



Thesis Proposal

**Japan Outer Space Militarization 2019-2024: A Balance of Threat
Analysis Toward China's Outer Space Military Presences**

A thesis submitted in fulfilment of requirement for the degree of Bachelor of Art
in International Relation

Name : Fathan Maulana Litty

NIM : 2110412098



**DEPARTEMENT OF INTERNTIONAL RELATION
FACULTY OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SCIENCES
UNIVERSITAS PEMBANGUNAN "VETERAN"
JAKARTA**

**MILITERISASI LUAR ANGKASA JEPANG 2019-2024: ANALISIS
KESEIMBANGAN ANCAMAN TERHADAP KEHADIRAN MILITER LUAR
ANGKASA TIONGKOK**

**JAPAN OUTER SPACE MILITARIZATION 2019-2024: A BALANCE OF THREAT
ANALYSIS TOWARD CHINA'S OUTER SPACE MILITARY PRESENCES**

Oleh:

Fathan Maulana Litty

2110412098

SKRIPSI

Untuk memenuhi salah satu syarat ujian

Guna memperoleh gelar Sarjana pada Program Studi Hubungan
Internasional

Telah disetujui oleh Tim Pembimbing pada
Tanggal seperti tertera di bawah ini

Jakarta, 24 Juli 2025

Pembimbing Utama



Muhammad Kamil Ghiffary A., M.Si.



**Program Studi Hubungan Internasional
Fakultas Ilmu Sosial dan Ilmu Politik
Universitas Pembangunan Nasional Veteran Jakarta
Tahun 2025**

PERNYATAAN ORISINALITAS

Skripsi ini adalah hasil karya sendiri dan semua sumber yang dikutip maupun yang dirujuk telah saya nyatakan dengan benar:

Nama : Fathan Maulana Litty

NIM : 2110412098

Program Studi : S1 Hubungan Internasional

Bilamana di kemudian hari ditemukan ketidaksesuaian dengan pernyataan ini maka, saya bersedia dituntut dan diproses sesuai dengan ketentuan yang berlaku.

Jakarta, 26 Juni 2025

Yang menyatakan,



Fathan Maulana Litty

SURAT PERSETUJUAN PUBLIKASI ILMIAH

Sebagai civitas akademik Universitas Pembangunan Nasional Veteran Jakarta,
saya yang bertandatangan dibawah ini:

Nama : Fathan Maulana Litty

NIM : 2110412098

Fakultas : Fakultas Ilmu Sosial dan Ilmu Politik

Program Studi : Hubungan Internasional

Judul Skripsi : Japan Outer Space Militarization 2019-2024: A Balance of Threat
Analysis Toward China's Outer Space Military Presences

Dengan ini saya menyatakan bahwa saya menyetujui untuk:

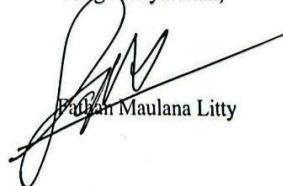
1. Memberikan hak saya bebas royalti kepada Perpustakaan UPNVJ atas Penelitian karya ilmiah saya demi pengembangan ilmu pengetahuan.
2. Memberikan hak menyimpan, mengalih mediakan atau mengalih formatkan, mengolah pangkalan data (database), mendistribusikan, serta menampilkan dalam bentuk softcopy untuk kepentingan akademis kepada perpustakaan UPNVJ, tanpa perlu meminta izin dari saya selama tetap mencantumkan nama saya sebagai Peneliti/pencipta.
3. Bersedia dan menjamin untuk menanggung secara pribadi tanpa melibatkan pihak perpustakaan UPNVJ dari semua bentuk tuntutan hukum yang timbul atas pelanggaran hak cipta dalam karya ilmiah ini.

Demikian pernyataan ini saya buat dengan sebenar-benarnya dan semoga digunakan sebagaimana mestinya.

Dibuat di : Jakarta

Pada tanggal : 29 Juli 2025

Yang menyatakan,



Fathan Maulana Litty

**PERNYATAAN PERSETUJUAN PUBLIKASI TUGAS AKHIR UNTUK
KEPENTINGAN AKADEMIS**

Sebagai civitas akademik Universitas Pembangunan Nasional Veteran Jakarta,
saya yang bertanda tangan di bawah ini:

Nama : Fathan Maulana Litty
NIM : 2110412098
Fakultas : Ilmu Sosial dan Ilmu Politik
Program Studi : S1 Hubungan Internasional

Demi pengembangan ilmu pengetahuan, menyetujui untuk memberikan kepada
Universitas Pembangunan Nasional Veteran Jakarta Hak Bebas Royalti Non
eksklusif (*Non-exclusive Royalty Free Right*) atas karya ilmiah saya yang
berjudul:

**JAPAN'S OUTER SPACE MILITARIZATION 2019-2024: A BALANCE
OF THREAT ANALYSIS TOWARD CHINA'S OUTER SPACE
MILITARY PRESENCES**

Beserta perangkat yang ada (jika diperlukan). Dengan Hak Bebas Royalti ini.
Universitas Pembangunan Nasional Veteran Jakarta berhak menyimpan, mengalih
media/formatkan, mengelola dalam bentuk pangkalan data (*database*), merawat
dan mempublikasikan Skripsi saya selama tetap mencantumkan nama saya
sebagai penulis/pencipta dan sebagai pemilik Hak Cipta.

Demikian pernyataan ini saya buat dengan
sebenarnya:

Dibuat di : Jakarta

Pada tanggal : 26 Juni 2025

Yang menyatakan,


Fathan Maulana Litty

PENGESAHAN TUGAS AKHIR

NAMA : Fathan Maulana Litty
NIM : 2110412098
PROGRAM STUDI : S1 Hubungan Internasional
JUDUL : Japan's Outer Space Militarization 2019-2024: A Balance of Threat Analysis Toward China's Outer Space Military Presences

Telah berhasil dipertahankan dihadapan Tim Penguji dan diterima sebagai bagian persyaratan yang diperlukan untuk memperoleh gelar sarjana pada Program Hubungan Internasional, Fakultas Ilmu Sosial dan Ilmu Politik, Universitas Pembangunan Nasional Veteran Jakarta.

Pembimbing



(
Muhammad Kamil Ghiffary A., M.Si.

Penguji 1



I Nyoman Suadana Aji Rai, S.Sos., M.IR

Penguji 2



Hesti Rosdiana, S.Sos, M.Si.

Ketua Program Studi
Hubungan Internasional



Wiwiek Rukmi Dwi Astuti, S.IP., M.Si

Ditetapkan di : Jakarta, 24 Juli 2025
Tanggal Ujian : 30 Juni 2025

Abstract

This thesis analyzes Japan's strategic transformation from pacifism to space militarization between 2019 and 2024, focusing on the role of China's expanding space military capabilities in driving this change. Using Stephen M. Walt's Balance of Threat Theory within a neorealist international relations framework, this research explores how Japan shifted from a “non-military” approach to a “non-aggressive” yet strategically responsive space posture. Through a qualitative analysis of Japanese government white papers, policy documents, and official defense strategies, it identifies key indicators of Japan's changing security environment, including China's growing satellite fleet, counter-space technology, and firm doctrinal signals.

The findings conclude that Japan's space militarization is not an abandonment of pacifism, but rather a rational balancing response to the perceived threat posed by China. This supports the application of Balance of Threats Theory beyond terrestrial geopolitics, showing that threat perceptions-especially when involving offensive capabilities and aggressive intentions-can compel even historically pacifist states to revise their defense posture. The case of Japan illustrates how systemic pressures in an anarchic international order can override long-standing normative constraints when national survival is at stake, marking a significant shift from Japan's postwar approach to space policy

Keywords: Space, Militarization, Japan, China, Threat

Abstrak

Skripsi ini menganalisis transformasi strategis Jepang dari pasifisme menuju militerisasi ruang angkasa antara tahun 2019 dan 2024, dengan fokus pada peran perluasan kapabilitas militer ruang angkasa Tiongkok dalam mendorong perubahan ini. Dengan menggunakan Teori Keseimbangan Ancaman Stephen M. Walt dalam kerangka kerja hubungan internasional neorealis, penelitian ini mengeksplorasi bagaimana Jepang bergeser dari pendekatan “non-militer” menjadi postur ruang angkasa yang “tidak agresif” tetapi responsif secara strategis. Melalui analisis kualitatif terhadap buku putih pemerintah Jepang, dokumen kebijakan, dan strategi pertahanan resmi, penelitian ini mengidentifikasi indikator utama perubahan lingkungan keamanan Jepang, termasuk armada satelit Tiongkok yang terus berkembang, teknologi antariksa tandingan, dan sinyal doktrinal yang tegas.

