

The Evolution of Defense Policies: Trends and Factors Shaping National Strategies

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Abstract

This study examines the evolution of defense policies in different countries and identifies the common trends and factors that have influenced their development over time. By analyzing changes in the global security landscape, advancements in military technology, the role of relationships between countries, and the driving forces of national interests, regional stability, and sovereignty protection, this research offers valuable insights into the dynamic nature of defense policies. Understanding these underlying factors is essential for comprehending the complexities of defense strategies, anticipating future challenges, and fostering effective international cooperation to address shared security concerns.

Keywords: *Defense Policy, National Strategy, Military*

INTRODUCTION

Defense policy is a set of plans, actions, and strategies designed to protect a country or region from internal or external threats. Defense policy can include everything from weaponry and military equipment to diplomacy and international trade strategies. In general, the main goal of defense policy is to defend the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national security of a country. This policy usually covers three main aspects, that is strategy, doctrine, and defense budget. Defense strategy refers to a general plan for dealing with threats that a country may face, including the development and application of military and non-military forces. Defense doctrine is a set of principles and rules that govern how and when a country will use military force. Meanwhile, the defense budget includes the allocation of funds to finance all aspects of defense policy, including the development and purchase of weapons and training of military personnel. Each country has a different defense policy depending on its individual needs and conditions. However, some countries such as the United States and the United Kingdom are often considered to have the strongest defense policies in the world.

Defense policy is a framework that is constantly evolving along with changing internal and external conditions. In Japan, for example, there has been a change in defense and security policy under Shinzo Abe. In December 2013 the Government of Japan issued the National Security Strategy doctrine, to address the complex security challenges of the country and the region. The policy officially comes one week after China declared its new air defense zone in the eastern China Sea. Changes in defense and security policy in Japan occur due to at least two main factors, such as changes in the regional and global security situation, as well as domestic pressure from civil society groups (Ben-Ari, 2015)

In Europe, there are at least four important things that become the background to strengthening defense policy and cooperation. First, there are the challenges of Europe's geopolitical environment. For example, Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014, Russia's aggression in eastern Ukraine, civil war and the crisis in Syria in 2015-2016, are considered to have become problems in itself that are quite close to the European geopolitical region. Second, Britain's decision to choose Brexit in 2016 which more or less caused pros and cons. Third, the election of Donald Trump in November 2016 as US President, has implications for

changing European attitudes regarding its security which is considered to have dependence on the US. Then there is the effort to unite European cohesiveness as a common political goal (Brattberg & Valášek, 2019). Under the leadership of Angela Merkel, Germany has experienced developments in security and defense policies, such as increased defense budgets, sending troops abroad, and German involvement in NATO operations. This change occurred due to two important factors, both the increasing threat to global security, as well as international criticism of Germany's lack of contribution to international defense affairs (Major & Mölling, 2014).

RESEARCH METHODS

The study process in this study uses qualitative methods, which aims to explain in depth a phenomenon from the available data (Bhattacharya, 2017). In this paper the phenomenon to be studied is the policy posture in the military field that change by the dynamic factors. Data on this matter is faced with the fact that there are threat dynamics in the region and globally, whether it has an influence on the implementation of the policy or not. In addition, this paper refers to various credible sources such as reports, news, and other scientific sources. The data will then be analyzed using a qualitative approach.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Defense Policy around the World

a. United States of America

The United States has a comprehensive defense policy that is based on the National Defense Strategy (NDS), a crucial document issued by the United States Department of Defense (DoD). This strategy serves as a guiding framework for the long-term defense of the country, outlining the necessary policies and resources to ensure national security. However, the defense policy of the United States extends beyond its borders and encompasses foreign and security policy, which involves close collaboration with allies and partners to achieve global security goals (Feaver & Kohn, 2019). In 2018, the DoD released the "Summary of the 2018 National Defense Strategy of the United States of America," which underscored the significance of military competition in an era characterized by globalization and rapid technological advancements. This document established strategic objectives that revolved around enhancing U.S. defense capabilities, forging stronger partnerships with allies and partners, and addressing global threats posed by nations such as China and Russia (US DoD, 2018).

