

**Shinzo Abe and his Political Reform on Article 9 of the Constitution; 2012-2018 Initiative, Campaign, Diplomacy, Crisis and Setback.**

Miyuki Taniue, B.A.

Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages, 2018

**ABSTRACT**

Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe came to power in 2012. Since then, the Abe administration tried to persuade the people that protecting Japan needed new security bill that gives broad interpretation of the state's "right to collective self-defense". However, critics have doubts that this amendment is a back door to further amend the wider constitutional law and to de facto amend the Japanese alliance with the United States. Thus, Government's support rate in public opinion polls has plummeted but Abe strived to accomplish his agenda.

This paper studied how Shinzo Abe executed the Article 9 of the constitution amendment campaign in 2012-2018 and how the campaign taught us about Japan's domestic politics and international Relationship. This research adopted path dependence approach. The analysis explained the main political movements from 2012 to the present when Shinzo Abe assumed office as Prime Minister, and charts showing time series of domestic and foreign movements and explain each period.

Overall, the most important feature of diplomacy in the second Abe administration is pursued expansion of the presence and influence of Japan in the international community. While some countries such as the United States, Britain and Italy face political instability, Prime Minister Abe achieve as three times the LDP presidential election, and Japanese politics is stable. It shows that Shinzo Abe had successfully check out the political asset without actually launch the Constitutional amendment.

Key word: Japan, Constitutional amendment, Historical research, Collective self-defense rights, US Japan Relations