

**THE RISE OF NEO-CONSERVATIVE FORCES
AND ANTI-CHINA PROTESTS IN JAPAN**

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Executive Summary

1. Sino-Japanese bilateral relations are far from peaceful in recent years. It was politically cold but economically hot during the time of Junichiro Koizumi (小泉純一郎) in contrast to keenness among the officials in the years of Shinzō Abe (安倍晋三). The relationship is now deteriorating to coldness from both the Japanese people and the government.
2. After the Diaoyudao/Senkaku Islands incident in September 2010, nationalistic protests broke out in both China and Japan. The new wave of anti-China demonstrations in Japan signifies the rise of neo-conservative forces that are starkly different from the traditional right-wing groups.
3. There are mainly four organizations behind the current wave of anti-China movements, including Three Cheers for Japan National Action Committee (がんばれ日本！全国行動委員会), Soumou Japan Local Assembly (草莽全国地方議員連盟), SakuraSo-TV (日本文化チャンネル桜), and the Union for Saving Japan (日本を救うネットワーク).
4. These are closely associated organizations and they share a similar mission—to mobilize domestic forces to revive Japan's losing power. They have a clear division of labor and their events attracted the support of many young Japanese.
5. The recent events in the aftermath of the Diaoyudao/Senkaku Islands clash indicate a fusion of domestic nationalism and conservative forces in Japan. Factors accounting for this include Japan's economic stalemate, political incompetency of the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ), and radicalization of Chinese nationalism against Japan.

6. The neo-conservative demonstrations attracted popular support because they adopted a peaceful approach in contrast to the terrorizing methods of the traditional right-wing organizations.
7. The impact of the rise of neo-conservatism on the Japanese political landscape in the long term would be enormous. While this development would not constitute a serious threat to the current Sino-Japanese relationship and the general stability of the greater East Asia region, it is nonetheless a major possible destabilizing factor that calls for close attention.