Japan-US Forum

Geopolitical Implication of Ukraine War

January 11, 2023

OHARA, Bonji

Senior Fellow, The Sasakawa Peace Foundation



Lessons from Ukraine War

① Effectiveness of **nuclear threats**: If a major power with nuclear weapons uses force, the West and the international community have no means to stop it.

② Hybrid Warfare = Weaponization of every means: Its Effectiveness is unexpectable Effectiveness depends on the resilience of the invaded country and the countries supporting it

③ Difficulty of **cognitive warfare** against international public opinion: the international community sees it as a challenge to the international order, not simply as a geopolitical issue

④ If the occupation operation is not successful within a very short period, giving the international community a respite to unite, the invading country will be subjected to **economic sanctions**, and the anti-war momentum within the invading country will increase.

If economic sanctions deteriorate the economy, the legitimacy of the war, and thus of the dictator's rule of the country, is lost.

(5) Invading country also needs support from partner countries: **Geopolitical expansion of crisis**

(6) If invading country cannot minimize its casualties, domestic protests will intensify.

Hybrid Warfare = Weaponization of every means



Ukraine situation and China's perception



Nuclear Balance

 Nuclear Warheads (SIPRI YB 2022)
 US: 5,428, Russia: 5,977, China: 350 (320 at Jan. 2020)

 ICBM Launchers (IISS MB 2021)
 US: 400, China: 104



How to deal with the Challenge

> Determination to maintain the International Order (Rules-Based Order)

- Cooperation between the U.S., Europe and Asia ⇒ share values such as Freedom, Human Rights, Democracy, etc.
- Economic prosperity is the foundation of cooperation
- Cooperation in traditional security
 - Responding to the hybrid warfare: integration of the all domains
 - Building countermeasures to physical means: sharing ammunition and weapon systems (C-UAS weapons, long range strike capability, etc.) between allies
- > A strong focus on economic security
 - Recognition of "Weaponization of Interdependence" and countermeasures ⇒ Securing strategic products and materials (in-house production, supply chain restructuring)
 - Responding to influence operations using Economic aids and other economic means as leverage