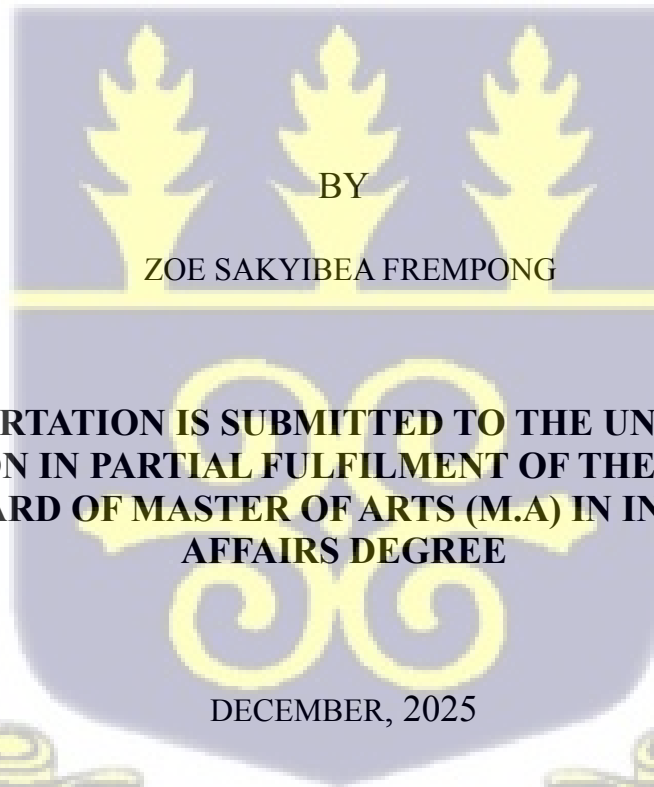


LEGON CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

UNIVERSITY OF GHANA



JAPAN'S SECURITY POLICY-IMPLICATIONS FOR AFRICA



BY

ZOE SAKYIBEA FREMPONG

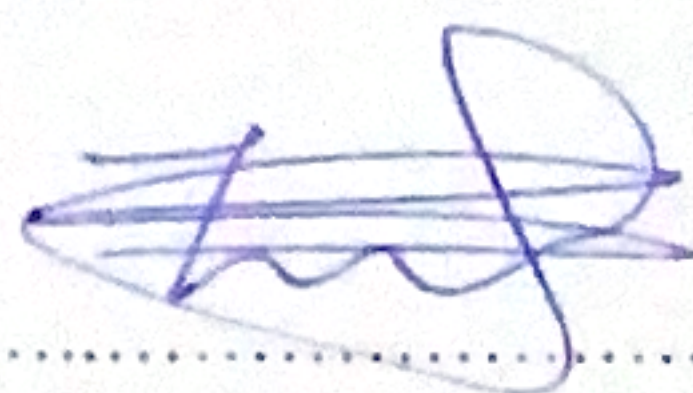
**THIS DISSERTATION IS SUBMITTED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF
GHANA, LEGON IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT
FOR THE AWARD OF MASTER OF ARTS (M.A) IN INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS DEGREE**

DECEMBER, 2025

INTEGRI PROCEDAMUS

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this dissertation is the result of original research conducted by me under the supervision of Dr. Isaac Owusu-Mensah. Apart from other works which are duly acknowledged, no part of it has been submitted anywhere else.



ZOE SAKYIBEA FREMPONG

DR. ISAAC OWUSU- MENSAH

(STUDENT)

(SUPERVISOR)

Date:

16/12/2025

Date:

16/12/2025



DEDICATION

This dissertation is dedicated to my Parents Dr Mark Eric Frempong and Mrs Bettie Faakor

Dapilma Frempong



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I received a great deal of help and support throughout the writing of this dissertation. I would like to thank my supervisor, Prof. Isaac Owusu-Mensah, who stepped in at the right time to help me see this work through. Your guidance and advice pushed me to embrace my research and gave me clarity on the direction that my work should take. I would also like to express my gratitude to my parents and my entire family for their support and patience. Finally, I could not have finished this dissertation without the help of my friends and my church family (Legon Interdenominational Church) for their prayers and counsel.



ABSTRACT

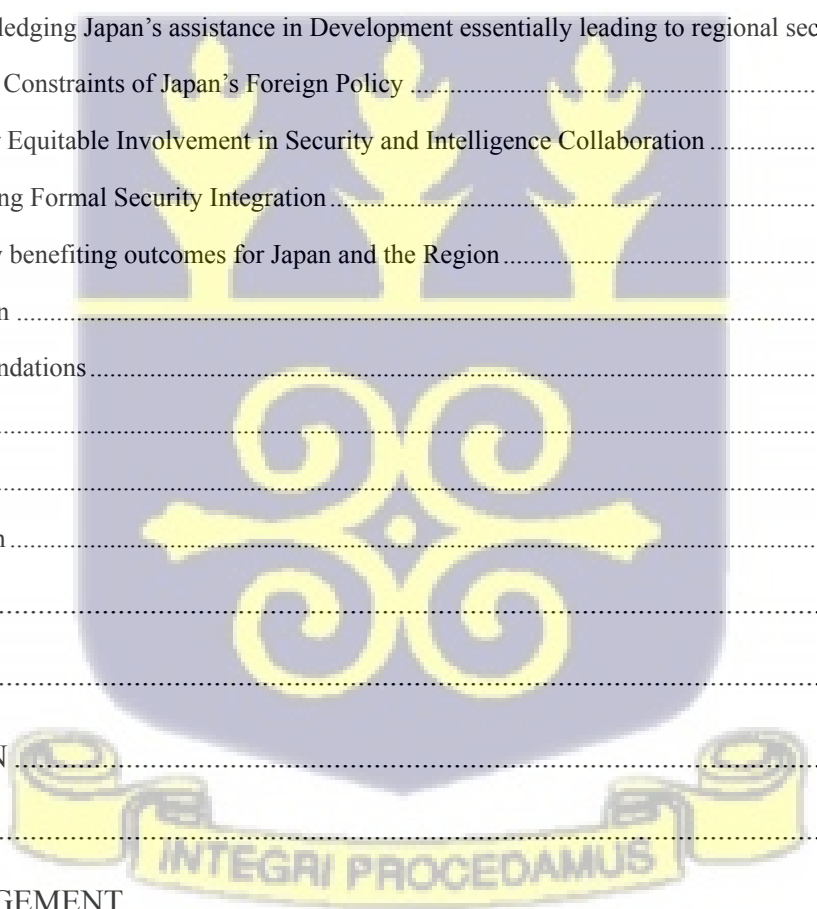
The study of Japan's security policy implications for Africa: The Case of West Africa analysed the factors driving Japan's security policy changes and increase in defence spending, found out ways in which Japan can enhance its security cooperation with Africa specifically in the defence, military, and cyber countries given the rise in security tensions on the African continent in recent times, and assess how Africa perceives Japan's security initiatives and their expectations for future cooperation. The study adopted a predominantly qualitative methodology to examine Japan's security policy and its ramifications for African countries, with primary interviews and secondary content analysis as both data sources. Purposive and snowball sampling techniques were used to sample the target population comprising officials from the Ministry of Defence, JICA, UN peacekeepers, and Ghana Armed Forces. The study data were manually analysed using a qualitative thematic analysis of subthemes and quotations. The research found that Japan has led cybersecurity advancements by partnering with entities such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Center (KAIPTC), emphasizing counterterrorism, cybersecurity training, and intelligence sharing mechanisms. It recommended that Japan should utilize its proficiency in AI, digital monitoring, and cybersecurity to assist African countries in combating cyber dangers. Partnerships with entities such as the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Center (KAIPTC) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) would enhance Africa's cyber-resilience and intelligence-sharing frameworks.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AU	African Union
IDGC	Digital Governance and Cybersecurity
ECOWAS	Economic Communities of West African States
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
KAIPTC	Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre
JMSDF	Maritime Self-Defence Force
OSA	Official Security Assistance
TICAD	Tokyo International Conference on African Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UN	United Nations





CHAPTER ONE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

National security, especially in the defence and military sectors, is essential for safeguarding sovereignty, combating terrorism, and fostering stability. Effective security policies provide protection against internal and external threats, safeguard essential economic interests, and secure important infrastructure. Furthermore, they maintain political stability, augment diplomatic influence, and ready themselves for emerging security threats such as cyber warfare. National security is crucial for protecting a nation's interests and residents while maintaining stability in a globalized environment (Holmes 2015).

Since the onset of the 21st century, nations have markedly augmented their defence budgets, emphasizing research and development to facilitate military modernization and enhance overseas defence expenditures in response to escalating geopolitical tensions and security challenges. (Tian et al., 2024). In 2023, total worldwide military expenditure attained a historic \$2.44 trillion, reflecting a 6.8% rise from 2022. The ten largest military expenditures, spearheaded by the United States, China, and Russia, all boosted their defence spending in 2023. This has emerged as a priority for numerous nations, as they have vied military superiority (Tian et al., 2024).

Enhanced defence research and development expenditures are a crucial method by which nations are endeavouring to modernise and enhance their military capabilities to sustain technological

preeminence. Research and development enable militaries to create advanced weaponry, systems, and capabilities that augment their lethality and operational effectiveness (AIP.ORG, 2024).

The U.S. defence research and development budget has markedly expanded in recent years, totalling \$143.2 billion in the anticipated FY2025 budget request. R&D investment seeks to enhance defence capabilities by developing new technologies, systems, and competencies. The factors contributing to heightened international expenditure differ among states. Increased geopolitical tensions and security apprehensions, exemplified by the conflict in Ukraine and escalating tensions with China, have compelled numerous nations to augment their defence expenditures internationally (Tian et al., 2024). Some nations, such as Poland, have significantly increased their defence expenditures, citing the necessity to bolster their military capabilities in response to regional crises. Revenue surges from energy exports, as exemplified by Algeria, have facilitated increased defence expenditures in specific regions (global military spending surprises amid War, Rising Tensions, and Insecurity in 2024). Japan appears to be joining the ranks of nations that are increasing their defence budgets in response to global tensions and shifts (Japan's Recent Military Policies: Origins and Consequences 2023).

In contrast to its post-World War II security policy, Japan has demonstrated a progressive inclination since the post-Cold War era to transition from its anti-military and pacifist constitution in pursuit of what historians, such as Bhubhinder Singh, characterize as an 'international state' (Singh, 2008). This pertains to Japan's aspiration to assume a more proactive role in strategic military matters in the post-Cold War era. The aspiration for reform manifested

in its security, which underwent revisions in 1999, 2013, and again in 2015, when the "Peace and Security Legislation' was enacted by the administration of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. Recently, Japan, led by Fumio Kishida, introduced three strategic documents: the National Security Strategy (NSS), National Defence Strategy (NDS), and Defence Buildup Program (DBP). In general, they intend to significantly enhance the Japanese defence system (Sakaki, 2023).

The purpose of the new strategy, Similar to the aforementioned states, the objective is to mitigate escalating regional threats, especially from China and North Korea, while simultaneously reinforcing ties in the Indo-Pacific. Tokyo believes that a situation comparable to the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine may arise in the Indo-Pacific or East Asia. Three nuclear powers—China, North Korea, and Russia—border Japan and are enhancing their military capabilities (Sakaki, 2023). Japan's defence expenditures attained a historic 7.95 trillion yen (\$56 billion) for the fiscal year 2024, reflecting a 16.5% rise from the prior year, in accordance with Japan's objective of augmenting its defence expenditures to 2% of GDP by 2027, along with NATO standards. The budget augmentation seeks to accelerate the deployment of long-range cruise missiles capable of targeting China or North Korea (Foster, 2024).

Investment allocations encompass approximately 734 billion yen (\$5.15 billion) designated for the procurement of Type-12 cruise missiles, U.S.-produced Tomahawks, and the advancement of next-generation long-range missiles, with more than 80 billion yen (\$562 million) specifically allocated for the development of hypersonic guided missiles with a range of 3,000 kilometres (1,864 miles). 1.25 trillion yen (\$878 billion) will be allocated for the augmentation of Japan's

missile defence capabilities, encompassing the construction of two Aegis-equipped destroyers by 2027-2028 and collaboration with allies such as the U.S., Australia, and Britain to improve joint military operations (Ng, 2024).

Japan is concerned about China's growing military aspirations, the potential for a Chinese takeover of Taiwan, North Korea's missile testing, and the prospect of future nuclear tests, prompting Japan to increase its defence expenditures (Sakaki, 2023).

Numerous countries foster and augment security collaboration with African nations, notably the United States, China, and certain European Union member states. These states are consistently augmenting their collaboration through the expansion of training programs, joint military exercises, and strategic investments in infrastructure and digital initiatives. These initiatives seek to tackle shared security issues, including terrorism, piracy, and transnational threats, while fostering regional stability and prosperity. The Security Council urges the enhancement of Africa's involvement in tackling global security and development issues, issuing a presidential statement prior to an extensive debate.

The United States possesses the U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM), which concentrates on enhancing the operational and institutional capabilities of African military forces via training, provision of equipment, and assistance for peacekeeping missions. Prominent initiatives encompass the Africa Contingency Operations Training and Assistance (ACOTA) program and the Africa Partnership Station (APS), which bolster maritime security and domain awareness via AFRICOM (United States Africa Command Public Affairs, 2024).

Recently, the United States has intensified its initiatives by co-hosting numerous military conferences and exercises, such as the African Chiefs of Defence Conference and Obangame Express, which seek to enhance cooperative defence strategies and marine security (Lopez, 2024). The recent African Chiefs of Defence Conference took place in Botswana to promote digital transformation and food security measures throughout the continent (Lopez 2024).

The European Union is another non-state actor engaged in security cooperation with Africa. The European Union actively participates in peacekeeping operations and training initiatives, like the EU Training Mission in Mali (EUTM Mali) and the Central African Republic (EUTM RCA), which focus on teaching local forces and improving their operational proficiency. The EU executes operations such as Operation Atlanta, aimed at combating piracy and bolstering maritime security around the Horn of Africa (Borrell, 2024).

China has emerged as one of the nation's seeking security collaboration with Africa via institutions like FOACAC. Alongside its economic interests in the continent, China offers military assistance, training, and equipment to several African countries. It has developed military sites, including one in Djibouti, and engages in joint exercises with African armed forces. Consequently, it is unsurprising that Japan would seek to collaborate with Africa in the realm of security. Japan is expanding its security presence in Africa to safeguard its economic interests and counter China's influence; however, its pacifist constitution and risk-averse strategy will likely lead to continued reliance on understated contributions such as aid, capacity building, and partnerships instead of direct military engagement. Its security involvement in Africa remains constrained relative to its economic interests in the region (Pajon, 2017).

In recent years, Japan has augmented its security involvement in Africa, notwithstanding its pacifist constitution and historical context, aligning more closely with the continent in relation to its strategic security interests. Terrorist attacks pose a direct threat to Japanese nationals and jeopardise essential maritime shipping routes to Japan (Pajon, 2017). Threats to these interests are propelling Japan's security engagement.

