something that makes other people, the audience, do something because of the utterance; that is, the audience, in this sense, is 'persuaded' by the speaker to do something. In addition to one of the theories inside the realist perspective, which calls on states will use force to prevent their opponents from responding undesirably. One of the actions taken by a state is through *deterrence*, with the ability to deny others in their efforts to gain benefits from actions that the state wants to prevent (Snyder, 1960). However, in the ontological discourse regarding a state's foreign policy, the state will use identification regarding what is prioritized for the state. States, in determining their opponents and ensuring that their undesirable responses can not occur and harm the state, also pay attention to their respective histories. There are four historical modes in the phenomenon of international relations: generalization in constructivism in the mega-macro order, historical sociology, which is within the corridor of historicism at the middle level, as well as traditional and radical historicism which is particular and deconstructionist at the micro level with the lowest generalization (Lawson & Hobson, 2008).

International relations actors have considerations based on subjective sociological and identity aspects (Wendt, 1992). Wendt (1992) also suggests that liberal positivist thinkers, such as Keohane (1990) and Jervis (1988), also began to question social theories that attempt to explain identity and interests, which actually also exist alongside positivist theories. Identity is assumed to be the basis of interests. Therefore,

international relations actors—who initially did not have a portfolio of interests that they brought- now have interests that depend on the surrounding social context. International relations actors then define their interests in various definition processes based on what the actors have experienced previously and the understanding of the actors' identities from these events.

RESEARCH METHOD

Within this study, the qualitative methods are used. Qualitative methods are the methods that focus on the observation process in a way deep, and used for answering the question about what, how, or why something phenomenon occurred (McCusker & Gunaydin, 2015). Furthermore, in this study, will done with study descriptive qualitative research descriptive qualitative produce data that describes who, what, and where the event occurred or experience from the subjective view, so that allows the existence of the interpretation and naturalistic methods. With thus, the study is served with a flexible, inductive, and dynamic research processes, but still without the data changes outside the introduction of current phenomenon studied (Kim *et. al.*, 2017).

For the data collection process, literature study implemented to relevant readings with using strategies, standards, and guidelines certain ones developed by researchers based on values review academic depending on what was done, what was found, and the clarity reporting (Snyder, 2019).

DISCUSSION

Discourse on Security Dynamics in the Ryukyu Islands within the Chinese Government

The Ryukyu Islands region, including the Senkaku or Diaoyutai Islands, holds a crucial position in the national interests of several East Asian countries, particularly China, related to the annexation of Okinawa by Japan in 1879 and the colonization of Taiwan by Japan in 1895 (Wang, 2021). The Senkaku or Diaoyutai Islands, in particular, are one of the disputed territories between the Chinese government and the international community, particularly the Japanese government and the United States government — which has the largest military base in Okinawa Prefecture within the United States-Japan security alliance structure (Packard, 2010). The Chinese government argues that the islands were first discovered by the Ming Dynasty in 1372 and have been an inseparable part of Chinese territory since then (Grieger, 2021).

For the Chinese government, in accordance with the Treaty of Shimonoseki, the Diaoyudao and its affiliated islands were territories ceded to Japan from China, along with Taiwan and its affiliated islands. Nevertheless, all these islands were to be

