

Peace Development in East Asia: China, Japan, and South Korea

2018

Yihui Tang
University of Central Florida

Find similar works at: <http://stars.library.ucf.edu/honorsthesis>

University of Central Florida Libraries <http://library.ucf.edu>

Recommended Citation

Tang, Yihui, "Peace Development in East Asia: China, Japan, and South Korea" (2018). *Honors in the Major Theses*. 380.
<http://stars.library.ucf.edu/honorsthesis/380>

This Campus Access is brought to you for free and open access by the UCF Theses and Dissertations at STARS. It has been accepted for inclusion in Honors in the Major Theses by an authorized administrator of STARS. For more information, please contact lee.dotson@ucf.edu.

PEACE DEVELOPMENT IN EAST ASIA: CHINA, JAPAN, AND SOUTH
KOREA

by

YIHUI TANG

A thesis submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements
for the Honors in the Major Program in International and Global Studies
in the College of Sciences
and in the Burnett Honors College
at the University of Central Florida
Orlando, Florida

Summer Term, 2018

Thesis Chair: Houman Sadri, Ph.D.

© 2018 Yihui Tang

ABSTRACT

This thesis intends to explore the peacebuilding process in East Asia. It mainly examines the politics, cultures, and economies of China, Japan, and South Korea, along with the on-going issues between South Korea and North Korea. To be able to establish a stable and prosperous society in East Asia, these three countries play a major role, and they can create greater cooperation within the region and on the international level. Peacebuilding process highly depends on politic, culture, and economy of these three countries. Confidence Building Measures (CBM) and Peaceful Settlement of Disputes (PSD) are the excellent strategies for achieving peace in the region after studying each country carefully. Economic activities and good trade relations are essential to the peace development in East Asia.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express the deepest gratitude to my thesis chair, Dr. Houman Sadri for his inestimable guidance, encouragement, and dedication throughout the course of this thesis' development. To Dr. Hong Zhang for her generous support towards this thesis.

I would also like to express a special thank you to my family. Their on-going support has enabled me to dream bigger, climb higher and reach further.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| INTRODUCTION | 1 |
| The Importance of Peace | 3 |
| The Bilateral and Trilateral Relationship of China, Japan, and South Korea..... | 4 |
| Methods of the Peace Building Process..... | 8 |
| Research Design..... | 10 |
| THE CASE STUDY OF CHINA | 12 |
| The Domestic Policy of China and Its Ethnic Groups..... | 12 |
| China-Taiwan Cross-Strait Issue and "One China" Policy..... | 14 |
| The Argument over Taiwan..... | 14 |
| Why There Are Two Chinas? | 15 |
| Different Views about the Territory of Taiwan | 16 |
| The Future of China and Taiwan | 17 |
| China Assisting the United Nations on Peacebuilding | 18 |
| The One Belt and One Road Initiative (BRI) | 19 |
| BRI Project Overview..... | 19 |
| The Accomplishments of One Belt and One Road Initiative (BRI) as in 2018..... | 20 |

| | |
|---|----|
| The Arguments on One Belt and One Road Initiative (BRI)..... | 21 |
| The South China Sea Dispute | 22 |
| Background of the Dispute | 22 |
| The Brief History of the South China Sea | 23 |
| Challenges in Facing the South China Sea Dispute..... | 23 |
| THE CASE STUDY OF JAPAN..... | 25 |
| Japan’s Geographic Location and Its Impacts | 25 |
| The Geographic Location of Japan | 25 |
| The Impact on the Nation’s Psychology..... | 26 |
| The Impact on Japan’s Environment | 27 |
| The Rising Right-Wing Nationalists in Japan | 27 |
| The Nationalists’ Daily Marching on the Main Streets in Cities..... | 27 |
| Revising History in the Textbooks | 28 |
| North Korean Bubble inside Japanese Society | 29 |
| The Japanese Market and Its Industries | 30 |
| The Economy of Japan..... | 30 |
| The Automobile Industry | 31 |
| The Electronic and Gaming Industry | 32 |
| The Animation Industry | 32 |

| | |
|--|----|
| The Cosmetic Industry | 33 |
| Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands Dispute | 34 |
| Background of the Dispute | 34 |
| The Brief History of the Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands | 34 |
| The Impact on the Regional Stability Due to Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands Dispute | 35 |
| THE CASE STUDY OF SOUTH KOREA | 37 |
| The Geographic Location of South Korea | 37 |
| Korean Peninsula Seen as a Strategic Point for Major Powers | 38 |
| Conflicts between North Korea and South Korea before 2018 | 39 |
| Background of the Conflicts | 39 |
| On-going Issues between North and South Korea | 39 |
| The Demilitarized Zone | 40 |
| The Future of North and South Korea | 40 |
| The South Korean's Market and Its Industries | 41 |
| The Economy of South Korea..... | 41 |
| The Automobile Industry | 42 |
| The Electronic Industry..... | 42 |
| The Plastic Surgery Industry..... | 43 |
| The Cosmetic Industry | 44 |

| | |
|---|----|
| CONCLUSION..... | 46 |
| The Chinese Culture and Political System..... | 46 |
| Outcome of Belt and Rode Initiative | 47 |
| The South China Sea Dispute May Cause Conflicts | 47 |
| On China and Taiwan Cross-Strait Issue | 48 |
| The Political System of Japan and its Nationalists | 49 |
| The Dispute of Senkaku/Diaoyu Island | 50 |
| The Economy of Japan and Its Industries | 51 |
| The Political System of South Korea and Its Economy..... | 51 |
| A Better Cooperation between the South and North Korea..... | 52 |
| REFERENCES | 57 |

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: The Comparison of China, Japan, and South Korea..... 54

INTRODUCTION

This thesis focuses on studying the peace development in East Asia. Promoting peace and building a sustainable, peaceful environment is essential to the overall development in the region. To better understand how countries in this area keep harmony with each other, this thesis focuses on the development of China, Japan, and South Korea as the three cases to examine the effects of their politics, culture, and economy towards the peacebuilding process in East Asia. China, Japan, and South Korea hold the most influence in the region. Although these countries share common cultural background, each of them has its unique political system. Having different political systems and different leadership characteristics can lead these countries to numerous disagreements between one another. Even though the similar cultural backgrounds from these nations can sometimes play a part in cooperation, without making conscious efforts towards better cooperation, high level of conflicts in the region will continue to persist. It is easy for people to assume that the peacebuilding process among these countries is not a difficult process. However, due to each countries' unique history and the numbers of disagreements that have happened in the past, it is not always an easy task to maintain peace in the region. In fact, these countries have to work hard to achieve the goal of peacebuilding. Instead of avoiding the existing conflicts and coming challenges, these countries have to start finding methods of embracing their differences and avoiding opposing forces from foreign countries outside of the region. Meanwhile, they need to find ways to settle their disputes peacefully. Trust and mutual understanding do not come easily, they take time and effort to develop. So what are the factors that may help develop peace in East Asia, what methods can contribute to the peacebuilding

process and what do these countries do to have a sustainable, peaceful influence within the region?

