

Soviet Asia-based SS-20 missiles which were at the time stationed within targeting range of Japan.

9. Various U.S. Administrations, and Congress, have over the years taken issue with the relatively small budgets the Japanese have devoted to defence. Congressional critics have also linked trade issues with defence. While both Governments have sought to keep trade and security apart, the 1987 Toshiba-COCOM scandal, the FSX imbroglio, and the ongoing Structural Impediments Initiatives (SII) talks suggest that the two areas are no longer separable. The recent rise in Japanese defence budgets and increased Japanese financial contributions to support USFJ have been welcomed by Washington, and both countries continue to work quietly (and closely) to increase joint efforts to enhance Japanese and regional security.
10. For the purposes of this paper, the Russian Federation is deemed the successor state to the Soviet Union for Asia Pacific issues.
11. Prior to the dissolution of the USSR, Soviet ground forces in the Far East numbered about 390,000 (500,000 if troops deployed along the Sino-Russian border were included) and had undergone continuous qualitative improvements in tanks, armoured infantry fighting vehicles, surface-to-surface missiles, assault helicopters and multi-rocket launchers. Over 2,300 of the Soviet Union's 8,840 combat aircraft (strategic and tactical bombers, fighters, and patrol aircraft) were deployed in the Far East. The Pacific fleet, with 908 ships including 95 principal surface combatants and 140 submarines, was the largest in the Soviet Navy and is now the principle fleet of the Russian Federation and CIS forces.
12. In the closing days of World War II, Soviet forces occupied the Japanese "Northern Territories" of Kunashiri, Shikotan, Etorofu, and the Habomais. In early 1990, Soviet ground strength in the Northern Territories was estimated at one division (15,000 troops) armed with tanks, amphibious personnel carriers, helicopters (redeployed from Afghanistan), and long range artillery (130mm cannon). In addition, 40 MiG23 Flogger fighters were deployed in Etorofu.
13. Despite regular official consultations in a number of areas an overall improvement in political relations continues to be hampered by Russian possession of the disputed Northern Territories which, with the reversion of Okinawa in 1970, is the last significant territorial issue left unresolved from World War Two (a peace treaty would be the last political issue, although the deconstruction of the Soviet Union will have unpredictable effects on negotiations).
14. Soviet military doctrine considered Asia Pacific to be a major potential area of conflict. Soviet plans called for a defensive force posture designed to defend the USSR and to allow the concentration of forces in other regions for offensive purposes. Secondary military objectives included: