

ABSTRACT

After the World War II, Japan had to deal with the consequences of being the losing party. It took a lot of efforts for Japan to gain its power back, since the bomb has destroyed the main city in Japan, Hiroshima and Nagasaki. And since the country's military has been prohibited, Japan needs to think about other ways to strengthen its country.

This thesis approaches the rational choice theory to explain Japan's motive to join the Trans Pacific Partnership agreement, as one of Japan's ways to strengthen their country by being more active in international matters. The aim of this paper is to explain why Japan decided to join the Trans Pacific Partnership agreement even though there are some disagreements from Japan's citizens regarding this agreement and some international demands that Japan needs to take care of before joining the agreement. This thesis sees Japan's government in the Prime Minister Shinzo Abe era as the rational actor which used rational choice theory to make the decision. And the government thinks that joining the Trans Pacific Partnership agreement is the most rational decision that they can make since it can give them the optimum profit rather than not joining that agreement.

Keywords: Trans Pacific Partnership, Japan, Shinzo Abe, international demand