

## The Reversion of Okinawa and Japanese Diplomacy under the Sato Administration in 1967: The Dilemma between Public Opinion and Security

NOZOE, Fumiaki

This article aims to examine the US-Japan negotiation process over the Okinawa reversion in 1967.

After the conclusion of the San Francisco Peace Treaty in 1951, the US controlled Okinawa in order to use its military bases freely from her strategic perspective. However, public opinion in Japan and Okinawa called for a reversion of Okinawa to Japan.

It has been said that Prime Minister Eisaku Sato achieved an important step toward the Okinawa reversion through his visit to Washington DC in November, 1967. However, this article claims that Sato's visit to the US in 1967 didn't have any significant effects on the realization of the reversion of Okinawa by reexamining the US-Japan negotiation process.

Previous research tends to focus on the burden sharing in the US-Japan alliance and Sato's leadership. This article sheds new light on the policy making process in the Japanese Government in more detail by exploring the attitudes of Prime Minister Sato and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs towards public opinion in Japan. This analysis argues that the achievement in 1967 was limited because both the US and Japanese government sought to control public opinion in Japan without substantial commitment to the Okinawa reversion.