

EDITORIAL NOTE

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The current volume includes various interesting articles which are informative, insightful as well as multidisciplinary, significant for academics, policy makers and students alike who are interested in East Asian affairs. This is in line with the aim of the journal in providing a platform for exchanges of idea related to the East Asian region, with particular emphasis on Japan, China and Korea. This volume contains seven articles contributed by scholars from various institutions and countries.

The first article entitled *The Ulleungdo Dispute of 1693 and The Myth of Japan's Sovereignty Over Dokdo* written by Kyu-hyun Jo. Jo examines the Ulleungdo Dispute of 1693 to demonstrated that Ulleungdo and Dokdo were already Korean territories. Jo argues that the Ulleungdo Dispute of 1693 and later, Dajokan Directive of 1877 reconfirmed that these islands belongs to Korea. The Ulleungdo Dispute and the Dajokan Directive not only show that Japan did not establish sovereignty over Dokdo in the late 17th century, but also clearly demonstrate that Korea had legitimately won the dispute and still retains its historicity and legality for over a century. The writer concluded that it was impossible for the Dajokan Directive to have confused the identity of Takeshima because from the Ulleungdo Dispute of 1693 confirmed that Dokdo and Ulleungdo to be adjacent of Korean territories.

The second article written by Shota Mgeladze explores the self-strengthenment movement and 100 days reforms through classical elites theory. The article used comparative case study model to test the assumptions of classical elite theory. Analyzing the Chinese reformation attempt during the Qing dynasty revealed the limited scope of actions of the leaders. The existence of national elites limits their political environment. However, leaders' motivations and strategies can vary by choosing different factions. Analyzing such relations is the key to understanding why reformation was carried out or not successfully. Theoretical test of classical elites' revealed that they can explain how elites keep the power, but further elaboration is needed whether reforms can succeed or fail.

The third article contributed by Moh. Gandhi Amanullah, Faruk, Budi Irawanto entitled *Revealing the Environmental Ideology Behind Anti-Nuclear Discourse in Japan Post Fukushima 3.11: Critical Discourse Analysis of Japanese Alternatif Newspaper Hangenpatsu Shinbun*. The authors argue that anti-nuclear discourse in Japan gained a momentum after the Fukushima nuclear power plant accident in 2011. The impact of nuclear on the environment became one of the issues widely concerned in the anti-nuclear discourse. However, the ideological orientation of environmental perspectives within Japan's anti-nuclear discourse remains underexplored. Therefore the writers examine environmental ideology embedded in anti-nuclear discourse by analyzing articles from *Hangenpatsu Shinbun*, an alternative anti-nuclear newspaper in Japan. The findings reveal that the environmental ideology of anti-nuclear discourse in the media is predominantly anthropocentric and conservationist, with limited representation of ecocentric or ecological ideologies. This anthropocentric bias suggests that the discourse prioritizes human interest, often subordinating environmental concerns. Such a perspective bias perpetuating environmental policies that fail to address long-

term sustainability. To mitigate this limitation, anti-nuclear discourse in Japan should adopt a more ecocentric approach, such as deep ecology. This shift would recognize the intrinsic value of nature and promotes a holistic, sustainable relationship between humans and ecosystems, contributing to the development of more balanced environmental policies for the future.

The fourth article in this volume entitled *Navigating Constraints: Indonesian Workers' Experiences Under Korea's Eps*. The article written by Taihyeon On and Kurniawaty Iskandar explores the experiences of Indonesian migrant workers in terms of job mobility and agency within the Employment Permit System in South Korea. The research relies on Strong Structuration Theory to analyze how external constraints - legislative laws and control by employers - interact with internal factors such as economic goals and sociocultural barriers that impact migrant workers' decision making. Semi structured interviews with Indonesian laborers showed that the systemic problems due to sectoral inequalities, such as vulnerabilities brought about in the industry of fishing. Evidence shows restricted job mobility policies heightening the employees' dependence upon the employer, thus limitations to freedom and encouragement towards precarious situations. Employees try to get through such restrictions by strategic choice and through informal networks.

The fifth article written by Asmadi Hassan and Muhammad Muhsein Kamarudin entitled *Pembakar Jambatan Antara Dua Negara: Sentimen Anti-Jepun Dalam Filem Korea Selatan* (*Burning the Bridge between Two Countries: Anti-Japanese Sentiment in South Korean Films*). The writers argue that an anti-Japanese sentiment in South Korea films which are perceived as an ideology ultimately damaging the bilateral relations of the both countries. Three films were selected to study the anti-Japanese sentiment in South Korea namely *Spirit Homecoming*, *The Battleship Island* and *Anarchist from Colony*. The selection of these films are based on the issues connected between the past and the current issues that have yet to be resolved. The first theme is the severe experience by the Comfort Women and the second is the poor treatment of Koreans who were taken/went to Japan during colonialism period. The study found that the films have been responsible for the spread of anti-Japanese ideology to South Korean people. As a result, it has influenced the people and consequently causing hatred among them. It then resulted to damaging the relations between the two countries which has already been tension by the colonialism and current sentiments. Eventually, the film which was supposed to be used as a platform for the good relations between the two countries became burner to those relations.

The sixth article entitled *Korean Multiculturalism and the Emergence of Foreign Brides in South Korea* written by Lee Min, Geetha Govindasamy and Tan Soo Kee. The article examines multicultural marriages and discusses the emergence of female marriage migrants who are in part responsible in creating a multicultural Korea. The foreign brides who come to Korea through multicultural marriages in the long run has contributed greatly to forming a multicultural Korean society. Despite several challenges, findings suggests that female marriage migrants are now acknowledged as one of the catalysts in the transformation of Korean society from a homogenous one to that of a multicultural entity. This is seen in the various laws adopted to integrate foreign brides and their offspring. The authors concluded that the process of integration between foreign brides and the Korea public in general, however has a long way to go.

The last article entitled *The Dilemma of Dual Heritage: Nationality Selection Among Japanese-Singaporean Multinational Children* by Kayoko Matsumura, Rohayati Paidi and Vilashini Somiah. The article examined which significant factors influence the nationality choice of Japanese children who are also multinational backgrounds. This article found that, these criterias has influence the choices, first, the language spoken at home had a stronger influence on nationality choice, second, although the environment and upbringing had no direct relation to nationality choice, but they did have an impact on the individual's identity formation

and lastly, the mother's perspectives on nationality selection and the father's role as both husband and father in the home has had an impact. The authors emphasized that there are instances in which Japanese who have other roots but live in Japan and speak Japanese struggle to establish a Japanese identity and to consider how those people may develop a Japanese identity.

Overall, the current volume displays the developments of China, Japan and Korea in various dimensions. We hope that this volume would be useful in further understanding and creating awareness of the East Asian region, not only to academics but also to the public at large.