Japan has participated in UN peacekeeping operations in Africa, notably its longest deployment in South Sudan from 2012 to 2017 (Pajon, 2017). The deteriorating security conditions led to the abrupt termination of this deployment, highlighting Japan's limitations in carrying out risky military operations abroad. Japan is prioritising its security efforts in Africa through financial assistance, capacity enhancement for security forces, and collaborations with multilateral organisations and nations, such as France, rather than engaging in direct military intervention (Pajon, 2017).

This corresponds with Japan's "human security" and "peacebuilding" strategies that connect security with development. Japan is endeavouring to incorporate Africa into its "free and open Indo-Pacific strategy" to mitigate China's impact, perhaps resulting in increased Japanese involvement in marine capacity development and peacebuilding initiatives in Africa (Pajon, 2017).

Japan's support for peace and security in Africa demonstrates its dedication to fostering stability, peace, and sustainable development across the continent. Japan enhances Africa's capability to tackle security concerns and foster resilient, peaceful communities through diplomatic support, financial assistance, and capacity-building initiatives (Kante, 2022).

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Over the years, Japan, aspiring to assume an active part in international politics, has garnered the interest of numerous scientists and researchers in both academia and political spheres. Scholars have carefully investigated Japan's pacifist nature following World War II. Nirenstein (2023) highlights Japan's strategic interests in Africa, as demonstrated by the establishment of TICAD, JICA, and several Japan-Africa partnerships (Habib, 2023). Despite the considerable research on Japan's economic and political involvement in Africa through projects such as TICAD, JICA, and UN peacekeeping deployments, there is a significant deficiency in academic examination of Japan's security collaboration with African countries. The current literature primarily emphasises economic aid and fundamental peacekeeping efforts, neglecting the developing nature of Japan's security capabilities and the prospects for enhanced military, defence, and cybersecurity collaborations with African countries. Given Japan's escalating defence budget and Africa's intricate security dilemmas, there is a dearth of studies exploring how this security partnership between Japan and African states could be expanded beyond conventional peacekeeping and capacity-building initiatives (Habib, 2023).

This study explores the unexploited potential of Japan-Africa security collaboration, particularly by analysing how Japan's growing military capabilities may confront current security issues in Africa. The study seeks to examine existing security partnerships between Japan and African countries, identify opportunities for improved collaboration in military affairs, defence systems, and cybersecurity, and offer specific recommendations for strengthening these alliances in light of increasing security threats throughout Africa.

1.3 Research Questions

The research seeks to address the following enquiries as outlined in the problem statement:

1. What elements are influencing Japan's revised security policy and increased defence expenditures?
2. How can Japan improve its security defence collaborations with African nations in light of the current increase in security tensions throughout the continent?
3. What is the perception of African states towards Japan's security activities, and what are their hopes for future collaboration?

1.4 Objectives of the Research

The aims of this research are as follows:

1. The aim of this study is to examine the determinants influencing alterations to Japan's security strategy and the escalation of defence expenditures.
2. Identify methods by which Japan might augment its security collaboration with Africa, particularly in defence, military, and cybersecurity domains in light of the recent escalation of security tensions across the African continent.
3. Evaluate Africa's perception of Japan's security initiatives and its expectations for future collaboration.

1.5 Scope of the Study

It gives a short history of how Japan's security policies have changed from post-World War II to date (2024). It looks at how Japan's defence spending has gone up, how Japan has worked with Africa on peacekeeping and security capacity-building projects, and how it is now looking into other ways it can work with Africa besides providing aid-centered defence support. The study concentrates on a number of African countries and their collaborations with Japan on Military and cyber security collaborations.

1.6 Significance of the Study

This study is important because it focuses on and analyses the evolution of governments' security spending and the changes that Japan's policies regarding security has undergone in reaction to geopolitical pressures. It aims to investigate how Japan can evolve into a more strategic ally in security and defence by transcending its current role as an "aid destination" partner with Africa. By exploring this transition, more light is thrown on Japan's intentions to enrich its security collaboration with Africa. Africa holds the potential to act as a strategic ally to Japan, protecting its nations and contributing to the "shaping of the international order" (Keiichi 2024).

1.7 Theoretical Framework—The Notion of Geostrategic Theory

This study was based on geostrategic theory as a conceptual framework. Geostrategic theory, a subset of geopolitics, investigates the interplay between geography and strategy to comprehend how states pursue their national interests within the international system. It underscores elements such as location, terrain, resources, and proximity to other states in shaping the strategic conduct of global actors. The theory aims to analyse how states leverage their geographical advantages

and vulnerabilities to achieve security, project power, and exert influence in international relations.

Geostrategic theory offers a framework for analysing the intricate interactions between geography, power dynamics, and international security. It delineates the areas where a state focusses its endeavours by projecting military power and orchestrating diplomatic initiatives (Gardiner 2011, encompassing control over territories, natural resources, transportation routes, and military assets).

Sir Halford Mackinder (1904), a British geographer and politician, is the principal advocate and originator of the "Heartland" theory, which underscores the importance of Eastern Europe and Central Asia in determining global geopolitics. He posited that a nation must possess a strategically vital territory to wield influence.

Geostrategic theory has been increasingly examined by scholars such as Nicholas Spykman. Spykman, an American political scientist, built upon Mackinder's concepts and formulated the "Rimland" theory, which underscored the significance of coastal regions and maritime domains in countering the dominance of land-based hegemonic states (Spykman 1942). Alfred Thayer Mahan is also recognised for his contributions to maritime strategy and naval power. His seminal work, "The Influence of Sea Power upon History," stressed the criticality of naval supremacy and control of sea lanes for sustaining global influence and safeguarding strategic interests. Maritime strategy is a focal point for Japan in its partnership initiatives with Africa under the "Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy."

Zbigniew Brzezinski, a Polish-American diplomat and political scientist, employed geostrategic principles in his examination of U.S. foreign policy and global geopolitics. His notion of the "Grand Chessboard" underscored the strategic rivalry among major powers for dominance over Eurasia and the necessity of power equilibrium in critical geopolitical areas.

Geostrategic theory provides a framework for analysing Japan's recent security policy and its engagement in Africa's defence system by examining Japan's geographical position in East Asia and its relevance within a broader Indo-Pacific context. Japan's proximity to significant powers such as China, Russia, and North Korea contributes to a complex security landscape marked by territorial disputes, military posturing, and historical tensions. For example, China's assertive manoeuvres in the South China Sea and around the Senkaku (Diaoyu Islands) directly challenge Japan's territorial integrity (Matsuda, 2020). Additionally, Japan's maritime interests and geography, characterised by an extensive coastline and vital maritime trade routes, influence its security concerns, particularly regarding maritime security in the Indian Ocean and Western Pacific regions (Matsuda, 2020).

Utilising geostrategic theory to analyse the geopolitical dynamics in East Asia facilitates an understanding of power relations between Japan and its neighbouring countries. This encompasses power rivalries, regional alliances, and security challenges. It is essential to consider how these dynamics shape Japan's security policy, particularly in relation to competition with China and the nuclear threat posed by North Korea, as well as the significant influence of the Russia-Ukraine conflict on Japan's rearmament efforts (Furuya, 2021).

Geostrategic theory will be pertinent to this study in order to evaluate Japan's interests in Africa by examining the continent's geography, geopolitics, and the optimal use of acquired knowledge to strategically advance mutual interests. Furthermore, through geostrategic theory, Japan can analyze the ramifications of China's growing influence in Africa and its Belt and Road Initiative on Japan's security interests and involvement with Africa's defence framework.

Utilizing geostrategic theory, one can evaluate Japan's military capabilities and resource distribution regarding its participation in Africa's defence framework through the deployment of Japanese Self-Defence Forces' (SDF) personnel, assets, and equipment for peacekeeping operations, training initiatives, and humanitarian assistance missions in Africa. The analysis examines how domestic factors—such as public sentiment, budgetary limitations, and legal and constitutional restrictions on the use of force—influence Japan's military capabilities and contributions to Africa's defence system.

The theory provides insights into assessing the risks associated with Japan's participation in Africa's defence system while taking into account potential security threats, operational challenges, and political risks. It aids in evaluating Japan's contingency planning and crisis management strategies for addressing security incidents and emergencies in Africa.

Explore Japan's risk mitigation strategies, including intelligence-sharing arrangements, diplomatic engagement, and coordination with regional and international partners, to safeguard its interests and personnel in Africa's security environment. However, the geostrategic theory has received some criticism. Many view the theory as fundamentally Eurocentric, reflecting the perspectives and interests of Western scholars and practitioners. This perspective fails to take

into account the rise of other countries, such as China and India, as major players in the world. (Stainton, 2024). Critics also argue that geostrategic theory can be overly reductionist in its emphasis on geographical factors as primary drivers of state behaviour. They contend that it overlooks the role of ideational factors, domestic politics, cultural norms, and individual agency in shaping strategic decision-making. (Stainton, 2024). Geostrategic theory is also criticised for being oversimplified. The theory oversimplifies the complexities of global politics by having narrowed its focus on the significance of geography and the control of the Heartland. It fails to account for the role of other determinants such as culture, ideology, and economics in shaping the balance of power. (Stainton, 2024)

To propose a more mutually advantageous framework for defence cooperation between Africa and Japan, geostrategic theory will be instrumental by evaluating the geographical contexts of both regions and assessing the strategic benefits for the parties involved, particularly in relation to Japan's Indo-Pacific strategy.

1. 1.8 Conceptual Framework

This study formulated a conceptual framework to explain Japan's changing security policies over the years and what it means for Africa. The framework shows what is driving Japan's security policy as (stand-alone) Independent variables, these include escalating regional threats, ties in the Indo-Pacific, warning cues from the Russian-Ukraine war for fear that they would suffer a similar fate, potential takeover of neighbouring countries and the pressure to align from other non-state actors. These variables interact with mediating constituents such as gaps in Africa's military and cyber security systems, escalating security tensions in Africa, avenues for

partnership in security and geopolitical competition in Africa. The results in these interactions are demonstrated in the dependent variables which include Enhanced defence collaboration beyond “financial aid, peacekeeping and maritime security and cooperation in cybersecurity.

Below is the designed framework

Figure 1.8

Conceptual framework showing the relationship between Japan’s evolving security policies and its implications for Africa



1.9 Literature Review

1.9.1 Cooperation from the Post-Cold War Era to the present

The Cold War period saw Africa assuming a more proactive role in establishing alliances subsequent to the continent's shift from colonial governance to independence. Military partnerships included collaboration with Western countries, notably the USA, which formed military alliances and offered security support to African governments that agreed with Western goals, especially those viewed as countering communist influence. As concerns over terrorism, regional conflicts, and humanitarian problems intensified, U.S. engagement in Africa increased. Post-Cold War, the United States acknowledged that stability in Africa was essential for its national security objectives, especially in countering terrorism and securing access to resources and markets.

AFRICOM, created in 2007, is a prominent entity leading U.S.-Africa security cooperation. The U.S. Africa Command was established to consolidate American military operations in Africa, which were formerly distributed among three commands: European Command (EUCOM), Central Command (CENTCOM), and Pacific Command (PACOM). The command's mission encompasses advancing U.S. national security objectives by fostering stability and security in

Africa via military cooperation, training, and humanitarian aid. AFRICOM oversees all African countries, excluding Egypt. Egypt is classified under CENTCOM because of its geopolitical affiliations with the Middle East. AFRICOM is responsible for supervising military operations, training initiatives, and security collaboration throughout the continent (Ploch, 2024).

AFRICOM primarily concentrates on counterterrorism efforts, especially in areas afflicted by militant organisations like al-Shabaab in Somalia and Boko Haram in Nigeria. Operations frequently entail training indigenous forces, executing airstrikes, and furnishing logistical assistance to African militaries involved in countering these threats. 12. AFRICOM prioritises enhancing the capability of African states to address their own security issues. This encompasses military training programs designed to augment the operational efficacy of African armed forces, including humanitarian assistance initiatives and disaster relief efforts. These initiatives aim to cultivate goodwill and enhance partnerships with African states (Biddle & Biddle, 2024).

Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response: Alongside military operations, AFRICOM engages in humanitarian initiatives, encompassing disaster relief and medical support during emergencies. AFRICOM's operations encompass frequent joint military exercises with African partners to enhance responsiveness and interoperability (Ploch, 2024).

The command has employed drone strikes as a component of its counterterrorism policy, especially in Somalia. Reports suggest that AFRICOM has executed multiple drone strikes aimed at extremist organisations, although these operations have been criticised for their impact on civilian casualties and overall efficacy (Biddle & Biddle, 2024). Notwithstanding its aims, AFRICOM has encountered criticism about its methodology and efficacy. Concerns have

emerged over the escalation of violence from militant groups despite U.S. assistance, alongside charges of human rights violations by partner troops benefiting from U.S. support. Overarching socio-political factors impacting regional stability have scrutinised the command's reliance on military responses (Biddle & Biddle, 2024).

Russia endorsed liberation movements and communist regimes by supplying weaponry, training, and advisors. From 1975 to 1991, Soviet military soldiers helped the armed forces of Angola (MPLA) and Mozambique's FRELIMO in their conflict against anti-communist factions backed by the discriminatory governments of Southern Rhodesia and South Africa. During the Derg dictatorship in Ethiopia, the Soviet Union emerged as its principal partner in Africa, supplying extensive military assistance, encompassing weaponry, training, and strategic support (Ferragamo, 2023), Mozambique, and Ethiopia. Military assistance was pivotal during battles like the Ogaden War from 1977 to 1978, during which the USSR flew billions of dollars' worth of military weapons to Ethiopia, thereby reversing the momentum against Somalia. Furthermore, amid internal turmoil, Soviet assistance aided the Derg in combating other insurgencies, including those in Eritrea and Tigray. The unique alliance between the Soviet Union and Ethiopia persisted until the collapse of the Derg regime in May 1991, shortly preceding the disintegration of the Soviet Union (Meyer, 2024).

Numerous estimates indicate that Soviet tanks constituted 70% of the whole tank inventory in the armed forces of African nations, while Soviet aircraft and helicopters represented 40% and 35% of the overall totals, respectively. The Soviet Union provided as much as 40% of armaments to Africa. The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) reports that Russia is

presently the foremost arms supplier to Africa. From 2017 to 2021, its portion of the continent's arms market was 44%, in contrast to the United States' 17% and China's 10%. Approximately 60% of Russian military exports were sent to Algeria, with Egypt, Angola, Sudan, Uganda, and Ethiopia also ranking as significant purchasers. The Federal Service for Military-Technical Cooperation reported that, as of 2021, the backlog of contracts with African nations was valued at \$14 billion, with over \$3 billion attributed to sub-Saharan countries. Rosoboronexport, Russia's arms exporter, has calculated that contract made with sub-Saharan nations in 2021 amounted to approximately 2.5 billion euros. The defence collaboration between African states and the Soviet Union during the Cold War evolved from robust support to a decline following the USSR's dissolution. In recent years, there has been a revival of Russian influence via arms sales, military training, and strategic alliances aimed at challenging Western hegemony in Africa (Meyer, 2024).

