

# *Japanese Parliament OKs Overseas Combat Role Despite Mass Protests*

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Tokyo, September 21 (RHC)-- Japanese lawmakers have voted into law new measures to allow Japanese troops to fight abroad for the first time since the end of World War II. The vote came after tens of thousands flocked to the streets to defend Japan's pacifist constitution.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has pushed to weaken the pacifist provisions as part of a broader strategy of militarization.

Opposition parties tried unsuccessfully to block the pro-military measures, which are opposed by a majority of the public. Protesters in Japan have vowed to continue fighting.

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