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Politica Externă Regională a Japoniei după 2012: Realiniere Strategică și Extinderea Parteneriatelor în Indo-Pacific

-Rezumat-

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În linii mari, această lucrare analizează evoluția politicii externe regionale a Japoniei, concentrându-se pe perioada cuprinsă între decembrie 2012 și decembrie 2024. În concordanță cu acest obiectiv general, cercetarea încearcă să răspundă unor întrebări specifice, fiecare corespunzând capitolelor relevante. Pentru a atinge obiectivul de cercetare propus, lucrarea adoptă preponderent o metodologie calitativă, cu scopul de a oferi o interpretare nuanțată a subiectului. În ceea ce privește datele, cercetarea combină sursele primare (sub forma documentelor de politică publică și declarațiilor oficiale) cu surse secundare (în special cărți și articole din jurnale academice). Ca limitare metodologică, accentul este pus pe analiza calitativă în detrimentul instrumentelor cantitative, deși anumiți indicatori cantitativi sunt utilizați pentru a susține argumente interpretative. Totodată, pe baza structurii lucrării, sunt utilizate trei strategii majore de cercetare: în primul rând, evoluția istorică a sistemului politic japonez este analizată prin contextualizare istorică. Apoi, analiza de conținut este folosită pentru a urmări transformările în

politica externă și postura de securitate a Japoniei. În cele din urmă, o abordare de tip studiu de caz comparativ este adoptată pentru a analiza relațiile Japoniei cu cinci parteneri, studiile fiind structurate în jurul unor parametri analitici similari. Per ansamblu, cercetarea este delimitată de mai multe restricții în domeniul de cercetare. După cum s-a menționat anterior, metodologic, s-a acordat prioritate metodelor calitative în detrimentul celor cantitative. Din punct de vedere temporal, analiza vizează perioada post-2012, chiar dacă atât capitolul istoric cât și studiile de caz fac referire și la evenimente anterioare acestui an. Din punct de vedere geografic, cercetarea este limitată de un cadru general (Indo-Pacific) și unul specific (cei cinci actori analizați prin studiile de caz). Alte regiuni și actori relevanți sunt doar menționați, fără a intra în sfera de analiză detaliată.

Primele două capitole oferă un context istoric și o fundamentare teoretică. Partea istorică explorează transformările structurale și normative care au modelat Japonia postbelică și modul în care s-a articulat politica sa externă. În acest sens, capitolul este împărțit în cinci perioade istorice definitorii. Printre reperele esențiale din perioada Războiului Rece se numără adoptarea Constituției Păcii (1947), formularea Doctrinei Yoshida (caracterizată de o profundă dependență de alianța cu SUA pentru securitate) și rolul Japoniei ca lider în acordarea de ajutor pentru dezvoltare prin programul "Official Development Assistance" (ODA). Aceste repere au devenit piloni normativi ai politicii externe și de securitate nipone. Sfârșitul Războiului Rece, însă, a adus noi provocări, amplificate de o scenă politică internă fragmentată. Revenirea lui Shinzō Abe în 2012 a oferit directia și impulsul necesare pentru re-evaluarea rolului de securitate al Japoniei, deschizând calea pentru dezvoltarea viziunii "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" (FOIP). Demisia lui Abe în contextul pandemiei de Coronavirus a dus la un scurt mandat al guvernului Suga (2020-2021), urmat de administrația Kishida (2021-2024), percepută în general ca o continuatoare a directiei trasate de Abe. Mergând mai departe, capitolul teoretic are două functii fundamentale: pe de o parte, oferă repere conceptuale pentru înțelegerea teoriilor consacrate ale relațiilor internaționale (realism, liberalism și socio-constructivism), iar pe de altă parte, definește metodologia și cadrul analitic bazat pe socio-constructivism. Concepte-cheie precum identitatea și normele sunt operationalizate prin exemple practice pentru a facilita o analiză pragmatică. În plus, lucrarea abordează, printr-o perspectivă constructivistă, concepte asociate în mod tradițional teoriilor materialiste, precum puterea și interesul.

