

My Way of Writing Papers

My Own Style of Writing Papers on China's Military Issues

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An Apprentice Researcher at the Age of 50, and Specialization of China's Military Issues

I wrote an academic paper (a kind of) at the age of 50 for the first time of my life, which can be described as “Apprenticeship of 50 Years Old.” In addition, I have to bear the burden of humiliation to say that until then, I have not received formal education in writing papers. Therefore, this paper would become just my own unique essay on paper writing, and, besides, this paper's topic is more inclined to China's military power.

I studied at National Defense University (majoring in civil engineering), and my first foreign language was Chinese. After graduation, I became a Grand Self-Defense Force officer (third-class lieutenant). At that time, when the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union was in full swing, the Self-Defense Forces were threatened by the northern Soviet Union, and how to complete the homeland defense was their job. As my first assignment, I worked day and night, to defend the northern land, with more than 30 subordinates in the 11th Regiment of Hokkaido. When I was in my thirties, as a company commander, although the full quota was a little over 200 members, the actual situation was to arrange less than 80% of the full quota to perform defense tasks. These periods were not so much about choosing themes for careful contemplation, but rather about attaching importance to daily execution and its achievements and striving to exercise operational application and decision-making in a limited time. Therefore, priority of reporting was “conclusion first”, and the reasons behind “compact and straightforward”. This habit was also reflected in paperwork, which was busy making concise and itemized documentation, which was a far cry from academic papers.

After being promoted to colonel, the staff business in the headquarters and other places has increased. In my case, at the age of 36, I started to work in the intelligence department in the Ground Staff Office (formerly the General Staff Headquarters), and then I was seconded to the China Section of the Asian Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for two years and engaged in more work of sorting out data and writing documents. There, I was trained in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs-style paperwork, how to sneak easy-to-understand information in flowing long articles. In this way, for about 30 years after

joining the Self-Defense Forces, I buried myself in the field work centered on practical operation, which is far from the thesis writing.

My last job as a self-defense officer was the chief of staff of the 7th Division. The 7th Division was called the key to defending Hokkaido, the only armored division in Japan, which was the precious tank strike force only owned by the United States and the Soviet Union at that time. The 7th Division was a force of about 7,000 people with seven regiments as the backbone. And it had more than 600 heavy armored vehicles which were equipped with artillery and anti-aircraft guns besides 300 tanks. During the Cold War, in the management and operational application of huge combat effectiveness, the work of supporting the division commander was mainly in clerical affairs, and a red pencil could be used for approval signatures or to revise and guide plans.

At the end of the historic Cold War in 1991, I was transferred to the Defense Research Institute which belonged directly to the Minister and took up the research position of “apprenticeship of 50 years old” mentioned at the beginning of this paper. After the end of the Cold War, facing the demise of the main enemy, the Soviet Union, which side should our country regard as the enemy and what should be protected from what circumstances in the future? To the extreme, it was an era when even the sense of mission and task was about to be lost. At that time, the newly formulated “National Defense Program Guidelines” regarded the risk of North Korea's nuclear development and repeated missile tests as the defense object from then on, but I personally considered that China would become the defense object of our country soon.

The First China Research Specialist in The Ministry of Defense

Until then, the Ministry of Defense took intelligence analysis and military research of the United States and the Soviet Union as the mainstream, which was worthy of the name. After the Cold War, the situation in Asia became increasingly tense, and the media also ushered in an era of paying attention to China's trends. Under such circumstances, I raised my hand for a post to study China's military power for the first time in the institution. However, both my own as well as public knowledge and information accumulated and supported by basic research were awfully scarce, so it can be said that the research started from scratch.

However, the media strongly demanded comments of the Ministry of Defense on the homeland security. While the minister's secretariat internal bureaus were busy coping with the sudden changes in the security environment after the Cold War, and most of the media's questions were directed to the defense research institute. The defense research institute was overwhelmed with media's questions. The institute could not fully analyze

data and information to the questions. Yet it had to respond to the media in a manner of “from hand to mouth.” Thus, I had to try hard and work all night almost every day in the institute, quite often taking a nap on a sofa of the office.

At such times, at the request of the organization, I transferred from the self-defense officer (Major General) to the civil service research position. As the director of the Asian Research Office, the work of managing several young researchers increased. But it was convenient that I could bring a simple bed in the corner of the director’s office, which makes it easy to work all night. During the time, the work was mainly to assess the actual situation of China's military strength and clarify its intentions. I used the method of estimating “possible actions of the enemy”, which I used to it when I was the defense officer, to analyze China. However, I could not help skipping mostly such important basic research aspects as the Chinese people's view of history, Confucianism, views on things and other humanistic characteristics. As the elderly director in my fifties, however, I spent a difficult time to stay overnight at the office 2-3 times a week and devote myself to the dynamic analysis of China's military trends.

Looking back at previous positions, although it is called one of the heaviest tasks of the Self-Defense Forces, I managed to complete difficult tasks of minute schedule thanks to the close adjutant (secretary) and the support of the general office staff including the driver. However, I didn't have a secretary and any support in the defense research institute. I served tea by myself, sharpened pencils by myself and copied various papers and references by myself. Looking back now, I feel that I could be proud of my hard work.

Paper Writing with One Mind “Introduction, Development, Turn and Conclusion”

In writing papers, I trained myself with one principle in mind: “Introduction, Development, Turn and Conclusion.” I had never received any formal guidance for paper writing, rather took the papers of predecessors and advanced researchers as a model. I then imitated them to write my own papers under the pressure of need.