Temuan ini menyimpulkan bahwa militerisasi ruang angkasa Jepang bukanlah pengabaian pasifisme, melainkan respons penyeimbangan rasional terhadap ancaman yang dirasakan oleh Tiongkok. Hal ini mendukung penerapan Teori Keseimbangan Ancaman di luar geopolitik terestrial, yang menunjukkan bahwa persepsi ancaman - terutama ketika melibatkan kemampuan ofensif dan niat agresif - dapat memaksa bahkan negara-negara yang secara historis pasifis untuk merevisi postur pertahanan mereka. Kasus Jepang menggambarkan bagaimana tekanan sistemik dalam tatanan internasional yang anarkis dapat mengesampingkan kendala normatif yang sudah berlangsung lama ketika kelangsungan hidup nasional dipertaruhkan, menandai pergeseran yang signifikan dari pendekatan pascaperang Jepang terhadap kebijakan ruang angkasa.

Kata Kunci: Ruang Angkasa, Militerisasi, Jepang, Cina, Ancaman

Table of Content

Orisinalitas	ii
Persetujuan Publikasi	iii
Publikasi Tugas Akhir	iv
Pengesahan	v
Abstract	vi
Abstrak	vii
Table of Content	viii
List of Tables	x
Acknowledgement	xi
CHAPTER I	
INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background	1
1.2 Research Problem	9
1.3 Research Scope and Limitation	9
1.4 Research Purpose	10
1.5 Benefit of Research	10
1.6 Research Systematic	10
CHAPTER II	
LITERATURE REVIEW	13
2.1 Neorealism	13
2.1.1 Balance of Threat	17
2.1.1.1 Aggregate Power	19
2.1.1.2 Geographical Proximity	20
2.1.1.3 Offensive Capability	20
2.1.1.4 Aggressive Intention	21
2.2 Outer Space	23
2.3 Militarization	26
2.3.1 Space Militarization	28
2.4 Framework of Research	31
CHAPTER III	
METHODE OF ANALYSIS	32
3.1 Research Object	32
3.2 Research Type	32
3.3 Data Collecting Method	33
3.4 Data Source	34
3.4.1 Primary Data	34

3.4.2 Secondary Data	35
3.5 Data Analysis Technic	35
3.5.1 Discourse Analysis.....	36
3.6 Research Schedule	37
CHAPTER IV	
DISCUSSION	38
4.1 Response to China’s Military Space Presence (2019–2024): A Balance of Threat Analysis	38
4.1.1 Aggregate Power: Outer Space Capabilities	41
4.1.2 Geographical Proximity: Redefining “Closeness” in Space	48
4.1.3 Offensive Capability: Counterspace Arms and Defense.....	56
4.1.4 Aggressive Intentions: Perceptions of Strategic Aims.....	66
CHAPTER V	
CONCLUSION.....	76
5.1 Research Conclusion.....	76
5.2 Research Advice.....	78
REFERENCE	80

List of Tables

Table 1: Aggregate Power Indicators, China vs Japan (2019 and 2024)...	45
Diagram 1: Aggregate Power Indicators: Annual Orbital Launches	46
Table 2: Geographic Proximity Factors	53
Table 3: Offensive Space and Counterspace Capabilities.....	61
Table 4: Aggressive Intentions indicator	72

Acknowledgement

First and foremost, this thesis has been one of enlightening experience that happen throughout my entire campus life that made me realize a lot of things along the way of completing this task. I would like to give my gratitude to my supervisor Mr. Kamil that have been a very thoughtful person and give his superb guidances throughout this journey, which give me a chance to grow as a student and a person in my final year. I want to appreciate the guidances that have been given to me for perfecting this thesis by my examining lecturer Mr. Nyoman and Mrs. Hesti with an insightful advice. I want to thank my parents for the full support on my journey in finishing this task that pushed me to the finish line. I want to thanked Mr. Maisa for the opportunity to attend his class that give a a lot of perspective towards how I see things.