Capitolul 3 explică de ce anul 2012 este considerat un punct de cotitură în politica japoneză și justifică alegerea acestuia ca punct de plecare al analizei. Importanța acestui an poate fi împărțită

în două, bazat pe natura factorilor: interni si internationali. Din punct de vedere intern, Japonia pre-2012 a fost definită de instabilitate politică prelungită din perioada pre-și-post-Koizumi. La aceasta se adaugă și culoarea politică prin faptul că Partidul Liberal Democrat Japonez (LDP) a pierdut puterea în 2009 în fața Partidului Democrat Japonez (DPJ). Odată cu revenirea lui Abe, Japonia a cunoscut cea mai stabilă conducere din istoria sa modernă, punând bazele pentru reformele ulterioare. Această coerentă a devenit esentială pentru implementarea reformelor de securitate inițiate de administrațiile DPJ. Pe plan internațional, scena regională a fost complicată de venirea la putere a lui Kim Jong-Un și Xi Jinping. Testele militare nord-coreene și agresivitatea maritimă a Chinei au intensificat anxietățile și îngrijorările de securitate ale Japoniei, puternic dependentă de SUA pentru securitate. În acest sens, re-alegerea lui Obama si accentul pus pe "Pivotul către Asia" ca element esențial al relației au consolidat alianta americano-japoneză, culminând cu revizuirea Ghidului pentru Cooperare în Securitate în 2015. Capitolul 3 s-a axat și pe modul în care Japonia si-a sporit capacitătile asociate cu puterea, atât într-un sens mai diluat (soft) cât și într-unul tradițional (hard). În termeni de putere soft, înființarea Fondului Cool Japan în 2013 a marcat o inițiativă importantă pentru promovarea culturii japoneze la nivel global. În plus, accentul pus de Japonia pe cooperarea pentru dezvoltare durabilă a fost strâns legat de inițiative mai largi de securitate. Astfel, pentru Tōkyō, dezvoltarea regională devine esențială pentru stabilitate. În termeni de hard power, Japonia post-2012 a trecut printr-o serie de schimbări de politică și recalibrări ale orizontului de securitate pentru a adresa mai eficient realitătile regionale. Acest lucru poate fi observat prin adoptarea inițiativei de contribuție proactivă la pace (2014) si legislatia privind apărarea colectivă (2015), cea din urmă oferindu-i Japoniei dreptul la autoapărare colectivă. În plus, schimbările legislative au fost oglindite de transformări practice, precum depășirea plafonului informal de 1% din PIB pentru apărare și modernizarea echipamentului militar (incluzând achiziționarea de avioane F-35). În această linie, capitolul se încheie cu o reflecție asupra statutului Japoniei ca Mare Putere – dintr-un punct de vedere socioconstructivist. În baza normelor istorice la care a aderat (cum ar fi ne-implicare), a legitimității si a cum a fost receptată de alți actori, Japonia e mai degrabă o putere mijlocie comprehenzivă, care excelează în domeniile mai subtile ale puterii (cum ar fi focusul economic și cooperarea în termeni generali).

Capitolul 4 s-a concentrat pe înțelegerea generală a modului în care politica externă regională a Japoniei (din perspectiva direcțiilor generale) s-a modificat începând cu anul 2012. În

ansamblu, aceasta a presupus un sprijin consolidat pentru Statele Unite, un accent crescut pe dimensiunea economică și dezvoltarea unor relații constructive cu vecinii regionali. În plus, securitatea maritimă a devenit un concept central în cercurile de decizie politică japoneze, în special pe fondul intensificării incursiunilor chineze în Marea Chinei de Est și de Sud. Totodată, Japonia și-a asumat un rol regional mai proeminent, urmărind să contribuie activ la stabilitatea regiunii. Începând cu anul 2016, Japonia a dezvoltat o abordare mai structurată, cunoscută sub denumirea de "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" (FOIP), axată pe promovarea normelor internaționale, încurajarea dezvoltării economice și asigurarea păcii. În cadrul FOIP, Japonia a consolidat cooperarea în formatul Quad (Dialogul de Securitate Cvadrilateral cu SUA, India și Australia), cu scopul de a promova cooperarea maritimă și dezvoltarea infrastructurii. În plus, acest format a fost replicat și în cadrul exercițiului naval Malabar, conceput pentru a spori interoperabilitatea între cei patru parteneri. De asemenea, FOIP a sprijinit platformele Vientiane și Vientiane 2.0, axate pe întărirea capacitătilor militare ale statelor ASEAN. În mod fundamental, FOIP a vizat și îmbunătățirea calității vieții în regiune, prin investiții în infrastructură (precum "Expanded Partnership for Quality Infrastructure") și printr-o cooperare extinsă în domeniul securității umane (inclusiv Inițiativa Japonia-Mekong). Per total, FOIP a devenit un concept-umbrelă utilizat de Tōkyō pentru a promova relații regionale mutual benefice și a încuraja aderarea la normele internationale.