returned to China after World War II in accordance with the provisions of the Cairo Declaration, the Potsdam Declaration, and the Japanese Instrument of Surrender. The Cairo Declaration (November 27, 1943) and the Potsdam Declaration (July 26, 1945) were two declarations attended by representatives of the Republic of China led by the nationalist Kuomintang. However, from the perspective of the Japanese Government, the Senkaku Islands had become Japanese territory through a cabinet decision under Emperor Meiji on January 14, 1895, and occurred before the signing of the Treaty of Shimonoseki, which took place on April 17 of the same year; which means, the Treaty of Shimonoseki had nothing to do with the incorporation of the Senkaku Islands into Japanese territory (Shimojo, 2021). In the Senkaku Islands or Diaoyutai dispute, the Ryukyu Kingdom, known as a Japanese kingdom that was once fully sovereign during its heyday in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries as a tributary state of China, is also mentioned (Akamine, 2017, 20-31). In Shimojo's view (2021), based on the historical document *Dongying Baiyong* by Zhai Kun, Gumishan (Kumejima) is within the Ryukyu Kingdom's territory, so Mount Jilong is the boundary of the Qing Dynasty's territory and Kumejima is the boundary of the Ryukyu Kingdom's territory. Thus, the Senkaku Islands, located between Mount Jilong and Kumejima, belong to neither the Qing Empire nor the Ryukyu Kingdom, so the Senkaku Islands are *terra nullius* (no man's land), according to contemporary international law.

The Chinese government has received news about contemporary security dynamics within the Ryukyu Islands region, especially regarding the United States military bases within this region. In July 2023, the Governor of Okinawa Prefecture, Japan, Tamaki Denny, decided to visit the Chinese region, for discussions regarding the Chinese government's response to the concentration of United States military bases in the Okinawa Prefecture region (Nakazawa, 2023)—which reached 75 percent only to meet the needs of the United States-Japan security alliance (Packard, 2010). For the public local in the Ryukyu Islands, existence United States military when their territory Still controlled by Japan is form colonization double and fixed become something that is controversial in a way politics (Nishiyama, 2019; Mason, 2019). Regarding the dual colonization experienced by the local people of the Ryukyu Islands, it turns out that Xu Yong, a professor at Peking University specializing in the history of Sino-Japanese relations, has published *the Ryukyu Riddle Proposal*—regarding the low level of international legal legitimacy regarding the status of the Ryukyu Islands, in 2005, which was then followed up in December 2009 by Xu Yong himself along with other Chinese historical researchers through the statement “the regulation of Ryukyu by the Meiji Emperor's government in 1879 and the return of Okinawa to Japan by the United States in 1972 are considered to have no basis in international law” (Hosoda, 2023). Xu Yong and his colleagues are not the only academics to advocate for the importance of the Ryukyu Islanders in contemporary international society. In Hawaii, the United States, where approximately fifty thousand Ryukyu Islanders reside (Center of

Okinawan Studies, University of Hawai'i at Manoa), Robert Kajiwarara and his colleagues are also conducting further studies on the Ryukyu Islanders. However, accusations that Kajiwarara is an agent of the Chinese government have surfaced as critics of his discourse have identified a bias in his discussions of China. In Kajiwarara's discourse, China is portrayed as a peace-loving nation that never exploits others, closely aligning with the Chinese Communist Party's official account of history and the rise of modern China. However, as an activist for indigenous rights and self-determination, his social media posts denying repression in Xinjiang and Tibet and expressing support for Beijing's positions on Hong Kong and Taiwan have raised suspicions about Kajiwarara (Allen-Ebrahimian, 2023).