The evolving nature of defense policy in the United States has been particularly evident in the wake of significant events, most notably the tragic events of September 11, 2001. These events prompted substantial changes in U.S. defense policy, aimed at safeguarding national security and protecting the interests of the nation both domestically and abroad. To accomplish these objectives, the United States allocates a substantial budget to defense. In fact, the U.S. defense budget is one of the largest in the world. In 2020, total military spending reached \$778 billion, representing a 4.4% increase compared to the previous year (SIPRI, 2021). Moreover, the United States' defense budget accounted for approximately 3.7% of its gross domestic product (GDP) in 2020 (SIPRI, 2021). This robust financial investment reflects the nation's commitment to maintaining a well-equipped and formidable military force.

The size and strength of the U.S. military are noteworthy. As of 2020, the U.S. armed forces comprised around 1.3 million active personnel, supported by over 800,000 reservists (Statista, 2021). This substantial force ensures that the United States possesses the necessary manpower to address potential threats and engage in military operations effectively. In addition to its military personnel, the United States maintains a vast network of military bases worldwide. With over 800 bases globally, including strategic locations in allied countries like Japan and Germany, the U.S. has established a significant presence that supports its defense strategy and facilitates collaboration with international partners (Council on Foreign Relations, 2020). These bases serve as operational hubs, enabling the U.S. military to project power and respond swiftly to emerging threats or regional conflicts.

The United States' defense policy revolves around the National Defense Strategy, which guides the long-term defense of the nation and outlines policies and resources necessary for national security. The defense policy encompasses foreign and security policy, involving close cooperation with allies and partners. The United States has consistently adapted its defense policy over time, particularly following significant events such as the September 11 attacks. To support its defense objectives, the U.S. allocates a substantial budget to the military, boasting one of the largest defense budgets globally. With a formidable military force comprising a large number of personnel and an extensive network of military bases worldwide, the United States remains committed to safeguarding its national security interests at home and abroad.

b. Europe

Following the economic crisis in 2008, the European Union (EU) embarked on a path to strengthen its defense policy and enhance its strategic independence, reducing its reliance on the United States. The primary objective of the current defense policy in Europe is to bolster European defense capabilities, foster cooperation among EU member states, and promote the growth of the defense industry within Europe. A significant milestone in European defense policy is the European Union Defense Treaty, known as PESCO, which was signed in December 2017. PESCO serves as a framework for deepening cooperation in various aspects of defense, including defense capabilities, capacity building, and operational readiness. This agreement also facilitates collaboration among European defense companies, offering opportunities for joint participation in defense projects. By encouraging joint efforts, PESCO aims to optimize defense resources, enhance interoperability, and foster a more cohesive and self-reliant European defense community (Major & Mölling, 2017).

In addition to PESCO, the EU established the European Defence Fund (EDF) in 2017 as another vital initiative in strengthening European defense capabilities. The EDF provides financial and technical support to EU member states for the development of defense projects and military technologies. By allocating resources to foster innovation and research in defense, the EDF aims to enhance Europe's defense capacity and bolster the competitiveness of the European defense industry on a global scale. In recent years, defense budgets across Europe have witnessed an upward trajectory. Since 2014, there has been a notable increase in defense spending within EU countries. In 2021, the total defense budget of EU nations amounted to €200 billion.

Furthermore, in 2020, approximately 34% of the EU's defense budget was allocated to the procurement of key weapon systems, such as fighter aircraft, warships, and combat vehicles (European Defence Agency, 2021). This demonstrates the EU's commitment to modernizing and equipping its armed forces with cutting-edge capabilities. Within the framework of PESCO, there are currently 47 ongoing projects aimed at advancing various defense technologies and capabilities. These projects encompass a wide range of areas, including the development of unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) and military transport aircraft. By pooling resources and expertise, EU member states can collaborate on these projects, leading to

technological advancements and increased operational effectiveness (European Defence Agency, 2021).

