

The Constitution of Japan, Article Number 9

● Aspiring sincerely to an international peace based on justice and order, the Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes.

● In order to accomplish the aim of the preceding paragraph, land, sea and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained. The right of belligerency of the state will not be recognized.

MESSAGES

“Article 9 is a common value for all people living in the Asia Pacific.”

“Pacifism as stipulated in Article 9 is not only important for peace in our generation, but for peace in the generations to come.”

Huang Haoming, (China, China Association for NGO Cooperation)

“From an African perspective, we want Japan to continue its support to Africa through its own prosperity and development which was achieved by renouncing military means.”

Emmanuel Bombande (Ghana, West Africa Network for Peacebuilding)

“The time for war to go has come. People are tired of war. Everyone knows about www. I think it should stand for *w*orld *w*ithout *w*ar. To reach that goal every country should have an article 9 from the Japanese constitution in their own constitution!!”

Cora Weiss (USA, President, Hague Appeal for Peace)

“We need a model. We need an example that would show that you can do without all those kind of arms, any army, violence, conflicts and military intervention. Japan is the best example.”

Florence Mpaayei (Kenya, Nairobi Peace Initiative)

The 9 Mechanisms of Article 9

Article 9:

1. Calms tensions and deters militarization in East Asia
2. Restricts the militarization of Japan
3. Restricts Japan from exporting weapons, and thus prevents the ‘militarization’ of Japanese industrial technology
4. Prevents joint military operations between Japan and the US, limiting US global military ambitions
5. Reinforces the work of movements to abolish nuclear arms and landmines, and to control small arms
6. Is in accordance with Article 26 of the UN Charter, which advocates a reduction in military spending, and follows Article 2 in forbidding the threat or use of force against states
7. Supports achievement of the Millennium Development Goals through directing money away from military spending, and paves the way for developed nations to commit at least 0.7% of their annual budgets to official development assistance
8. Supports conflict prevention, peace building and human security initiatives by peaceful means
9. Will realize a world with no war or military and a sustainable society

Article 9 to the World ! GLOBAL ARTICLE 9 CAMPAIGN

Join our campaign to build an international network of solidarity:

- A worldwide petition campaign to support Article 9, and the collection of messages of support from around the world.
- A “Global Article 9 Conference” – Spring 2008, Tokyo, Japan. Civil society activists and specialists from around the globe will gather to discuss the universal relevance of Article 9 and to create an action agenda to realize peace through non-military means.

For more details on Article 9, the conference and this campaign:

www.article-9.org

Email: article-9@peaceboat.gr.jp

Contact: 2F, 3-14-3, Takadanobaba, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, 169-0075 Japan (Peace Boat)

Tel: +81-3-3363-7561

Fax: +81-3-3363-7562

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THE GLOBAL ARTICLE 9 CAMPAIGN

Article 9

A Global Common Value for a Peaceful and Sustainable World

Article 9 of the Japanese constitution renounces the right to wage war and prohibits the maintenance of armed forces for that purpose.

“As a global citizen, I support Article 9. The world does not need more militarization; money and resources should be used to solve the many common problems we face today. In fact, I think that all constitutions should INCLUDE an Article 9 -- perhaps a global campaign to that end is needed -- and certainly not the elimination of yours [Japan’s].”

Jody Williams, USA,
Nobel Peace Prize Laureate

Break the cycle of war and violence: peace through non-military means!

Following 9/11, the attack on Afghanistan and the invasion of Iraq, the world has fallen into a cycle of violence and war. In this global situation, where non-violent alternatives are desperately needed, the potential of Japan's Article 9, like Costa Rica's peace constitution, is gaining a real significance.

Article 9 is an international oath declaring No to War

Following the end of the Second World War, Japan, which had killed 20 million people in the Asia Pacific region, adopted Article 9 as a pledge to its neighboring countries and the world that it would never again wage war.

Article 9 prevents Japan's militarization, and the development of a Japanese arms industry

Article 9 meant that Japan could recover from the devastation of the Second World War and prosper as an economic superpower, rather than attempting to develop as a military power. However, although Article 9 renounces the maintenance of any war capability, under the Cold War situation and pressure from the US, Japan developed its Self-Defense Forces (SDF). The SDF are the de-facto military of Japan, consume a considerable part of the national budget and were even dispatched to Iraq in a non-combat role.

However, despite external pressure, the existence of Article 9 and Japanese civil society's strong support for its principles have forced the Japanese government to maintain a progressive peace policy, including the non-export of weapons, a ban on nuclear weapons and not deploying the SDF for active combat. As a result, Japan's troops have not killed overseas since the end of the Second World War.

Article 9 is a Mechanism for International Peace

Article 9 played an essential role in rebuilding trust and confidence between Japan and the international community, and in particular with those peoples in the Asia Pacific who suffered under Japanese invasions. Article 9 is not merely a domestic Japanese constitutional stipulation, but rather an international peace mechanism that has reduced tensions and prevented an arms race in the East Asia region, contributing to conflict prevention.

The principle of Article 9 is a global common value that supports the United Nations and the world's civil society

Article 9 means spending on development, disaster relief, and measures to combat poverty and disease, rather than on the military. It means spending to protect human life. This principle is in accordance with the UN Charter. In reinforcing the efforts for a peaceful, sustainable world made by global civil society and NGOs, Article 9 is a shared asset for all humanity.

Article 9 is in Crisis!

The US is increasingly in need of full-fledged military support from Japan and, worryingly, there is a definite trend towards militarization within Japan. Significantly, business interests in Japan see great potential in arms development and trade. Due to such pressure, Article 9 is in increasing danger of being revised.

The revision of Article 9 would mean opening up the door for Japan to become a military superpower and to participate in the arms trade, and would strengthen the US global military strategy. The loss of Article 9 would trigger an arms race in East Asia, including China, bringing great instability to the region and the world.

"Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution... has been a foundation for collective security throughout the Asia Pacific region."

(From the Global Action Agenda of The Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), submitted to the UN Secretary General in July, 2005)

peace⁹

Protect Article 9, an 'Article 9' for Every Nation!

We call on all global citizens to protect Article 9 as an integral part of Japan's constitution and an international peace mechanism. We advocate implementing an 'Article 9' in every constitution in the world, to break the cycle of violence and war. We believe in peace through non-military means, and in creating a sustainable world for all.

The Hague Appeal for Peace Civil Society Conference, May 1999: Ten Fundamental Principles for a Just World Order, Principle One

"Every Parliament should adopt a resolution prohibiting their government from going to war, like the Japanese article number nine."

Voices backing the Amendment of Article 9 in Japan and the United States:

"Japan's restrictions on its right to collective self-defense are a constraint on its alliance cooperation."

October, 2000 Armitage Report, Institute for National Strategic Studies