The “Policized” Military Power

Is Military Power becoming Police Power in Japan?

This paper will investigate the blurring borders between the functions of the police and those of the military, which has resulted in minimizing the allergic reactions of Japanese citizens towards military matters, and has accelerated the militarization in Japan. From such viewpoint, this paper will re-examine the original roles of the police and the military.

Following the end of the Cold War and the structural transformation of international system, the military has become the upholder of various punitive provisions (in the same way that the police had been,) in order to maintain international order and has been used for humanitarian purposes. The use of military power to impose and restore social order was welcomed with high expectations and this led to obscuring borders between the functions of military and police.