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Midford argues that Japanese public opinion has never embraced pacifism. It has, instead, contained significant elements of realism, in that it has acknowledged the utility of military power for defending national territory and independence, but has seen offensive military power as ineffective for promoting other goals—such as suppressing terrorist networks and WMD proliferation, or promoting democracy overseas.

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Rethinking Japanese Public Opinion and Security argues that behind Japan's postwar defensive defense posture lay the reality of a democratic Japan where this posture was backed by public opinion, the opinion of a public who were often distrustful of the state's ability to control or wisely wield the sword. As I argue in later chapters, Japanese public opinion was never pacifist or as opposed to all forms of military power as has often been claimed.

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After critically reviewing the literature on Japanese security policy, such as Michael Green's 'Reluctant Realism', or Chris Hughes' 'Japan's Remilitarisation' and others, who are making the argument that Japan is gradually abandoning its pacifist past and is developing towards a 'normal state' with a increasingly Realist view of the world, Midford argues that the policy and opinion changes in recent years are much less significant than widely believed.

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each other. In Rethinking Japanese Public Opinion and Security, Paul Midford assesses these issues in the context of Japanese history. In the second chapter, the author discusses the pros and cons of analyzing public opinion surveys, and presents the framework of his research. He even raises the question regarding if and when public opinion af-

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The influence of public opinion on Japanese foreign and security policy has not been deeply studied up to this point. By providing a clearly structured and meticulous analysis of the problem Paul Midford has thereby done scholars of the "Japan puzzle" a valuable service. In the course of ten chapters,

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(2011) Rethinking Japanese Public Opinion and Security: From Pacifism to Realism?. Stanford University Press. 2011. ISBN 9780804772174. Eldridge, Robert; Midford, Paul. (2008) Japanese Public Opinion and the War on Terrorism. Palgrave Macmillan. 2008. ISBN 0230606431. Part of book/report. Midford, Paul.

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