



Japan's Response to Russian Invasion of Ukraine

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Japan has had a controversial and unsteady past with Russia. Even though WWII ended, Japan and Russia never officially signed a peace treaty. Russia and Japan had fought against the negotiations over the Kuril Islands. The connection became even more unstable when Russia invaded Ukraine in March of 2022. Japanese cities, such as Tokyo, suspended economic relations with Russia following the invasion. Shinzo Abe, Japan's former prime minister, was striving to create a friendly relationship with Russia to resolve former problems that restricted the peace treaty. (JapanGov, 2022) The current prime minister, Fumio Kishida, was first inclined to continue trying to maintain a friendly relationship with Russia. Soon after the invasion hit, these relationships began to cripple down. At the end of World War II, there was talk about making a peace treaty with Russia regarding the Kuril Islands. However, since the invasion of Ukraine, Japan has become extremely strict on leaving no room for this official peace treaty.

Russia has shown Japan they are here to fight and has even gone so far as to show threats to them. The increased Russian military is becoming a big concern for Japan. Russia sent a

24-warship fleet surrounding Japan in early 2022.

(Mahoney, 2022) Noticing this threat, the defense minister of Japan, Nobuo Kishi, declared that Russia was threatening Japan because of its ties to the United States, which strongly supported Ukraine.

(Mahoney, 2022)

Japan has been providing Ukraine with humanitarian aid. This shows Russia that Japan is set on supporting Ukraine during this invasion. The





Japanese government released a statement in September of 2022 of the specific aid they are providing Ukraine. (Govt, 2022) Japan has been accepting evacuees from Ukraine and providing medical supplies and defense equipment. Japan has revoked Russia's prior status of being the "most-favored-nation." (Govt, 2022) They are also prohibiting a wide variety of items from Russia from being traded. Financial measures that Japan is taking include, but are not limited to, preventing Russian financing banks, freezing assets associated with the Government, and making a total effort to isolate Russia from the global economy. The International Christian University is raising its efforts to accept students who were deprived of learning, specifically Ukrainian students, to help access higher education. The University released a statement saying, "Education and academia cannot be secured without peace. Our perception was that we need to respond to a situation that threatens that peace." (JapanGov, 2022) This example shows that Japan's response in all ways, private or public, indeed condemns Russia's infraction. The growing avocation and support for Ukrainian citizens forced out of their homes and terrorized are modeled through Japan's comprehensive support system.



The support for Ukraine has multiplied and is increasing. Japan is more supportive than ever before. The secretary for public affairs at the Japanese Prime Minister's Office, Matsumoto Koichiro, said Japan is "one of the biggest beneficiaries of global peace and stability." (Gallo, 2022) He believes that Japan should remain supportive of those who need it and refrain from advocating for the ones who threaten that. He also strives to assert that "we attach great importance to universal values such as democracy, rule of law, and human rights, including freedom of expression." (Gallo, 2022) Matsumoto is compelling in his influence on the Japanese civilians, which shows that the actions of Russian government figures are evil and create a danger to the nation's peace.

All in all, Japan's response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine has gone further than just disagreement with their violence. Japan has become tight on its stand with the Kuril Islands.



(Chang, 2022) Japan has also used this invasion to show its power in the defense and support of democracy. Tokyo has had a past of staying away from foreign military conflicts, but when they decided to send aid and defense this all changed. Japan has frozen Russian bank assets, created sanctions on the Russian government, and removed its favorite nation status. (Chang, 2022) The Prime Minister of Japan is profoundly commending the act of violating international law on such high levels; the harmful actions toward civilians will not be tolerated.



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