

Japan's Defense Buildup Plan after World War II and Functions of Industry Groups for Reconstruction of Military Industries: Focusing on Trends in the 1950s- 1970s Regarding the 'Domestic Production' of Defence Equipment

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We will examine not only what kind of Japan-U.S. relationship was built through the strengthening of the defence capabilities of the Japanese Self-Defense Forces from the end of World War II to the 1970s, but also how Japanese industry groups responded to it during that period. The rearmament of Japan by the Self-Defense Forces was carried out under the strong control of the United States, based on the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty. In addition, the beginning of the Cold War and the Korean War caused a major shift in the US occupation policy. The United States initially provided many arms freely for the creation of the Self-Defense Forces and for the enhancement of defence equipment, but to restrain the outflow of money, it switched from a policy of free to paid armament. In response to this policy shift toward strengthening self-defence capabilities, Keizaidantai Rengokai and Nihon Heiki Kogyokai tried to achieve economic growth and acquire more advanced technology by taking advantage of the special demand and the business opportunity of building up the defence capabilities of the Self-Defense Forces. The 'domestic production' of arms was important for these groups. However, even though it is called 'domestic production', advanced technologies used in fighter planes, etc., were mainly licenced, including important parts like black boxes. Therefore, Japan was a long way off from technological independence.