A significant trend following the conclusion of the Cold War has been the increasing collaboration, particularly in military affairs, between China and several African countries. China's expanding global aspirations and its intent to mitigate Western influence have prompted it to reinforce relationships with Africa, regarded as a crucial strategic area. China is employing military cooperation as a means to showcase its might and extend its sphere of influence.

China has emerged as a significant supplier of arms and military equipment to African nations, second only to Russia, often under highly favourable conditions. This has enabled African states to update their military and augment their defence capabilities, thus amplifying China's influence in the region (Bartlett, 2024). Chinese arms shipments to Africa encompass small arms, missile

systems, aerial munitions, naval vessels, combat aircraft, infantry vehicles, and unmanned aerial vehicles. Several African nations, including Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire, Mauritania, and Benin, have procured Chinese armoured vehicles, whereas Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of Congo have obtained Chinese drones (Bartlett, 2024). Another aspect of China-Africa defence collaboration pertains to military assistance and training. China committed \$140 million in military aid to African nations at the 2024 Forum for China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) meeting. This encompasses the training of 6,000 military people and 1,000 police and law enforcement professionals from Africa (Khaliq, 2024).

China is offering technological support to African nations, encompassing satellites, fiber-optic connections, and access to advanced technologies such as facial recognition and the BeiDou navigation system, which serves as a global alternative to American GPS and European Galileo systems. BeiDou constitutes a segment of the Space Silk Road, with the objective of enhancing China's space capabilities through the establishment of a satellite and ground infrastructure network (Krukowska, 2024).

China has actively engaged in military diplomacy, particularly in UN peacekeeping operations in Africa, deploying over 30,000 men since 1990. In 2023, China ranked as the second largest financial donor, supplying 15.21% of the budget, and was the ninth largest supplier of military and police personnel, with 2,277 individuals, exceeding the combined total of the other permanent members of the UN Security Council by more than double. Alongside Chinese military in Western Sahara, the Middle East, and Cyprus, more than 1,000 troops from China are stationed in South Sudan, 409 in Lebanon, and 397 in Mali (Krukowska, 2024). Nonetheless,

despite its undeniable advantages, the implementation indicates that China is far from an altruistic, beneficent donor. China is strategically collaborating with Africa and other nations to further its own aims and to fight Western influence. Although Chinese President Xi Jinping has suggested enhancing China's relations with African countries to a "strategic partnership" status, apprehensions regarding China's expanding military presence in Africa are increasing (Ditter et al., 2024).

1.9.2 Japan's Security Collaboration with Africa

Africa possesses a lengthy history of nations collaborating for mutual security, spanning from ancient empires to contemporary regional coalitions. Defence cooperation is essential for growth and indicates a nation's willingness to collaborate for peace and stability. Collaboration is essential as Africa faces challenges from terrorism, climate change, and organised crime that require a reassessment of current security frameworks to facilitate successful cooperation.

Japan's security collaboration with Africa has markedly progressed over the years, particularly through initiatives like JICA and the formation of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) in 1993, following the Cold War. The 1990s and 2000s witnessed the initiation of TICAD (the Tokyo International Conference on African Development) to advance Africa's development, peace, and strategies to combat infectious diseases that have historically devastated the continent, ultimately fostering security through multilateral collaboration. Japan's primary emphasis was initially on developmental assistance or aid. During the 2000s to 2010s, the discourse transitioned towards direct security collaboration (Akimoto, 2022).

1.9.3 Japan–Africa Relations via TICAD

TICAD was initiated by the government of Japan to redirect global focus towards Africa's developmental requirements. The inaugural TICAD meeting occurred in Tokyo in October 1993, with participation from representatives of 48 African governments, other international institutions, and donor countries. The Tokyo Declaration, ratified at this conference, emphasised the significance of self-reliance and global assistance for Africa. The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) states that TICAD functions as a multilateral forum that prioritises African ownership and international collaboration and aims to garner support for diverse development initiatives. For nearly thirty years, TICAD has enabled discourse among African nations, international organisations, and civil society, positioning it as a pivotal forum for cooperation and collaboration. (Nantulya, 2024) TICAD is defined by several fundamental principles, notably the conviction that Africa must spearhead its own developmental initiatives, emphasising long-term strategies that promote economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability while fostering collaboration between African nations and international partners to attain common objectives. The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) states that TICAD has progressively adapted to confront new challenges and opportunities in Africa. TICAD has progressively adapted to confront new challenges and opportunities in Africa over the years. Japan's involvement in Africa via TICAD has been characterised by its distinctive methodology for assistance and collaboration. The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is crucial in executing TICAD programs by offering financial support via grants and loans while facilitating reciprocal learning between Japanese specialists and their African counterparts. This method promotes the local stewardship of

initiatives and facilitates knowledge transfer tailored to particular area requirements. Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), 2022

1.9.4 TICAD—African Partnerships and Defence

TICAD 5, convened in Yokohama from June 1-3, 2013, under the overarching theme "Hand in Hand with a More Dynamic Africa" and presided over by Prime Minister Abe Shinzo, discussed the participation of the Japanese Self-Defence Forces in anti-piracy initiatives in Djibouti and nation-building efforts in South Sudan to promote human security in Africa. The Yokohama Declaration 2013 was ratified at the meeting. The declaration emphasised the significance of infrastructure development and procedures for preventing regional conflicts, particularly African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) (Akimoto, 2022).

TICAD has collaborated with the African Union (AU) for more than two decades, focussing on peacekeeping and security. It has offered technical aid and financial support to eight peacekeeping training centres in Africa, educating thousands of individuals, including more than 5,000 judicial officers, to facilitate justice reforms across 54 nations (Nantulya, 2024).

During TICAD7 in 2019, the New Approach for Peace and Stability in Africa (NAPSA) was adopted, which, along with the TICAD7 pillars, delineates Japan's approach in Africa. Japan has since intensified its efforts in areas experiencing conflict and terrorism in the Horn of Africa, the Sahel, and the Lake Chad Basin. It became an observer member of the G5 Sahel in July 2019 and has offered financial assistance for the stabilisation efforts in the Liptako-Gourma region and Lake Chad Basin. Could Japan provide a new paradigm for West African security strategies? ISS Africa, n.d., provides this information.

A primary objective for Africa following TICAD 8 is to implement the African Standby Force Mechanism as a means to facilitate conflict settlement. During TICAD 7, Japan pledged its support for the African Union's "Silencing the Guns" Initiative. This initiative focuses on facilitating conflict settlement in five prioritised geographic areas: the Horn of Africa, North Africa, Sahel, Sudan, and South Sudan (Nantulya, 2024).

TICAD is dedicated to distinguishing itself in the realm of peacebuilding. The Triangular Partnership Project for African Rapid Deployment of Engineering Capabilities (ARDEC) educates African troops in the maintenance and servicing of heavy machinery. TICAD collaborates with UNESCO's International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa to integrate peace education into African educational curricula from secondary school to university. The current phase of the "Consolidation of Peace Program" focuses on bolstering civil society actors, integrating youth and women's empowerment into all facets of development programs, and reinforcing human rights institutions. (Nantulya, 2024).

The ministerial meeting preceding the TICAD 9 summit underscored the significance of digital transformation and cybersecurity. The imperative for the appropriate use of digital technology, particularly artificial intelligence, has been emphasised as crucial to enhancing Africa's capabilities in this domain. Collaborations between the public and business sectors are advocated to devise new solutions for the cybersecurity concerns confronting African nations (TICAD Ministerial Meeting Joint Communiqué; African Union, 2024).

Mr. Fukazawa Yoichi, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, facilitated a discourse on new initiatives to "uphold human dignity and security." He advocated for enhanced participation among women and youth. He asserts that one way to achieve this is by integrating Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) within the framework for peace and stability. Japan asserts that the involvement of women in peace processes and in responses to disasters and climate change is essential for attaining lasting peace. In partnership with UN Women, Japan's assistance for displaced women in Nigeria has yielded positive outcomes for women's engagement and self-sufficiency by enabling them to secure livelihoods. A program promoting enhanced participation of women in peace making in the Horn of Africa, established by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), has been initiated to offer training to women at the community level for involvement in peacebuilding activities in Africa. Japan aspires to collaborate with the African Union, specific African nations, and additional entities to disseminate these favourable models to other countries and advance women's peace and security (WPS) efforts across the African continent (TICAD Ministerial Meeting Joint Communiqué; African Union, 2024).

TICAD endorses AU-led peace support operations sanctioned by the UN Security Council, emphasising sustainable financing and capacity enhancements to fortify the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA). This entails improving governance frameworks that uphold the rule of law and human rights, essential for cybersecurity activities (TICAD Ministerial Meeting Joint Communiqué; African Union, 2024).

As TICAD anticipates its forthcoming conference in 2025, there is a distinct intention to align its initiatives with Africa's strategic frameworks, such as Agenda 2063. This alignment will likely

improve the emphasis on security collaboration, encompassing cybersecurity strategies adapted to African contexts (Agenda 2063: The Africa We Desire; African Union, n.d.).

1.9.5 Challenges Faced in Security Collaboration with Africa

Despite the outward appearance of seamless security cooperation between external players and Africa, such collaboration is often fraught with numerous problems. Prominent among these are the evolving security threats on the continent. Many security frameworks and tools that were made for traditional wars aren't working well with new problems like asymmetric warfare, terrorism, sniping, transnational threats, interstate tensions, military coups, and internal armed conflicts (AMANI Africa, 2024) because they were made for regular wars.

There are major gaps in the preparedness of the current frameworks, including the African Standby Force, the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), and the Peace and Security Council (PSC). This has led to a lot of temporary regional deployments and makeshift security measures. This jeopardises the collective security framework that Africa is endeavouring to develop and undermines established entities, such as the African Union (AMANI Africa, 2024).

The heightened engagement of foreign countries in African crises poses a significant barrier to effective security cooperation, complicating conflict resolution efforts. This influence can diminish the autonomy of regional and continental governments in managing crises. The spectrum of external entities engaging in internal conflicts within Africa has experienced a notable transformation in recent years. Since 2010, three specific states have been directly or

indirectly involved in an increasing number of African conflicts: the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Turkey, and Russia. The growing presence of these new actors demonstrates that the multipolar illness that has characterized conflicts in the Middle East over the past decade is now impacting Africa as well. The participation of Emirati, Turkish, and Russian entities in the African crises has been motivated more by opportunism and individual interests than by essential concerns. The actions of these new entities reinforce the prevailing tendency of foreign powers in Africa to engage in remote and proxy warfare. They also hinder the pursuit of lasting, internationally coordinated resolutions to African civil conflicts (Lacher, 2022).

Capacity and resource limitations are challenges in security collaboration. Many African countries lack the skills or resources to deal with complex security issues on their own. They need help from other countries, which can lead to possible dependencies on different goals. Local ownership has always been recognized as a fundamental value in development cooperation. During the late 1990s and the early 2000s, it emerged as a crucial objective in externally funded security-sector reforms and governance initiatives. There are two explanations for this finding. Initially, it was recognized that without ownership, there would be no dedication. Second, and more significantly, there is acknowledgement that local ownership is essential for the advancement of a democratically regulated security sector. There may not be enough coordination and coherence between partners in security aid projects when different outside groups with different goals and ways of doing things are involved (Difficulty of External Involvement in African Security, 2014).

To address Africa's deficiency in legitimacy and sustainability, civil society actors should be included in the development of regulations that regulate the engagement of external entities. Active engagement and involvement in civil society are essential for the development of sustainable security strategies. Consequently, civil society plays a crucial role in influencing security policies, particularly with an emphasis on national and human security.

The capacity of civil society actors to influence the resolution of African security concerns hinges on their ability to evaluate and impact external security initiatives, which are prevalent across the continent. The forthcoming chapter will examine Japan's security strategies over time and the implications of the latest policy for Africa, as we seek to develop more effective partnerships to address the continent's security concerns.

1.10 Research Methodology

This study employed a qualitative methodology to examine Japan's security policy and its implications for African countries. This technique examines security collaborations with African countries, emphasizing military matters, defensive systems, and cybersecurity. The research employed Semi-structured interviews were conducted with ten participants according to their expertise and experience in their respective fields, along with rising trends in the defence sector. This method of interviewing was effective, as it enabled specialists to articulate their thoughts freely while remaining focused on the subject matter. It also utilizes content analysis which enabled the researcher analyse data thematically and based on trends and patterns found in the process of doing research. Content analysis is also relatively inexpensive. (Berger, A. A., 2011)

1.10.1 Data Sources

The research employed both primary and secondary data sources, utilizing semi-structured interviews with practitioners in defence policy development, military, cybersecurity, and international relations along with questionnaires. Six (6) key participants were interviewed for this study. Two representatives from the Ministry of Defence, two from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and two representatives from the UN. These participants provided a critical intersection between Japan's economic security initiatives and West Africa's regional stability strategies. This facilitates the acquisition of a comprehensive understanding of pertinent concerns.

Secondary data for the study was collected from pertinent official policy documents made available to the general public, academic literature, and content of the necessary organisations and government- approved websites all relevant to Japan security policy and its implications for Africa. The secondary data was then analysed using content analysis This source examined four articles on the JICA's economic initiatives in Africa. These articles were published by JICA (2017). Activities in Africa TICAD V: Five-Years Assistance 2017- 2023. JICA (2022) Policies to Achieve Faster Economic Growth in Africa, JICA (2021). The Major Challenges of African Economies" and JICA's (2020), Robust and Sustainable Economy in Africa. This content analysis methodology carefully scrutinized data from the aforementioned sources. Key themes and patterns were then identified, codified and interpreted based on the study's objectives.

The study utilized content analysis due to its cost-effectiveness, extensive reach, and scalability, all of which were crucial for this research, given the required participant demographics. The use of interviews promoted anonymity and encouraged candid responses from the participants.

1.10.2 Sample Size and Sampling Method

This study employed a non-probabilistic sampling methodology, specifically purposive and snowball sampling techniques. Purposive sampling guarantees that the researcher engages with specialists closely related to the topic. It allows researchers to focus on certain groups that may be difficult to approach through alternative methods, and it can be used to confirm that the sample reflects diverse viewpoints. It allows researchers to identify specific individuals possessing relevant opinions and knowledge beneficial to the study endeavour, and it can also facilitate the recruitment of participants who may be difficult to locate through alternative methods. (Hassan, 2022). This study used purposive sampling and snowball sampling methodologies. Snowball sampling allows the researcher to identify elusive specialists in the subject area through referrals from previously recognised experts using purposive sampling. Snowballing entails the endorsement of an expert or group of individuals proficient in the subject matter by a prior participant. Using the snowball sampling method in research has many benefits, such as being able to reach hard-to-reach or hidden groups, getting many responses quickly and easily, and making it easier to obtain data from a variety of sources, which makes the results more valid and trustworthy (Hassan, 2022).

