



INTERVIEW: Tokyo, Seoul Should Not Rely on U.S. to Improve Ties

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Tokyo and Seoul should not rely on Washington to help mend their soured ties, a U.S. expert says while many other researchers call for a bigger U.S. role in resolving the problem.

The presence of the United States has dampened incentives for the two East Asian countries to improve their ties, according to Doug Bandow, senior fellow at the Cato Institute, a U.S. conservative think tank.

"Obviously, the relationship between the ROK and Japan is one that has a long history and a difficult history," Bandow said in an interview with Jiji Press on Monday. ROK is short for the Republic of Korea, the official name of South Korea.

"I think it's far too simplistic to assume that the United States is in control of the situation."

Those saying that the United States should do more to improve the situation do not say what should be done or how it would work, Bandow said.