To answer the above questions, politic, culture, and economy are the proper variables for studying China, Japan, and South Korea. At the same time, Confidence Building Measures (CBM) and Peaceful Settlement of Disputes (PSD) are excellent strategies for achieving peace in the region. CBM is the action that countries take to reduce tensions and physical conflicts, while PSD is the international law concerning friendly relations and cooperation among states. These two strategies can be achieved politically, culturally and economically. As part of the Chinese culture, China puts a heavy emphasis on education. Each year, many Chinese students go abroad to seek knowledge in foreign countries. Although the Chinese prefer to seek out western education, the number of Chinese students studying in Japan and South Korea has been steadily increasing over the past few years. According to the Japan Student Services Organization, the number of Chinese students studying in Japan went up by 4,000 between 2015 and 2016, and by 9,000 between 2016 and 2017 (JASSO, 2017). If these students cannot make their ways to the western countries, Japan and South Korea become the destinations for these students. At the same time, many Japanese students and Korean students like to go to China for different kinds of reasons, such as language and cultural learning. Moreover, the Chinese language has become the second most relevant foreign language to learn besides English in recent years due to the fast-growing economy in China. People from other countries, such as Japan and South Korea, are more likely to learn the Chinese language in China and conduct businesses on the Chinese markets. The Confucian's institutes have been built all over the world, and the number of institutes has been increasing each year in East Asia. The exchange students from Japan and

South Korea can find it easy to be in similar cultures. As a result, they incorporate their own culture into the Chinese society. Nissam Otmazgin has written in his paper, "in popular culture, Hong Kong is probably the most 'Japanese city' outside Japan. It is home to a wide variety of Japanese favorite cultural products and a regional base to many of the Japanese music and television companies who expanded their operations in the city in the early 1990s" (2014, p.323). The cultural exchange among the East Asian countries plays an integral part in contributing to the understanding of one another. Therefore, other than politics and economy, culture plays an important role in the process of peace development.

The Importance of Peace

Peace and conflict can go hand-in-hand. Often when countries cannot agree with each other peacefully, they start using force and involve the military to resolve the existing conflicts. To be able to achieve peaceful solutions, China, Japan, and South Korea all have to agree on contributing to maintain peace. As China emerged as being the most significant economic power in the region, it became the central actor in preserving peace. Since Germany and France can put away their painful history and create the system of the European Union, why China and Japan, along with South Korea cannot find a way of integration in the region? If there is peace in East Asia, the world powers will be balanced, and there will not be just a single ruling power strong enough to overpower the other countries. In the past twenty years, China has been an active actor of the United Nations peacekeeping. In addition, China has undertaken several efforts to improve

the global infrastructure as well as economy, which has not only benefited the East Asia region, but also benefited several European countries.

It is important to know that after the Second World War, East Asia has gone through a number of wars, such as the Korean War, and the Civil War in China. Similar to a series of wars that have been going on in the Middle East or some collisions that have happened in Africa, countries in East Asia have been going through a number of disputes. Although some conflicts and disputes have not been resolved in this region, countries in East Asia have been looking for ways to maintain the status quo, or making some efforts to create a sustainable living environment. Some scholars argue that this is only temporary peace before the war escalates due to a number of issues such as the Cross-Strait issue, the Korean Peninsula issue, and the Sino-Japanese relations. Johnathan Pollack claims that “more than four decades after the normalization of Sino-Japanese relations, bilateral ties between China and Japan are increasingly fraught with tension and public animosity” (Pollack, 2016). However, take Germany-France integration as an example, both countries put their substantial differences and painful history aside to establish a higher collaboration to contribute to the economic development in Western Europe. More and more European countries have been joining the union throughout the years, and the European Union contains the third largest economy in the world. Similar to the European Union, to achieve the real peace and leave the skepticism no place for questions, East Asia can embrace the differences and forget their painful history.

The Bilateral and Trilateral Relationship of China, Japan, and South Korea

In the past two decades, numbers of scholars have addressed the importance of peacebuilding in East Asia. Most of them have focused on the bilateral relations and trilateral relations of China, Japan, and South Korea. Within these nations, Cross-Strait issue and Korean peninsula issue have often been addressed at the same time due to the significant impact that these problems can contribute to the process of peacebuilding in the region. Hungdah Chiu, the professor of Law and Director of East Asia Legal Studies program, has written an article for the Conference Mainland China-Taiwan-USA: The Bamboo Triangle-Legacy of the Cold War. In his article, he has mentioned that although no claim was made for the return of Taiwan to China in both the San Francisco Japanese Peace Treaty and the Sino-Japanese Peace Treaty, it does not mean that China cannot acquire de jure sovereignty over Taiwan (Chiu, 2000, p.179). Chiu is not the first one who claims this type of expression. Some scholars and the Chinese government think that Taiwan is part of the Chinese territory.

China insists on the "One China" policy. The anti-secession law has been established to prevent Taiwan from being independent in 2005. From China's perspective, Taiwan Island is part of China's territory. China has nothing against the people who live on the island being independent, but they cannot establish the independence on the island that belongs to China. Since the Second World War and the Chinese Civil War, China has never given up on fighting for the unification with Taiwan. From China's point of view, the territory of Taiwan belongs to China. In 2005, China established the anti-secession law to prevent the island from being independent of the mainland. Those who seek independence on the island have a right to develop their autonomy somewhere else, but not in the territory of China. Moreover, China thinks that Taiwan has its weaknesses. Lijun Shen has interviewed many Chinese strategists, and he

concludes that Taiwan has a fragile democracy, weak government, weak political cohesion and economic deterioration (2002, p. 95-97). Out of these weaknesses, the economic decline makes it harder for Taiwan to compete with China. Especially since China became the world's second-largest economy, Taiwan has been feeling more pressured. To China, having a strong economy is an important step to win back Taiwan.

China is more than likely to seek the unification with Taiwan in a peaceful manner. However, the Democratic Progressive Party in Taiwan insists on its independence, and this party members hold a different point of view from the way that China perceives the situation. Moreover, the international actors make the process difficult to achieve. Japan has been having a huge political and cultural influence on Taiwan, and the United States remains the only superpower and continues to give military support to Taiwan. China has to hold back any actions that it wants to take for getting the territory of Taiwan back. As Qusheng Zhao observes, Taiwan will not seek independence, China will not use military force, and the United States can act as a mediator in the next fifty years (2005, p. 238). China does not want to use any military force to pressure Taiwan, and rather, it seeks the economic integration to gain the cooperation from Taiwan. As the result of the bilateral economic development from both the mainland and the island, Taiwan will gradually be willing to have more cooperation with China.

When it comes to the relationship between China and Japan, it has not been easy for both countries. Other than the fact that these two nations share a similar cultural background; both governments are the most significant competing powers in East Asia. With a painful history that both countries have gone through, it is difficult for China and Japan to reconcile, and China is upset over Japan for not acknowledging the brutal killing and abuse of millions of Chinese

during the Second World War in the Japanese history textbook. Many Japanese youths do not know about the massacre that the Japanese have done in other countries in East Asia during the Second World War. As Professor Jin states in her article, "The anti-Japanese demonstrations and riots in China, therefore, highlighted the historical problems between the two countries and brought to the forefront historical issues in China-Japan relations. It appears that the Chinese people, who were victims of the Japanese invasion in WWII, are still quite sensitive to historical issues" (2006, p. 29). On top of the painful history that both nations hold, the on-going dispute of Diaoyu Island has been another conflict adding to the existing complicated relationship in the region. The anti-Japanese movement and the anti-Chinese movement both exist inside the two countries.

Despite the conflicts, there are common interests between China and Japan. According to Yongming Fan, "Both China and Japan currently have excellent strategic opportunities for development, which would best be helped by following a course of peaceful coexistence, jointly developing a peaceful international environment, and identifying mutual Sino-Japanese interests" (2008, p. 379-380). China and Japan have been maintaining good economic and trade relations. In recent years, increasing numbers of Chinese are working in Japan, and increasing numbers of Japanese are starting the life in China. These types of relationships help in contributing to the peacebuilding between these two nations, and they also are the common interests that China and Japan hold. Just as Gao describes in his article, "the two nations must continuously take a high level strategic view, fully emphasize the importance of the Mutually Beneficial Relationship Based on Common Strategic Interests from a broader perspective, and—with a strategic outlook—develop the bilateral relationship to an advanced level in real terms"

(2008, p. 41). China and Japan have a mutual understanding that they need each other for the development in East Asia; they want to bring as much stability as possible within the region.

