Purpose: The students will evaluate the state of Japan’s military and their defense strategy under the current Shinzo Abe administration.

Standard: History and People in Societies (Grades 11-12): Students use knowledge of perspectives, practices and products of cultures, ethnic and social groups to analyze the impact of their commonality and diversity within national, regional and global settings.

Benchmark A: Analyze how issues may be viewed differently by various cultural groups.

Benchmark B: Use historical interpretations to explain current issues.

Indicators 1 and 2: (Grade 12): Identify the perspectives of diverse groups when analyzing issues and proposing solutions to current issues.

Grade Level and Courses: (11-12): Senior U.S. Government; AP U.S. Government and Politics; AP Comparative Government; Model UN

Websites: www.kent.edu/academics/asian/ncta.cfm
Rape of Nanking
Film: Japan’s Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, Rhown, Joseph, Ph.D., Raping of Nanking (Nightmare in Nanking), http://RapeofNanking, info

Skills: Understanding diverse perspectives on current issues.

Procedures: After reading the Comparative Politics Chapter 13 on Japan and watching
the film, The Raping of Nanking, the teacher will give notes/power point on the history of militarism/nationism in 20th century Japan. The students will read “The Return of Japanese Militarism: Rising Sun” by Joshua Kurlantzick.

Activities: The students will be prepared to discuss the following questions (five questions about Japan):

1. Why haven’t the “west” discussed the atrocities of the Japanese before/during WWII?
2. How did the U.S. allow the Japanese to build up their military post-WWII?
3. How dangerous is the right-wing movement lead by Tokyo Governor Shintaro Ishihara?
4. Will the Japan/U.S. alliance isolate each in Asia?
5. Is Japan more dangerous to the world than China? North Korea?

Structure:
Day One: Watch the film, The Raping of Nanking with discussion
Day Two: Power point and reading the article
Day Three: Discussion and answering the questions

Assessment: Discussion and the handout with the five questions about Japan.

Reflection: The lesson plan will take three days maximum. I want students to see all parts of Asia in different perspectives. Be careful with the film. There are scenes that are sensitive/graphic to view.