Capitolele 5 până la 9 reprezintă studiile de caz esențiale analizate în cadrul lucrării. În mod specific, acestea urmează o structură similară și explorează relațiile Japoniei cu actori-cheie din Indo-Pacific: China, Coreea de Sud, ASEAN, India și Statele Unite. Capitolul 5 s-a concentrat pe relațiile Tōkyō-Beijing. Înainte de 2012, relațiile erau relativ stabile, însă acțiunile din anii 2012 și 2013 (disputa teritorială exacerbată de naționalizarea de către Japonia a unor insule din arhipelagul Senkaku/Diaoyu, instituirea de către China a unei zone de identificare a apărării aeriene – ADIZ – și incursiunile maritime repetate) au conturat China ca un competitor strategic pentru Japonia. Aceste acțiuni au influențat, de altfel, și recalibrările de securitate discutate în Capitolul 3. Dialogurile la nivel înalt au arătat că, în ciuda unor domenii de cooperare precum cel economic sau diplomatic tensiunile cauzate de problemele de securitate au rămas persistente și nerezolvate. Cu toate acestea, dimensiunea economică a relației bilaterale a rămas un pilon central și rezilient în fața șocurilor politice. Acorduri comerciale precum "Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership" (RCEP) au contribuit la consolidarea cooperării economice. Cooperarea

diplomatică post-2012 a pus accent și pe relațiile interumane și pe schimburile culturale, deși acestea au rămas inegale și adesea influențate de climatul politic și de percepțiile publice. Sondajele de opinie publică din Japonia indică faptul că majoritatea respondenților au o percepție negativă asupra Chinei, în principal din cauza agresivității Beijingului în contextul regional. Poate cel mai transformator element al relațiilor Japonia–China după 2012 este intensificarea rivalității strategice, în special în noile domenii de securitate, precum provocările din zona gri ("gray-zone challenges"). Având în vedere aceste divergențe structurale în materie de securitate, este de așteptat ca relațiile dintre Japonia și China să rămână competitiv-structurale pe termen lung.

Capitolul 6 a explorat dinamica relatilor Japonia-Coreea de Sud, evidentiind importanța fundamentală a disputelor istorice în modelarea atât a cooperării mai generale, cât și a celei mai specifice. Din punct de vedere istoric, Japonia și Coreea de Sud și-au normalizat relatiile politice în 1965, o perioadă urmată de un grad ridicat de pragmatism în cooperarea bilaterală. Aceasta a fost percepută în mare parte ca o necesitate strategică pentru construirea relației. Totuși, subiectele sensibile legate de memoria istorică (în special din perioada de colonizare) au rămas în mare parte neadresate și ignorate. După 2012, profunzimea relațiilor poate fi împărțită în 4 etape: 2012 - 2014 - deteriorare lentă, 2015 - 2017 - apropiere relativă, 2018 - 2021 - cel mai scăzut punct al relațiilor, 2022 - 2024 - consolidare a relațiilor sub îndrumarea SUA. Printre reperele esențiale se numără Acordul Istoric din 2015 (care a încercat să rezolve o dată pentru totdeauna problemele legate de trecut), hotărârile judecătoresti din Coreea de Sud din 2018 împotriva companiilor japoneze (care le obligau să plătească despăgubiri pentru abuzurile din timpul celui de-al Doilea Război Mondial) și Summitul Trilateral JAROKUS de la Camp David din 2023 (care a consolidat viziunea partenerilor asupra cooperării în domeniul securității), toate evidențiind evoluțiile inconsistente din cadrul celor 4 etape istorice mentionate mai sus. În 2024, două domenii rămân esențiale pentru relațiile Tōkyō-Seul: cooperarea consolidată în industrii emergente (precum tehnologia și inteligența artificială) și accentul sporit pe rezolvarea constructivă a dificultăților istorice. În prezent, alinierea strategică rămâne condiționată de problemele istorice, deoarece memoria continuă să influențeze percepțiile și să limiteze încrederea profundă. Deși trilateralismul sprijinit de SUA a contribuit la instituționalizarea cooperării, volatilitatea politică internă din ambele țări și posibilele schimbări în politica americană ar putea afecta progresul.