Secondly, I want to thanked my comrades-in-arms in my campus daily life throughout this journey the Fomongitis: Erza, Dhafin, Aji, Hilal Harits, Stefani, Alya, Fara, Viona, Rahma, Aca, Asih, my irreplaceable companions from the start of this campus life up until the end, I will always cherish our moment, the joyful experience, the misunderstood moment, the besbi moment, and many more experience we share with tears and laughter, I enjoy it deeply, remember how far we go or travel, we are still the Fomongitis. I also want to thanked for the people that I meet through this campus Finsy, Fadlan, Naya Khabiza, Clarissa, April, Bastian, Ian, Andre, Lita, Zico, Ibnu, Fadhil, Rafli Anwari, Savinka, Naoka, Anne, Ijul, Kanda, Dipa, Juan, Ahmad Dipa, Yosua, Fairuz, Nayla, Alwan, Ocel, Ammos, Steven Yehezkiel, Ayu, Keysha, Dinda, Cila, Sabina, Hanum, Yola, Martha, Rayia, Namira, Ara, Mitha, Moza, Fathiya, Enjel, Gimarda, Titan, Farid, Ika, Billa, Kezia, Putew, Aqil, Aldi, Naufal, Fahrezzy, Nadhila, Fahmy, Salven, Maly, Feyza, Mathea, Halim, Fathan, Jaden, Arsyia, Baim, Miceng, Vivit, Rafli, Khairu, Dwi, Yara, Cheryl, and many more. I must say that I am glad and it is such pleasure to know you all.

Thirdly, I want thanked FOP 14, Nadira, Mamang, Shepi, Dafiz, Nasya, Zenith, Tesa, Lidya, Dea, Anisa, Alif, Rara that give me a chance to be the part of a wonderful and bumpy journey, which I will always cherish its whether the good and bad within that period of time, I appreciate every effort that you pour with the best effort to create something memorable. Special thanks to Nadira that who choose me as her vice and has a marvelous vision, Shepi for her ability to do basically anything, Zenith with her creative and marvelous editing skill (also thank you for the mock up sempro), Anasya for her PR Skill and funny ways to express herself, Lidya with her financing capabilities, Tesa with an amazing sense of responsibility and fierce character, Dea with her best effort as Project Officer and an amazing singer talent, Mamang with his video editing skill and green flag persona, and Dafiz with his master level of photographic skill that never cease to amaze me with his capabilities, it is a pleasure to know and work with you all, if there is a chance that I can work with you all again I will gladly take it

Fourthly, I thanked FOP 15 plus Ray that have been committed their work for the past 2 years to this organization. I want to Thanked Kinaya and Kirana as their leader that has given all their effort to lead and be a responsible leader to their colleagues also to their juniors, Edel for being a nice and thoughtful yet fierce in character, Faiza for being a responsible treasurer and a creative trinkets maker, Echa as the most capable person right next to shepi that always knows what to do and act with a stable mind along with your fierce combine with understanding character (Thank you for the mock up sempro). Ray you have done well with your job and keep up the good work, Sena with her outstanding persona and idea, Viane with her kind and strong sense of responsibility, Dita with her outstanding sense of responsibility and thoughtful mind, Zulfa with her kindness, Vica with her effort to always try her best, Vira Nada Ella for you contribution to this organization, Jasmine and Nazwa for their effort to learn graphic design skills and Eta for her effort to accomplish her responsibility. I thank you all.

Fifthly, I want to thanked my old friends Trian, Wanda, Rico, Ajay, Bagus, Icad, Finka, Haura, Aurel, Ridhani, Nakhla, Meisya, Tarisa, Don, Marsya, Yudha, Didi, Ardel, Bintang, Maula, Jare, Aufi, Yunan, and many more for the support that I can reach this position.