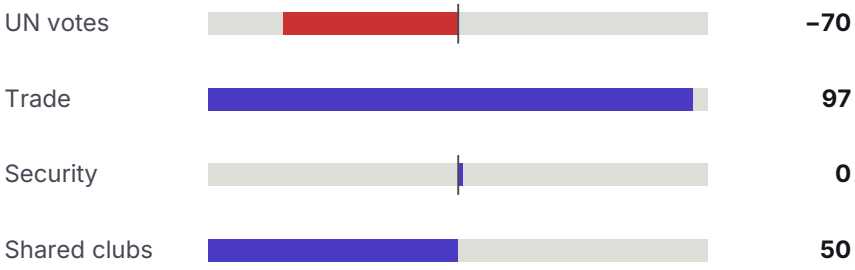
China & Japan

Memories of war, deep trade ties.

+2

Neutral

Relationship index, −100 to +100. Votes and security run from −100 to +100; trade and shared clubs from 0 to 100.

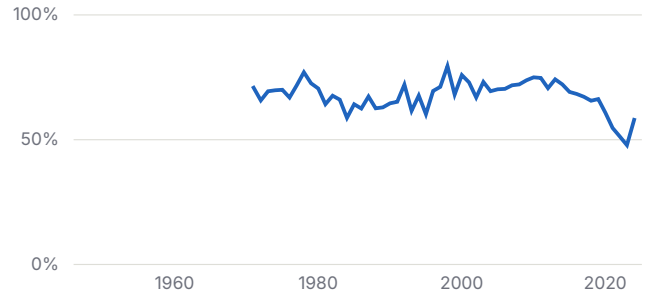


IN SHORT

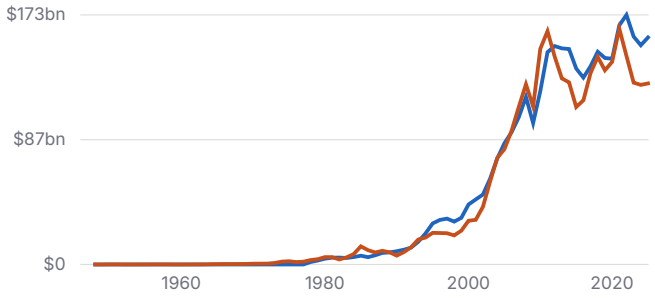
- At the UN their vote agreement is 52% (2022–2024), among the lowest either of them has with any country.
- Trade in goods ($281 billion a year) is very important for Japan, less so for China.
- At the UN they name each other about equally often (69 and 91 sentences).
- 810,000 people born in China live in Japan (UN DESA counts place of birth, however long ago they moved).

OVER TIME

Share of recorded UN votes cast the same way



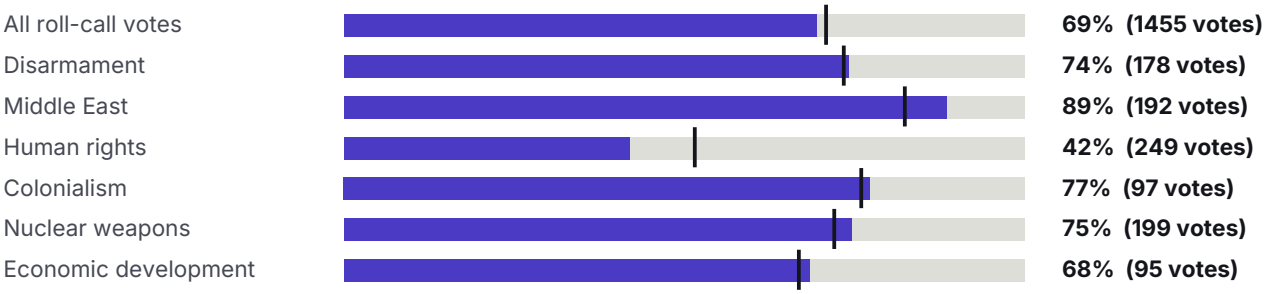
Goods exports each way (US dollars)



China sells to Japan Japan sells to China

VOTES TOPIC BY TOPIC (SINCE 2010)

Most alike on Middle East (89% of votes the same), furthest apart on human rights (42%), against 69% on all votes since 2010.



Bar: since 2010. Mark: all years. Share of roll-call votes on whole texts cast the same way, counted vote by vote; an abstention against a yes counts as a difference. Disarmament, colonialism and economic development count votes up to 2018.

THE FACTS

UN votes	At the UN, the vote agreement of China and Japan was 52% in 2022–2024. For China, Japan is the 53rd most distant voting partner out of 191; for Japan, China is the 6th most distant partner.
Trade	Trade in goods between them averaged $281 billion a year in 2023–2025: 5.7% of all China's trade and 21.8% of Japan's. Japan is China's 2nd largest trading partner.
Words	Since 1946, China has named Japan in 69 sentences of its General Debate speeches; Japan has named China in 91.
Security	No armed conflict between the two governments is recorded since 1946 (UCDP, data to 2025).
People	810,000 people born in China live in Japan and 40,000 born in Japan live in China (2024, UN DESA).
People	Their national football teams have met 44 times.

HOW SURE WE ARE

UN votes	**High**	269 shared votes on whole texts in 2022–2024, the years the headline share covers. With that many, a share is good to about ±6 points.
Trade	**High**	Goods trade is reported in 3 of the 3 years 2023–2025. Goods only, from customs data (IMF); services and energy pipelines are not in it.
Security	**High**	The Uppsala Conflict Data Program covers every state up to 2025. It counts only conflicts with at least 25 battle deaths a year.
Shared clubs	**High**	The list of tracked groups is fixed; membership is checked by hand.
Index	**High**	As sure as the weaker of its two required parts, votes and trade. Security and shared clubs add to it but never make it surer.

MOMENTS (EDITORIAL CONTEXT, NEVER PART OF A SCORE)

1972 Relations normalised
1978 Treaty of Peace and Friendship
2012 Dispute over the Senkaku/Diaoyu islands flares

SOURCES AND HOW TO CITE

UN votes, speeches, mentions and trade: Nations on Record (UN General Assembly voting data, UN General Debate Corpus, IMF International Trade in Goods). Armed conflict: Uppsala Conflict Data Program, version 26.1. Migration: UN DESA International Migrant Stock 2024. Refugees: UNHCR. Football: international results archive (CC0). Every score follows fixed rules written out on /method; AI never sets a score. Independent and non-commercial; not affiliated with the United Nations.

Cite as
NationsRelations. (2026). China & Japan [scoring rules 0.4 (14 Nov 2026), scores built 2026-11-14]. https://nationsrelations.org/p/chn-jpn

Scan to open the live page