China's and South Korea's relation does not contain significant conflicts. The dispute that South Korea holds is the conflict with North Korea. However, China is the primary trade partner to both nations. According to Lee, due to China's rapid economic growth, China is not only just the most significant trade partner and enormous influence of the South Korea's economy, but it also became one of the essential powers in East Asia that can exert peaceful influence on the unification and security of the Korean peninsula (2008, p. 130). The soft power (economic power) that China holds has both positive and negative views in the region. The cynical view of China that the South Koreans have is that China is being an ally to North Korea and has been giving economic support to North Korea. Before the United Nations urged China to stop supporting North Korea building its nuclear weapons, there was evidence suggesting that some private companies in China were helping North Korea financially (Reuters, 2017). The United States does not like the fact that North Korea contains nuclear weapons, and North Korea's behavior has produced a threat to the peacebuilding process in East Asia.

Methods of the Peace Building Process

This thesis focuses on the three primary variables (politics, culture, and economy) along with the methods (CBM, and PSD) as the most prominent influences on the peacebuilding in East Asia. In the case study of China, it addresses how China has been keeping the integrity of fifty-five minorities within the country. China is mainly made out of the majority people, Han.

However, fifty-five minority groups play an essential role in the Chinese society. One of the crucial tasks for the Chinese government is to keep these minority groups together with the rest of the Chinese people. Education is the key to solving this problem. Yang states that "The dilemma in China's minority education, as observed in this special issue, is primarily the dilemma of balancing cultural diversity and national integration" (2015, p. 330). China not only has to make sure to maintain peace internationally, but it also has to keep order domestically. China does not treat Taiwan Strait as an international issue, but rather a domestic problem. China does not want the interference from the international actors, and it has been facing many challenges from both the United States and Japan regarding Taiwan issue.

Japan and China have to put the painful history and political ideology aside to focus on the economic development and shared interests in the region. It also contributes to the balance of power internationally. Not being involved in Taiwan issue is another factor that Japan can provide to the peacebuilding process with China. After the new world order was established, although Japan understands that Taiwan is no longer under its rule, today's culture of Taiwan is profoundly influenced by Japan. In some circumstances, both Taiwan and Japan experience the same culture, including popular culture. South Korea and China's relations are mainly based on a large scale of trading activities. Chung has illustrated a vital source of fiction on China-Korea relationship. He states that "in August 2012, South Korea and China will commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the normalization of relations. In retrospect, over the last two decades, the bilateral relationship had a bit too many twists and turns, leading to the fluctuation and reformulation of mutual perceptions" (2012, pp. 226). Indeed, China and Korea both have a long way to go. As China is an ally of North Korea, many potential conflicts can happen between

these bilateral relations. South Korea and North Korea have to come to a final agreement of cooperation with each other, whether it is an integration of two nations or one nation take over the other (but war may be the result if this is the case, denuclearization in North Korea). The methods such as Peaceful Settlement of Disputes and Confidence Building Measures can be a proper usage for both countries. Therefore, no nation overpowers the other.

Research Design

To be able to answer the research question and provide a better understanding of the peacebuilding process in East Asia, this research paper is designed to have five chapters. The first chapter contains the background, the main argument that includes the research question, the hypothesis and the three variables (politics, culture, and economy) along with the methods (CBM, and PSD) of peacebuilding process. Each variable will be studied in detail, and it will show the relationship between the countries' variable and its value by comparing to the other state. The second chapter is the case study of China. Taiwan-China cross-strait issue and the South China Sea will be included in this section. The third chapter is the case study of Japan. The Sino-Japanese relations will be addressed in this chapter considering the impact that this relationship brings to the peacebuilding in the region. The fourth chapter is the case study of South Korea. The Korean Peninsula issue will be discussed in this chapter. South Korea and North Korea can adopt the effective methods, such as CBM and PSD to have higher cooperation. The last chapter is the conclusion that will give a clear view of the importance of these factors and methods have been the primary influence/contributor to the process of peacebuilding in East

Asia. A table will be presented at the end of the paper to illustrate the relations between the countries and the variables; it will also give a comparison between the three countries. Moreover, emphasizing the Confidence Building Measures, Peaceful Settlement of Disputes, such as education, entertainment, and cultural/sports exchange are the essential methods for the peacebuilding process. Hopefully, after studying each case, it can provide some solid information for the future research studies.

THE CASE STUDY OF CHINA

China is a fastest-growing developing country in East Asia, and it has been one of the biggest economies in the world. Although China has adopted a one-party system, its economy has transformed from the centrally planned economy to a mixed economy system that contains the free market. This change has brought China out of owing a lot of debt after the World Wars to one of today's biggest creditors. To be able to understand the reason why China could overcome its difficulties, and surpass the most powerful economies in such a short period, the easiest way is to learn its domestic policies, the culture it carries, and the economic activities. Most importantly, China has been incorporating the Confidence Building Measures and Peaceful Settlements of Dispute through politics, culture, and economy.

The Domestic Policy of China and Its Ethnic Groups

China contains over 1/6th of the world's population, which ranks as the number one of the largest population in the world. The majority of the population is Han people, which can be traced back to the Han Dynasty. The fifty-five minorities are additions to the 95% of the Han majority. China has been keeping the integrity of fifty-five minorities within the country, and these fifty-five minority groups play a partial essential role in the Chinese society. The most significant five minority groups make up the five autonomous regions inside China. They are the Guangxi (Zhuang Ethnic) Province, the Inner Mongolia (Mongol Ethnic) Province, the Ningxia Hui (Muslim Ethnic) Province, the Xizang Tibetan (Buddhist Ethnic) Province and the Xinjiang Uyghurs (Turkic Ethnic) Province. China believes the peaceful coexistence of various ethnic

groups can bring harmony and prosperity to the society. The Chinese government has been giving specific benefits, such as autonomy, to the minorities and make them feel comfortable by living with the majority for the most part. For example, the minorities are exempt from the "One-Child Policy," they can practice their dialects and customs freely.

One of the crucial tasks for the Chinese government is to develop the economy within the minority groups. Education is the key to solve this problem. Yang states that "The dilemma in China's minority education, as observed in this special issue, is primarily the dilemma of balancing cultural diversity and national integration" (2015, p. 330). The minorities can gain the extra point by default when they are competing with the majority in the education system. Usually, 10 to 20 points are added on top of the total score when minority students compete for the entrance to the higher level of education. Certain economic benefits are provided to the minority at the same time including a relatively higher percentage of social welfare compared to the majority population. Thus, the weak minority areas can catch up to the industrialized regions.

Also, China obtains "one country, two systems" policy with Hong Kong and Macau. Under this principle, the two regions can continually retain their own economic and administrative systems including having their foreign trade relations with other states. Hong Kong Dollar is still widely used in these regions, and it is one of the trading currencies. The Chinese citizens who visit Hong Kong and Macau need the special permit to enter these two "special zones." Meanwhile, China foresees of using the same policy of the reunification with Taiwan. China does not treat Taiwan Strait problem as an international issue, but instead, a domestic problem. It does not want the interference from the international actors when it is

dealing with this issue, and it has been facing many challenges from both the United States and Japan regarding Cross-Strait issue.

China-Taiwan Cross-Strait Issue and "One China" Policy

The Argument over Taiwan

Because of the unique situation that China and Taiwan have, many scholars start to question whether China has a right to claim Taiwan as its territory. The China-Taiwan cross-strait issue has been going on for decades, and it remains unsolved. Both governments of People's Republic of China (PRC) and Republic of China (ROC) have been competing for the "legitimate government" of China. In 1945, ROC joined the United Nations at its founding. However, PRC replaced ROC and became one of five permanent members of its security council in 1971. The international body such as the United Nations acknowledged the government of ROC as China for a short period, until the United States and PRC established the diplomatic tie in 1979. Since then, the world widely recognizes the government of PRC as the only legitimate government of China, which puts ROC in an awkward situation. PRC and ROC have not had any agreement on solving their current situation, both governments do not give up on competing with each other, and claiming their legitimacy. At the same time, PRC claims that Taiwan is part of its territory, but ROC does not give up its territory (Taiwan), and it has been fighting for its independence. On the other hand, PRC does not give up on reunification and the "One China" policy. Moreover, tensions and limited contacts between these two areas have caused a certain

level of instability in East Asia, which makes the peace-building process more difficult in the region.