The first paper I wrote in the institute was entitled "China's nuclear power and nuclear disarmament response". At that time, China finally succeeded in its intercontinental ballistic missile test and began to be recognized that it had nuclear deterrence. The paper evaluated China's nuclear power and criticized its attitude of refusing nuclear disarmament. This consisted of two articles (15,000 words) and was published in the magazine *National Defense* (Asagumo Shimbun Sha Inc.) in January and February 1992.

Taking this as a starting point, over the last 10 years of defense research work, I wrote academic papers (“academic” in my mind) as many as 38 articles published in *Journal of International Security*, *Annual Report of NIDS*, and *Land Warfare Research* of the

Institute of the National Institute for Defense Studies and *World Studies* of Takushoku University. I also contributed 75 articles to the media, most of which were published in such magazines as *World Weekly* and *Thuokoron*. Besides, there were 32 papers published by Asian Political and Economic Society and other societies, reported to government magazines, and submitted to magazines and journals related to the Ministry of Defense. Although they looked a little shoddy, I could write a considerable number of papers. It is particularly worth mentioning that I was invited as a reference person to the “House of Councilors: Asian Regional Security and Environmental Investigation Meeting” in May 1995 to express my opinions regarding the “China situation”.

Incidentally, when Takushoku University applied to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology for the establishment of a new “Department of International Development”, I became, as a condition of recognition, the object of strict teacher qualification examination. I attached the above-mentioned published papers to the application and was fortunately recognized as a professor. This may imply that my papers were accepted as academic papers. I remember that I felt relieved to think that what I did was right and correct.

Think with Students and Move forward While Worrying

After retiring from the National Institute of Defense Research, I worked as a professor in Takushoku University. However, after becoming the professor, I could not force students to follow my style of writing. In supervising their paper writing, after some considerable consideration, I finally decided to think with students and move forward while thinking. I then guided them emphasizing the structure of the paper based on “Introduction, Development, Turn and Conclusion,” the consistency of arguments and the clear organization of propositions, respectful response to rebuttal opinions and concise expressions. Further, I encouraged to take part in award-winning essay contests. My student won the first prize of the scholarship award essay contest of 2002 sponsored by the Tskudshoku University Supporter’s Association. For the scholarship award essay contest, sponsored by the Institute of International Development of Takushoku University, which began in 2003, I recommended my Zemi students to organize a pair of one Japanese and one international student and apply jointly for the contest. In 2005, one pair won the excellence prize and from 2003 onward 2-3 pairs won the second or fine work prize almost every year, totaling 8 prizes all together. I feel rather complacently as an educator/supervisor that I must have fulfilled my responsibilities of paper writing with the results of scholarship prizes.

As far as the title of my thesis is concerned, I have focused on China's military issues

and have always concerned with them. As for China's military power, it is well known that in the 1980s, Deng Xiaoping carried out military reform, streamlined the policy of reducing 1 million people on a large scale to the People's Liberation Army, which expanded in the civil war between the Kuomintang and the Communist Party, and at the same time strengthened its military strength qualitatively centering on strengthening its nuclear strength, which attracted worldwide attention. Beginning in the 1990 era, China gradually increased its strength. Since the Jiang Zemin era, China's defense expenditure has soared, its military strength has been strengthened, and its surrounding areas have been provoked repeatedly.

And as we all know, up to now, the world is paying more and more attention to China's military issues. The current situation of China's military power is recognized with keen interests by the system of four aircraft carriers of which two ships, "Liaoning" and "Shandong," have been deployed, the enhancement of naval brigades and amphibious assault ships in with the emergence of Taiwan issue, and the actual deployment of the fifth generation J20 fighters, which are, in short, the modernization of weapons, and further the frequent military exercises for island landing. I refrain here from describing more about China's military strength. However, if China as a big power continues its military buildup, the demand for its military information disclosure will become more and more intense from now on.

Difficult Task under the Veil of Secrecy

China is strongly urged to improve its military transparency and disclosure of military intelligence as Western great powers. This is to improve China's military transparency and encourage China to disclose the same military intelligence as big powers. Needless to say, any country is covered with the veil of top secret concerning military power elucidation/evaluation. However, the openness of China's military information is too low. China aims at achieving "Great Chinese revival." And before the centenary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, as far as China intends to stand at the forefront of the world and place its military strength at the core of the great power line, its transparency must become the responsibility of a great power.

Just for reference, all the books I wrote are related to Chinese military and are *Chinese Military Theory* (Ashi Shobo, March 1994, the 6th Kato Award of Japan Defense Society), *Looking at China from the Perspective of Security* (Keiso Shobo, Oct.1998), *The Origin of China's Military Power* (Sousousha, March 2012, the 24th Asia-Pacific Award Special Award) and *People's Liberation Army* (PHP Shinsho, Sept. 2019).

As a new trend, in addition to military power, the hegemony in outer space, cyberspace

and electromagnetic wave space is also increasing in recent years. It is said that in the intensified US-China hegemony, with the expansion of the utilization space, the hybrid war would increase, and the gray area between emergency and peacetime would also increase. The role of military power as a means of war could be expected to change. I, therefore, wonder if Chinese military power continues to be the theme of research for a long time from now. What a difficult issue I jumped at! To tell the truth, I recently feel a kind of amazed at myself.