Due to the transnational nature of the research issue and the involvement of non-African experts across several sectors of international relations, defence, and academia, purposive sampling and snowball sampling were the two most appropriate sampling methods for this study.

1.10.3 Study Population

The study population is defined as a collection of features or traits from which the researcher selects the sample for the study (Bryman, 2018). The population possesses shared attributes, including experts or officials from the Ministry of Defence, JICA representatives, UN peacekeepers and the Ghana Armed Forces Command, such as military and defence specialists, to address the research objectives. The research sample consisted of principal stakeholders affected by Japan's security policy ramifications in West Africa.

1.10.4 Data Analysis

The collected data was examined descriptively and manually interpreted based on themes. Creswell (2008) observed that qualitative data analysis entails sequential examination and interpretation of data, incorporating subthemes and quotations.

1.10.5 Ethical Considerations

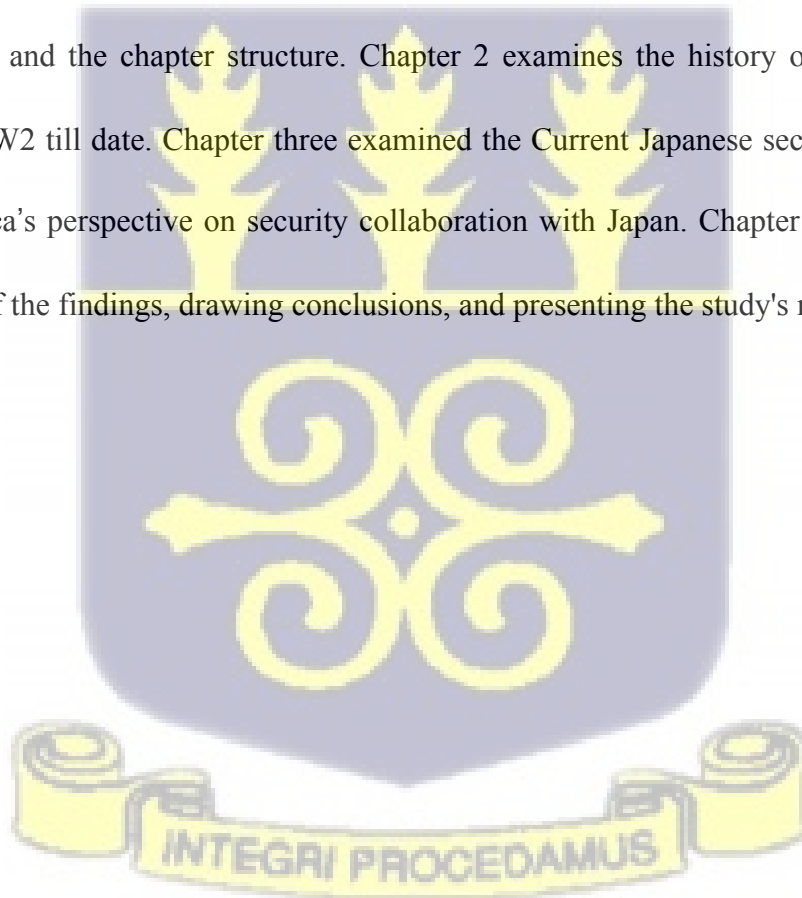
The ethical principles of this investigation are based on integrity, anonymity, and confidentiality. Consent from all interviewees was obtained and guaranteed prior to the recording of the interviews. Participants received a comprehensive overview of the study's aims and objectives. Prior to the interview, all participants got an interview guide to facilitate adequate preparation. All sources referenced in this effort were duly acknowledged. This study adhered to research ethics by utilising publicly accessible government papers, historical texts, memoirs, diaries, and journalists' accounts. The predominant data sources are accessible online. This work was produced without using classified or illegal material.

1.10.6 Limitations of the Research

This study had several significant limitations, including restricted access to specific data sources, difficulties in translating materials across various languages, time constraints for completing the research, extensive geographic scope of the subject, and limited resources for conducting the investigation.

1.11 Organization of Chapters

Chapter one includes the introduction, problem statement, research questions, research objectives, study scope, study rationale, research methods, theoretical framework, literature review, sources, and the chapter structure. Chapter 2 examines the history of Japan's security policies post WW2 till date. Chapter three examined the Current Japanese security initiatives in Africa and Africa's perspective on security collaboration with Japan. Chapter four concentrates on a summary of the findings, drawing conclusions, and presenting the study's recommendations.



CHAPTER TWO

2.0 JAPAN'S SECURITY POLICIES OVER THE YEARS AND ITS IMPLICATIONS IN AFRICA

2.1 Overview of Japan's Approach to Security Policy

Since the conclusion of World War II, Japan's security policy has been influenced by constitutional pacifism, regional challenges, and evolving geopolitical forces. Japan established a pacifist constitution after World War II, emphasizing its identity as a pacifist nation. Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution renounces war as a sovereign right and prohibits the maintenance of military force. The devastation of war and the subsequent U.S. occupation, which aimed to inhibit Japan's re-militarization, shaped this structure. The "Yoshida Doctrine" emerged during this period, emphasizing Japan's dependence on the United States for security while prioritizing economic recovery and development (Singh, 2015).

During the Cold War, Japan's security policy was predominantly defensive. In 1960, the American military presence was reinforced by the signing of the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty on September 8, 1951, and reaffirmed in Washington in 1960. Japan commenced a gradual re-examination of its pacifist position in light of regional challenges, notably North Korea's military actions and China's increasing assertiveness both nationally and internationally. The formation of the Self-Defence Forces (JSDF) in 1954 initiated a crucial shift towards a more assertive defence stance, albeit constrained by its pacifist constitution (Liff, 2022).

The conclusion of the Cold War prompted significant alterations to Japan's security policy. The International Peace Cooperation Law of 1992 authorized Japan's involvement in UN peacekeeping deployments, signalling a commitment to more actively participate in international security initiatives. During the 2000s, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe advocated a reinterpretation of Article 9 to permit collective self-defence, culminating in significant legal reforms under his administration (Liff, 2022).

In recent years, particularly under Shinzo Abe's tenure from 2012 to 2020, and continued under Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, Japan has implemented significant modifications to its security policy. The 2015 security legislation enabled Japan to engage in collective self-defence under certain conditions— a significant departure from its stringent pacifism. In December 2022, Japan introduced a new National Security Strategy. The revised security strategy intends to augment defence expenditure to 2% of GDP by 2027 and enhance military capabilities in reaction to perceived threats from neighbouring nations such as China and North Korea, while also positioning itself as an active contributor to global development, particularly in Africa. (Singh, B. 2015).

This study examines Japan's incremental evolution as an active contributor to global security, influenced by escalating geopolitical tensions with neighbouring nations. This will involve a detailed examination of the pivotal transformations in Japan's security policies (post-war pacifism, transition to international peacekeeping and regional stability, the Abe doctrine, enhancement of defence posture, and the National Security Strategy of 2022) along with the integration of the human security concept. This chapter will also investigate recent advancements

in Japan's security strategy for Africa within the framework of the Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) strategy.

2.2 Japan's Post-War Pacifism and the Peace Constitution

Japan's post-war pacifist constitution, enacted in 1947, signified a profound alteration in the nation's administrative and international relations. This constitution, originating in the aftermath of World War II, was designed to avert Japan's resurgence of militarism and foster peace.

Following Japan's defeat in World War II, the Allied occupation, spearheaded by the United States, initiated a reformation of Japanese culture and administration. The new constitution, formulated under the direction of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers (SCAP), was enacted on May 3, 1947. Article 9, a significant component, openly renounces war as a sovereign right and prohibits the maintenance of military forces for battle. According to Article 9, the Japanese populace has permanently relinquished war as a sovereign prerogative. Japan consented to refrain from possessing land, sea, or air troops capable of engaging in warfare. The state also disavowed involvement in acts of belligerence or conduct that was aggressive or indicative of warfare. This sought to guarantee that Japan would adopt peaceful methods for settling international conflicts, embodying a dedication to pacifism that deeply resonated with a war-traumatized populace (Gustafsson et al., 2019).

The Self-Defence Forces (SDF) were founded in 1954. This was established over resistance, as it was acknowledged as a violation of Article 9. The government rationalised its existence by

framing it as essential for self-defence, especially under the Yoshida Doctrine, which emphasised dependence on U.S. security assurances while prioritising economic development. The deployment of the SDF is rigorously governed, necessitating legislative authorisation for international operations. The missions must adhere to the principles of neutrality and obtain consent from the conflicting parties. In 1992, one year after the Gulf War, the Japanese government enacted a new law that established, for the first time, the conditions for the Self-Defence Forces' deployment in UN peacekeeping operations, with the inaugural SDF unit dispatched to Cambodia the subsequent year.

Specific principles permitted the Japan Self-Defence Forces to function. Primarily, their operations were exclusively defensive, meaning military force was employed solely in response to direct assaults on Japan, with the magnitude of such force confined to what is essential for self-defence and thereby embodying a passive defence strategy consistent with Japan's constitutional dedication to pacifism. The SDF's involvement in military operations is strictly governed by regulations concerning the use of force, as indicated by CFR.org Editors (2024). The Japanese government has specified the conditions for the use of force: an urgent threat must exist, alternative means of defence must be unavailable, and the response must be confined to what is essential to mitigate the threat. This meticulous strategy demonstrates Japan's dedication to its pacifist constitution while acknowledging its right to self-defence. Secondly, Japan seeks to avoid becoming a military force that threatens other nations (Onuorah, 2020). This underscores that the SDF does not possess military capabilities beyond those necessary for self-defence. The Japanese government's understanding of this principle is a commitment to eschew offensive

military capabilities and restrict defence expenditures and military expansion (Japan Defence Agency, 2000).

Japan, in accordance with its pacifist constitution, upheld three non-nuclear principles: the non-possession of nuclear weapons, the non-production of nuclear weapons, and the prohibition of their entry into Japanese territory. This policy underscores Japan's commitment to disarmament, while relying on the nuclear deterrence offered by the United States for its security. The fourth principle upheld by the SDF is civilian oversight of military policies. Civilian control is fundamental to Japan's pacifist defence strategy, ensuring that military actions are conducted under democratic oversight by placing civilians in charge of military affairs. The Prime Minister and senior civilian cabinet members possess jurisdiction over the SDF. The Diet, Japan's legislature, is crucial in sanctioning defence funds and activities; hence, it ensures democratic accountability for military actions (Onuorah, 2020).

The SDF is crucial not only for conventional defence responsibilities, but also for upholding public order during emergencies and facilitating domestic disaster relief operations. This dual function exemplifies the SDF's dedication to protecting both national security and civilian safety. This is a persistent characteristic of Japan's contemporary defence architecture.

2.3. Japan's International Peace Cooperation Act 1992

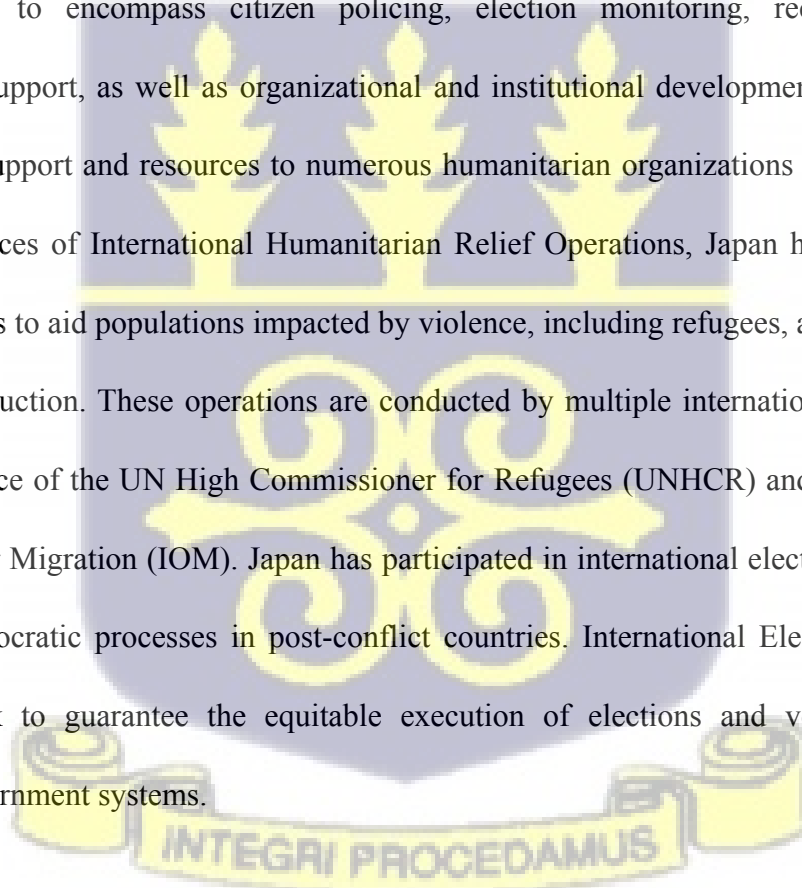
The International Peace Cooperation Act of 1992 marked a pivotal shift in Japan's approach to international peace and security. This legislation was enacted in response to Japan's acknowledgement of its evolving position in global peacekeeping, especially after the Gulf War,

which highlighted a limitation for Japan in participating militarily in international initiatives (Government of Japan 2021).

The Act was enacted in June 1992. It is also known as the PKO statute, designed to provide a framework for Japan's involvement in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations. Since then, Japan has provided personnel and made in-kind contributions to support initiatives sponsored by the UN and other international organizations. The legislation delineated four pillars for regulating Japan's engagement in security cooperation, which primarily encompassed personnel support and in-kind assistance. The four pillars consist of UN Peacekeeping Operations, Internationally Coordinated Operations for Peace and Security, International Humanitarian Relief Operations, and International Elections Observation Operations (Government of Japan, 2021).

According to the Four Pillars Framework, it is governed by five fundamental principles that delineate the conditions under which Japan will engage in peacekeeping operations and other international endeavours that promote peace and security. Agreements on a ceasefire have been established among the parties involved in armed conflict. Japan will consent to engage in peacekeeping and security operations only when the conflicting parties have established a ceasefire, and approval for UN peacekeeping operations, including Japan's participation, has been secured from the nations governing the operational area and parties involved in the armed conflict. Japan also pledged its involvement, as long as the operations-maintained impartiality towards all parties involved. Furthermore, if any of the aforementioned conditions are no longer met, the International Peace Cooperation Corps dispatched by the Government of Japan may terminate its International Peace Cooperation Assignments.

