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Japan Should Formulate the Basic Policy of Living Without China

By OGAWA Hajime

China is still continuing to threaten and annoy Japan over the Senkaku Islands dispute. The notion of incorrigible Sino-Centrism as known as "China is always right" has remained unchanged for the past thousands of years. The Chinese government does not hesitate to instigate anti-Japanese demonstrations, bash facilities of Japanese companies, bluff and intimidate Japan and heap abuse on Japan. China does not apologize at all and acts on the idea that Japan is to blame. In my opinion, it is extremely dangerous for Japan to depend on China. Unless our country serves China as its subject and totally listens to it, similar problems will constantly occur. Even if Japan loses China's huge market with a population of 1.3 billion, it will be much more beneficial than to depend on the country.

What we should keep in mind is that Japan stands in a different position from the rest of the world in terms of diplomacy for China. It is said that the Japanese easily forget the past, but the Chinese remember the past. Japan must always be ready to face up to the reality, once anything undesirable happens, China will direct its criticism at Japan. Japan should formulate the basic policy of gradually reducing its dependence on China.

Japan should not give in to China's pressures by any means. If China realizes that Japan is a weak country, she will act on its advantageous situations. From an international perspective, Japan should closely cooperate with the United States, and should also strengthen its relationships with Asian countries sharing common interests and collaborate with them. To deal with a situation in a cool-headed manner is different from remaining silent not doing anything. The Japanese government should not bow to China. Japanese politicians should stop making humbly visits to China as they have up until now. Japanese tourists should also consider the risk of not knowing what will happen in China.

Lastly, with regard to the economy, if there is a problem between Japan and China, China will definitely annoy our country. The rare earth issue is a good example. As long as these acts are made on the initiative of the Chinese government, we cannot expect the Japanese government's support and it will be ineffective. If you do business in China, you should do it at

your own risk. Accidentally, Toyota's Examples shows that it will not be impossible to raise profits without China. Japan should be ready to live without China, not thinking of just immediate profits even if Japan grits its teeth.

(This is the English translation of an article written by OGAWA Hajime, Visiting Professor, Bunka Gakuen University, which originally appeared on the BBS "Giron - Hyakushutsu" of GFJ on November 8, 2012.)