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THE INDO-PACIFIC AS JAPAN'S 21ST-CENTURY GRAND STRATEGY

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Waseda University Building 19, Room 711

The rise of Japan's Indo-Pacific strategy in the late 2010s crystalizes the configuration of Japan's 21st century grand strategy. This grand strategy utilizes Japan's liminal power between the East and the West, and its interchangeable use of economic and security foreign policy instruments with the aim of maintaining rules and standards in regional and global governance. With the evident decline of the US presence in the Asia-Pacific, and China's rising dominance as a global power, Japan now sits in a critical position: able to engage China constructively. At the same time, Japan aims to constrain Chinese revisionist behavior by enforcing liberal rules constructed under the US hegemony. I will discuss Japan's Indo-Pacific grand strategy with the emphasis on how it utilizes the Free and Open Indo-Pacific framework to flexibility create "like-minded" coalitions and advance Tokyo's interest through rule-setting strategy that can shape the regional order.