The paramount principle stipulates that the use of weapons is only necessary to protect dispatched personnel. Moreover, "when consent for acceptance is considered to be consistently upheld, the use of weapons in defence of the mission mandate is permitted in accordance with specific stipulations (Government of Japan, 2021). Since its establishment, Japan has deployed forces for multiple peacekeeping operations in diverse regions including Asia and Africa. Historically, peacekeeping operations have concentrated on overseeing ceasefires, demarcating hostile forces, and sustaining buffer zones using contingent national soldiers, with ceasefire monitoring primarily conducted by unarmed military personnel. In recent years, their mandates have expanded to encompass citizen policing, election monitoring, reconstruction, and administrative support, as well as organizational and institutional development. The nation has sent logistical support and resources to numerous humanitarian organizations and UN agencies. Under the auspices of International Humanitarian Relief Operations, Japan has partnered with security agencies to aid populations impacted by violence, including refugees, and facilitate post-conflict reconstruction. These operations are conducted by multiple international organizations, notably the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Japan has participated in international election monitoring to bolster the democratic processes in post-conflict countries. International Election Observation Operations seek to guarantee the equitable execution of elections and voting to promote democratic government systems.



The International Peace Cooperation Act of 1992 greatly influenced Japan's security policy in a beneficial manner. The Act created a structure for active involvement in international

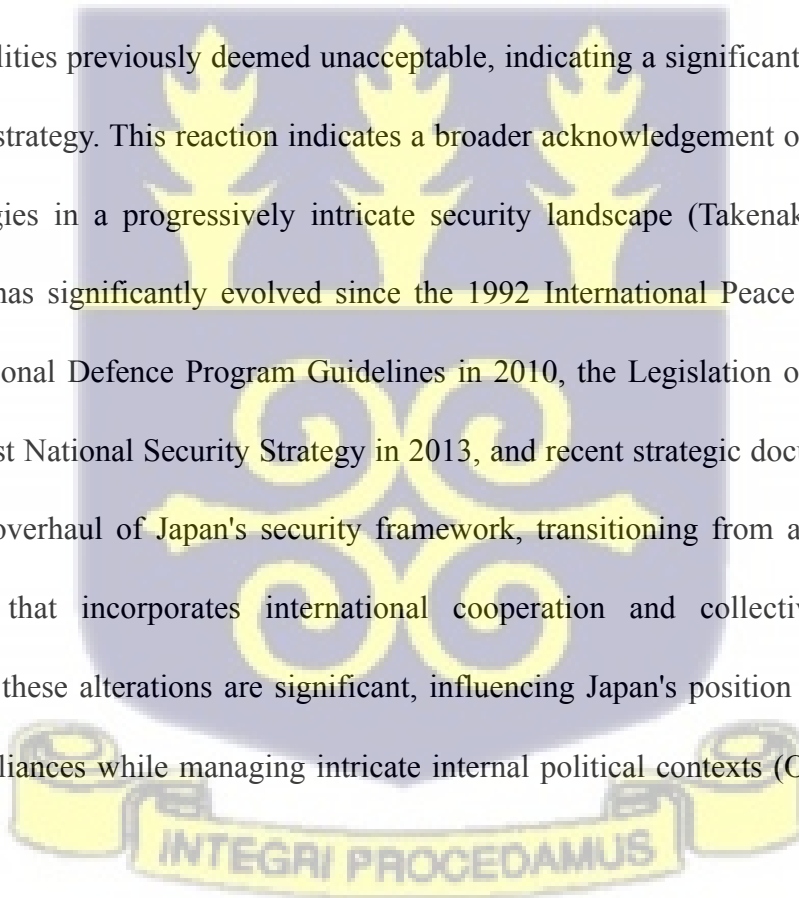
peacekeeping initiatives, strengthened defence capabilities despite a pacifist position, and transformed public attitudes towards military activity.

Since the implementation of the Foreign Peace Cooperation Act in 1992, Japan's security strategy has evolved markedly, mirroring alterations in both domestic and foreign contexts. The International Peace Cooperation Act created a legislative foundation for Japan's involvement in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (PKOs) and other international peace initiatives. This was a departure from Japan's post-World War II pacifist position, allowing the deployment of Self-Defence Forces (SDF) under certain conditions and effectively broadening Japan's involvement in global security issues. In 2015, under Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, significant changes transpired with the enactment of security-related legislation and measures that enabled Japan to exercise its right to collective defence. This modification permitted Japan to participate in military operations with allies, notably the United States, under specific conditions, thereby substantially transforming its stance on security. Japan's security policy has modernized its defensive capabilities as it continues to evolve. The creation of the National Security Council (NSC) and publication of the National Security Strategy (NSS) have enabled a more organized method of defence planning. Japan pledged to augment its defence spending and procure modern military technologies, including long-range cruise missiles (Takenaka, 2021).

Japan's security has been progressively influenced by regional challenges, particularly in North Korea and China. The alteration in the geopolitical situation has compelled Japan to augment its deterrence capabilities and acquire capabilities that have historically been "off-limits" to Japanese defence. Japan is currently concentrating its resources and diplomatic efforts

on fortifying alliances with various countries, particularly by enhancing relations with NATO and other Indo-Pacific nations (O'Shea & Maslow, 2024).

Public opinion about Japan's military engagement has shifted favourably over time. The support for involvement in international peacekeeping initiatives is growing. Discussions persist concerning the ramifications of militarization and constitutional limitations in Japan's military operations. The Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022 represented a pivotal moment in the Japanese security strategy, prompting a profound reassessment of its defensive strategies. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida announced his intention to quadruple defence expenditures and obtain offensive capabilities previously deemed unacceptable, indicating a significant transformation in Japan's defence strategy. This reaction indicates a broader acknowledgement of the necessity for proactive strategies in a progressively intricate security landscape (Takenaka, 2021). Japan's security policy has significantly evolved since the 1992 International Peace Cooperation Act, through the National Defence Program Guidelines in 2010, the Legislation on Collective Self-Defence, the First National Security Strategy in 2013, and recent strategic documents aimed at a comprehensive overhaul of Japan's security framework, transitioning from a purely defensive stance to one that incorporates international cooperation and collective defence. The ramifications of these alterations are significant, influencing Japan's position in global security dynamics and alliances while managing intricate internal political contexts (O'Shea & Maslow, 2024).



2.4 Evolution of Security Corporation Between Japan and Africa

The collaboration between Japan and Africa has notably progressed from 2015 to the present, primarily propelled by Japan's strategic interests in the region, including the intention to integrate Africa into its Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy, and the necessity for strengthened security partnerships amid global geopolitical transformations. Military collaboration and cybersecurity between Japan and Africa have advanced through enhanced engagement, capacity building, and strategic alliances aimed at promoting stability and prosperity in these regions.

In terms of military collaboration, Japan capitalises on its history of peacekeeping initiatives in Africa. Since 2015, it has participated in the UN Triangular Partnership Program, which focuses on capacity building for peacekeepers. This includes the deployment of Japan Self Defence Forces (SDF) personnel for training, with over 291 individuals dispatched to assist peacekeeping operations in many African countries.

Japan continues to seek strategic cooperation prospects with Africa by engaging on the continent, underscoring the significance of upholding a free and open international order. This is especially significant, as China and Russia have augmented their influence in Africa. Japan's military collaboration seeks to create a diplomatic deterrent against these powers by cultivating connections with African governments through investments and military assistance. The Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), established in 1993, serves as a fundamental element of Japan's engagement strategy, emphasizing economic development and security collaboration (Japan's High-Level Africa Diplomacy, CSIS, 2024). The visits by Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa in 2023 and

2024, respectively, highlight Japan's heightened diplomatic initiatives in Africa. The purpose of these visits was to reinforce relationships and investigate new opportunities for collaboration encompassing military and cybersecurity alliances. Kishida's offer of \$30 billion over three years for public and private contributions underscores Japan's dedication to sustainable development in Africa, including the enhancement of its security capabilities. African nations, such as Madagascar, are essential to Japan's Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) policy appraised for the reason that of their strategic location at a significant maritime chokepoint in the Western Indian Ocean. Japan has intensified its bilateral engagement with Madagascar, undertaking two of the four high-level visits to the country by 2023. These excursions facilitated Japan's collaboration with Madagascar as "fellow maritime states" and esteemed allies (Japan's High-Level Africa Diplomacy; CSIS, 2024).

In the realm of cybersecurity, Japan has acknowledged the importance of collaboration with African nations in recent years given the increasing prominence of the sector. The growing dependence on digital technologies in Africa brings about both opportunities and vulnerabilities. Japan's strategy encompasses disseminating knowledge about cybersecurity protocols and formulating frameworks to safeguard the essential infrastructure. Japan seeks to augment the skills and competencies of African nations in addressing cyber threats. This is an element of a comprehensive strategy to promote sustainable growth while safeguarding security against digital innovation.

The partnership between corporations in Japan and Africa includes collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping

Training Centre (KAIPTC) to support the Accra Initiative, a framework aimed at addressing violent extremism in West Africa and the Sahel. This collaboration entails developing a comprehensive training program to enhance the capabilities of national and non-governmental experts in countering violent extremism and, therefore, indirectly reinforce cybersecurity measures pertinent to national security. Japan and UNDP Collaborate to Enhance Efficiency in Executing the Accra Initiative Against Violent Extremism in West Africa in 2024. The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has engaged in numerous capacity-building initiatives that focus on cybersecurity across African countries. The projects seek to cultivate local proficiency in countering cyber threats, especially given the rise of digitalization and dependence on technology for governance and public services (JICA, 2018). Furthermore, JICA organized training programs for government officials across multiple African nations to enhance their cybersecurity capabilities. These programs encompass workshops and seminars aimed at improving the competencies required to counter cybercrime and safeguard the critical infrastructure from cyber threats (JICA, 2018).

In the Horn of Africa, Japan participates in the "Initiative for Digital Governance and Cybersecurity" (IDGC), which seeks to enhance public sector service delivery via more secure digital channels. This initiative targets nations such as Kenya, Somalia, and Djibouti, concentrating on the enhancement of cybersecurity frameworks in the context of broader digital governance efforts (Fiiapp, 2024). The forthcoming TICAD 9, set for August 2025, is expected to delineate Japan's strategic aims in Africa encompassing military collaboration and cybersecurity initiatives. A robust structure for collaboration is necessary to handle both persistent security challenges and emerging cyber threats.

2.5 Addressing Areas of Lack of Security Cooperation Between Japan and Africa

Despite the great opportunities for security cooperation between Japan and Africa, some mechanisms and frameworks appear to have been overlooked or disregarded by both parties, thereby limiting the potential benefits of collaboration for both regions. Presently, military and cybersecurity collaboration between Japan and Africa has encountered numerous significant hurdles that restrict their efficacy and potential influence.

There is a significant deficiency in established structures and formal agreements. In contrast to Japan's existing alliances with Indo-Pacific countries and NATO, there is a notable absence of explicit military and cybersecurity agreements with the African governments. This lacks hamper organized collaboration and shared comprehension of security threats and defence solutions (Japan's Security Policy in Africa, n.d.).

Furthermore, there is no complete plan to make Africa a strategic ally that can meet the security needs of both regions, and there is insufficient integration. Japan's security strategy in Africa is still in its early stages and is mostly reactive, rather than proactive. Although Japan has conducted military activities, including counterpiracy initiatives, in the Gulf of Aden, these endeavours have not evolved into a comprehensive strategy that integrates African nations into Japan's overarching security framework. Tokyo's cyber and information security weaknesses continue to concern even its traditional ally, the USA, due to the recent high-profile cyberattacks and breaches experienced by Japan. This has created longstanding concerns regarding Tokyo's ability to support its security partners effectively. Translating this concern from Japan's established allies to a nascent security-aware region reveals significant shortcomings if Africa seeks to engage in a security relationship with Japan (Kaneko et al., 2024).

Japan's investments in cybersecurity capabilities are insufficient, concentrating predominantly on established collaborations within the Indo-Pacific region with less focus on Africa. Inequity in resource distribution constrains Africa's capacity to improve its cybersecurity infrastructure and capacities, which is essential for effective collaboration. There are further problems related to capacity building. There is a need for targeted capacity-building activities tailored to the distinct security environments of African states. Current programs do not deal with the unique problems faced by these countries, such as terrorism and cybercrime. Custom solutions and improved training programs are necessary to enhance military and cybersecurity cooperation between Africa and Japan (Basu 2024).

Both regions exhibited deficiencies in their varied security landscapes. African states encounter various complex security issues, which are frequently shaped by local political variables, economic situations, and social dynamics. Japan's military doctrine and cybersecurity strategies may not fully correspond with Africa's circumstances, resulting in discrepancies in cooperative initiatives.

Furthermore, Japanese policymakers generally exhibit a deficiency in awareness of the significance of African alliances for regional stability. This leads to insufficient promotion of prioritizing military and cyber security collaboration with African nations, which may otherwise bolster global security initiatives against shared dangers such as cyberattacks and terrorism (Moroney et al., 2023).



In conclusion, for Japan and Africa to work together better on military and cybersecurity issues, formal frameworks need to be set up, more money needs to be spent on building local skills, and both sides need to learn more about the unique security issues faced by African countries. By correcting these deficiencies, Japan may more effectively include Africa in its strategic goals, while fostering regional security and preserving its identity as an active contributor to peace.

Various variables influence Africa's perspective on Japan's security initiatives. This embodies Japan's human-centred development policies. Japan stresses on human security by prioritizing health and food security. This notion is widely endorsed by African states and aligns with their developmental aspirations, in contrast to the strategies of other major powers (Japan's Africa Policy, 2022).

Japan reiterates its commitment to quality infrastructure and adherence to international standards, a characteristic that resonates with African nations pursuing sustainable development despite various challenges. This approach is recognized as a favourable alternative to models that prioritize quantity over quality (Japan's Africa Policy, 2022). Although Japan's program aims to promote a rule-based international order, African nations have been hesitant to endorse it completely. They exercise caution to avoid aligning with international rivals and instead concentrate on their own development objectives (Keiichi, 2024). Keiichi (2024) notes that Japan's contributions to peace and stability are greatly esteemed by Africa, encompassing assistance in conflict resolution and the enhancement of security capabilities. There is optimism for greater involvement in these domains to tackle regional issues. The anticipation for improved multilateral collaboration is significant, with Japan engaging closely with African states and

international organizations to tackle global issues such as climate change, pandemics, and economic crises.

To effectively collaborate with Africa, Japan must align its capabilities with Africa's development strategies, particularly the African Union's Agenda 2063, notably Goal 14, which advocates for a "stable and peaceful Africa," and Goal 11, which promotes democratic values, universal human rights, justice, and the rule of law (Goals and Priority Areas of Agenda 2063; African Union, n.d.).



CHAPTER THREE

3.0 ANALYSIS OF JAPAN'S CURRENT SECURITY INITIATIVES IN AFRICA AND AFRICA'S PERCEPTION ON JAPAN-AFRICA COOPERATION

3.1 Introduction

This chapter presents an analysis of the study results on the current security cooperation initiatives between Japan and a number of African countries. These analysis were based on the study participants' feedback and content analysis materials. This will help to understand Japan's current stance on security cooperation on the continent and explore untapped avenues of security cooperation. This chapter will also shed more light on Africa's perception of security cooperation and expectations for the future with Japan.

