

Kishida's Foreign Policy Legacy: What will come next?

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EDITOR'S PICK

Kishida's foreign policy legacy

Prime Minister of Japan Fumio Kishida unexpectedly announced on 14 August 2024 that he will not contest the upcoming Liberal Democratic Party's presidential nomination. After nearly three years as LDP leader and prime minister, Kishida's accomplishments included increasing the defence budget, hosting the G7 summit and



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Japan's Revolutionary Military Change: Explaining Why It Happened Under Kishida



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Keywords: defense policy, international security, East Asia, Japan, domestic politics, foreign policy analysis, international relations

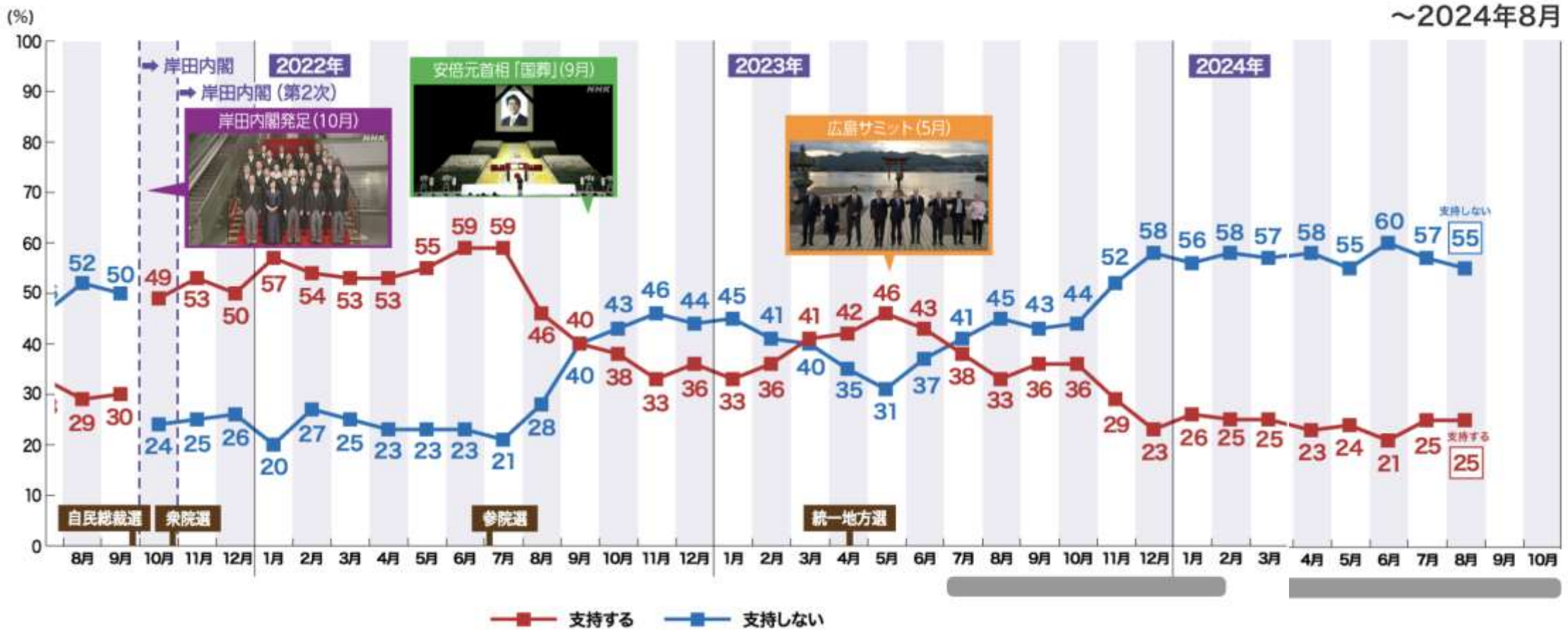
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Kishida as the “Prime” Foreign Minister



