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RISING SUN: JAPAN'S FINANCIAL AND HUMANITARIAN AID TO UKRAINE AMIDST FULL-SCALE RUSSIAN AGGRESSION

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Abstract. *This article examines Japan's role in supporting Ukraine during the ongoing armed aggression. Drawing parallels between the historical experiences of both nations during World War II, the study delves into Japan's transformation from aggressive militarism to a responsible global citizen. Through comprehensive analysis, the article explores the multifaceted aid provided by Japan to Ukraine, categorizing it into six domains: assistance to Ukraine, financial restrictive measures, trade restrictions, visa limitations, sanctions against Belarus, and measures related to the so-called Donetsk People's Republic and Luhansk People's Republic. The research details Japan's efforts in providing various forms of assistance, including financial support, humanitarian aid, and trade limitations. It further highlights Japan's commitment to supporting Ukraine's rebuilding efforts, evident through substantial financial contributions. The study also delves into Japan's diplomatic engagement and its call for unity in addressing Russia's aggression against Ukraine. This article sheds light on Japan's empathetic stance and its dedication to maintaining international law and human dignity, underscoring the significance of global solidarity in times of adversity.*

In the annals of history, the paths of nations often intersect in unexpected and profound ways, solidifying bonds forged through shared experiences. The unyielding spirit of resilience against adversity becomes the cornerstone of such relationships. As the world witnesses the unfolding drama of the 21st century, the Ukrainian landscape has once again become the backdrop of a struggle for sovereignty and peace. In the midst of a full-scale Russian aggression that echoes the dark chapters of history, an unlikely ally has emerged to stand resolutely by Ukraine's side – Japan. This article sheds light on the extraordinary narrative of Japan's financial and humanitarian support extended to Ukraine during a critical period of crisis, forging a unique bond between two nations separated by geography but united by the ideals of peace, justice, and human dignity.

The juxtaposition of Japan's historical journey and Ukraine's contemporary battle paints an intricate tapestry of solidarity and empathy. Japan, a nation that navigated its own transformation from aggressor to advocate of global peace after the devastation of World War II, is uniquely positioned to understand the weight of conflict and the pursuit of reconciliation. Ukraine, in its struggle for self-determination and defence against Russian encroachment, finds an ally that not only offers financial support but also shares a common understanding of the devastating implications of military aggression. This convergence of experiences forms the crux of a narrative

that showcases Japan's remarkable response to Ukraine's dire circumstances, highlighting the power of empathy and global cooperation in the face of geopolitical challenges.

As Japan extends its hand to Ukraine, the lessons learned from its own history of devastation and recovery guide its actions, reinforcing the notion that peace is not just the absence of conflict but the relentless pursuit of justice and security for all nations. Against this backdrop, the article navigates through Japan's multifaceted response to Ukraine's call for aid. It delves into the dimensions of financial assistance, humanitarian support, and diplomatic initiatives that underscore Japan's commitment to global stability. By exploring the intricate details of Japan's engagement in the Ukrainian crisis, we aim to unravel the motivations, challenges, and outcomes that have emerged from this remarkable alliance. [1]

We examined all of Japan's assistance during Russia's armed aggression and divided it into 6 categories: assistance to Ukraine; financial restrictive measures; trade-restrictive measures; visa restrictive measures; restrictive measures against Belarus; and restrictive measures against the so-called Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) and Luhansk People's Republic (LPR).

1. Assistance related to Ukraine:

a) Providing Ukraine with drones, bulletproof vests, steel helmets, winter clothing, tents, cameras, hygiene and food kits, binoculars, lighting, medical supplies, civilian vehicles (vans), etc.

b) Providing emergency humanitarian aid to Ukraine and neighbouring countries (in the areas of health and medicine, food security and protection): USD 200 million. The US will provide \$200 million in emergency humanitarian aid to Ukraine and neighbouring countries and will decide on additional financial support for humanitarian aid and recovery costs: USD 500 million. THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT IS US\$500 MILLION.

c) Food aid to the countries of the Middle East and Africa affected by the situation in Ukraine (about USD 200 million, of which USD 17 million is for food security and protection). USD 200 million, of which USD 17 million is assistance to promote exports. of which is assistance to facilitate grain exports from Ukraine).

d) Assistance for the transportation and distribution of wheat in Somalia provided by the Ukrainian government: USD 14 million. USD 14 MILLION.

e) Financial assistance to Ukraine: USD 600 million. US \$600 MILLION.

f) As part of the winterisation support, providing generators and solar lights through international organisations (approximately USD 2.57 million), as well as reflectors and disposable heating pads for the National Police of Ukraine (approximately USD 550,000).

g) Provision of about 1,500 generators, including 4 donated under the "Winterisation Support Initiative: Generators for Ukrainians from Japan" (including generators provided by the above-mentioned international organisation).

h) Provision of mine action assistance, including a training programme for the State Emergency Service of Ukraine in cooperation with Cambodia.

i) Provision of television production equipment to the National Public Broadcasting Company of Ukraine.

k) Deferral of debt payments for Ukraine (approximately USD 70 million).

l) Receiving evacuees from Ukraine to Japan.

m) Providing in-kind assistance, transporting United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees humanitarian goods by Japanese Self-Defence Forces aircraft, and providing human resources in the medical and healthcare sectors to support the evacuees.

