Part I

Security Environment Surrounding Japan

Chapter 1 Overview

❶ Current Trends in Security Environment

What is notable about the current security environment is that, first of all, while interdependency among countries is further expanding and deepening, thanks to further growth of the national power of such countries as China, changes in the balance of power are accelerating and becoming more complex. In addition, uncertainty over the existing order is increasing. Against such a backdrop, prominently emerging is inter-state competition across the political, economic and military realms, in which states seek to shape global and regional order to their advantage as well as to increase their influence.

Such inter-state competition occurs on a continuous basis. In conducting inter-state competition, states leverage various means such as undermining another country's sovereignty using military and law-enforcement entities, and manipulating a foreign country's public opinion by exploiting social media. In such competition, "hybrid warfare" is sometimes adopted, forcing affected actors to take complex measures not limited to military ones. Also, so-called gray-zone situations, which are neither purely peacetime nor contingency situations, are becoming persistent over a long period of time, playing out as part of inter-state competition. They may possibly further

increase and expand. Such gray-zone situations harbor the risk of rapidly developing into graver situations without showing clear indications.

Secondly, technological progress is about to change fundamentally how security should be managed. Against the backdrop of the advance of military technology due to rapid technological innovation in information & communications and other fields, contemporary warfare increasingly features capabilities combined across all domains: not only land, sea and air but also new domains, which are space, cyberspace and electromagnetic spectrum. Aiming to improve overall military capability and acquire asymmetric military capability, states are seeking to gain superiority in technologies that undergird capabilities in new domains.

States endeavor to develop weapons that leverage cutting-edge, potentially game-changing technologies that could drastically change the conduct of future warfare, including artificial intelligence (AI), hypersonic, and high-power energy technologies.

Progress in military technology relies heavily on the development of civilian technologies. It is believed that the development and international transfer of civilian

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Column   "Gray-Zone Situations" and "Hybrid Warfare"

The so-called gray-zone situations simply represent a wide range of situations that are neither peacetime nor wartime.

In a gray-zone situation, for example, a country that confronts another over territory, sovereignty or maritime and other economic interests uses some forceful organization to demonstrate its presence in the relevant disputed region in a bid to alter the status quo or force other countries to accept its assertions or demands.

The so-called hybrid warfare represents methods to alter the status quo while intentionally blurring the boundaries between the military and non-military realms, forcing affected actors to take complex measures that are not limited to military actions.

The means of hybrid warfare include operations using military units of unidentified nationality, cyberattacks to affect communications and other critical infrastructure, the spread of false information through the internet and the media, and other

influential operations. The combination of these measures is considered as amounting to hybrid warfare. In hybrid warfare, a country takes measures that are difficult to identify definitively as an "armed attack" based on its outward appearance. It is said that such an approach is taken with an intent to make it difficult for the target country to address the situation, such as delaying the military's initial response, while denying the attacker country's own involvement.

Amid emerging inter-state competition, hybrid warfare and other various measures tend to cause gray-zone situations to last for a long period of time.

technologies will have a major impact on improvements in the military capabilities of each country. Further technological innovations hereafter are expected to make it difficult still to foresee future warfare.

Thirdly, security challenges, which cannot be dealt with by a single country alone, are prominently emerging.

First of all, securing the stable use of new domains such as space and cyberspace has become an important challenge for the security of the international community. In recent years, countries are moving ahead with a reinforcement of their comprehensive ability to combat cyber attacks. There are also moves seen in the international community to promote the rule of law in space and cyberspace, including an establishment of certain norms of behavior.

In the maritime domain, there have been cases where a country unilaterally claims its entitlement and takes actions based on its own assertions that are incompatible with the existing international order, thereby unduly infringing upon the freedom of navigation in high seas and of overflight. In addition, piracy acts have taken place in various parts of the world.

The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs), such as nuclear, biological, and chemical (NBC) weapons, and of ballistic missiles that serve as the means of delivery of WMDs, and international terrorism are still viewed as significant threats to the international community.

Moreover, COVID-19 (coronavirus disease 2019), which emerged since the end of 2019, has become a challenge that should be addressed through cooperation across the international community. How to deal with the spread of COVID-19 is not only an issue of responding to an infectious disease, but it also affects states' economic activities. As it is also generating various effects and constraints on states' military activities, it is necessary to pay attention to the impact on the security front.

