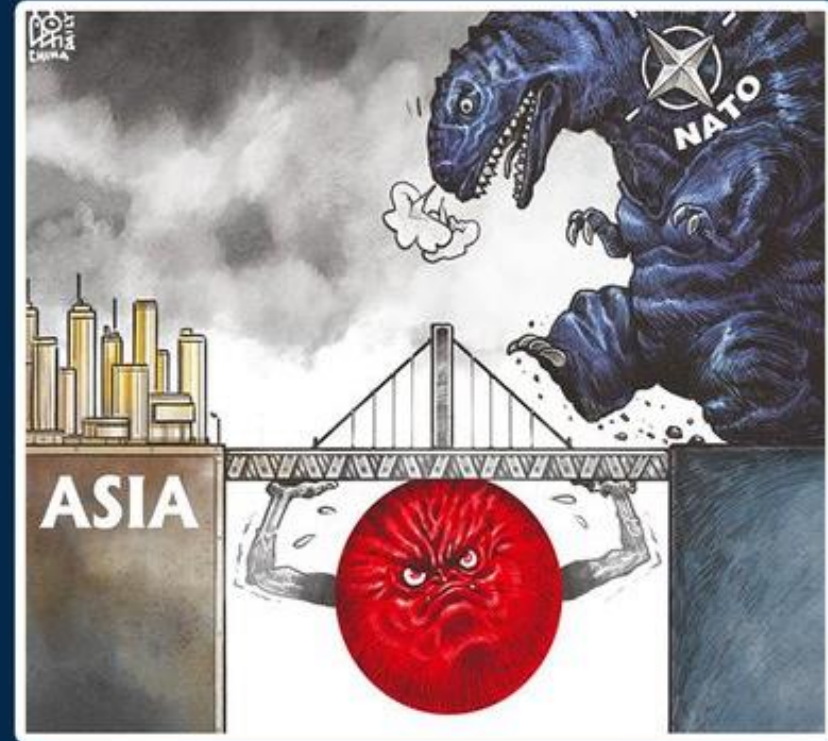


A NATO liaison office in Japan

The Daiwa Anglo-
Japanese Foundation
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NATO's new mission statement has revealed the alliance's true colors as an aggressive and expansionist war machine serving the US' hegemony, with Japan joining as an accomplice.



Editorial

The Context

Indo-Pacific **pivot*strategy** tilt

Russia attacks, occupies Ukraine

NATO partnership and AP4

Formation of a 'counter-west'?







4 questions about the **West**, **NATO**, **Europe**, and **China**.

- 1) For all the talk about pivoting and rebalancing and tilts and Indo-Pacific strategies, and the indivisability of security in the Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific, how much unity and consensus *is* there among the ‘the **West**’ or even the **transatlantic** community on committing to Asian security?
- 2) How serious is **NATO** about its partners and Asian partners?
- 3) Is **Europe** contributing to global order, or is it too self-absorbed?
- 4) What does this tell us about **China’s** influence?
 - Its power to divide allies
 - Its power to deter the development of partnerships

The narrative arc: Upward

Leak:
liaison
office in
Tokyo

Rationale: AP4,
support for
Ukraine, G7+

Benefits: deepen
NATO partnerships,
influence for Japan,
common NATO
situation
awareness.



The narrative arc: Downward

Controversy

Leaked before agreed

Macron reported opposed:

- Japanese position contested
- Justification: distraction from Europe, provocative to China

Walk back

– France joined by Germany. Wallace mixed messages
US is silent. Only Sec Gen seems to support.

Conclusion

No mention in communique

SecGen insists it is still 'on the table'.

Japan damage control (not the 'demandeur')

NATO Liaison in Tokyo: -

A step
forward for
global
solidarity, or
self-inflicted
injury?



The Japan-US military alliance is about
duplicating a NATO in Asia.



My take

1. It is not a first in Asia (NATO Central Asia regional liaison office for enhancing dialogue and practical relations with five Central Asian partners was hosted in Tashkent, Uzbekistan from 2013 to 2017, NATO-Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI) Regional Centre in Kuwait).
2. It is justified to service the more developed partnerships between NATO and Japan, but also the other AP4
3. Symbolic of shift of attention from ME to Asia, challenges of PRC stated ambitions and coercive policies' to NATO interests, security and values.
4. To help the Allies be better informed and to help the process of bringing allies closer on analysis on the region
5. To inform the region and counter hostile propaganda about the alliance.

What makes this interesting?

In the period leading up to the last NATO summit in June, the idea to open a NATO liaison office in Japan was discussed but in the end, not agreed and so has not gone ahead.

On the face of it, this is a non-story. So why did it get the attention it did? Why are we here to talk about it? I look forward to hearing your reasons in the next question and answer section of this event.

I suggest that it is because we are all trying to cope with a good deal of uncertainty about where the international security system is heading. Even small incidents like this one offer to tell us something about that. It hints at answers to some pivotal questions about our future. Those questions, and how this story helps us answer them, are the subject of my talk this evening.

NATO and China

- **China as a challenge to NATO interests, but is NATO the right tool?**
 - Geographic focus - Distraction from Priorities (Russia)
 - Diplomatic format - Bilateral not multilateral policy (Strategic autonomy)
 - Political risk - being dragged into a conflict not your own (USA over Taiwan)
- **Chinese attitudes to NATO**
 - Anti-Soviet partner, Belgrade bombing alarm, Afghanistan thaw, 2019 deep freeze.
 - Small circles, bloc formation, Cold War mentality – narrative intended to paint US as a declining power, that uses an obsolete historical narrative to exploit the weakness of vassal states and enlist them in the project of stirring up trouble between China and its neighbours, and impede what is its inevitable national rejuvenation.
 - “Asian NATO” straw man for attacking the US alliance system in Asia.
- **Common cause with Russia**
 - Containment and encirclement
 - Legitimacy of collective security and ‘absolute security’ versus respecting others’ “legitimate security interests”