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Alliance of Subordination – Half Century of Japan-U.S. Security Treaty
Illusion of ‘equality’

Alliance of Subordination – Half Century of Japan-U.S. Security Treaty Illusion of ‘equality’

This is the second part of the booklet *Juzoku no Domei – Nichibei Anpo no 50 nen wo kenshousuru* (Alliance of Subordination – 50 years of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty Examined).

The “Alliance of Subordination” series originally appeared in Akahata from January 3 to September 4, 2010. Japan Press Service published the English translation on its website. After Akahata concluded the series, Shin’nihon Shuppan Co. Ltd. in November 2010 published the series as a booklet with major additions and changes from the original.

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1. U.S. ambition since conclusion of former security treaty

An “equal partnership” – This has become the keyword of the Japan-U.S. relationship this year marking the 50th anniversary of the revised Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, which was signed in Washington, D.C. on January 19, 1960. The Japanese government led by the Democratic Party of Japan calls for establishment of a “close and equal Japan-U.S. alliance.” U.S. President Barack Obama also said during his visit to Japan in November 2010, “[T]he United States and Japan are equal partners. We have been and we will continue to be.”

This is not the first time that the “equality” of the two nations has been questioned. The revision of the 1951 Japan-U.S. Security Treaty was initially proposed in order to erase “the Japanese feeling of inequality” (“United States Overseas Military Bases, Report to the President” by Frank C. Nash, December 1957). This demonstrates the unequalness of the security treaty between Japan and the United States.

Originally, the security treaty was an unequal treaty between the victorious United States and the defeated Japan that unconditionally surrendered. This is the root of Japan’s subordinate relation with the U.S. In contrast, Germany, another defeated nation, under the multilateral treaty framework of the North Atlantic Treaty