# "Security" or "Constitution" — Don't Fall Between Two Stools

26 May 2016 Heather O'Connell



### TOPIC

#### About: Japan's changing security policy

- For: Japan should have more of bilateral relationship with US military
- **Against**: Unconstitutional, thus doesn't need to be discussed

#### Idea: "A and B" vs. "A not B"

- "A and B" is overreaching
- "A or B" focuses on one and gets it done

### You can't have your cake and eat it too.

### SITUATION

Past: Knee-jerk reactions to events around the world

Present: "Repeated cycle of shallow debates"

- Negative public opinion
- Lack of urgency
- Avoid term "Chinese threat"

### THE DIVIDE

Mixing "SECURITY" and "CONSTITUTION"

### RIGHT

Wants to talk about the **policy** (security) For many, changing Japan's security policy is equivalent to amending the Constitution.

#### LEFT

Gets caught up in the "**unconstitutional**" (*legislation*)

## BRIDGE

Solution: Squeeze into existing Article 9

- People are averse to changing status quo
- Relieve ideological confrontation



# **MY OPINION**

That's what you get in a democratic government.

Idea of "debate" is negated if both sides are focusing on different issue.

Need compromise.