On the history of the Ryukyu Islands

The Ryukyu Kingdom was a Japonic kingdom—based on Jomon civilization rather than Yayoi one (Akamine, 2017, 10-19)—which was fully sovereign during its heyday in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, and continued to exist until 1879 through the annexation by the Great Japanese Empire known as the Ryukyu Disposition to Okinawa Prefecture (Central Intelligence Agency of the United States). As a sovereign state, Ryukyu played a major role in diplomacy in the region dominated by the Ming Dynasty of China through efforts to open trade routes connecting what are now modern Japan, Korea, and China with Southeast Asia, even to the point where the kingdom became a vassal state of the Satsuma Domain from mainland Japan starting in 1609. Historically, diplomatic relations between the Ryukyu Kingdom and China existed almost uninterrupted for about five centuries, from 1372 to 1875, and several hundred missions were exchanged between the small island kingdom and the Ming and Qing empires (Sakamaki, 1963). Consequently, for most of the 15th and 16th centuries, the Ryukyu Kingdom was able to conduct a robust and profitable trade, not only with East Asian ports, but also with Southeast Asian ports, until the arrival of European ships in these waters and the rise of large-scale piracy, which caused the Ryukyu Kingdom to abandon their direct trade network in Southeast Asia and rely more on the intermediaries of Chinese merchants operating in the region (Akamine, 2017, 32-36). Therefore, the people of Okinawa Prefecture are culturally close to the Chinese, based on the ideological view “The Ryukyu Kingdom Belongs to the Japanese and Chinese Families” (Kerr, 2011), as well as the declaration “Japan is Our Father, China is Our Mother” submitted by Ryukyu Kingdom diplomats to the Japanese Government in 1878 (Keene, 2002). Nevertheless, the Ryukyuan-archeologic the Bridge of Nations Bell, which is housed now at the Okinawa Prefectural Museum—and contains the decisive Inscriptions on the bell describing the Kingdom of the Ryukyus or Ryukyu Kingdom, as a maritime state and also as a southern state in Asian context—The Bell has been already set since year 1458 (Shuri Castle Park), the 509 years before Bangkok Declaration in 1967 recognizes Indonesia,

Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand based on their own consensus as the nations of Southeast Asia (ASEAN, 2014). Even, after the Japanese states have ruled the former territories of Ryukyu Kingdom since 1872—although the American occupation had been happened there from year 1945 until year 1972—as Okinawa Prefecture, just like the rest of Japan, by the designation of Okinawa Prefecture as Japanese home prefecture, so it is part of East Asia since then, Okinawa Prefecture was the southern territory of the mainland Japan and also became the hub for Japanese Empire's southbound policy at the same time while the Japanese wanted to assimilate the Ryukyans, especially the Okinawans in the same model as Amami Islanders having conditions based on their relations with the people of Kagoshima Prefecture, under the constructions for Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere (Okubo, 2024), as Japan intended to once want to put all of parts of China, Korea, the Indochina, Taiwan, even Oceania and the present-day Maritime Southeast Asia as the part of Greater East Asia beyond the southern borders of their home nation (McCormack & Norimatsu, 2012). Anthropologically, what the Japanese Government decided is approximately based on the similar civil characteristics between the Ryukyu Islands and Taiwan (Lin, 2013). Taiwan was then the overseas gateway for Japan to expand until present-day Southeast Asia and Oceania (Shirane, 2022). It is known that without Ryukyu Disposition in 1879, there would be no Taiwan today—as Taiwan at the days of Chinese dynastic regimes was only the suburbanization of Fujian (Henckaerts, 1996)—and there would be no South Seas Mandate, where Japan literally named several parts of Oceania near the Maritime Southeast Asia as the south of their own home country.

Therefore, it is known by the official history of Okinawa Prefectural Government of Japan, that the history of Ryukyu Kingdom is valued as ensuring hospitality to any foreign agencies across the Islands. However, it is the document called *Lew Cew Compact* since 1854, which revolutionized the original Ryukyu Islanders to reform their views on the Westerners after their decline since 1609 Satsuma invasion in the middle of European expeditions towards the Indo-Pacific, so the foreigners Ryukyu Islanders acknowledged are no longer just the Southeast Asians and the Chinese—several documents also teased the relations between the Ryukyans and the Koreans but it will not be explained later here. The 1854 Compact allowed for courtesy and friendship to be shown to all U.S. citizens who visited Ryukyu, as well as for hospitality provided to shipwrecked U.S. vessels off of the Ryukyuan coast. The compact also stipulated that U.S. vessels could hire a Ryukyuan pilot to guide them safely past the reefs and not (or out of) the harbor for \$5.00. The 1854 Compact is signed under the consent that position of the United States on these orders was “the independence of Ryukyu Islands is a disputed matter between the international law at the time and the position of Japanese Government as the Ryukyu Kingdom was interpreted as the vassal state of Japanese state, especially since 1609 Satsuma invasion in which the United States could not interfere unless its rights under treaty stipulations

with any of the powers concerned in the controversy be endangered” (Office of the Historian of the Department of the State of the United States). This speculates the real nature of Japanese Government’s attitude towards the Ryukyu Islands, for giving the bigger context of United States’ bigger military postures on the presence of United States Forces Japan in Okinawa Prefecture under the Japan-United States Security Treaty.