2 Regional Security Environment Surrounding Japan

Military powers with high quality and quantity are concentrated in Japan's surroundings, where clear trends such as further military buildup and an increase in military activities are observed.

States in the Indo-Pacific region, including Japan, abound in political, economic, ethnic, and religious diversity. Also, each country has different security views and threats perceptions. Therefore, a regional cooperation framework in the security realm has not been sufficiently institutionalized, and longstanding issues of territorial rights and reunification in this region continue to remain.

In the Korean Peninsula, the Korean people have been divided for more than half a century, and the faceoff continues between the military forces of the Republic of Korea (ROK) and North Korea. Issues are existing concerning Taiwan and the South China Sea. Furthermore, with regard to Japan, territorial disputes over the Northern Territories and Takeshima, both of which are inherent parts of the territory of Japan, remain unresolved.

On top of this, recent years have seen a continued tendency towards the prolongation of so-called gray-zone situations, or situations that are neither pure peacetime situations nor contingencies and are associated with territories, sovereignty and economic interests, and such situations may increase and expand in the future. The gray-zone situations harbor the risk of rapidly developing into more serious situations without any clear forewarning.

Fig. I-1-1   Regional Security Environment surrounding Japan etc.

Military Forces in Major Countries/Regions (Approximate Strength)

Large-scale military capabilities are concentrated surrounding Japan.

Legend

Ground forces (10,000 troops)   Maritime Forces (10,000 tons)   Combat aircraft (aircraft)
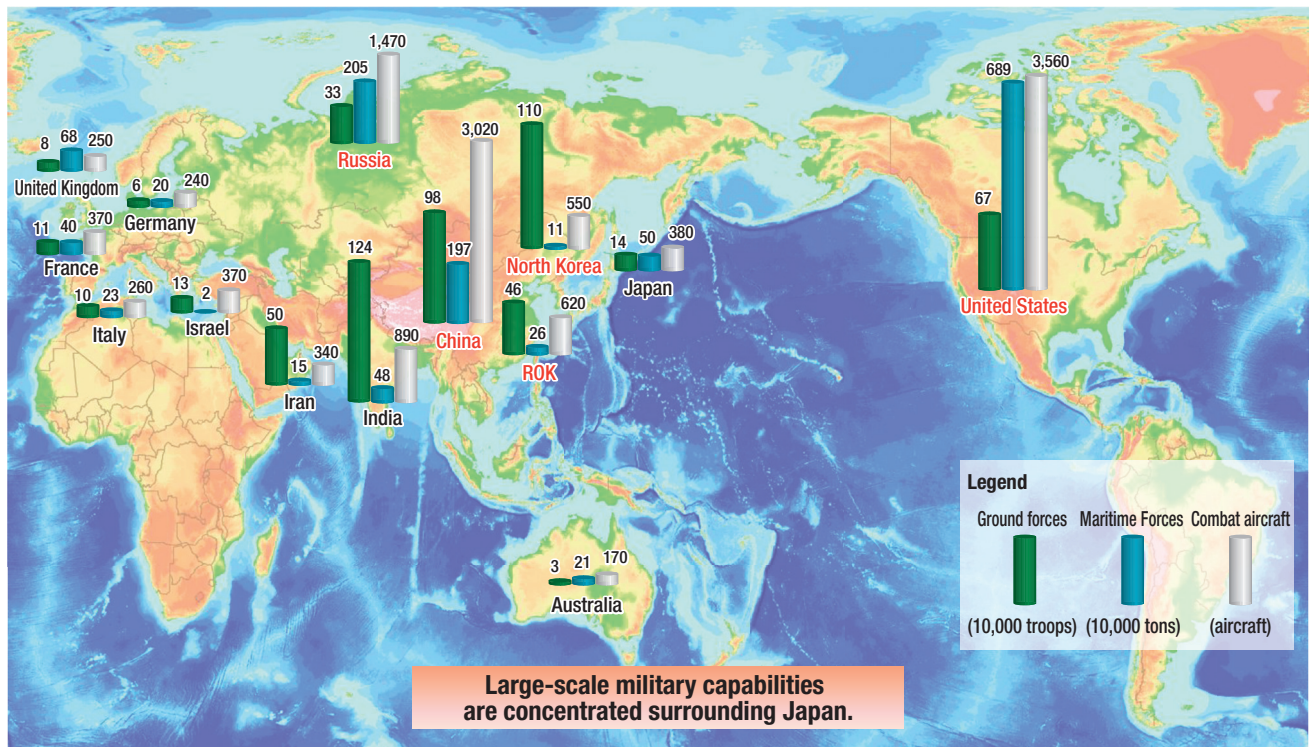
Military Forces in Major Countries/Regions