Overall, the European Union's defense policy has been undergoing significant transformation in recent years. The EU's objective is to achieve greater strategic autonomy and bolster its defense capabilities. Through initiatives like PESCO and the EDF, the EU seeks to foster cooperation among member states, strengthen the European defense industry, and promote self-reliance in defense capabilities. The increased defense budgets and ongoing projects reflect the EU's commitment to modernizing its armed forces and equipping them with state-of-the-art technologies. These endeavors aim to ensure the EU's ability to address emerging security challenges and contribute to international peace and stability.

c. China

On the other hand, China's defense policy has undergone notable transformations in recent years. China has embarked on an ambitious military modernization program, channeling significant resources into expanding and upgrading its armed forces. This modernization drive encompasses the development of advanced naval capabilities, including aircraft carriers, submarines, and other naval vessels. China's growing maritime strength has raised concerns among neighboring countries in the Asian region, who perceive it as a potential challenge to their own security. Consequently, several of these countries have strengthened their defense ties with the United States, aiming to enhance their military capabilities and deter potential threats (Bajoria, 2021). It is important to note that defense policies in the Asian region extend beyond the Japan-China dynamic. Each country in Asia adopts its own approach based on its unique geopolitical circumstances, historical experiences, and security challenges. Some countries prioritize territorial defense, while others focus on balancing regional power dynamics or participating in multilateral security initiatives. The complex security landscape in Asia necessitates a multifaceted approach, involving regional cooperation, diplomatic efforts, and military readiness.

China's defense policy has undergone significant changes in recent years, characterized by a notable increase in its defense budget and a strong emphasis on military modernization and the development of greater sea power. This shift in focus reflects China's ambition to assert itself as a regional and global power, aligning its military capabilities with its growing economic influence. The substantial increase in China's defense budget underscores its commitment to enhancing its military capabilities and maintaining a modern and technologically advanced armed forces. This allocation of resources has allowed China to invest in areas such as research and development, the acquisition of advanced weaponry, and the training of its personnel (Bajoria, 2021).

The emphasis on military modernization is aimed at building a formidable military force capable of safeguarding China's national security interests, securing its territorial claims, and projecting power beyond its borders. However, China's increasing defense capabilities have raised concerns among some countries in Asia, who view its rise as a potential security threat. These countries perceive China's growing military might as a challenge to the existing regional order and a potential disruptor of the status quo. As a response to this perceived threat, several countries in the region have sought to strengthen their defense cooperation with the United States, a longstanding security partner, to bolster their own defense capabilities and create a counterbalance to China's influence. The increased defense cooperation with the United States involves various aspects, including joint military exercises, intelligence sharing, and the acquisition of advanced military equipment. These efforts aim to enhance the readiness and interoperability of the regional defense forces and foster a collective security posture to effectively address potential challenges posed by China's military expansion. It is important to

note that China's defense policy and its regional perception as a security threat are complex and multifaceted. ‘

While some countries view China's rise with apprehension, others maintain cooperative relationships and engage in dialogue to manage potential conflicts and promote stability. Additionally, China often asserts that its military modernization is purely defensive in nature, aimed at safeguarding its sovereignty and territorial integrity, rather than posing a direct threat to other nations. In conclusion, China's defense policy has witnessed significant changes in recent years, driven by its focus on military modernization and the development of greater sea power. This shift in emphasis has led to increased defense spending and the enhancement of its military capabilities. However, this has also raised concerns among some countries in the region, leading to the strengthening of defense cooperation with the United States as a means to bolster their own defenses and maintain regional stability (Bajoria, 2021). As the dynamics of the region continue to evolve, it remains crucial for all stakeholders to engage in constructive dialogue, promote transparency, and seek peaceful resolutions to any potential conflicts or security challenges.

d. Japan

In the Asian region, defense policies pursued by countries display a wide range of approaches and priorities. Japan, as an exemplar, has adopted a defense policy that leans towards a defensive posture. The country's defense policy has been shaped significantly by its historical experience and the constraints imposed by its post-World War II constitution. Following the end of World War II, Japan underwent a transformation in its defense policy. The new constitution, known as the "pacifist constitution," was enacted in 1947 and placed severe restrictions on the use of military force for aggressive purposes. Article 9 of the constitution renounced Japan's right to wage war and prohibited the maintenance of a military with war potential. This constitutional provision established a foundation for Japan's defense policy to prioritize a non-aggressive approach and focus on self-defense. Despite the constitutional constraints, Japan maintains a self-defense capability through the Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF). The JSDF consists of the Ground Self-Defense Force, Maritime Self-Defense Force, and Air Self-Defense Force. The primary objective of the JSDF is to protect Japan's territory and ensure the security of its citizens. While the JSDF is designed to be defensive in nature, it possesses strong defense capabilities to deter potential threats and respond to any aggression.