3.2 Current Japan Security initiatives taking place on the African continent.

The analysis in this subsection is centred on key security cooperation inclined initiatives in Parts of Africa such as Ghana, The Horn of Africa region, Togo, Burkina Faso, and Benin.

3.2.1 Japan's Security Assistance in Djibouti

Japan has consented to supplying Djibouti with equipment to enhance marine monitoring, surveillance operations, and air traffic control under its Official Security Assistance (OSA) framework. Djibouti accommodates a provisional base for Japan's Self-Defence Forces, underscoring strategic military cooperation in East Africa (NHK World Japan, 2023).

Japan has also implemented training programs to boost the skills of African military and security forces, emphasizing humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, and maritime security. Additionally, Japan established a base in Djibouti to facilitate international anti-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden, demonstrating its dedication to safeguarding essential maritime routes. These legislative modifications have empowered Japan to contribute more effectively to peace and stability efforts in Africa, which is consistent with its overarching strategy of proactive international involvement.

This is the view of the stakeholder. *“Japan's involvement has been substantial, especially with security support and capacity enhancement. The supply of marine monitoring apparatus to Djibouti within the Official Security Assistance (OSA) framework illustrates Japan's strategic commitment to bolstering regional security.”*

Another participant believed that. *“Japan's ongoing participation will probably concentrate on improving training programmes for African broadening maritime security efforts, especially in the Gulf of Aden, where Japan currently maintains an anti-piracy facility in Djibouti. These initiatives correspond with international peace and security objectives.”*

3.2.2 Japan's Investment in the Defence and Cybersecurity Measures of the Accra Initiative

Japan has diligently enhanced its cybersecurity and military collaborations in West Africa, emphasizing capacity creation, infrastructure development, and strategic alliances to strengthen regional security and stability. In collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Japan has facilitated capacity-building activities under the Accra initiative

to combat terrorism in West Africa and the Sahel. These initiatives seek to enhance collaboration among member states (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote D'Ivoire, Ghana) to effectively address violent extremism and transnational organized crime (United Nations Development Programme, 2022).

Japan has boosted the naval capabilities of West African countries. Ghana established a new forward-operating base and acquired a naval vessel from Japan to enhance its maritime security and operational preparedness. The Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) has collaborated with Japan to enhance global security alliances. This partnership seeks to tackle urgent security issues in Africa via collaborative training and capacity-building initiatives (Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre, 2024).

These were the various views shared by stakeholders; *“Japan's partnership with UNDP and regional security organisations through the Accra Initiative has strengthened resilience against terrorism and transnational crime. Japan offers technical expertise, capacity-building initiatives, and operational assistance to enhance counterterrorism efforts.”*

The partnership between Japan and West Africa is increasingly centred on supporting programs under frameworks such as the Accra Initiative, which aims to promote security stability, enhance governance, and develop institutional capacity.

Interviews on Japan's contribution to mitigating the underlying causes of insecurity in West Africa.

Interviews with key stakeholders have shared that *“Japan's role in supporting peace through development-orientated interventions aimed at building regional stability in West Africa continues to expand.”*

A fundamental aspect of collaboration is Japan's endorsement of the Accra Initiative; a regional security cooperation framework aimed at averting the spillover of violent extremism from the Sahel to the coastal West African countries. A representative from the UN-affiliated initiatives, stated: *“Japan collaboration via the Accra Initiative underscores our commitment to resilience by addressing the underlying socio-economic determinants of instability. Our aim is to deliver technical assistance and infrastructure development that lays the foundation for equitable and sustainable growth across the area.”*

This observation indicates a wider trend in Japan's security cooperation strategy, transitioning from traditional military aid to cohesive non-military peacebuilding methods.

3.2.3 Japan's participation in UN Peacekeeping Operations (PKOs) and the UN Triangular Partnership Programme (TPP)

Japan's economic collaboration with West Africa has transformed into a comprehensive partnership that encompasses peacekeeping, infrastructure development, technical training, and institutional capacity enhancement. Historically linked to security aid, these initiatives are now increasingly perceived from developmental and economic perspectives, consistent with Japan's overarching objective of fostering stability via sustainable prosperity.

Since 1992, Japan has been instrumental in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (PKOs), including the deployment of engineering units to the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) from 2012 to 2017. Despite Japan's minimal direct personnel engagement in West Africa, its significant financial contributions, amounting to 8.0330% of the UN peacekeeping budget for the fiscal year 2023/2024, have been crucial in facilitating peace operations across the continent, particularly in West Africa. These initiatives support regional stability, which is essential to

sustained economic success.

Japan has funded capacity-building for African peacekeepers under the United Nations Triangular Partnership Programme (TPP). Since 2015, it has facilitated ten training sessions for 312 professionals from eight African countries. Although this activity mostly occurs in East Africa, its advantages frequently reach West African participants, facilitating cross-regional information exchanges and workforce enhancement. In December 2023, personnel from the Japan Self-Defence Forces conducted a remote Construction Process Management Course designed for African engineering professionals under the TPP framework, highlighting the technical expertise required for infrastructure-driven security development.

In addition to these multilateral initiatives, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is crucial in enhancing Japan's security involvement in West Africa. Collaborations such as the partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) under the Accra Initiative exemplify Japan's dedication to improving security governance while promoting sustainable development and regional integration. Collectively, these efforts exemplify a strategic alignment of economic collaboration and peacebuilding, underscoring Japan's distinctive approach to development-oriented security involvement in West Africa.

Through these initiatives, Japan highlighted its dedication to enhancing African capacities in peace support operations. Japan facilitates infrastructure development, offers specialized training, and assists in the professionalization of African peacekeeping forces through various means.

UN authorities have observed that Japan's emphasis on socioeconomic development is crucial for stabilising at-risk regions. A UNDP spokesperson remarked, "Japan's strategy exemplifies a pragmatic implementation of the human security doctrine by addressing poverty, unemployment, and institutional fragility as security issues." Their efforts, particularly in technical education and infrastructure, serve as both development initiatives and strategic peace measures. Through joint initiatives within the UN framework, Japan maintains its role as a crucial peacebuilding partner by utilizing its financial resources, technical experience, and diplomatic neutrality to enhance its long-term stability in West Africa and beyond.

3.2.4 JICA beyond Economic Assistance

Through JICA, Japan aids in the development of more resilient communities and promotes inclusive government. This development-oriented security strategy directly corresponds to the African Union's aim for regional integration and sustainable development, enhancing peace through increased connectivity, local capacity enhancement, and economic empowerment. Japan exemplifies a dedication to human security that transcends conventional defence collaboration, presenting a paradigm of international involvement that associates peacebuilding with economic growth.

An Expert emphasised JICA's assistance in promoting security initiatives, specifically via maritime infrastructure: *"The JICA representative noted that Ghana's creation of a new forward operating station and the acquisition of a maritime vessel from Japan exemplify our mutual objective of improving port efficiency and facilitating trade logistics."* These investments

enhance regional marine safety, promote the development of trade corridors, and facilitate blue economy operations such as fishing, transportation, and offshore resource management.

The stakeholder stated, *"JICA offers equipment, technical expertise, training, and logistical support to guarantee long-term operational sustainability." This comprehensive strategy enhances institutional capability while cultivating a conducive atmosphere for business that draws further investment and innovation.*"

Japan's collaboration with West Africa, rooted in the JICA's development framework, prioritizes inclusive growth, institutional advancement, and regional connectivity. By emphasizing non-military, human-centric development, Japan consistently establishes itself as dependable and constructive in the economic transformation of West Africa.

A JICA representative stated, *"Our partnership with the UNDP under the Accra Initiative emphasises capacity-building and infrastructure improvement. Our objective is to enhance institutional frameworks and elevate socio-economic circumstances that facilitate sustainable development throughout the region."*

Another stakeholder emphasised the economic and developmental aspects of Japan's assistance: *"Ghana's establishment of a forward operating station and the acquisition of a maritime vessel from Japan illustrate a mutual dedication to enhancing maritime infrastructure and port efficiency. JICA offers technical expertise, training, and logistical assistance to guarantee the sustainability of these assets and their integration into the wider economic system."*

These programmes, rather than concentrating exclusively on security, are integral to Japan's overarching dedication to marine economic development. Enhancing port operations and maritime logistics not only bolsters regional trade and blue economy initiatives, but also elevates local livelihoods by facilitating fishing, tourism, and transportation.

Japan's provision of naval vessels and its investments in maritime infrastructure constitute a holistic initiative to enhance coastal surveillance and resource administration. According to an UN official, *“Japan’s donation and support have enhanced our ability to monitor and address challenges along our coastline, thereby contributing to the security and sustainability of maritime economic activities.”*

United Nations Representatives: Japan's assistance exemplifies how global collaboration can facilitate significant advancements in the protection of collective resources. Oceans are essential to environmental health, global commerce, food security, and economic stability. Overseeing maritime boundaries and resources is a formidable challenge for numerous coastal governments, especially in emerging areas. Japan's contribution enhances the monitoring systems of these nations, enabling improved detection and resolution of challenges, such as illicit fishing, pollution, and marine security threats. This capacity-building enables nations to safeguard their natural resources more efficiently, fostering sustainable behaviours that benefit both their inhabitants and the global community.

JICA-supported training programs emphasize imparting technical and project management competencies pertinent to infrastructure development in intricate contexts, including peacekeeping. These programs cultivate a regional workforce proficient in overseeing large-

scale projects in construction, engineering, and logistics—skills that are applicable across multiple economic sectors. Furthermore, Japan's strategy of prepositioning engineering equipment for prospective UN operations on the continent exemplifies a pragmatic approach to developmental cooperation. This guarantees the availability of infrastructure and materials to facilitate emergency response and long-term development, thus improving operational readiness and economic resilience.

Japan's involvement in West Africa via JICA exemplifies a development-centric strategy that emphasizes infrastructure, skill enhancement, and institutional fortification. These non-military operations enhance regional stability and establish a foundation for enduring economic growth and intensified collaboration between Japan and the West African nations.

3.2.5 Maritime Security Initiatives in the Gulf of Guinea and the Horn of Africa

Japan has proactively improved its marine security to address piracy, especially in the Gulf of Guinea and the Horn of Africa. These areas have been prominent centres for maritime piracy, affecting global shipping and regional stability. The Gulf of Guinea has become one of the most hazardous maritime locations, with a marked rise in piracy. Japan has endorsed counterpiracy training initiatives to enhance the capabilities of regional and national agencies in addressing marine risks. A Japan-funded initiative sought to enhance efforts to diminish pirate occurrences by unifying pilot counter-piracy operations executed by Maritime Law Enforcement Agencies in the Gulf of Guinea (UNDP.ORG, 2024).

Japan has been active in counterpiracy operations in the Horn of Africa, specifically off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden. The deployment of the Japan Maritime Self-defence Force

(JMSDF) to these areas signifies a substantial alteration in Japan's post-World War II security policy, demonstrating its dedication to protecting international maritime routes (Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan, 2023).

The enhancement of Japan's marine security initiatives may entail many strategic measures. Augmenting training programs for maritime law enforcement agencies in both regions to enhance their efficacy in combating piracy. Collaborating with international partners to establish joint patrols and information-sharing frameworks, thereby improving coordinated responses to piracy threats. Investing in the advancement of maritime infrastructure, including surveillance and communication networks, strengthens the monitoring and response capabilities. By expanding these initiatives, Japan can assume a crucial role in fortifying maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea and the Horn of Africa, thereby contributing to regional stability and safeguarding essential international shipping routes (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan, 2023).

3.2.6 Direct Training Initiatives for African Security Forces

Japan has actively enhanced the capabilities of African security forces through diverse training programs, thereby fortifying partnerships and contributing to regional stability. Acknowledging the significance of peace as a prerequisite for development, Japan has offered considerable support to African peacekeeping training centres. In 2011, Japan provided supplementary assistance totalling 2.7 million US dollars to facilities in Ghana, Egypt, Kenya, and Ethiopia. This support included the deployment of trainers and the supply of equipment with the objective of improving the peacekeeping capacities of African nations and ensuring regional stability. Japan has undertaken direct military training initiatives to enhance the capabilities of the African

security forces. In 2015, the Japan Self-defence Forces conducted a Joint Forces Senior Enlisted Professional Development Course in Djibouti. This multinational training sought to mentor and educate senior-enlisted leaders from Japan and Djibouti, enhancing interoperability, and fortifying military partnerships among the involved nations (United States Africa Command, 2024).

Japanese leadership has indicated a desire to strengthen strategic alliances with U.S. forces in the Horn of Africa. In 2018, military commanders from Japan and the United States convened in Djibouti to deliberate on fostering cooperation within the Combined Joint Operations Area. The Japan Ground Self-defence Force has been augmenting its capacity-building initiatives in East Africa to bolster security development and regional stability in collaboration with African partners and the U.S. Japan illustrated its dedication to fortifying alliances with African countries by augmenting the capabilities of their security forces, thus fostering regional peace and stability.

3.2.7 Cybersecurity Collaboration: UNDP and KAIPTC

Japan, via entities such as the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and in partnership with organisations like the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC), is diligently improving cybersecurity protocols and combating cyber threats in Africa.

In May 2024, JICA engaged in the United Nations Open-Ended Working Group's "ICT Security Capacity Building Global Roundtable" convened at UN Headquarters in New York. This represented JICA's first involvement in a UN-organized discussion on cybersecurity capacity

building, during which Japan's experiences and initiatives in cybersecurity were disseminated to enhance global cyber resilience efforts (Japanese International Cooperation Agency, 2024).

These were some views by stakeholders: *“The relationship between KAIPTC and Japan emphasises the training of African security personnel in counterterrorism, cybersecurity, and peacekeeping activities. Japan's proficiency in artificial intelligence and digital surveillance has significantly improved our intelligence and operational strategies.”*

“Japan's progress in AI-driven defence and cybersecurity has equipped UN missions with vital resources. AI-powered threat assessment and digital monitoring technologies enhance the efficacy of peacekeeping operations in addressing new security challenges in West Africa and the Sahel.”

In response to the increasing concerns of violent extremism and terrorism in West Africa, Japan has collaborated with the UNDP and KAIPTC to enhance regional security initiatives. A course package was developed in collaboration with UNDP and KAIPTC, sponsored by the Government of Japan, to enhance the execution of the Accra Initiative, a regional framework designed to combat violent extremism and terrorism in West Africa and the Sahel. This project aims to augment the capabilities of national and non-governmental professionals to effectively prevent and counter such threats (United Nations Development Programme, 2023).

In April 2024, KAIPTC, UNDP, and the Government of Japan initiated training programs in Accra and Cotonou to combat the escalating menace of violent extremism and small arm proliferation in the Sahel and coastal regions of West Africa. Certain courses were designed to improve security officers' competencies in addressing security concerns. In October 2024, a delegation from KAIPTC, headed by Commandant Maj Gen Richard Addo Gyane, visited Japan

to strengthen partnerships in tackling urgent security challenges in Africa. This visit emphasised the dedication to fortifying global security alliances and improving cooperative initiatives to address rising security issues, particularly cyber threats. kaiptc.org. Japan, in conjunction with JICA, UNDP, and KAIPTC, is making substantial progress in bolstering cybersecurity protocols and combating cyber threats in Africa, thus contributing to both regional and global security.

