Write a three-page (typed, double-spaced) integrative paper to answer the following essay question. Please consult the instructions in the syllabus and the tips on writing on the course Web sites. Your paper should be clear, well organized, cogent, and concise. It should use at least three sources, and follow standard academic styles, including.

Is U.S.-Japan alliance still the lynchpin of peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region? Does American policy still “begin with Japan” (Lefeber 390)? What changes would you recommend in the U.S.-Japanese relationship? There are those that argue “the U.S.-Japanese relationship is the most important bilateral relationship in the world, bar none” (Lefeber 363). But there are also those that argue that all American presidents, “regardless of their starting points, eventually came around to the logic of coopting China, instead of containing or confronting it” (David Shambaugh, “From the White House, All Zigzags Lead to China,” Washington Post, 17 February 2002; CW). Is it possible for the U.S. to improve its relationships with both Japan and China at the same time? If so, how? If not, would you advocate a Japan-first, or a China-first policy? Briefly explain why and how would this policy look like (e.g., the handling of various economic, security, and diplomatic issues).