An important aspect that influences Japan's defense policy is its alliance with the United States. Following World War II, Japan and the United States established a security alliance through the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security. Under this alliance, the United States provides a significant level of security assistance to Japan, including the commitment to defend Japan against external threats. This alliance has bolstered Japan's defense capabilities and contributed to its overall security posture. The defense policy pursued by Japan reflects a delicate balance between the need to maintain self-defense capabilities while adhering to the constitutional limitations and the desire to contribute to regional and international security.

In recent years, there have been discussions and debates within Japan about potential amendments to the constitution to allow for a more active role in collective self-defense and international peacekeeping operations. However, these discussions remain complex, as any changes to the constitution would require broad public support and consideration of Japan's historical context. Japan's defense policy exemplifies a distinctive approach in the Asian region, with an emphasis on self-defense and a commitment to peace and stability. The country's defense capabilities, despite their defensive nature, are robust and supported by the alliance with the United States. As Japan navigates an evolving security environment in the Asia-Pacific region, it continues to prioritize the preservation of peace, adherence to its constitutional

principles, and cooperation with regional partners to ensure a secure and stable environment for its citizens and the broader international community.

Japan, for instance, stands as a notable example of a country with a defense policy that leans towards a defensive stance. In the aftermath of World War II, Japan adopted a constitution that explicitly forbids the use of military force for aggressive purposes. However, Japan maintains its Self-Defense Forces, which possess formidable defense capabilities and are further reinforced through a robust alliance with the United States (Mochizuki, 2020). Conversely, China has witnessed significant increases in its defense budget over the past years. China's defense policy has centered on military modernization efforts and the pursuit of greater sea power. However, this approach has raised concerns among several Asian countries that perceive China as a potential security threat. As a response, these countries have augmented their defense cooperation with the United States, aiming to strengthen their defense capabilities and mitigate potential risks (Bajoria, 2021).

Japan's defense policy, rooted in its post-World War II constitutional restrictions, is characterized by a focus on self-defense and a commitment to pacifism. The country relies on the Japan Self-Defense Forces to protect its national security interests. These forces are equipped with advanced defense capabilities, including sophisticated weaponry and technologically advanced military assets. Furthermore, Japan benefits from its enduring alliance with the United States, which serves to enhance its defense capabilities through shared intelligence, joint military exercises, and the provision of security guarantees (Mochizuki, 2020). Japan maintains a defensive-oriented defense policy due to constitutional restrictions but maintains a robust defense capability and a close alliance with the United States. China, on the other hand, has witnessed substantial increases in defense spending, focusing on military modernization and developing greater sea power. This has raised concerns among neighboring countries, prompting them to enhance defense cooperation with the United States. It is essential to recognize that defense policies in Asia are influenced by a multitude of factors, and each country adopts its own strategic approach to address its specific security challenges in the region.

e. India

India, another prominent country in Asia, has a comprehensive defense policy that draws on two key documents: the 2017 Defense Policy and the 2018 National Security Doctrine. These documents outline India's strategic priorities, military modernization efforts, and cooperative engagements with other countries. The 2017 Defense Policy of India places a strong emphasis on modernizing and enhancing the country's military capabilities. It encompasses various aspects of defense, including conventional forces, nuclear deterrence, and cyber defense. India recognizes the evolving nature of security threats and aims to stay at the forefront of technological advancements and capabilities. In this regard, the policy document highlights the importance of strengthening India's nuclear and cyber defense capabilities to ensure national security in an increasingly complex global landscape. Additionally, the policy emphasizes the significance of defense cooperation with other countries, aiming to enhance interoperability, share best practices, and foster greater regional and international security collaboration (Ministry of Defense, 2017).