Capitolul 7 a explorat modul în care s-a extins abordarea Japoniei față de ASEAN ca ansamblu și nu față de un stat specific. Istoric, cooperarea a fost condusă în principal de interese economice, cu accent pe schimburi comerciale, asistentă oficială pentru dezvoltare (ODA) si diplomație regională. Doctrina Fukuda din 1977 a introdus ideea unei cooperări pașnice și a unui respect reciproc, contribuind la diminuarea scepticismului regional față de Japonia. Pe fondul intensificării dinamicilor de securitate și al schimbărilor din politica internă, angajamentul Japoniei post-2012 a cunoscut o extindere, combinând relațiile economice cu cooperarea în domeniul securității și conectivitatea regională. Prin intermediul FOIP, Japonia a formalizat practic rolul central al ASEAN în regiunea Indo-Pacific în calitate de partener strategic pentru factorii de decizie de la Tōkyō. Însă, în contrast cu o abordare multilaterală și instituționalizată, Japonia a prioritizat în special angajamentele bilaterale practice în materie de securitate. Totuși, în ceea ce privește dialogul diplomatic, temele de securitate sunt abordate constant în cadrul platformelor multilaterale, fiind completate de introducerea programului de "Official Security Assistance" (OSA) în 2022. Acest lucru pune în contrast inițiativele bilaterale (precum "Maritime Safety Capability Improvement Project towards the Philippines Coast Guard") cu forurile multilaterale (precum "ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting - Plus"). Totuși, se poate afirma că gradul și spectrul de cooperare al Japoniei s-au extins cel mai mult în relația cu ASEAN, în comparație cu ceilalți actori analizați în lucrare. Cooperarea umană a trecut în prim-plan prin numeroase inițiative interumane între parteneri. În acest sens, Japonia a ajuns să fie percepută drept cel mai de încredere partener de dezvoltare al ASEAN. Mai mult, pornind de la nevoile de infrastructură ale ASEAN, accentul pus de Japonia pe infrastructură de calitate si dezvoltare a securitătii umane a intrat în contrast cu inițiativele chineze, inclusiv "Belt and Road Inițiative" (BRI). Aceasta a generat o situație problematică pentru Tōkyō – unele state membre ASEAN au prioritizat considerentele practice în detrimentul dezvoltării condiționate de norme. ASEAN va rămâne o zonă esențială de investitii diplomatice pentru Japonia, însă apelurile subtile ale ASEAN la neutralitate strategică ar putea împiedica o cooperare mai profundă, cum ar fi extinderea angajamentelor bilaterale în domeniul securității la o cooperare instituționalizată de securitate.

Capitolul 8 a urmărit să exploreze principalii factori determinanți și provocările care au influențat evoluția parteneriatului Japonia-India. După depășirea mai multor obstacole politice apărute în anii '90, în special testele nucleare efectuate de India în 1998, anii 2000 au marcat o creștere a importanței geopolitice a Indiei pentru spațiul Indo-Pacific. Acest lucru a fost perceput în mod adecvat de către Tōkyō, conducând la transformarea relației bilaterale la nivelul de Parteneriat Strategic și Global. După 2012, revenirea lui Abe a adus cu sine un climat diplomatic

relativ personalizat alături de Modi, ceea ce a facilitat și aprofundat cooperarea. Aceasta a fost oglindită de strategia FOIP a Japoniei din 2016 și de "revitalizarea" formatului Quad în 2017. În ceea ce privește securitatea, cercetarea a urmărit să evidențieze faptul că India a devenit, probabil, cel mai important partener al Japoniei (cu excepția aliatului tradițional – SUA). Această consolidare a relației a implicat o formalizare a cooperării (prin platforme multilaterale și exerciții practice) împreună cu sprijin și colaborare logistică. Deși cooperarea economică nu a cunoscut o dezvoltare comparabilă, aceasta a generat un tip de angajament istoric fără precedent pentru Japonia: Pactul Civil Nuclear, semnat în 2016 – primul acord de acest tip încheiat de Japonia cu un stat care nu este semnatar al Tratatului de Neproliferare Nucleară (NPT). Chiar dacă impactul său economic și practic este dificil de cuantificat, semnificația simbolică a fost considerabilă. Totuși, invazia Rusiei în Ucraina a evidențiat divergențele normative persistente dintre cei doi parteneri, deoarece poziția nealiniată a Indiei a contrastat puternic cu poziția intens pro-Ucraina și pro-norme asumată de Japonia. Similar cazului ASEAN, este esențial de observat cum va reuși Tōkyō să gestioneze ambiguitatea strategică a Indiei.