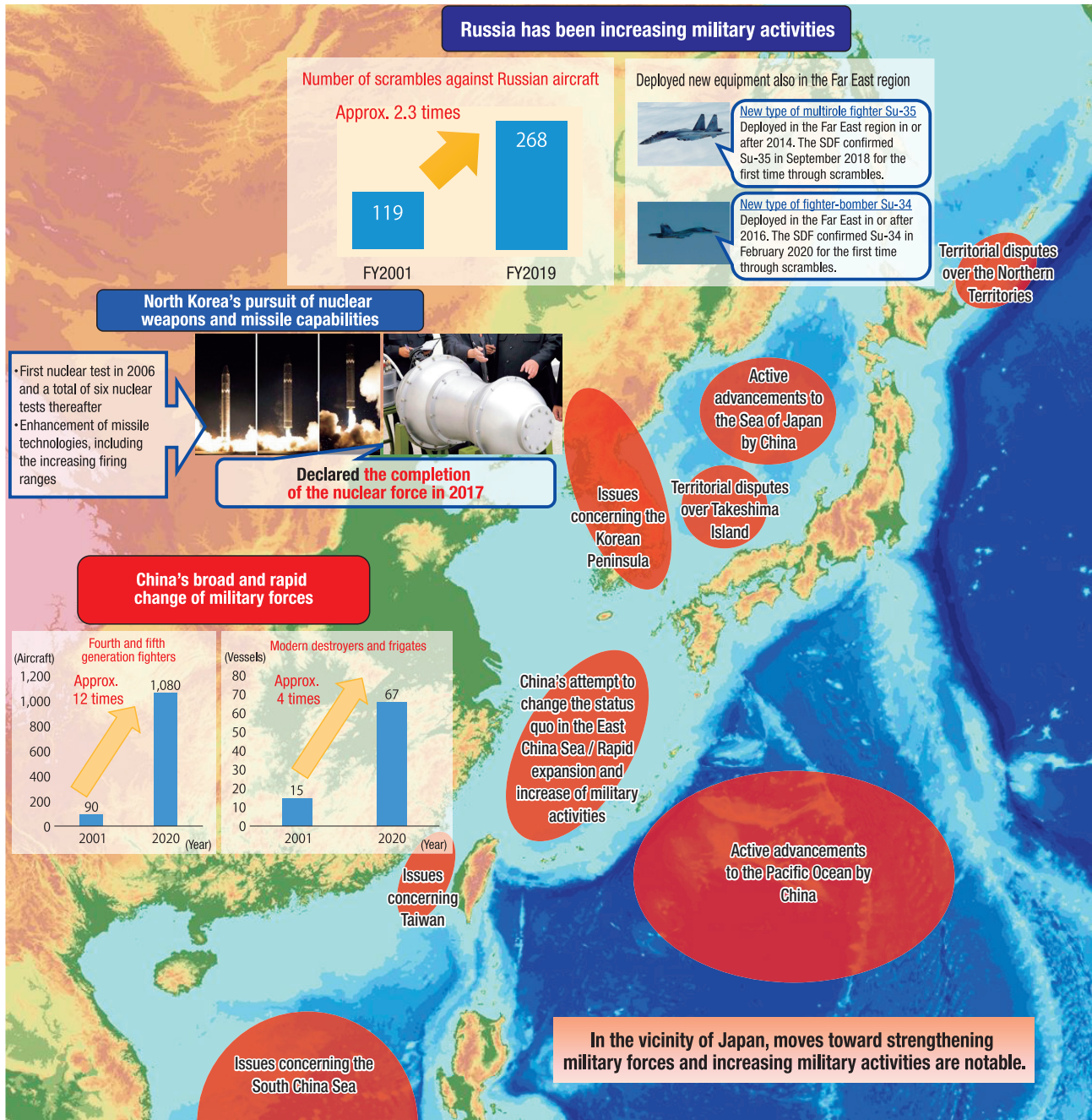|	Ground forces (10,000 troops)	
1	India	124
2	North Korea	110
3	China	98
4	United States	67
5	Pakistan	56
6	Israel	50
7	ROK	46
8	Vietnam	41
9	Myanmar	38
10	Russia	33
—	Japan	14