3.2.8 The Initiative for Digital Governance and Cybersecurity

The Initiative for Digital Governance and Cybersecurity (IDGC) is a collaborative endeavour designed to enhance digital service delivery and fortify cybersecurity frameworks in the Horn of Africa, specifically in Kenya, Somalia, and Djibouti. The initiative emphasises the development of robust cybersecurity policies and institutional frameworks that conform to regional standards, ensuring a unified response to digital threats among the participating nations. By elevating cybersecurity awareness among government officials, IT professionals, and the general populace, the IDGC seeks to cultivate a culture of security and resilience against cyber threats.

The initiative facilitates the development and execution of human-centred electronic services, enhancing the accessibility and efficacy of public services via digital platforms. As of February 2025, over 300 professionals from diverse governmental sectors in Kenya, Somalia, and Djibouti have engaged in 12 training sessions designed to equip them with essential skills for effectively managing digital transformation and cybersecurity challenges.

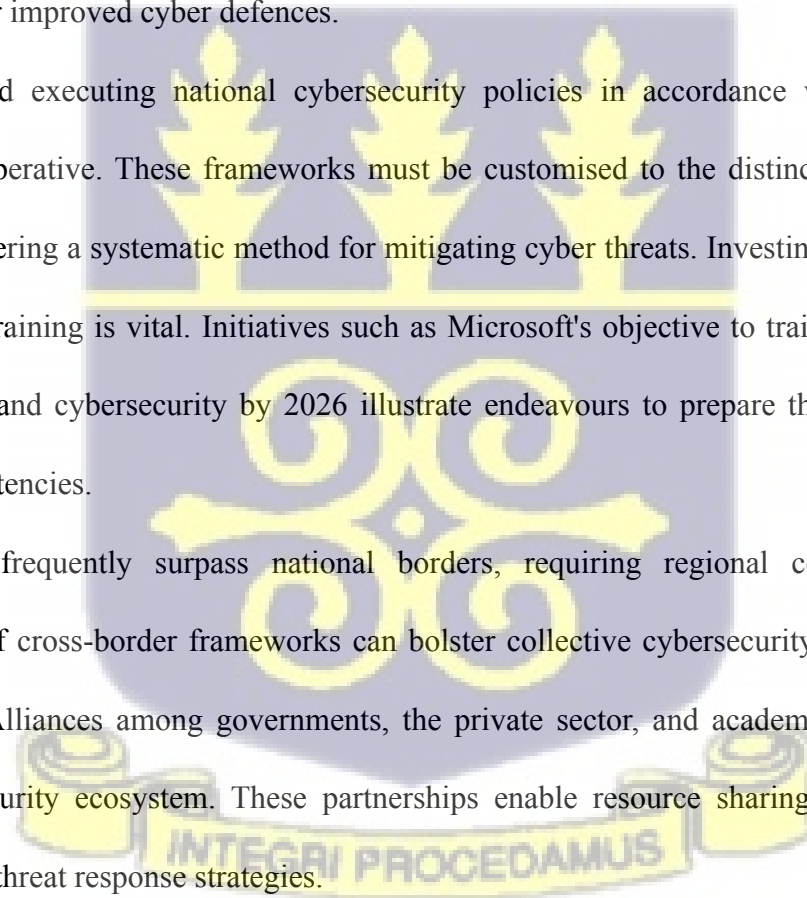
In January 2025, the IDGC convened a Regional Technical Committee meeting in Djibouti, representing a pivotal advancement in strengthening regional collaboration in digital governance and cybersecurity. The IDGC partners with the Gov-Stack initiative to establish digital

infrastructure that underpins the deployment of electronic services. In Somalia, this collaboration emphasises the creation of foundational digital systems to improve service delivery.

The IDGC seeks to provide robust digital infrastructures and facilitate secure digital transformation in the Horn of Africa, thus enhancing regional stability and growth. African governments are increasingly acknowledging the imperative to strengthen cybersecurity through investments in comprehensive national cyber defence frameworks. The continent's cybersecurity market, valued at \$2.5 billion in 2020, is anticipated to reach \$3.7 billion by 2025. Nevertheless, Africa reportedly incurs losses exceeding \$3.5 billion annually due to cyberattacks, underscoring the necessity for improved cyber defences.

Formulating and executing national cybersecurity policies in accordance with international standards is imperative. These frameworks must be customised to the distinct requirements of each nation, offering a systematic method for mitigating cyber threats. Investing in cybersecurity education and training is vital. Initiatives such as Microsoft's objective to train 1 million South Africans in AI and cybersecurity by 2026 illustrate endeavours to prepare the workforce with essential competencies.

Cyber threats frequently surpass national borders, requiring regional collaboration. The establishment of cross-border frameworks can bolster collective cybersecurity resilience across the continent. Alliances among governments, the private sector, and academia can cultivate a robust cybersecurity ecosystem. These partnerships enable resource sharing, innovation, and comprehensive threat response strategies.



3.3 African Perspectives on Japan's Security Initiatives and Prospective Collaboration

Japan is regarded as a neutral and dependable security partner in Africa, differentiating itself from countries such as China and Russia due to its enduring dedication to development and compliance with international standards. For more than fifty years, Japan has served as a discreet yet impactful ally in Africa, chiefly through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), which concentrates on development assistance and capacity enhancement. This strategy underscores mutual advantage and respect for sovereignty, thereby cultivating trust among African nations.

Japan has been strengthening its diplomatic relations with Africa, as demonstrated by high-level visits, including Foreign Minister Kamikawa Yoko's tour of Madagascar, Côte d'Ivoire, and Nigeria. These interactions highlight Japan's dedication to fostering African development and security within a context of mutual respect.

Japan's human-centric development initiatives in Africa have received commendation for their emphasis on infrastructure, health, and food security. In 2019, Japan's private sector pledged to invest \$20 billion over three years in Africa, with the objective of fostering growth and development throughout the continent.

Japan's involvement in Africa increasingly embodies a security-focused perspective on humanitarian aid, especially with public health and food security. Japan strategically connects these humanitarian actions with its overarching objectives to foster stability and avert violence throughout the continent, particularly in West Africa.

To enhance health security, Japan pledged to donate up to two million doses of the LC16m8 vaccine, which is effective against mpox, to the Democratic Republic of Congo. This project

serves as both a reaction to a public health issue and a proactive security precaution. Uncontrolled epidemics of infectious diseases can undermine governmental capability, damage social cohesiveness, and generate instability—circumstances that extremist organisations and criminal networks may exploit. Through its contributions to disease control, Japan fosters the development of resilient societies that can endure public health emergencies without succumbing to disaster.

Likewise, Japan's July 2022 commitment of around \$130 million to alleviate escalating food shortages in African countries possesses considerable security ramifications. Food insecurity is broadly acknowledged as a catalyst for social instability, displacement, and violence. By tackling the fundamental causes of hunger and nutritional stress—aggravated by global wars and supply chain disruptions. This support mitigates competition for limited resources and alleviates factors that inspire radicalisation, rebellion, and intercommunal violence. By implementing these policies, Japan strengthens the notion of human security, which perceives challenges to individual welfare such as hunger, disease, and poverty as legitimate security issues. This strategy enhances Japan's pacifist foreign policy by allowing it to act as a proactive security ally in Africa through non-military methods. By doing so, Japan fosters lasting peace and development, enhancing the security and stability of the African continent.

These were some key opinions by an Expert. *“Japan may increase its participation by deepening security sector reform measures, strengthening diplomatic security discussions, and investing in technology-driven solutions for intelligence and law enforcement. These activities coincide with Japan’s pacifist position while establishing a more robust and credible security alliance with African states.”*

A stakeholder indicated that *“Japan's modest military commitment does offer some limitations, particularly when it comes to handling immediate security threats like terrorism, piracy, and organised crime. In comparison, China's military facility in Djibouti and Russia's backing through private military contractors allow these countries to project influence and respond fast to security problems. Many African governments, who prioritise long-term stability over short-term military interventions, welcome Japan's emphasis on peacebuilding and governance support.”*

These initiatives highlight Japan's dedication to fostering Africa's development through cooperative and sustainable measures.

3.3.1 Japan's Security Presence and Constraints

Japan's security presence in Africa is significantly constrained relative to nations such as China, the United States, and Russia. Although Japan has established a base in Djibouti, its overall military involvement on the continent is minimal. In contrast, China has considerably augmented its military presence in Africa, as demonstrated by the establishment of a base in Djibouti, which serves logistical functions and bolsters China's overarching geostrategic objectives, including the enhancement of its expeditionary capabilities.

The United States sustains a formidable military presence in Africa, emphasising counterterrorism initiatives, training programs, and strategic alliances to foster regional stability. Conversely, Russia's military engagement in Africa encompasses offering support and deploying private military contractors, notably the Wagner Group, across several African nations. This strategy has elicited apprehensions regarding its effects on regional stability and governance.

Japan's involvement in Africa has historically focused on military participation. Initiatives such as the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) underscore Japan's commitment to human-centred development, prioritising infrastructure, health, and food security.

These were some key opinions by stakeholders: *“Japan's attitude to security in Africa is distinct from that of other global powers. While countries like the U.S., China, and Russia actively deploy military assets and engage in strategic security initiatives, Japan has remained mostly focused on non-military contributions. Many West African nations admire Japan's commitment to development aid and economic engagement since it aligns with their long-term stability and growth ambitions. However, some politicians feel a bigger security presence may boost Japan's role in regional stability.”*

Another stakeholder noted that *“Japan's modest military commitment does offer some limitations, particularly when it comes to handling immediate security threats like terrorism, piracy, and organised crime. In comparison, China's military facility in Djibouti and Russia's backing through private military contractors allow these countries to project influence and respond fast to security problems. Many African governments, who prioritise long-term stability over short-term military interventions, welcome Japan's emphasis on peacebuilding and governance support.”*

Japan's security involvement in Africa is little when juxtaposed with the broader military activities of China, the United States, and Russia. Japan prioritises development cooperation, according to its values of fostering peace and stability through non-military approaches.

3.3.2 Absence of Formal Security Agreements

The lack of formal security agreements between Japan and African nations has fostered perceptions of insufficient long-term commitment, which may obstruct more profound security collaborations. Japan operates a Self-defence Forces base in Djibouti, primarily for anti-piracy initiatives. In December 2023, Japan and Djibouti reaffirmed their cooperation by revising agreements concerning the status of Japanese military personnel, highlighting Japan's dedication to regional security.

The Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) in Ghana and the Government of Japan have strengthened their partnership to promote peace and security in Africa. This collaboration emphasises capacity building and strategic planning to tackle emerging security challenges on the continent.

At the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) Ministerial Meeting in August 2024, Nigeria's Foreign Affairs Minister, Ambassador Yusuf Maitama Tuggar, underscored the necessity of international collaboration to confront Africa's security challenges. He pointed out concerns such as terrorism and transnational organised crime, urging Japan to enhance its cooperation with African countries to mitigate these issues.

These were some franchised by stakeholders: *“Japan should continue to strengthen its partnerships through capacity-building, cybersecurity efforts, and intelligence-sharing. Expanding its partnership with regional groups such as ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) and the African Union could boost its influence. Additionally, Japan should consider expanding its support for African-led security missions.”*

A stakeholder stated that *“the lack of formal security agreements fosters a perception of Japan's constrained long-term dedication to Africa's security environment. Despite Japan's active involvement in development aid and training programmes, the absence of enforceable agreements may lead African states to be reluctant in completely incorporating Japan into their security frameworks. This may impede extensive military collaboration and strategic formulation.”*

Finally, a stakeholder observed that *“Japan's partnership with KAIPTC is an essential element of its soft power strategy regarding security. Through an emphasis on capacity-building, peacekeeping training, and strategic planning, Japan enhances its contribution to regional security without the deployment of combat forces. Nonetheless, in the absence of formal agreements, the viability and growth of such projects remain ambiguous.”*

Japan's close alignment with the United States, particularly through the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty, has been instrumental in shaping its defence and foreign policies. While this alliance has strengthened Japan's security posture, it has also engendered perceptions that Japan's policies may primarily reflect U.S. strategic interests, potentially constraining its responsiveness to the distinct needs and priorities of African nations. Japan's robust ties with the U.S. may prompt African nations to regard its security policies strategies, which may not consistently align with Africa's specific security and development priorities. The lack of formal security agreements between Japan and African countries could be interpreted as a deficiency in commitment to addressing Africa's unique security challenges, resulting in reluctance to enhance security collaborations.



CHAPTER FOUR

4.0 STUDY FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

4.1 Introduction

The chapter provides detailed information related to the study findings, conclusion and recommendation of the study. The findings are based on these areas: analysing Japan-supported security initiatives on the African continent, an examination of Africa's perspective on Japan's security initiatives. and finally, constraints on Japan's security collaboration with Africa

4.2 Findings of the Study

4.2.1 Stable and strategic maritime Security Collaboration

Japan's collaboration in maritime security cooperation through the Official Security Assistance (OSA) framework and its facility in Djibouti, underscores the significance of secure sea routes in maintaining regional peace. By emphasising anti-piracy initiatives and coastal surveillance, Japan guarantees not just security stability for coastal West African nations dependent on maritime commerce. Enhanced marine security directly bolsters regional trade and port infrastructure development. Japan may utilize these engagements to cultivate marine security in nations such as Ghana, Senegal, and Côte d'Ivoire, thereby reinforcing its security framework within coastal development policies.

4.2.2 Advocacy for Technological Integration in Security and Digital Resilience

Japan's advocacy for advanced AI-boosted surveillance, cyber infrastructure, and digital intelligence-sharing networks highlights its focus on technology-driven security measures. Through the Accra Initiative and the UNDP, Japan is contributing to the establishment of a technologically resilient security framework in West Africa. African nations can leverage Japan's digital proficiency to enhance internal security systems and safeguard key infrastructure against cyber threats. This alliance promotes regional digital sovereignty, allowing Africa to establish its own security framework independent of Western military technologies.

4.2.3 Japan's commitment to Security and Regional Transformation

Japan's comprehensive security strategy presents a persuasive framework for regional transformation. Japan perceives security and development as interrelated rather than as separate areas. This paradigm, focused on "peace through prosperity," addresses both the manifestations and underlying causes of insecurity. For policymakers in West Africa, this serves as a framework for formulating national security strategies that accelerate economic growth. Japan's strategy reinforces its identity as a peace-oriented global actor, adept at influencing security dynamics through investment, technology, and institutional assistance.

Japan's involvement in Africa exemplifies a complex and progressive framework of security collaboration. It presents a feasible alternative to heavily militarised interventions by emphasising long-term stability via infrastructure investment, technology transfer, and institutional capacity enhancement. Amidst ongoing insecurity and developmental disparities in

Africa, Japan's non-military, development-oriented approach presents a pathway to robust, inclusive growth.

