

## **Abstract**

The Impact of U.S. Military Reduction on Japan's Security Policy: The Nixon Doctrine, Realignment of U.S. Bases in Japan, and the Forth Defense Build-up Plan

YOSHIDA Shingo (Graduate Student, Keio University)

From the late 1960s and the early 1970s, the United States fell from its position as the only dominant world power to being one of the great powers. The United States then started to retreat from the international role it had borne since the beginning of the cold war and implementation of this new policy took the form of a reduced military presence in East Asia. On the other hand, Japan's high economic growth allowed it to become the third largest economic power in the world. This meant that Japan became one of the main actors in the world theater and had to engage more directly in international politics. How did Japan perceive the drawdown of the U.S. military? What kind of security policy did Japan subsequently choose? The reductions in the U.S. military presence made Japan anxious about whether the U.S.-Japan alliance was credible, and consequently, forced Japan to rely on both its own defense build-up and its alliance more heavily. In sum, the reduction of the U.S. military in East Asia and consequent pessimistic perceptions of Japanese political leaders about the U.S.-Japan alliance spurred bolder action in Japan's security policy.

*Kokusai Anzenhosho [ Journal of International Security ]* Vol. 35, No. 2 (September 2007), pp. 97-118.