The 2018 National Security Doctrine of India underlines the foundational principles of India's defense strategy. It advocates for a "strong defense" approach that centers on building robust defense infrastructure in border regions and bolstering security in maritime areas. India recognizes the criticality of protecting its territorial integrity and ensuring the security of its maritime borders. To achieve this, the doctrine emphasizes the development of a strong defense infrastructure, including border roads, forward bases, and surveillance capabilities. Additionally, it underscores the importance of maritime security, highlighting the need to

enhance India's naval capabilities to safeguard its interests in the Indian Ocean region. The doctrine also emphasizes the significance of fostering regional partnerships, engaging in multilateral forums, and participating in cooperative security initiatives to maintain stability and promote peace in the region (Ministry of External Affairs, 2018).

India's defense policy reflects its recognition of the evolving security environment, both regionally and globally. The country acknowledges the need to keep pace with technological advancements and invest in modern defense capabilities. Furthermore, India's defense policy demonstrates its commitment to strengthening border security and protecting its maritime interests. By developing a robust defense infrastructure and enhancing its naval capabilities, India aims to safeguard its territorial integrity and maintain a secure environment in its immediate vicinity. In pursuit of these objectives, India actively engages in defense collaborations and cooperative initiatives with other countries. This includes joint military exercises, defense technology transfers, and defense industry partnerships. Such engagements provide opportunities for India to enhance its defense capabilities, share expertise, and foster greater interoperability with partner nations. India's defense policy aligns with its broader foreign policy goals, which prioritize regional stability, peaceful coexistence, and the promotion of collective security. India actively participates in regional security dialogues and initiatives, such as the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS), to foster dialogue, cooperation, and maritime security in the Indian Ocean region.

India's defense policy is shaped by the 2017 Defense Policy and the 2018 National Security Doctrine. These documents underscore the importance of modernization, enhancing military capabilities, and strengthening defense cooperation with other countries. India's defense strategy focuses on building robust defense infrastructure in border regions, enhancing maritime security, and engaging in cooperative security initiatives. By actively participating in regional and international security dialogues, India aims to promote stability, protect its territorial integrity, and contribute to regional and global peace and security.

f. Iran

Iran, as a South Asian country, has a distinct defense policy influenced by various factors, with its relationship with the United States standing as a significant determinant. Iran has long perceived the United States as a major threat to its national security, a perception that intensified after the Islamic Revolution in 1979 and the subsequent expansion of Iranian influence in the Middle East region. In response to these perceived threats, Iran has taken steps to bolster its defense capabilities, including the development of nuclear and ballistic missile programs, as integral components of its overall defense strategy (For & Rouhi, 2019). The United States' historical involvement in the region, particularly its support for Iran's regional rivals and its efforts to curb Iran's influence, has contributed to Iran's perception of the United States as a significant security challenge.

Additionally, factors such as economic sanctions imposed by the United States and its allies have further strained Iran's relationship with the United States and fueled its motivation to enhance its defense capabilities. The development of Iran's nuclear program has been a contentious issue, drawing international attention and concern. Iran argues that its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes, such as energy generation and medical research. However, many countries, including the United States, have expressed concerns that Iran's nuclear program could be used to develop nuclear weapons. The United States, along with other countries, has imposed sanctions on Iran to deter its nuclear ambitions and curtail its ballistic missile program. These sanctions have had significant economic implications for Iran but have not dissuaded the country from pursuing its defense objectives. Iran's ballistic missile program is another important aspect of its defense policy. Iran has invested in the development and

production of various ballistic missiles, which it considers a deterrent against potential external threats.

The country has demonstrated its missile capabilities through tests and showcases, which have raised concerns among regional and international actors. Iran argues that its missile program is purely defensive in nature, aimed at deterring potential aggression and protecting its national security interests. Iran's defense strategy encompasses a combination of conventional military capabilities, asymmetric warfare tactics, and non-state actors' support to protect its national interests and regional influence. Iran has strategically utilized proxy groups and alliances with non-state actors across the Middle East to extend its influence and counter perceived threats. These alliances have been crucial in supporting Iran's broader defense objectives and maintaining a regional balance of power. It is important to note that Iran's defense policy is not solely driven by its relationship with the United States. Other factors, such as regional dynamics, geopolitical considerations, and historical experiences, also shape Iran's defense strategy. Iran aims to safeguard its national security, assert its regional influence, and preserve its sovereignty amidst a volatile regional landscape.