Why There Are Two Chinas?

Taiwan is an island region that is located next to the south coast of PRC; the nationalist Chinese established ROC in Taiwan since 1949. However, PRC, the mainland, claims ROC as its province due to its unique history and the relationship with ROC. History suggests that the first large group of Chinese citizens from Ming Dynasty, moved to Taiwan from Fujian, a southern province in China, in the 1400s. At that time, ROC and PRC both did not exist, and China was ruled by the Ming Emperors. Nearly 300 years later, Manchu people from northeast of China overthrew the Ming Empire and established Qing Empire. No one would have guessed that the Qing Dynasty was going to be the last dynasty in the Chinese history. Opium from foreign nations widely spread inside the Chinese society. Tons of Chinese citizens were addicted to this drug, and the Qing government started to become weak at the same time because of opium.

Opium brought the opportunity to the foreign nations that had been trying to get inside of the Chinese market. Japan, the neighboring country of China, had been seeking the expansions on the land of China for a long time. It finally had its opportunity for invasion when it saw the weakness of Qing government. Thus, the First Sino-Japanese War was unfolded. Followed by the victory of Japan in 1894, China had to give up the Taiwan Island to Japan due to the Treaty of Maguan, also known as the Treaty of Shimonoseki. The First Sino-Japanese War was only one of many wars that China fought with foreign powers, and the Treaty of Maguan was only one of many unfair treaties that China signed during that period.

With the invasion of Japan and its allied western nations, the Qing Dynasty quickly collapsed in 1912. Then, the Chinese nationalists came to surface and established the Republic of China (ROC). Since then, ROC went through the World Wars and its civil wars. Followed by the end of the Second World War in 1945, the United States defeated Japan and asked Japan to give up its occupied regions. ROC regained the Taiwan Island. However, it was too early to celebrate the reunification with Taiwan. The civil war between the Chinese nationalists and the Chinese communists forever changed the history of China. The conflict between these two parties turned the Chinese society into a complicated society, and the Taiwan Island quickly became the center of the issue. In 1949, the communist party defeated the nationalist party, then the nationalists fled to Taiwan and established ROC in Taipei while the communists established PRC in Beijing. The communist party and the nationalist party divided China ever since, and both parties claim that they are the legitimate government of China.

Different Views about the Territory of Taiwan

Because of the unique situation that PRC and ROC have, many scholars have questioned whether PRC has a right to claim Taiwan as its territory. One scholar has mentioned that although no claim was made for the return of Taiwan to PRC in both San Francisco Japanese Peace Treaty and Sino-Japanese Peace Treaty, it does not mean PRC cannot acquire de jure sovereignty over Taiwan (Chiu, 2000, p.179). Chiu is not the first one who claims this type of expression. Many scholars have similar views that Taiwan is part of the PRC's territory.

Although the international organization such as the United Nations recognizes the government of PRC as the only legitimate government of China, ROC insists on the

independence of Taiwan and claims that its government should be the only legitimate government of China. PRC insists on the "One China" policy. The anti-secession law was established to prevent Taiwan from being independent in 2005. From PRC's perspective, Taiwan Island has been part of China's territory since Ming Dynasty. PRC does not act against the independence of ROC, but it claims that ROC cannot establish its autonomy on the island which PRC claims that the territory belongs to its sovereignty. Those who seek independence on the island have a right to develop their autonomy somewhere else, but not on the territory of China. Since the Second World War and the Chinese Civil War, PRC has never given up on fighting for the unification with Taiwan.

Moreover, PRC thinks that ROC has its weaknesses politically and economically. Many PRC strategists think that ROC has a fragile democracy, weak government, weak political cohesion and economic deterioration (Shen, 2002, p. 95-97). Out of these weaknesses, the economic decline makes it harder for ROC to compete with PRC. Especially since PRC becomes the world's second-largest economy, ROC has been feeling more pressure due to its economic decline. The economists from ROC worry that their economy will be heavily depending on PRC; others from ROC believe that as long as there is a close economic tie with PRC, PRC will not spend money on the military action against ROC (BBC, 2016). At the same time, PRC sees the benefits of having a strong economy and believes that is a key step to reunify with Taiwan.

The Future of China and Taiwan

China has been handling Taiwan issue through a diplomatic method. It does not consider the violent solution as a way to solve this dispute. The leader of Taiwan does not give in to

China, and many young people in Taiwan do not see themselves belonging to the mainland. Meanwhile, Taiwan seeks for "double win" situation in both China and the United States. It enjoys the deepened trade relations with China, and it wants to have security backup from the United States. The growing economic tie between China and Taiwan leads to a relatively peaceful cross-strait issue because a study has shown that this financial tie significantly impacts the relationship between China and Taiwan (Chen, 2009, p.15). In Chen's article, he has discovered that the strong economic tie makes the non-military pressure possible. A nation can solve a conflict situation through economic sanctions instead of using violence. Moreover, a peaceful cross-strait relationship is essential to the stability and prosperity in East Asia. No party would want to jeopardize the harmony in the region that was built from the tough time such as wars, colorizations, and power struggles.

China Assisting the United Nations on Peacebuilding

Not only China has been making sure to have unity and equality domestically, but it also participates in maintaining peace internationally. According to Bo Zhou from Foreign Affairs, "China is the biggest contributor of peacekeeping troops among the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and the second-biggest financial contributor to the UN's peacekeeping programs." By 2020, China will have a total of 1,200 trained foreign peacekeepers. China can also cooperate with the United States to develop the peacebuilding methods for some countries in Africa. By having the bilateral cooperation, it can improve the relationship between China and the United States. Meanwhile, it can contribute to peace and stability in Africa.

The stronger China grows, the more responsibility it carries, due to the peacebuilding missions with the United Nations. In 2008, China delivered the military assistance in Somalia in support of Burundian and Ugandan peacekeepers. In 2015, at the Peacekeeping Leaders' summit in New York, Xi promised the African Union that China would establish a force of 8,000 peacekeeping troops and a fund of 100 million dollars for a standby military force in response to the potential crises in the African region. Although the relationship between China and the United States can be seen as competition, when it comes to dealing the crisis in Africa, there is more bilateral cooperation between these two nations. The world is in a more peaceful situation when the world's most important powers work together towards a peacebuilding process.

The One Belt and One Road Initiative (BRI)

BRI Project Overview

In 2013, the Chinese leader Xi Jinping announced the 21st century maritime Silk Road economic strategy, which is a new model that is built on top of the ancient Silk Road economic/trade network, also known as One Belt and One Road initiative (BRI). At the same time, China has also created the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) to assist the Belt and Road program conveniently. The BRI project utilizes 1.3 trillion dollars of Chinese investments to build infrastructures, including railways, roads, energy pipelines, ports and telecommunications across the globe. China is hoping to create better access for the international markets and trade along the way. Ideally, China wants different cultures, and people to benefit

from the project because of the improved economic productivities. It sees the Belt and Road initiative as a method of promoting peace and allowing the coexistence of different identities.

BRI contains two primary components: the land-based Silk Road Economic Belt (SREB) and the ocean-based Maritime Silk Road (MSR). The SREB's infrastructure network encompasses the New Eurasia Land Bridge and five Economic Corridors: China-Indochina Peninsula, Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar, China-Mongolia-Russia, China-Pakistan and China-Central Asia-West Asia. The high-speed trains and the hydrocarbon pipelines will connect these five passages to China. The MSR focuses on establishing seaports that can connect to routes of the land-based transportations. Meanwhile, SREB and MSR provide more straightforward access for countries to conduct economic activities. This economic program will bring more interactions among nations. So far, more than seventy countries have joined China on this enormous project. This Belt and Road strategy indicates China is pushing its role into the larger scale of global affairs.

