

**CHINESE NATIONALISM:
LOVE CHINA, DISLIKE JAPAN,
PREFER PEACE**

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EAI Background Brief No. 796

Date of Publication: 1 March 2013

Executive Summary

1. The rise of Chinese nationalism has been one of the central concerns of international society in the past decades. It is especially so when waves of nationalistic demonstrations erupted in many Chinese cities and a new generation of top leadership was inaugurated in 2012.
2. Public opinion surveys provide a systematic overview of nationalistic attitudes of the general public. A survey conducted in November 2010 in China asked respondents about their national identities, their views of Japan as well as their preferred way to resolve international conflicts.
3. Results show that Chinese citizens generally have a positive image of their country, indicating a strong sense of national identity.
4. But this identity varies significantly across age cohorts, education levels, income, political affiliations, and so forth. Generally, the post-1980 generation, people with less education, lower levels of income, and CCP membership are more likely to be proud of the Chinese nation.
5. The general impression of Japan is negative. On a 0-10 scale where 0 denotes “very bad” and 10 “very good,” more than 50% of the respondents gave a score no higher than 3.67.
6. There is also a significantly negative relationship between national identity and impression of Japan. Those who love China most tend to have a lower level of appraisal of Japan.
7. Notably, the younger generation, the more educated and the wealthier people are more likely than other groups to develop a positive impression of Japan.
8. The data also reveal that Chinese nationalists may not be a threat to world peace. Respondents are generally not aggressive. More than 80% of them

agree that peaceful negotiation is the best means to resolve international conflicts, including conflicts with Japan.

9. The relationship between national identity and aggressiveness is negative. That is to say, the stronger the respondent holds nationalistic sentiment, the less likely for her/him to prefer a non-peaceful way of conflict resolution. In China, those with strongest patriotic feelings are also the most bellicose ones.