Iran's defense policy is intricately tied to its perception of the United States as a significant threat to its national security. Iran has pursued the development of nuclear and ballistic missile capabilities as a means to enhance its defense capabilities and deter potential aggression. The country's defense strategy encompasses a combination of conventional military capabilities, asymmetric warfare tactics, and support for non-state actors. While the United States' actions and regional dynamics contribute to Iran's defense policy, it is essential to consider the broader geopolitical context and Iran's own strategic objectives when analyzing its defense posture.

Trends on the Changes of Defense Policy

Over time, defense policies in various countries have undergone significant changes, reflecting evolving security challenges, geopolitical shifts, and advancements in military technology. Analyzing the defense policies of the United States, Europe, Japan, China, India, and Iran, we can observe distinct trajectories and transformations that have shaped their respective approaches to national security.

The United States, as exemplified in the provided text, has experienced notable shifts in its defense policy over time. The events of September 11, 2001, marked a turning point, prompting a reevaluation of the country's security posture and leading to the adoption of new strategies. The focus shifted from traditional warfare to counterterrorism efforts and asymmetric threats. The United States emphasized the importance of military competition in an era of globalization and modern technology, as highlighted in the 2018 National Defense Strategy. This strategy emphasizes the strengthening of defense capabilities, intensifying partnerships with allies, and confronting global threats, particularly China and Russia. Similarly, defense policies in Europe have evolved in response to changing security dynamics. After the economic crisis in 2008, the European Union began to consider strengthening its defense policy to achieve greater strategic independence. Initiatives like the European Union Defense Treaty (PESCO) and the European Defence Fund (EDF) were introduced to enhance defense capabilities, promote cooperation between EU members, and foster the growth of the defense industry within Europe. These developments reflect a shift towards greater self-reliance and a collective approach to addressing security challenges.

Japan's defense policy has undergone significant changes as well. Following World War II, Japan adopted a constitution that prohibited the use of military force for aggressive purposes. However, Japan maintains its Self-Defense Forces and has gradually expanded its defense capabilities, particularly through an alliance with the United States. While maintaining a defensive posture, Japan has focused on modernization efforts and technological

advancements to ensure its national security. China, on the other hand, has experienced a substantial transformation in its defense policy. It has significantly increased its defense budget and concentrated on military modernization, including the development of advanced naval capabilities. This shift has raised concerns among neighboring countries and led to increased defense cooperation with the United States by some nations in the region.

China's defense policy is driven by aspirations for greater regional influence and a desire to protect its maritime interests. India's defense policy, as outlined in the text, reflects its emphasis on modernization, enhancing military capabilities, and strengthening defense cooperation with other countries. The country has placed importance on nuclear and cyber defense capabilities, along with the development of a strong defense infrastructure. India's defense strategy also encompasses maritime security, as it aims to protect its territorial integrity and interests in the Indian Ocean region. India actively engages in defense collaborations and cooperative initiatives to enhance its defense capabilities and contribute to regional stability. Iran's defense policy is influenced by its relationship with the United States and its perceived threats to national security. Following the Islamic Revolution in 1979 and its regional influence, Iran has sought to enhance its defense capabilities by developing nuclear and ballistic missile programs. These initiatives are viewed as integral elements of Iran's defense strategy to deter potential aggression and protect its interests. Iran's defense policy also involves asymmetric warfare tactics and support for non-state actors to extend its influence and counter perceived threats in the region.

Defense policies in various countries have experienced significant changes over time, driven by a range of factors. These changes reflect shifts in security priorities, emerging threats, advancements in military technology, and evolving geopolitical dynamics. From the United States' emphasis on military competition to Europe's pursuit of strategic independence, from Japan's focus on defense modernization to China's quest for regional influence, and from India's commitment to enhancing military capabilities to Iran's response to perceived threats, each country's defense policy reflects its unique geopolitical context and strategic objectives. Understanding these evolving defense policies is essential for comprehending global security dynamics and the challenges and opportunities they present in the contemporary world.

Factors on the Changes of Defense Policy

Analyzing these diverse defense policies, we can observe several common trends and factors that have shaped their evolution. First, changes in the global security landscape, including terrorism, asymmetric threats, and geopolitical shifts, have influenced defense policies across countries. Second, advancements in military technology and the increasing importance of cyber and space domains have necessitated adjustments to defense strategies. Third, the relationships between countries, particularly alliances and perceived security threats, have played a crucial role in shaping defense policies. Lastly, the pursuit of national interests, regional stability, and the protection of sovereignty have remained key drivers of defense policy across countries.