The Accomplishments of One Belt and One Road Initiative (BRI) as in 2018

China is hoping to gain a sustainable living environment economically, environmentally and politically through the One Belt and One Road initiative. China believes that this project allows the harmonious coexistence of different cultures and identities across the globe. In 2012, before the announcement of the Belt and Road program, China had already established the "16+1" mechanism. It is a platform where Chinese prime minister meets with the leaders of the other sixteen countries once per year to discuss trading activities. In the past few years, the trade relations between China and these countries are increasing rapidly. The Diplomat has quoted

from Xi at the Belt and Road Forum that "total trade between China and other Belt and Road countries in 2014-2016 has exceeded \$3 trillion, and China's investment in these countries has surpassed \$50 billion." It also claims that these figures are rapidly increasing due to the establishment of AIIB and China's Silk Road Fund. Meanwhile, significant BRI infrastructure including seaports and railways are currently starting to take shape in cities of Europe.

The Arguments on One Belt and One Road Initiative (BRI)

Since the announcement and operation of the One Belt and One Road Initiative (BRI), different opinions and arguments become popular. Many European countries hold a positive attitude towards the project, especially those that are members of AIIB (Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank). Some European countries that were not interested in BRI initiative at the beginning start to see the benefits this program can bring to their society after parts of the project are finished building. Therefore, more countries are willing to join this program. Not only the BRI project can support large-scale infrastructure development and enable connectivity along the Belt and Road, but it can also provide financial integration and cultural exchange. Many countries take the opportunities to benefit from the process of building this initiative due to multilateral financial coordination and people-to-people bonds and cooperation.

However, mixed feelings and negative opinions exist on the global scale. Some European Union member states have certain concerns since there is no existing EU policy towards BRI initiative. These European leaders worry about the potential political influence of China due to China's sizeable, growing investment in the EU countries. The worries that come from these countries are not going away by seeing China marching across the Mediterranean. Moreover, the

United States questions the motives of China behind this program. It thinks that the actions of China are not as simple as promoting peace and building infrastructure across the globe. The United States sees China carrying an ambitious goal of taking the world under the Chinese leadership. Giving the fact that the "China Model" is gradually shifting the world to a new direction, it makes the United States feel the pressure from the Belt and Road project.

The South China Sea Dispute

Background of the Dispute

The South China Sea is located in the west of the Pacific Ocean and is surrounded by China, Taiwan, Islands of Philippines, and the countries in Southeast Asia including Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Brunei. It is considered as a strategic location because many ships of the world with goods pass through the area each year. People also believe that under its seabed, the area contains vast oil and gas reserves. For centuries, rival countries in East and Southeast Asia have argued over the territory in the South China Sea; tensions are growing in recent years since China has been building the artificial islands around it. China has been conducting various activities in this area although the international system suggests it is a public natural resource that no states should be eligible for taking it as its own. Therefore, China, Taiwan, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Brunei are all having competing claims over the area.

The Brief History of the South China Sea

Chinese people widely believe that the Chinese have been conducting activities on the islands in the South China Sea since ancient dynasties. Nordquist and Moore state in their book that at the beginning of early centuries, "the Jin people already knew the geographical location of the Paracel and Spratly Islands by their nearest distance. They were also already calling the islands in the South China Sea by the collective name 'Coral Islands and Reefs,' the earliest scientific naming of such islands known today" (1998, p.155). After that period, China had continually made its claim on the territory of the South China Sea on the international level.

However, during the Second World War, Japan invaded the islands and took control of the South China Sea. Followed by the surrender of Japanese to the Republic of China (established by the Chinese nationalists) in 1945, both Paracel and Spratly Islands were returned to the ROC. Most neighbor countries agreed the South China Sea was part of Chinese territory until the United Nations discovered rich oil under the sea floor of the island in the 1970s. Followed by the significant discovery of oil in the islands group, the countries around the South China Sea started to claim the territory in the region. The disputes over islands have been going on since then. In recent years, China has been building artificial islands around the area, and it has triggered the anger of neighbor states that have claims on the territory of the region.

Challenges in Facing the South China Sea Dispute

China and its neighboring countries have been trying to reach an agreement on sharing the resources of the South China Sea. The war over territory and trade is inevitable. So far, no

nation wants to destroy the harmony within the East and Southeast Asia. However, "the participation of multinational oil companies from the United States, Japan, and Europe in offshore oil extraction in the South China Sea will have the effect of magnifying the dispute" (Chung, 2007, p.64). The outside participation in the region can impact on the multilateral agreement that can be reached within nations inside the region. According to one of the BBC news in 2016, China prefers the bilateral negotiations with other countries, but these countries argue that "China's relative size and clout give it an unfair advantage." Meanwhile, China does not want to negotiate with ASEAN (the Association of South East Asian Nations) because this organization has divided opinions over the South China Sea dispute. With the on-going conflicts from many countries in the region, it can indeed challenge the peace and prosperity in the area. The Confidence Building Measures and the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes can only be built on top of a better cooperation in the region when it comes to solving the tensions and disputes.

THE CASE STUDY OF JAPAN

Different from China, Japan is a highly industrialized country in East Asia. It has adopted a multi-party system, and the Japanese emperor serves as the head of the State, while the prime minister serves as the leader of the party. The Japanese have mixed the ancient Chinese culture with its society, and it still preserves most of the traditions that people can barely see in China in modern days. Although the economy of Japan has fallen behind China, it is still considered as the second largest economy in the region. The Japanese economy is mainly dependent on their huge industries that are well-known to the world. The Confidence Building Measures and the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes are also used throughout the Japanese politics, culture, and economy. Moreover, the animation industry not only can bring the economic gain to the Japanese society, but it also can be seen as a platform of peacebuilding process that is tied to the culture factor.

Japan's Geographic Location and Its Impacts

The Geographic Location of Japan

Japan is an island nation that lies on the Pacific Ocean in East Asia. The major islands are Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku, and Kyushu. These places are where most Japanese inhabit, and they refer to these islands as home islands. Many places in Japan are not inhabitable due to the fact that the islands contain over one hundred volcanoes, and half of them remain active. The closest Neighboring countries to Japan are Russia (separated by the Sea of Okhotsk), South and North Korea (separated by the Sea of Japan), and China and Taiwan (separated by the East China

Sea). For centuries, people in Japan have been prompting significant human modification of terrain because of their limited living space and isolation from the major lands. In Japan, Natural disasters happen relatively more frequent than other countries on earth. Earthquakes are common on the Islands of Japan because of the earth movement. Once in a while, Japan may face a tsunami or a volcano eruption. Thus, Japan has installed a complex underground system nationwide to warn people of the potential disasters. The Japanese citizens are well-educated on how to protect themselves during the unavoidable disasters.

The Impact on the Nation's Psychology

Due to the limited living space and resources, Japan has sought to expand their nation during the wartime. The most well-known occupations in the Second World War are part of China, Taiwan, South and North Korea, and various nations in Southeast Asia. During the first Sino-Japanese war, Japan occupied the area of Manchuria (Northeast China). Similar to Hitler's infamous holocaust, Japan invaded Nanjing and created one of the most brutal massacres in history. Thousands of men, women, and children were brutally murdered by the Japanese army, and this does not include the ones who have been murdered from countries other than China. Among these people, many women were raped, and numerous children were taken out of their mother's wombs. At the same time, Japan became one of the Axis powers, allied with Germany and Italy during the Second World War to carry out their massive invasions due to their same interests of expansion. The behavior of Japan during the war period has definitely left a painful memory for China, South Korea, and many other countries in Asia. The peacebuilding process becomes harder for Japan when other nations do not agree with its aggressive behavior.

