



**FEBRUARY 15, 2023, 10:30-12:10
(JAPAN TIME)**

**WASEDA INSTITUTE OF ASIA-PACIFIC STUDIES
COLLOQUIUM SERIES**

THE U.S.-JAPAN ALLIANCE AND TAIWAN

**SPEAKER: ADAM LIFF (ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR,
INDIANA UNIVERSITY)**

**VENUE: ROOM 713, BUILDING 19, WASEDA
UNIVERSITY, WASEDA CAMPUS (IN-PERSON ONLY)**

**THIS TALK WILL EXAMINE THE HISTORICAL
EVOLUTION OF JAPANESE PERSPECTIVES ON THE U.S.-
JAPAN SECURITY ALLIANCE'S AND THE JSDF'S
POTENTIAL ROLES IN A "TAIWAN CONTINGENCY."**

In April 2021, Japan's Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga and U.S. President Joe Biden made global headlines when they jointly "underscored the importance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait"—the first such reference in a summit-level statement since both governments switched diplomatic recognition from Taipei to Beijing in the 1970s. Amidst a rapidly changing regional balance of power and with the Biden administration asserting that U.S. allies would "take action" if Beijing seeks "to use force to disrupt the status quo," this talk will examine the historical evolution of Japanese perspectives on the U.S.-Japan security alliance's and the JSDF's potential roles in a "Taiwan contingency." Though Tokyo's nuanced positions and policies are often neglected in the U.S.-centric academic literature and policy discourse, Japan is a critical front-line player. Its choices are today—and will inevitably remain—crucial variables affecting cross-strait deterrence, U.S. options, and how things may play out if deterrence fails.

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