- a. Changes in the global security landscape have exerted significant influence on defense policies worldwide. The emergence of terrorism as a pervasive threat following the 9/11 attacks has prompted countries to reassess their defense priorities and allocate resources towards counterterrorism efforts. The asymmetric nature of modern threats, such as non-state actors and cyber warfare, has also necessitated adjustments to defense strategies. Governments have recognized the need to adapt their policies to address these unconventional challenges effectively.
- b. Advancements in military technology have played a crucial role in shaping defense policies. Rapid developments in areas such as artificial intelligence, autonomous systems, and precision weaponry have compelled countries to adapt their strategies to

leverage these capabilities. The increasing importance of the cyber and space domains has prompted nations to enhance their cyber defense capabilities and space-based assets, recognizing the potential vulnerabilities and opportunities that these domains present.

- c. The relationships between countries have greatly influenced defense policies. Alliances and partnerships have been pivotal in shaping the defense strategies of nations. Collaborative efforts in defense research, joint military exercises, and intelligence sharing have allowed countries to pool resources and expertise, strengthening their collective security. Conversely, perceived security threats from other nations or regional conflicts have led countries to realign their defense priorities and allocate resources accordingly.
- d. The pursuit of national interests, regional stability, and the protection of sovereignty has consistently remained at the core of defense policy across countries. Governments prioritize safeguarding their territorial integrity, ensuring the safety and well-being of their citizens, and protecting their economic and strategic interests. Defense policies are designed to address these imperatives, accounting for regional dynamics and geopolitical considerations.

A comprehensive analysis of diverse defense policies reveals common trends and factors that have shaped their evolution. Changes in the global security landscape, advancements in military technology, relationships between countries, and the pursuit of national interests and regional stability are key drivers that have influenced defense strategies across nations. Understanding these factors is crucial for comprehending the complexities of defense policies, anticipating future challenges, and fostering effective international cooperation to address common security concerns

CONCLUSION

Defense policies across different countries have undergone significant changes and adaptations over time, shaped by various trends and factors. Analyzing the texts above, we can draw several conclusions regarding the evolution of defense policies and the key trends and factors that have influenced them. Firstly, one notable trend is the increasing emphasis on military modernization and the development of advanced capabilities. Countries such as China have significantly increased their defense budgets to enhance their military strength and assert themselves as regional and global powers. This trend reflects the growing importance of technology and the need for countries to stay abreast of advancements in military capabilities. Secondly, regional security dynamics play a crucial role in shaping defense policies. The perception of security threats, whether real or perceived, influences countries' defense strategies. For instance, China's rise as a military power has raised concerns among some countries in Asia, leading to an increase in defense cooperation with the United States as a means of counterbalancing China's influence. Similarly, Japan's defense policy has been shaped by its historical experience and the need to ensure national security in a region with diverse security challenges. Thirdly, alliances and partnerships have a significant impact on defense policies. Countries often seek to strengthen their defense capabilities through alliances with like-minded nations. The alliance between Japan and the United States, for example, has played a vital role in bolstering Japan's defense capabilities and ensuring its security in a volatile region. Moreover, the pursuit of national interests, regional stability, and the protection of sovereignty remain fundamental drivers of defense policy. Countries develop their defense

strategies to safeguard their national security, protect their territorial integrity, and promote stability within their regions.

These factors shape the priorities and actions of nations in their pursuit of defense objectives. Furthermore, advancements in military technology, including cyber and space domains, have necessitated adjustments to defense strategies. Countries recognize the importance of keeping pace with technological advancements to maintain their military edge and effectively respond to emerging threats.

The evolution of defense policies is a dynamic process influenced by various trends and factors. National strategies have adapted to the changing global security landscape, advancements in military technology, regional dynamics, and the pursuit of national interests. Understanding these trends and factors is crucial for policymakers and analysts to navigate the complexities of defense policy and promote peace, stability, and security in an ever-changing world. By staying attuned to these trends, countries can develop effective defense strategies that address evolving security challenges while safeguarding their national interests.

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