	Maritime Forces	
1	United States	689 (980)
2	Russia	205 (1,130)
3	China	197 (750)
4	United Kingdom	68 (130)
5	India	48 (320)
6	France	40 (260)
7	Indonesia	Indonesia
8	ROK	26 (240)
9	Italy	23 (180)
10	Turkey	22 (200)
—	Japan	50 (140)

	Air forces (aircraft)	
1	United States	3,560
2	China	3,020
3	Russia	1,470
4	India	890
5	ROK	620
6	Egypt	600
7	North Korea	550
8	Taiwan	520
9	Saudi Arabia	440
10	Pakistan	430
—	Japan	380

(Notes)

1. Figures for ground forces are basically the numbers of Army personnel in "The Military Balance 2020."* Figures for naval vessels show their tonnages compiled by the MOD based on "Jane's Fighting Ships 2019-2020." Figures for combat aircraft are the total numbers of bombers, fighters, attack aircraft and surveillance aircraft, etc. compiled by the MOD based on "The Military Balance 2020."

2. Figures for Japan indicate the strength of each SDF as of the end of FY2019; the number of combat aircraft (air forces) is the sum of ASDF aircraft (excluding transport aircraft) and MSDF aircraft (fixed-wing aircraft only).

* Figures are rounded off to the nearest 10,000 personnel. Figures for the United States include 480,000 Army personnel and 190,000 Marines personnel. Figures for Russia include 50,000 airborne unit personnel in addition to 280,000 ground force personnel. Figures for Iran include 150,000 ground force personnel of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps in addition to 350,000 Army personnel.

Regional Security Environment surrounding Japan

Russia has been increasing military activities

Number of scrambles against Russian aircraft

Approx. 2.3 times

119 (FY2001) → 268 (FY2019)

Deployed new equipment also in the Far East region

New type of multirole fighter Su-35
Deployed in the Far East region in or after 2014. The SDF confirmed Su-35 in September 2018 for the first time through scrambles.

New type of fighter-bomber Su-34
Deployed in the Far East in or after 2016. The SDF confirmed Su-34 in February 2020 for the first time through scrambles.

Territorial disputes over the Northern Territories

North Korea's pursuit of nuclear weapons and missile capabilities

- First nuclear test in 2006 and a total of six nuclear tests thereafter
- Enhancement of missile technologies, including the increasing firing ranges

Declared the completion of the nuclear force in 2017

Active advancements to the Sea of Japan by China

Issues concerning the Korean Peninsula

Territorial disputes over Takeshima Island

China's broad and rapid change of military forces

Fourth and fifth generation fighters (Aircraft)

Approx. 12 times

90 (2001) → 1,080 (2020) (Year)

Modern destroyers and frigates (Vessels)

Approx. 4 times

15 (2001) → 67 (2020) (Year)

China's attempt to change the status quo in the East China Sea / Rapid expansion and increase of military activities

Active advancements to the Pacific Ocean by China

Issues concerning Taiwan

In the vicinity of Japan, moves toward strengthening military forces and increasing military activities are notable.

Issues concerning the South China Sea

○ Countries in this region abound in political, economic, ethnic, and religious diversity and views on security and the perceptions of threats are different by country.
　・ A regional cooperation framework in the security realm has not been sufficiently institutionalized. (⇔ NATO's collective defense in Europe)
　・ Longstanding issues of territorial rights and reunification in this region continue to remain. (e.g. Korean Peninsula, Taiwan, South China Sea)
○ Inter-state competition across the political, economic and military realms is prominently emerging in recent years.
　・ Gray-zone situations may increase and expand, which harbors the risk of developing into graver situations.

(Note) Figures for modern destroyers and frigates for China show the total number of Luhu-class, Luhai-class, Sovremenny-class, Luyang-class, and Luzhou-class destroyers and Jiangwei-class and Jiangkai-class frigates. Additionally, China has 42 Jiangdao-class corvettes (in 2020).