The relationship between China and the United States regarding international security in the Ryukyu Islands

Originally, the Chinese and the Americans are legalist on the issue of the power contention upon the Ryukyu Islands. This is happened because after one of the actions taken by the American state is through general deterrence with the ability to deny others from their military bases in Okinawa, in this case is against China in their efforts to gain benefits from actions that the state wants to prevent (Snyder, 1960). As the consequence, the American state who become the deterrers, brings less to give credibility to the threat from China, than to clarify the circumstances in which the threat would be activate (Freedman, 1989). However, after the long time general deterrence from the Americans, the Chinese are still protecting the calculation of all potential benefits, costs and risks into their account, against the Americans (Mueller, 1988), creates the *status quo* of frozen conflict.

The basic of the conflicts between these two major countries, China and the United States, lies in the difference in interpretation of the post-World War II conflict resolution, including clauses affecting the territorial status of the Ryukyu Islands, based on existing instrumental documents, such as the Cairo Declaration, the Potsdam Declaration, and the Treaty of San Francisco. Examining the Diaoyudao (Senkaku Islands) conflict from the perspective of the Chinese Government in accordance with the Treaty of Shimonoseki, the Cairo Declaration, the Potsdam Declaration, and the Japanese Instrument of Surrender, it seems that the Chinese Government adheres to the clauses of the Cairo Declaration and the Potsdam Declaration that mandate “Japan’s sovereignty is limited to the islands of Honshu, Hokkaido, Kyushu, Shikoku, and other small islands designated separately” (National Diet Library of Japan).

Until nowadays, there has been no attempt at dialogue between the Chinese and the United States governments to determine the territorial status of the Ryukyu Islands, following the rejection of the Treaty of San Francisco by the People’s Republic of China. However, *United States Forces Japan*, the administrative institution for the United States military presence throughout Japan—especially the Ryukyu Islands—appears to believe that the contemporary security status of the Ryukyu Islands is also affected by the decisions of the dialogue between China and the United States. Operational reach of *United States Forces Japan*, which has now gone beyond the

Ryukyu Islands region, even to the South China Sea, has gone beyond the scope of the dispute in the Ryukyu Islands region, so that by observing the theory of coercive diplomacy.

CONCLUSIONS

China and the United States once decided to take the conflict after the prevention of the proper, stable international trades, mainly through the tariffs and territorial doctrines' differences (Lampton & Jisi, 2026). Today, the balance of power has been achieved (Snyder, 1960). However, every states have been still connected to their respective histories. Ryukyu Islands and the Ryukyuans are the frontier of the meeting between historical fate or consequence with the power contestation between two great powers.

Mutual mistrust and distrust between the United States and China shall be centered, and I recommend on the reseeking of the importance of the geopolitics of Ryukyu Islands as the future of reconciliation. As the Bridge of Nations Bell also contains the decisive Inscriptions on the bell describing the Kingdom of the Ryukyus or Ryukyu Kingdom, as a maritime state and also as a southern state in the Asian context, and also has the statue for the Kingdom as the bridge of Asian nations in the middle of conflicts and peace. Further plans for the economic revitalization brought by the Japanese Government shall also count Okinawa Prefecture as the center of Indo-Pacific peace and prosperity, which could benefit many parties, including China and the United States, in their respective national interests, for the sake of de-escalation and rebuilding trust in each other.

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