

OFFICE OF THE GEOGRAPHER AND GLOBAL ISSUES
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

GUIDANCE BULLETIN

No. 32

July 18, 2013

JAPAN – NORTHERN ISLANDS

Background: The Office of the Geographer and Global Issues prepared this guidance in coordination with the U.S. Department of State Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs and the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs.

The United States Government recognizes Japanese sovereignty over the islands of Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan, and the Habomai Islets, located northeast of the island of Hokkaido. All U.S. Government maps should henceforth show these islands as Japanese, using the color tint used for Japan when it is different from surrounding countries.

Where scale permits, the following label should be applied to these islands (see map examples below):

“Occupied by the Soviet Union in 1945, administered by Russia, claimed by Japan”



857 7-13 STATE (INR)

Lee R. Schwartz

The Geographer
U.S. Department of State