The Impact on Japan's Environment

With limited living space and high volume of population density, recycling is an essential part of the Japanese society. Given the fact that there is not much land for the Japanese to dump their waste, Japan has developed an efficient method of recycling to solve this problem. In Japan, the recycling process is detailed and categorized. Normally, people have to separate their waste for recycling into ten categories: burnable garbage, non-burnable garbage, paper/newspaper, spray cans, plastic containers/packaging, cans/bottles/plastic pet bottles/, small metal items, dry-cell batteries, used cloth and oversized garbage. Because the plastic bottles contain caps and bottle itself, these two items have to be recycled separately because they are made of different kinds of plastic. This unique recycling method works perfectly for Japan. The streets there are very clean, and people are usually carrying their trash until they can find a place to throw it away properly. Rapid industrialization has put the environment of Japan at risk. Air pollution is one of the major environmental issues in the nation. Japan has set up the basic environmental laws and policies to improve their environment. Some environment institutes have been established to carry out the environmental protection actions.

The Rising Right-Wing Nationalists in Japan

The Nationalists' Daily Marching on the Main Streets in Cities

In Japan, the *Uyoku dantai* are famously known for their highly visible propaganda vehicles. Big converted SUV vehicles, trucks and buses that are modified with loudspeakers on

tops of the roofs with political slogans drive all over the main streets in the cities to promote political propaganda. These vehicles are usually black or white. The Imperial Seal, the flag of Japan and the Japanese military flag are the main decorations on these vehicles. Some of these nationalists marching bands belong to the extreme right-wing groups, and they often support neo-Nazism and want Japan to go back to the imperialist time. Anti-communism and Marxism, anti-Chinese government and supporting Falun Gong (banned in China) are often seen on their slogans as well. Most of these nationalists are seeking to justify the role of Japan during the Second World War, and they are a part of history revisionists.

Revising History in the Textbooks

The Japanese history textbooks tell the stories that are specifically different from the history the rest of the world knows. The young Japanese generations have little knowledge about the war-time Japan. The Nanking massacre and the “comfort women” are completely wiped off from the Japanese education system. The publishers, a lot of them belongs to the nationalist groups, do not wish for their children to learn the true history of Japan. The war crime that Japan committed is kept away from the public. Instead of learning and correcting the crimes that this nation has committed, the Japanese people worship the war-heads because they think these people sacrificed their lives for their nation and they should be honored. “After the news about the Japanese revision of history textbook in 1982 reached China, the Japanese denial of the aggressive nature of the Sino-Japanese war and the historicity of the Nanjing Massacre enraged Nanjing people, who wrote to the municipal government and news media, urging the government to establish museums and monuments”(Zhang, 2017, p. 259). Since then, the Chinese

government has been taking actions of bringing a true history of Japan to the rest of the world. Meanwhile, many nations in Asia that have similar experiences started to tell the stories about what happened in real history.

Yasukuni Shrine, formally known as the Imperial Shrine of Yasukuni, located in Chiyoda, Tokyo, founded during the Meiji period, is known as the major shrine that lists the names, origins, birthdates and places of death of numbers of men, women, and children. Among these people, more than one-thousand were convicted of war crimes. Some Japanese legislators and diplomats visit this shrine each year to worship the war criminals and show them great respect. The actions of the Japanese leaders have caused many dissatisfactions across the nations. Some countries, especially in East and Southeast Asia, see the behavior of leaders of Japan as an insult to their nations due to the countless crimes that Japan has done to these countries during the war period. People from these countries have not forgotten the painful history that Japan has brought upon them. The imperialist behavior of Japan cannot be easily forgiven and forgotten, unless Japan handles this issue with a correct attitude. The attitude and behavior of the increasing right-wing nationalists is not practical towards the Confidence Building Measures.

North Korean Bubble inside Japanese Society

Chongryon is a group of North Korean activists who are born in Japan, but they identify themselves as the North Korean citizens. Since there is no formal diplomatic relationship between Japan and North Korea after the establishment of the diplomatic tie between Japan and South Korea after the Second World War, Chongryon group has started its institution and act as

a *de facto* embassy of North Korea in Japan. According to *BBC*, “Hundreds of thousands of ethnic Koreans were brought to Japan as forced laborers or migrants when the peninsula was a Japanese colony before 1945” (Buerk, 2010). Their off-springs have become the North Korean activists, and they live in their little society within the Japanese society. They have established their banks, schools including the North Korean University, and they own some major companies in Japan. The North Korean activists use the profit that they make from their businesses to support North Korea as showing gratitude from the support that they get from North Korea previously. Other than speaking Japanese, these North Korean activists are educated with Korean Language and culture. These North Koreans in Japan pledge their complete loyalty to their motherland—North Korea. Having a group of North Koreans is a sign of a potential instability in Japan.

The Japanese Market and Its Industries

The Economy of Japan

The economy of Japan is the third largest economy in the world; it is highly developed and market-oriented. Although Japan is an island nation that does not contain many resources, it possesses the most profitable industries in the world. The major production in Japan is now focusing primarily on high-tech and precision goods, such as optical instruments, hybrid vehicles, and robotics due to the existing economic challenges from both China and South Korea. The main industries that can bring profits in Japan are still focusing on the automobiles, electronic, animation and cosmetic industries.

The Automobile Industry

Japan possesses one of the most prominent and largest automobile industries in the world. Japan has been the home to many companies that are producing cars, motorcycles, and construction vehicles. The most well-known brands in the world are Toyota, Honda, Nissan, Suzuki, Mazda, Mitsubishi, Subaru, Isuzu, Kawasaki, Yamaha, and Mitsuoka. According to *CNN Money*, “The Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association estimates that its members built nearly 4 million vehicles in the U.S. last year. Exports from Japan to the U.S. have fallen from 3.5 million cars a year in 1986 to just over 1.5 million in 2016” (Shane, 2017). The Japanese automobiles are reliable in general. Many families would choose one of two Japanese vehicles as one of their top options. Among these many brands of vehicles, many choose Toyota as their favorite brand. According to *The Japan Times*, “Among Japanese automakers, Toyota Motor Corp. reported all-time high sales of 344,601 for its Lexus luxury brand, up 10.7 percent. Toyota’s overall sales expanded 5.3 percent to 2,499,313 units — its third-best annual result after 2.62 million in 2007 and 2.54 million in 2006. Japan’s top automaker was the third-largest player in the United States,” (2016). Other than Toyota, numerous people prefer Honda, and they think both Toyota and Honda are equally reliable. The trade activities of these automobile companies with other nations, especially the ones in the East Asia, can enhance the partnership of these nations.

The Electronic and Gaming Industry

The Japanese electronics industry remains the largest electronic consumer industry in the world, although there are some competitions from South Korea, China, and Taiwan. At the same time, Japan possesses the most world's famous electronic brands including Canon, Casio, Citizen, Fujifilm, Mitsubishi Electric, Nikon, Nintendo, Olympus, Panasonic, Pioneer, Sony, Toshiba, and Yamaha. Among these giant electronic companies, a big part of Nintendo and Sony productions are related to video games. The 21st century is a golden age of video games, and the video games' world has brought a lot of nations closer to Japan, especially from the perspective of younger generations. Playing video games together online has become a culture exchange platform among nations.

The Animation Industry

Japan is proud of its animation industry, and it claims that the animation industry is the future of Japan. Japan has created numerous animation works that are known to the world. Anime has become the mainstream in Japan since the 1980s, and it has been successful. Nowadays, when people talk about the anime shows, they are most likely talking about the Japanese animations. According to *The Japan Times*, "Japan may be on a slow decline as far as being a global economic force, but the 'soft power' of its modern entertainment genres, from manga to 'anime,' has global appeal, especially among young people"(Nagata, 2010). In recent years, a few film companies in the United States have been recreating the Japanese anime, such as *Ghost in the Shell*, *Attack on Titan*, *Godzilla* and many more films. The Japanese animation

comes in variety of forms, including fantasy, action, family, suspense and horror, and political. Some of the artwork is created for criticizing their politicians and society.