4.2.4 Security Diplomacy through TICAD and Governance Assistance

The Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) is fundamental to Japan's development diplomacy. Japan advocates for openness, good governance, and institutional transformation in producing countries through TICAD. This developmental strategy improves the sustainability partnerships by enabling local government organisations to manage resources efficiently, share rewards fairly, and maintain infrastructure safely. Although Japan has not established formal military alliances in Africa, its enduring commitment to peacekeeping, governance training, and development assistance has bolstered its reputation as a dependable, impartial partner. Japan's growing engagement in African security entails numerous strategic ramifications. African governments can benefit from enhanced engagement with Japan, gaining access to modern technology, essential investment, and capacity-building devoid of the conditions associated with more militarised types of foreign aid. Japan views Africa as a means to strengthen global supply chains and enhance its soft power through strategic alliances.

Experts contend that Japan might amplify its influence by intensifying security sector reforms, promoting international security talks, and increasing investments in intelligence-driven, technology-oriented risk mitigation techniques. Furthermore, a closer alignment with African Union security frameworks will guarantee that Japan's activities are synchronised with continental security priorities.

Given the escalating insecurity in Africa's energy-producing areas, Japan's diverse strategy presents an exemplary framework for diplomacy. Through the integration of investment, technology, governance, and non-military security collaboration, Japan has established a robust framework for fostering sustainable growth. This developing collaboration not only meets Japan's strategic requirements but also enables Africa to tackle its security issues with independence and sustainability. With the escalation of global rivalry, Japan's paradigm of peace-oriented, technologically advanced energy security may provide a framework for prospective international collaboration on the continent.

4.3 Africa's Perspective on Japan's Security Initiatives

The study found that Japan's security measures embody a duality of optimism and scepticism, as the region confronts intricate security and developmental issues. Japan's involvement in Africa has progressively highlighted security as a means to achieve enduring regional stability. This strategy is based on development-oriented collaboration, emphasizing non-military tools, such as infrastructure investment, governance enhancement, and capacity-building. Although West African stakeholders generally appreciate Japan's peaceful approach, they also articulate concerns about its adequacy in addressing the region's pressing and intensifying security problems.



4.3.1 Acknowledging Japan's assistance in Development essentially leading to regional security

Governments and civil societies in Africa have repeatedly acknowledged Japan's plan to enrich regional security through sustainable development. Through the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), Japan fosters collaborations that emphasize local ownership and sustainable impact, particularly focusing on bolstering security resilience. TICAD seeks to promote sustainable peace and inclusive development throughout Africa by endorsing projects that enhance governance, institutional capacity, and security. These contributions prop up national and regional aspirations for reform and diminish reliance on foreign assistance. Japan's assistance with technological capabilities, particularly cybersecurity, is establishing a platform for future self-sufficiency.

4.3.2 Security Constraints of Japan's Foreign Policy

Notwithstanding this assistance, West African stakeholders recognise the constraints of Japan's non-military stance in a climate increasingly characterised by severe instability. The region is encountering increasing challenges from violent extremist organisations such as Boko Haram in the Sahel, piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, and international organised crime. In this context, numerous nations are pursuing alliances capable of providing both developmental assistance and prompt security interventions. Japan's Self-Defence Forces maintain a modest presence in Djibouti, but they do not operate in West Africa, restricting Japan's capacity for rapid response to regional emergencies. Compared to nations such as France, the United States, and China, Japan's military presence and defence involvement is regarded as limited. This has engendered

scepticism about Japan's capacity to serve as a completely effective security partner in the near term.

4.3.3 Calls for Equitable Involvement in Security and Intelligence Collaboration

Consequently, African stakeholders have urged Japan to enhance its involvement in regional security, especially in non-combat domains, such as intelligence sharing, counterterrorism training, and cybersecurity. Japan's standing as a neutral and non-interventionist entity provides it with a distinctive opportunity to engage in security-sector reforms devoid of political encumbrances typically linked to other foreign military participants. Japan's collaboration with entities such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) in the realms of cybersecurity and digital monitoring is particularly encouraging. West African nations are progressively acknowledging the importance of cyber defence in national security and are receptive to Japan's leadership in this burgeoning domain.

4.3.4 Advancing Formal Security Integration

Japan is urged to formalize its collaboration with the ECOWAS through structured agreements to enhance its influence as a partner. These may facilitate improved coordination of regional peace operations, formulation of West African-led security frameworks, and establishment of intelligence-sharing platforms to address terrorism, trafficking, and insurgency. Enhanced integration with ECOWAS will enable Japan to endorse African-led resolutions to security issues, while maintaining its dedication to non-militarism. Furthermore, this alignment bolsters

Japan's position as a development-focused nation with a robust ethical foundation, thus increasing its diplomatic credibility.

4.3.5 mutually benefiting outcomes for Japan and the Region

For Japan, transitioning from a development partner to a more security-oriented ally would necessitate reassessment of its conventional foreign policy stance. This does not demand the abandonment of pacifist beliefs but necessitates a more adaptive, hybrid strategy to address development and security concerns. Africa would gain from Japan's technological proficiency, development principles, and increasing security cooperation in domains such as cyber defence, peacekeeping training, and early warning systems.

Japan's security measures in Africa demonstrate a deliberate, long-term dedication to regional stability through nonmilitary approaches. This strategy has garnered the admiration of numerous regional stakeholders, especially in areas such as infrastructure, education, and the government. Nevertheless, the escalating insecurity in the Sahel and Gulf of Guinea has led to significant deficiencies in this paradigm. To maintain its status as a relevant and trusted partner, Japan may need to enhance its soft power through strategic involvement in regional security frameworks, particularly through ECOWAS. By aligning its developmental principles with the region's urgent security requirements, Japan can enhance its position as a reliable and progressive ally in West Africa's quest for peace and prosperity.

4.4 Conclusion

Japan's growing involvement in Africa underscores the strategic transformation in its security and economic policy towards its allies. Japan's growing military and economic involvement in

West Africa signifies a strategic transition intended to strengthen its regional stability and promote sustainable development. The results demonstrate that Japan invested substantially in security alliances and military collaborations, thereby strengthening its dedication to Africa's enduring security. The development of a military station in Djibouti, counter-piracy operations, and capacity-building programs for African security forces illustrates Japan's increasing involvement as a security actor in the region. Moreover, Japan has emphasized cybersecurity and technical progress, incorporating AI-enhanced surveillance, intelligence sharing, and digital infrastructure into West Africa's security framework. Partnerships with organisations such as the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) underscore Japan's commitment to addressing cyber threats, terrorism, and organised crime using creative technical strategies.

Notwithstanding its increasing influence, Japan's security strategy continues to prioritize non-military and development-oriented measures in stark contrast to the direct military operations employed by global powers such as China, the United States, and Russia. Although its focus on effective governance, peacebuilding, and economic investment is generally acknowledged, the absence of formal security agreements and enhanced military engagement poses constraints. Enhancing collaboration with entities such as the African Union (AU) and ECOWAS could bolster Japan's enduring involvement in Africa's security framework.

4.5 Recommendations

The following recommendations were suggested after the analysis of the study findings and have been grouped under Policy, Practice and Research.

4.5.1 Policy

2. The analyses suggest that institutional security collaboration should be enhanced. The Japanese Government ought to create an inter-ministerial Africa Security-Economic Strategy Framework that consolidates foreign direct investment in diplomacy, and defence cooperation, especially in vulnerable areas like West Africa. Japan's increasing investments in Africa require organised security measures to protect vital assets. A formal policy framework would improve policy coherence among the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defence, ensuring that peace is systematically aligned with long-term security strategies. Furthermore, Japan's Official Security Assistance (OSA) should be expanded and institutionalized to encompass customized technological support for African partners, specifically in maritime surveillance, AI-assisted border monitoring, and cybersecurity infrastructure. These threats include piracy, terrorism, and cybercrime, which necessitate inventive solutions. Incorporating advanced Japanese technologies into African security frameworks can mitigate foreign dangers while fostering regional ownership of security operations. This strategy could also augment Japan's soft power diplomacy and amplify the significance of its defence expenditure.

4.5.2 Practice

3. This joint defence structure may allow Japan to broaden its strategic scope and responsibilities. Collaboration with African-led platforms further solidifies Japan's status as a responsible and cooperative security participant. This is crucial for validating its

augmented military role under the 2015 Legislation for Peace and Security and rationalizing its elevated defence budget, both locally and globally. Japan ought to increase its security efforts to support Africa's sustainable development. Japan can help African nations overcome security obstacles and enhance the reliability of their non-military infrastructure. Collaborations with entities such as the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KA IPTC) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) can enhance Africa's resilience, guaranteeing that security systems are resilient and responsive to present and future requirements. This strategy must also prioritize the amalgamation of security with comprehensive development by enhancing investments in critical infrastructure, including modern approaches to security, networks, and efficiency initiatives. By endorsing African-led initiatives for the development and management of security resources, Japan could promote sustained peace stability. Furthermore, Japan ought to provide financial assistance for the Africans left in post-conflict scenarios. This would not only meet the security requirements of the region experiencing security instability but also contribute to their stabilization to foster growth and social development. Japan also ought to persist in delivering humanitarian aid and development assistance specifically designed to meet the needs of vulnerable communities in conflict-prone or unstable regions. Through its support of post-conflict reconstruction initiatives, Japan can facilitate the development of resilient communities and restoration of vital services, including healthcare, education, and infrastructure. This would foster long-term stability and decrease the possibility of resurgence of conflict. In addition, Japan may also enhance its initiatives to support refugees and internally

displaced persons (IDPs) in West Africa, particularly in conflict-affected nations such as Mali.

4.5.3 Research

4. Future research should investigate long term impacts of Japan's evolving role in security on the African continent, especially pertaining to its 2015 legislation for peace and security and the rise in defence expenditure. Comparative research should also be considered to analyse Japan's security engagement in Africa in relation to other actors such as the European Union and states such as China and the United States.



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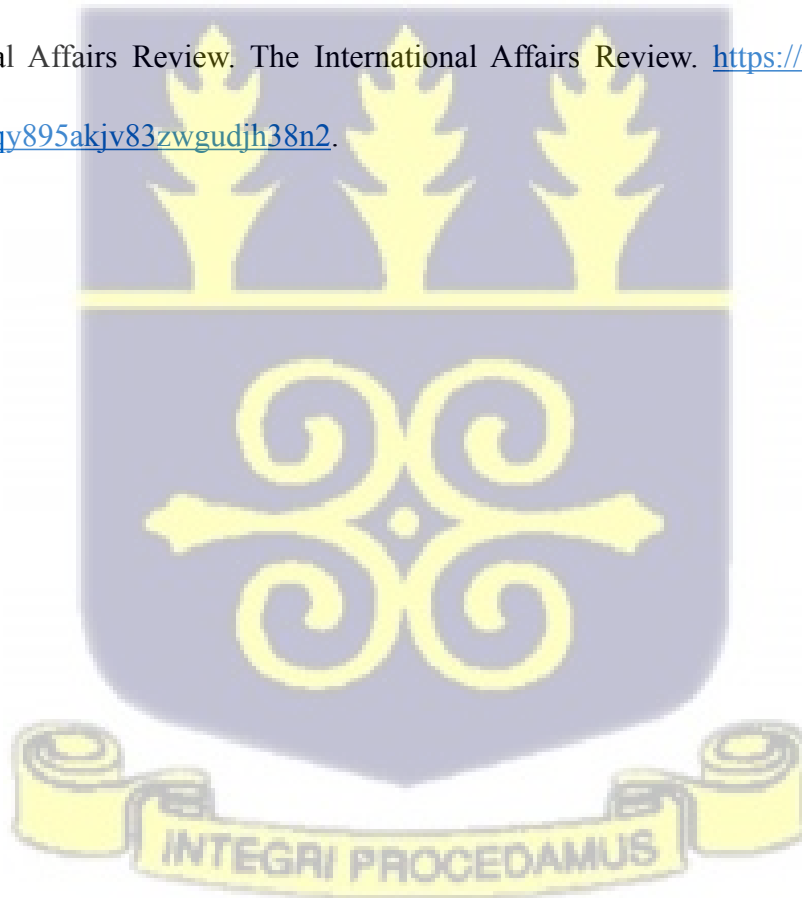
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APPENDIX

UNIVERSITY OF GHANA

LEGON CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND DIPLOMACY

TOPIC: JAPAN SECURITY POLICY AND IMPLICATIONS FOR AFRICA

STUDENT: ZOE SAKYIBEA FREMPONG

EMAIL: sakyibeafrempong@gmail.com

SEMI STRUCTURED INTERVIEW

Section 1: General Perspectives on Japan-Africa Security Cooperation

Based on your expertise, how would you describe Japan's current security engagement with Africa?

What are the key motivations behind Japan's involvement in African security matters?

Which African nations or regions do you think Japan has the strongest security partnerships with?

Section 2: Strengths and Challenges in Current Collaborations

In your opinion, what are Japan's main strengths in security cooperation with Africa?

What are the major obstacles preventing deeper Japan-Africa security collaboration?

Do African nations perceive Japan as a reliable security partner? Why or why not?

Section 3: Enhancing Japan-Africa Military and Defence Relations

What specific areas of military cooperation (e.g., training, arms supply, defence technology) should Japan focus on?

How can Japan better support African-led security initiatives such as the African Union's peacekeeping operations?

What role can Japan play in maritime security efforts, particularly in regions like the Gulf of Guinea or the Horn of Africa?

Section 4: Cyber security and Digital Defence Cooperation

How significant are cyber security threats in Africa today?

What contributions has Japan made to African cyber security so far?

What steps should Japan take to enhance cyber security collaboration with African nations?

Section 5: Strategic Recommendations and Policy Outlook

In what ways can Japan align its security initiatives with African nations' security priorities?

How can Japan compete or collaborate with other major players in Africa's security landscape (e.g., China, the U.S., and the EU)?

What long-term strategies should Japan adopt to solidify its role as a key security partner in Africa?



Closing Remarks

Is there anything else you would like to add regarding Japan-Africa security cooperation?

Would you be open to a follow-up discussion or providing further insights via email if needed?

Target participants: Experts including academics Knowledgeable in the field of Asian studies, International relations, ministry of defence officials, JICA officials, UN Peacekeepers and GAFC officials (for military and defence experts.) (This will be more specific after conducting interviews and questionnaire results)

Ethical considerations

The ethics of this study are founded on honesty, anonymity, and confidentiality. The approval of all interviewees will be sought and assured before recording the interviews. Participants will be given a detailed understanding of the study's goals and objectives. Before the interview, all participants will be given an interview guide to assure proper preparation. All sources consulted during the course of this project was credited. This study will followed research ethics by relying on available government documents to the public, historical texts, memoirs, diaries and press stories. Majority of the data sources can be found online. This work was created without the use of any classified or unauthorized information.