



# Economic Diplomacy

## *Japan and the Balance of National Interests*

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*Economic Diplomacy: Japan and the Balance of National Interests* makes an important contribution to the concept of economic diplomacy. Japan has employed economic diplomacy as a central instrument of its foreign policy and quest for national security since the post-war period, and to a greater extent than any other nation. Strategically, economic diplomacy holds that economic/commercial interests and political interests reinforce one another and should thus be seen in tandem, a contrasting view with the traditional approach of transatlantic powers which attaches relatively greater importance to the military-economic linkage in their quest for influence. Modes of economic diplomacy are studied at the conceptual level, while applied analysis of Japan's practice of economic diplomacy is performed in parallel. The two approaches reinforce one another—yielding a conceptualization of economic diplomacy that is grounded in practical insights.

Since the 1990s, Japan's economic diplomacy has undergone fundamental changes. The reconfiguration of regional and global power encouraged the Japanese government, in coordination and cooperation with the private sector, to reassess its economic diplomacy policy. *Economic Diplomacy: Japan and the Balance of National Interests* illuminates the debates underlying these shifts, the various ways by which Japan's reinvention of its economic diplomacy is implemented, and the consequences for Japanese foreign policy at large. The critical insights offered by the examination of Japan offer applicability for Western countries, as well as for other East Asia nations and will be of interest to scholars and practitioners of diplomacy, international relations and international economic law and policy.

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