Cosplay becomes popular because of the Japanese animation. It is a costume role play, and it requires the participants to put on make-up and dress up as their favorite characters from the animations. Meanwhile, the Japanese animation character figures are popular worldwide. People who developed a hobby to collect those figures are willing to pay quite an amount of money for possessing their favorite figures. Moreover, the anime-based video games add more profits to the animation industries. “According to the Association of Japanese Animations, 60 member anime production companies now provide products in 112 countries, reaching some 87.2 percent of the world’s population,” (Nagata, 2010). Therefore, the countless Japanese animated products have won quite a number of world’s population’s hearts. When people from other countries like and accept the Japanese culture, more understanding and cooperation among nations will be built on top of it.

The Cosmetic Industry

Another industry that the Japanese are proud of is their cosmetic industry. Famous brands such as NARS cosmetics, KOSE, SK-II, and Shiseido can be easily found at any beauty products shop worldwide. Women in Japan take a great amount of time to care for their skins, and they like to use the cosmetic products to achieve a flawless skin effect. The Japanese beauty products are famously known for great coverage of most red, dark spots on the skin, and create a perfect look for the uneven skin tones. Most Asian women prefer the Japanese beauty products over the western beauty products. At the same time, the Japanese cosmetic products can be relatively

more affordable than some of the famous western brands. Beauty and fashion are the never-ending topics for the human beings. Having a strong cosmetic industry and providing a platform for people to connect with one another through beauty products can enhance the understanding among people.

Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands Dispute

Background of the Dispute

Senkaku Islands Dispute, also known as Diaoyu Islands Dispute in China and Tiaoyutai Islands in Taiwan, is a territorial dispute over a group of uninhabited islands among Japan, China, and Taiwan. The Senkaku/Diaoyu island dispute has been continually challenging the peacebuilding process in East Asia due to political tensions in the region. Although no major military conflict has occurred, both Japan and China have expanded their nationalist identity throughout the region. The shortage of energy resources and population decline add more pressure on Japan. Therefore, the Japanese people are highly involved and supportive towards keeping Senkaku/Diaoyu area as part of the territory regardless of the political actions from China or Taiwan.

The Brief History of the Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands

China claims that the Chinese people started having activities on the Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands since ancient dynasties. When the first Sino-Japanese War took place in the late 19th

century, the Qing Dynasty ceded these islands to Japan. However, both China and Taiwan claim that the Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands are parts of the territory that Japan has invaded during the first Sino-Japanese war. Followed by the defeat, Japan should have returned this territory along with other returned areas after the end of the war. Despite what China and Taiwan think, these islands landed in the hands of a private business family in Japan, and their mission was to protect these islands from taking by any individuals or foreigners. According to *The Japan Times*, “a hawkish nationalist who doesn’t hide his hostility toward China — to sell three of the islets to the metropolitan government and shake up Sino-Japanese diplomatic relations.” In 2012, the Japanese government purchased four parts out of five islands from the family, which created further tensions with both China and Taiwan. The family kept one part of islands because the United States has leased it for its military exercise in the area.

The Impact on the Regional Stability Due to Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands Dispute

The tension between Japan and China has increased since the government Japan bought three main islands of Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands. Rising Chinese nationalists have been urging the citizens to stop purchasing the Japanese products. Thousands of protesters have marched on the main street in the cities and were violent against the Japanese businesses, persons, and properties. According to Smith, “The demonstrations and associated violence also had major economic consequences. Japanese companies operating in China reported significant losses due to the unrest” (2013, p. 28). When China and Japan act hostile towards each other, it is not beneficial to the stability of East Asia. Certainly, China and Japan each have its difference, but these two countries are tied together given the fact that they are the second and third largest

economies in the world. Entire East Asia depends on these two nations for its stability and prosperity. If China and Japan continuously have tensions, it will create chances for outside powers to gain control over the region. Both nations need to focus more on their strategic and shared interests, such as environmental issues or providing the East Asian region stronger stability and greater prosperity. A better cooperation in the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes is indeed needed towards the islands dispute issue.

THE CASE STUDY OF SOUTH KOREA

Besides China and Japan, South Korea is the third country that plays a major role in the peace establishment in East Asia. The trilateral relationship and the trade relations and cultural exchange among these three countries play a vital key to the stability in the region. Since the division of the Korean Peninsula after the Korean War, South Korea has had its dramatic change culturally, politically and economically. The Korean Peninsula used to be under the Japanese rule before the Japanese were defeated after the Second World War. After the end of the Second World War, Japan agreed to give up its colonial power. Since the United States and the Soviet Union were the victors of the war, they both captured the Korean peninsula. The division became the result of the Cold War because of the competition between both superpowers (the United States and the Soviet Union) at the time.

The Geographic Location of South Korea

South Korea is located in the southern part of the Korean Peninsula in East Asia. It is mostly surrounded by ocean. Its neighbors are North Korea to its north, China to the west, Japan to its east, and Taiwan to its south. The unique location of South Korea has long been seen as a strategic location for the Japanese empire before the modern world order has begun. Compared to Japan, South Korea is less vulnerable to natural disasters like typhoon and earthquake, which gives the Japanese the reason of long being interested in the Korean peninsula. The Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) separates South Korea from the North part of the Korean peninsula.

The DMZ is heavily guarded by the soldiers from both Koreas. Both Koreas agreed to not having their citizens cross over to the other side of the country.

Korean Peninsula Seen as a Strategic Point for Major Powers

When the Japanese surrendered after the Second World War, Japan was asked to return the territories that it occupied. Korean Peninsula was one of the territories that Japan occupied for a period of time. After Japan lost the control of the Korean Peninsula, the south part of the peninsula and the north part of the peninsula had civil conflicts. Meanwhile, both the United States and the Soviet Union saw the territory as a strategic location because none of these countries wanted to give up their political influence in the region. Both the United States and the Soviet Union were the victors from the Second World War, which led to the Cold War between these two major powers at the time. The United States was concerned about the Soviet Communist influence on the peninsula, so it sent troops to the south part while the north side was fighting for the unification. At the same time, the Soviet did not want the United States' democracy to influence the region, so it backed the north side of the peninsula. The Korean War went on for three years, and finally, the Korean Peninsula was divided at the 38th parallel as the sign of ending this war, and the demilitarized zone was set between the South and North.

Conflicts between North Korea and South Korea before 2018

Background of the Conflicts

Since the division of the Korean Peninsula, the South and North Koreas had encountered countless infractions. Both Koreas claimed to be the government of the entire peninsula. Some incidents have been reported at the Demilitarized Zone, which had caused the deaths of soldiers from both sides. Despite the international sanctions that North Korea has, it has been conducting the nuclear tests, and it threatened to bomb South Korea. The leader of South Korea would not like to see the collapse of two Koreas. Finally, the leader of the North agreed to have a conversation about the peace treaty after having a joint Winter Olympic team from both nations.

On-going Issues between North and South Korea

After having decades of a hostile attitude towards each other, the North Korea and the South Korea finally reached an agreement to sign a peace treaty. In recent years, North Korea has conducted some nuclear tests, which caused worries and anger on the international level. South Korea especially felt threatened since both countries had not had a good relationship in a long period of time. However, in 2018, both countries decided to join hands during the Winter Olympics and created a joint athletic team to represent Korea as a whole. Followed by the Winter Olympics, at the end of April 2018, the leader of North Korea agreed to sign the final peace treaty with South Korea. The president of South Korea met the leader of North Korea at the Demilitarized Zone, turned the history over and embraced their new chapter. It was the first

time that the North Korean's leader stepped on the land of South Korea since the Korean War, and it was a historical moment for both South and North Korea. It was significant progress to see both Koreas joining hands for cooperation and bringing peace to the peninsula.

