

ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS

Negotiating Alliance Change in the 1997 & 2015 Guidelines for U.S.-Japan Defense Cooperation: An Examination of Alliance Management Theory & Practice

by

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There are notable gaps in scholarship on alliance management and the U.S.-Japan alliance. Broadly, scholars have not decisively researched the manner in which long-standing alliances such as the U.S.-Japan alliance change, survive, and/or fail over time. This dissertation seeks to fill two gaps in scholarship: (1) understanding of how alliances evolve and (2) understanding of the Guidelines for U.S.-Japan Defense Cooperation. To do so, the dissertation answers the question of how the allies negotiated and implemented the 1997 and 2015 Defense Guidelines and what changed (and did not change) as a result. In answering those questions, this dissertation offers a comprehensive view of the evolution of the U.S.-Japan alliance from 1991 until 2020. Further, the dissertation presents a new model for understanding intergovernmental negotiations, positing a six-phase cycle that can adequately explain how alliance designs changed over time and demonstrating it through examination of the negotiation and implementation of two separate sets of Defense Guidelines. This dissertation contributes to academic literature as an update to existing alliance theory to support understanding of alliance management, as foundational research in understanding the cycles of intergovernmental negotiation, and as an in-depth analysis of the 1997 and 2015 Defense Guidelines that at present does not exist.