

Abstract

Britain's Defence Policy regarding the Falkland Islands

SHINOZAKI, Masao (Joint Staff, Ministry of Defense)

Most studies of the 1982 Falklands War concentrate on the war itself or the series of diplomatic negotiations between Britain and Argentina, while the prelude to the war has rarely been mentioned from the military or security viewpoints. This article attempts to analyse the discussion inside the British government over the forces stationed in the Falkland Islands and the dispatch of the Task Force to the vicinity of the Falkland Islands in 1977. It had often been suggested that the forces in the Falkland Islands should be removed. Given the frequent military threat from Argentina, however, the forces became recognised as a symbol expressing Britain's commitment to the defence of the Falklands, and it was decided to maintain their presence. In addition, when Britain dispatched the Task Force in 1977, the military and diplomatic demands over the composition of the Task Force were reconciled, and legal discussion over the Rules of Engagement and Exclusion Zone progressed. In Britain at the time, the Foreign Office rather than the Ministry of Defence, and the Labour Party rather than the Conservative Party, were generally proactive in their military commitment.

Kokusai Anzenhosho [Journal of International Security] Vol.45, No.1 (June 2017), pp. 97-115.