Capitolul 9 a urmărit cooperarea Japonia-SUA în timpul președințiilor Obama, Trump și Biden. Cercetarea a fost ghidată de trei direcții politice enunțate de fiecare președinte pe parcursul mandatului său. Statele Unite au rămas cel mai important partener strategic al Japoniei în perioada postbelică, iar această legătură s-a consolidat și mai mult începând cu anul 2012. Sub administrația Obama, "Pivotul către Asia" s-a aliniat cu diplomația proactivă a lui Abe, desi mai mult la nivel declarativ decât în practică. Cooperarea a culminat cu revizuirea din 2015 a Ghidurilor pentru Cooperare în Securitate, care au extins domeniul inter-operațional, inclusiv prin posibilitatea de a participa la autoapărarea colectivă (CSD). În ciuda așteptărilor privind o posibilă fragmentare, prima eră Trump a fost caracterizată, în mare măsură, de continuitate strategică, cooperarea în domeniul apărării rămânând solidă (prin exerciții comune și o aliniere mai strânsă în termeni de securitate). Valoarea geopolitică a Japoniei și abordarea personalizată a lui Abe au atenuat orice schimbări radicale de traiectorie în cadrul aliantei, desi anumite practici discursive sau simbolice au evidențiat un grad de imprevizibilitate. Discursul "America is Back" promovat de Biden a avut o narațiune opusă, punând accentul pe angajamentul comun față de multilateralism, în special în domeniile cu atenție scăzută în mandatele precedente, precum schimbările climatice și cooperarea digitală. Totuși, aceste angajamente globale s-au confruntat cu crize multiple. Per ansamblu, sub conducerea americană, cooperarea în domeniul securității s-a extins prin intermediul formatului

Quad și a inițiativelor trilaterale, inclusiv alături de Coreea de Sud. Până în 2024, o eventuală revenire a lui Trump ("Trump 2.0") ar putea genera perturbări noi în cadrul alianței, întrucât este dificil de anticipat dacă impactul celui de-al doilea mandat va fi similar cu cel al primului, caracterizat prin aceeași incertitudine, specifică administrațiilor sale.

În final, Capitolul 10 reprezintă în sine o concluzie analitică a traiectoriei politicii externe japoneze în 2024, reflectând atât schimbările din plan politic intern, precum si transformările internaționale mai largi. Volatilitatea politică (marcată de pierderea majorității de către Partidul Liberal Democrat) și conducerea contestată a lui Ishiba semnalează un moment de incertitudine. Cercetarea a analizat abordările lui Ishiba față de politica regională, concluzionând că esența politicii externe a Japoniei va rămâne în mare măsură consistentă. Totuși, există încă mai multe nuante care trebuie mentionate: de la rezistenta politică (în condițiile în care Ishiba conduce un guvern minoritar) până la aspecte specifice legate de implementarea politicilor. În privința Chinei, o abordare excesiv de pasivă față de pretențiile Chinei ar putea agrava tensiunile maritime. În plus, Beijing este foarte sensibil la ideea unui NATO asiatic, reacții de reticență venind și din partea Indiei și ASEAN. Coreea de Sud ar putea beneficia semnificativ de o abordare mai conciliatoare din partea lui Ishiba, însă evoluția relațiilor este puternic influențată de factori interne (atât politice, cât și la nivelul opiniei publice). Alianța cu SUA rămâne pilonul cel mai important al politicii externe japoneze, însă ar putea suferi un impact dublu: abordarea lui Trump față de alianță se poate schimba, având în vedere că elementele care au conturat traiectoria în primul său mandat s-au modificat. Totodată, percepția lui Ishiba față de o alianță mai egală și față de Japonia ca un partener de apărare mai autonom ar putea recalibra această relație. Anul 2025 se anunță a fi, cel mai probabil, unul dificil pentru perspectivele politicii externe a Japoniei. În cazul alianței cu SUA, discrepanța normativă, în special în ceea ce privește valorile liberale, ar putea constitui o barieră semnificativă, mai ales în contextul incertitudinii politice. Mai mult, e la fel de important pentru Tōkyō ca creșterea rolului său regional să nu se realizeze în detrimentul coeziunii interne. Pentru a evita o posibilă perioadă de diluare strategică, situația politică actuală a Japoniei ar trebui să se contureze ca o fază de tranziție, nu ca o stare permanentă. O stare prelungită de fragmentare politică ar putea risca să semene cu perioada post-Koizumi - pre-Abe II, în care lipsa unei conduceri coerente a complicat implementarea objectivelor strategice pe termen lung.

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