

## **The Japan-Soviet Relations in the 1920s in Northeast Asia**

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The Russo-Japanese relations in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century can be divided into two parts: tension and detent. The tension was increased through 1) the Russo-Japanese war (1904-1905), 2) the Japanese Siberian Intervention (1918-1922) and 3) the Manchurian Incident of 1931, and, on the other hand, eased 1) during the era of 'the alliance' from 1907 after the Russo-Japanese war until 1917 in the middle of the World War I, 2) the period of the expansion of trade between the two countries after the Japan-Soviet Basic Convention (signed in 1925) and 3) the time of the five-year Plan of Soviet Union.

It should be noted that 'the main stage' of the Russo/Soviet-Japanese relations at this time was not the European continent, but the Northeast Asia, and that the relations were always under the strong influence of China's situation. For instance, the relative political stability between Japan and Russia mentioned above was generated from the political necessity of the leaders of two countries. Katsuji Debuchi, a deputy Foreign Minister of Giichi Tanaka's Cabinet, insisted of the necessity of stable relations with Soviet Union, saying that Japan needs 'a good neighbor' and 'a good economic partner'. This attitude towards Japan's 'good neighbor' appeared as increase an expansion in trade value in this period.