

Summary

The present work is concerned with the study of official Japanese politics aimed at strengthening national security during the universally important stage of history when the cold war is over and the world order is taking its shape. The processes and conditions which, in the late 20th and early 21st centuries, influenced the structuring of the new security policy of the world powers, including Japan, soon revealed their profound inner inconsistency. The world is faced with a vital choice now: either the security of sovereign states and the stability of international relations as a system have to be maintained by restoring the “multipower” system of world order or national security systems would have to respond to the challenges of the national security systems would have to respond to the challenges of the “unipolar”, U.S. – dominated world model individually.

Due to the new situation in the world, Ukrainian researchers are faced with a number of important, large-scale issues, dealing primarily with reappraisal of the national security patterns in relation to the new, post-cold war conditions.

In the 1990 s, against the background of NATO’s eastward expansion and the perceptible growth of aggressiveness in U.S. foreign policy, the study of strategic priorities in relation to Europe began to be pursued with much greater interest. However, adequate information on the situation in the Far East and its correct interpretation are equally important. It is in that region that the conflicting geopolitical interests of many countries collide – China, Russia, North and South Korea on the one hand, the USA and Japan on the other.

Japanese nationalists, occupying the distant far right part of political spectrum, assert that Japan should not lay hopes on the alliance with the USA and that security could be guaranteed only by strengthening the country’s own military potential.

The group of the so-called “realists” favors preserving military-political alliance between Japan and the United States. The most pacifistically-minded supporters of such an approach deny the necessity of the Japanese foreign policy activating, demand strict control over potential increasing military forces, tough limitation of military expenditure, unconditional ban on sending Japanese soldiers abroad, and extreme

caution in respect of Japan's possible joining the Security Council of the UNO.

There is, however, a viewpoint, according to which such a course preserves "second-rateness" of Japan as a subject of international relations and leads to slowing down the process of Japan's internationalization. The followers of this viewpoint, who are sometimes being called "chauvinistic internationalists", think that while remaining within the framework of alliance with America, Japan should conduct foreign policy conforming to its economic potential.