2. Financial restrictive measures:

a) Preventing leading multilateral financial institutions, including the IMF, the World Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, from financing Russia.

b) Reaction to Russia's evasion of sanctions, including through digital assets.

c) Restrictions on transactions with the Central Bank of Russia.

d) Imposing sanctions, including freezing the assets of individuals associated with the Russian government, including President Putin, and Russian oligarchs.

e) Freezing the assets of twelve Russian banks (Sberbank, Alfa-Bank, Promsvyazbank, Bank Rossiya, VTB, Sovcombank, Novikombank, Otkritie Financial Corporation, Moscow Credit Bank, Rosselkhozbank, Rosbank) and their subsidiaries in Japan.

f) Joining measures aimed at isolating Russia from the international financial system and the global economy by disconnecting certain Russian banks from the SWIFT system.

g) Prohibiting the issuance and trading of new Russian government debt bonds on the primary and secondary markets in Japan. In addition, certain designated Russian banks that are already prohibited from issuing securities in Japan are subject to an additional ban on the issuance of shorter-term securities.

h) Introduction of measures to ban new investments in Russia. - Prohibiting the provision of certain types of services to Russia, including trust and accounting services, and imposing a price cap on Russian oil (prohibiting the import and provision of related services that allow the maritime transportation of Russian crude oil and oil products purchased at a price above the established limit).

3. Trade restrictive measures:

a) Withdrawal of Russia's most favoured nation status.

b) Ban on imports of machinery, certain types of wood, vodka, gold, etc. from Russia.

c) Ban on exports of luxury goods to Russia.

d) Imposing sanctions on the export of controlled goods from an internationally agreed list to Russian military organisations, other dual-use goods such as semiconductors, advanced goods, oil refining equipment, goods that would contribute to strengthening Russia's industrial base, and goods related to chemical and biological weapons.

e) Reducing dependence on Russia in the energy sector, including the gradual phasing out and banning of imports of Russian coal and oil.

4. Visa restrictive measures: Suspension of visas to Japan for designated individuals with ties to Russia.

5. Restrictive measures against Belarus:

a) Freezing the assets of four Belarusian banks (Bilagroprombank, Bank Dabrabut, Development Bank of the Republic of Belarus and Belinvestbank) and their subsidiaries in Japan.

b) Suspending the issuance of visas to Japan for designated persons associated with the Republic of Belarus.

c) Imposing sanctions, including freezing the assets of persons associated with Belarus, including President Lukashenko.

d) Impose sanctions on the export of controlled goods from the internationally agreed list to Belarusian military organisations, as well as other dual-use goods such as semiconductors.

6. Restrictive measures against the DPR and LPR:

a) Suspension of visas to Japan for persons from the DPR or LPR and freezing of assets held by such persons in Japan.

b) A ban on imports and exports from the DPR and LPR.

In January 2023, the Japanese government provided \$95 million in aid to Ukraine, which will be used to rebuild critical infrastructure and strengthen civil society. The assistance programme for Ukraine focuses on five key areas:

- a) strengthening the government's capacity to respond to and manage the crisis;
- b) supporting public services so that they can continue to operate
- c) restoring critical infrastructure so that people can return home safely;
- d) supporting private businesses to continue operating, thereby supporting communities;
- e) strengthening civil society and social ties [1].

In early February, just before the G-7 leaders' meeting, the Government of Japan allocated another \$170 million for Ukraine [2]. These funds will be used for emergency recovery projects, including the restoration of critical infrastructure. [5]

During his meeting with President Zelenskyy, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida not only invited the latter to take part in the G-7 summit online on 24 February 2023 but also stressed the need to maintain unity in the fight against Russian aggression against Ukraine and announced continued support, which will already amount to \$5.5 billion [3].

Conclusion. In conclusion, both Japan and Ukraine have experienced the horrors of armed aggression within their territories during different historical contexts. Japan, through the 20th century, transitioned from aggressive militarism to a stance of acknowledging its own responsibility before other nations. This nation personally experienced the consequences of capitulation under the pressure of the anti-Hitler coalition, including one of the world's most powerful and technologically advanced armies and subsequent international military tribunals.

Japan has shown itself as a nation that comprehends the ramifications of military aggression and is dedicated to promoting a peaceful and just global order. It is evident that Japan, with its historical awareness and empathetic perspective, is steadfastly supporting Ukraine during its time of need, demonstrating a commitment to upholding international law and human dignity. This alliance between Japan and Ukraine stands as a testament to the power of unity and solidarity in the face of adversity.

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