For the past 70 years, US governments have assumed that Japan’s security policies would reinforce American interests in Asia. Both the United States and Asia are changing rapidly, however: China’s rise, North Korea’s missile and nuclear programmes, and Donald Trump’s questioning of US alliance commitments now command strategic review in Tokyo. What is the next step for Japan’s security policy? Will confluence with US interests – and the alliance – survive intact? How will it be transformed? Professor Samuels will explore how changes in the regional security environment intersect with changes in domestic Japanese politics to shape Japan’s grand strategic choices.

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