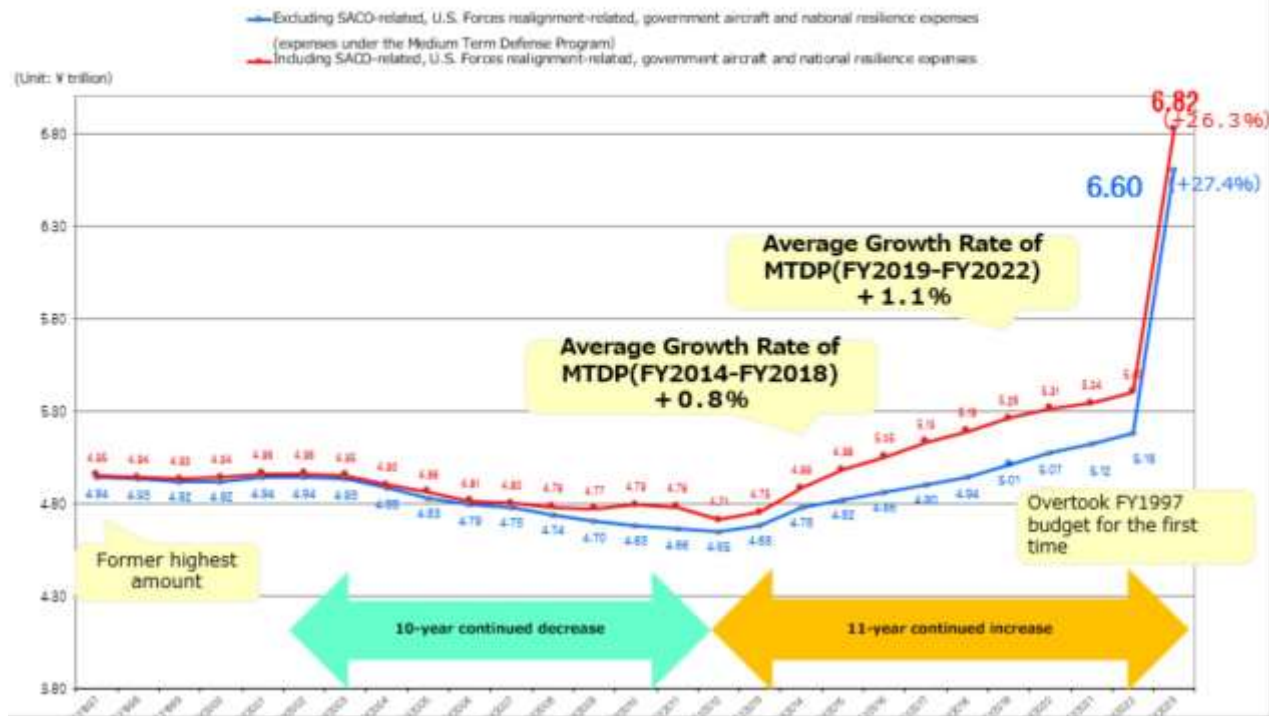
Cabinet Approval Rate

内閣支持率



New Capabilities

(Reference 2) Change in Expenditure (Annual Budget)



Japan's Economic Security Policies

1. Economic Security Promotion Act (2022)
2. Introduction of Security Clearance System (ongoing)
3. Export Control
4. Investment Screening
5. Critical Technology Management
6. Semiconductor Policy
7. Research Integrity (including deemed reexport and state-sponsored influence and interference)
8. Industrial Security/ Cyber Security
9. Human rights due diligence
10. Trade-Related Economic Coercion and Non-Market Policies and Practices
11. Review and Regulation of the Use of Real Estate Surrounding Important Facilities and on Remote Territorial Islands
12. Data Security
13. International Standardization
14. Fighting against Disinformation
15. Economic Intelligence



American Grand Design

**Figure 1: Kent Calder(2004)
San Francisco System**

A Dense Network of Bilateral Alliances

Absence of Multilateral Security Structures

Strong Asymmetry in Alliance Relations

Special Precedence of Japan

Liberal Trade Access to American Markets with Aids

Figure 2: Indo-Pacific System

Minilateralism and Security Networking

Evolving Roles of Japan and the UK

Special attention on Taiwan situation

Enclosed Partnership towards Economic Security

Not Strong Emphasis on Political Values

R. Sahashi “Deepened Division in Eurasian Politics: Enhanced San Francisco System and Strategic Resonance of Authoritarian States,” Korea On Point (Korea Association of International Studies), November 18th, 2023.

Why was “Big Bang” possible?

- Not re-emergence of militarism
- Evolutional Change? → Revolutionary Change
- Political Survival of Kishida
- Shadow of Abe
- The role of National Security Secretariat (NSS)
- Space Strategy, Cyber Capability, Defense Equipment Export, OSA

Ayumi Teraoka and Ryo Sahashi, “Japan’s Revolutionary Military Change: Explaining Why It Happened Under Kishida” *Pacific Affairs*, 2024 (fast-track available)

“Kishida claimed that his strength was his ability to listen to other people’s opinions, but his own policy strategies and ideology were weak. As a man who genuinely wanted to become prime minister, Kishida focused on acquiring and maintaining power. A priority for him was to be flexible and resolve various policy issues and to gain the support of the mainstream factions within his own party and of the major government ministries. Unlike former prime minister Shinzo Abe, he did not like the cut and thrust of debate. His unruffled decision-making, combined with his liberal image, did not strike a strong chord with the public.”

(My EAF article, September 1, 2024)



**Kishida achieved a lot, but
concerns remain.**

Security dilemma in economic realm is also deepened

The U.S. and China each moving to restructure their relationships to reduce economic dependence on the other and to seek the inclusion of third countries

China strengthens its economic policy of autonomy and self-reliance, and begins trade restrictions and maintains economic coercions



Gradual disintegration of the interdependence accelerates

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September 07, 2023



Karl L. Carlsberg, com 8/16

Declining US internationalism



Uneasy Frontier of Authoritarians



After Kishida

- Kobayashi Takayuki and Takaichi Sanae
- Ishiba Shigeru
 - Change the distance among US, Japan and China?
- Koizumi Shinziro
 - De-centralized governance style?



Challenges

- Political Momentum for security policy?
- Nationalism?
- ROK
- China and Taiwan
- USA and Australia