The Demilitarized Zone

After the War of Korea, the south and north part of Korea formed the demilitarized zone as the border area between the two regions. The purpose of this area was to keep each other out of military conflicts. It also became a meeting point on some agendas between North and South Korea. The division of the North and South Korea was the result of the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union. During the War of Korea, the United States and its allies supported the south part of the peninsula, and the USSR with China supported the north side. The United States continued its military support to the South after the Korean War ended. Since the division of the peninsula, the citizens of the entire peninsula were divided as well. People from North Korea were not allowed to cross over to South Korea, and vice-versa. The soldiers that were patrolling the area could only patrol within their regions, and they were not allowed to cross over to the other side.

The Future of North and South Korea

The future of North and South Korea is starting to head in a positive direction. In June 2018, North Korea and the United States held a summit to negotiate the deal of denuclearization of North Korea in Singapore. Before this summit, South Koreans were feeling threatened for

quite a while because of North Korean's tests of nuclear weapons. South Korea was concerned that North Korean's continuing tests of nuclear weapons might escalate a war among countries, especially between the South and the North. Giving the fact that the United States has been the main military support in the South, it would take a long time for North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons when it sees the joint military exercise between the United States and South Korea. However, the summit between the South and North Korea has finally brought the leader of these two nations to sit down and have a conversation for the first time since the division. It was a historical moment to have the world witness the progress of the future cooperation that has been made between these two countries. The world would like to see peace maintained between these two nations, and by the same token, they both can contribute to the peacebuilding in East Asia.

The South Korean's Market and Its Industries

The Economy of South Korea

Compared to China and Japan, South Korea holds the third biggest economy in East Asia. South Korea has had its very impressive growth from the poorest country to one of the richest in just one generation. In recent years, South Korea remains the fastest growing developing country in the world. The mixed economy of the nation mainly depends on the family-owned businesses, and the owners of these businesses hold a great deal of political power in the country. The major concern of having the family businesses is finding the effective methods of passing onto the future generations that are capable of both running businesses and handling politics. The

economy of South Korea has been mainly depending on its exports of automobiles and electronics, along with some other industries, such as the beauty industry. Meanwhile, South Korea attracts millions of tourists each year because of the “Korean Trend” from its popular culture and television dramas.

The Automobile Industry

South Korea is one of the most advanced automobile-producing countries in today’s world. In the past three decades, the automotive industry in South Korea has experienced dramatic expansion. Among all a few South Korean automobile brands, Hyundai and Kia are the most well-known brands in the world market, and they have been growing rapidly and favored by more and more family in the United States. Compared to a lot of automobile brands, the South Korean brands are more affordable, and they are also known for using less gas compared to a lot of other automobile brands. The preference of the Japanese automobiles over the South Korean ones has been gradually changing. With the improvement of the technology and the performance, the Korean brands’ automobiles have established a place in the global market.

The Electronic Industry

According to the Korea Herald, South Korea’s electronic production ranks the third in 2017 (Song, 2018). Among all the electronic productions, Samsung and LG are one of the most favored electronic brands, especially in the United States. These two competing South Korean electronic brands together occupy a great percentage of the world market. “Samsung is Korea’s best-known and most profitable global brand, covering 33 affiliates in the electronics industry,

machinery and heavy industry, the chemical industry, financial services, the hotel and resort industry and hospitals” (Kwak, 2017, p. 27). Meanwhile, the government of South Korea highly supports the education of science and technology. The highly educated engineers get employed by the high technology brands, such as Samsung and LG.

The Plastic Surgery Industry

South Korea is the plastic surgery capital of the world. People from all over the world visit South Korea when they decide to undergo certain surgeries to change their appearance. Many celebrities from all over the world have visited South Korea for its technology of plastic surgery, which has made a lot of plastic surgeons famous at the same time. People would pay a generous amount to change and maintain their looks. In modern society, people care about their appearance more and more. The beauty standard has changed in many ways. In Asia, people often prefer a slim body and a more defined face. People are likely to try everything to stay in shape, and if they do not like certain looks about themselves, they find ways to fix it. The plastic surgery can help people achieve the looks they prefer even though these people have to take risks of having surgery. In recent years, many young Asia girls have at least done some minor surgery to enlarge their eyes, believing that having the eyes and facial looks of westerners is prettier than the authentic Asian looks.

The desire of having a perfect look is mostly influenced either by the media or the family. The beauty trend has changed from older people wanting to have a younger look to more and more younger people changing their appearances from an early age. People believe that the

society treats good-looking people better and more opportunities come for those who have nice appearances.

The Cosmetic Industry

In today's society, the South Korean cosmetic products are becoming more and more popular. These products are known as gentle and refreshing to the skin due to the usage of natural remedy inside the beauty products. Unlike many western cosmetic products, the South Korean cosmetic products appear to be very light with relatively better coverage on the skin compared to some name brand western beauty products. At the same time, these South Korean products can be more affordable than some famous western brands. Therefore, the South Korean beauty products from head to toe have become trending in recent years. The effectiveness of these products primarily has to do with the natural ingredients, such as rice, mung beans, soybeans, and fruits that the South Korean companies mix in the products. More and more people are willing to try these products and start falling in love with them. Many people from abroad, especially people from Asia, travel to South Korea specifically to shop for their cosmetic products.

In South Korea, cosmetics are not only for women, but also for men. Having a nice appearance is very important. It will boost the confidence level of these men, and at the same time, employers are more than likely to give opportunities to people who look flawless and defined. According to BBC, inspired by the South Korean pop culture, men from South Korea spend more time on beauty products than men anywhere else in the world (Asher, 2018). This phenomenon explains the reason why the cosmetic industry is booming in South Korea, and

these beauty products have made it into the global market to compete with name brand products in the recent years. People can easily find the South Korean beauty products in the beauty stores such as Sephora and Ulta. Moreover, the South Koreans focus on skincare products more than other beauty products due to their preference for having a natural smooth skin.

CONCLUSION

The Chinese Culture and Political System

Looking at the peacebuilding process by examining the case studies of China, Japan, and South Korea, it shows that each country has its unique party system, culture, and economy. Meanwhile, the political system, the culture, and the economy of each country are intertwined with one another. The culture is heavily rooted in the political and economic system, which can be difficult to measure. China is one party system, but it contains multi-ethnic groups inside the country. So far, it has been the largest economy in East Asia. Although China is one party system, China has its unique system for dealing with Hong Kong and Macau. China obtains "one country, two systems" policy. Under this principle, the two regions can continually retain their economy and administrative systems including having their foreign trade relations with other states. Hong Kong Dollar is still widely used in these regions, and it is one of the trading currencies. The majority of the population in China is Han people, which it can be traced back to the Han Dynasty. The fifty-five minorities are additions to the 95% of the Han majority. The most significant five minority groups make up the five autonomous regions inside China. They are the Guangxi (Zhuang Ethnic) Province, the Inner Mongolia (Mongol Ethnic) Province, the Ningxia Hui (Muslim Ethnic) Province, the Xizang Tibetan (Buddhists Ethnic) Province and the Xinjiang Uyghurs (Turkic Ethnic) Province. China believes the peaceful coexistence of various ethnic groups can bring harmony and prosperity to the society. On the domestic level, China has

been keeping the different ethnic groups together for a better cooperation inside China. On the international level, it is a small step that China takes to reduce possible tensions in East Asia.

Outcome of Belt and Road Initiative

In recent years, the Chinese trading activities have increased steadily because of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which is a new model that is built on top of the ancient Silk Road economic/trade network. BRI contains two primary components: the land-based Silk Road Economic Belt (SREB) and the ocean-based Maritime Silk Road (MSR). The SREB's infrastructure network encompasses the New Eurasia Land Bridge, while the MSR focuses on establishing seaports that can connect to routes of the land-based transportations. This Belt and Road strategy indicates China is pushing its role into the larger scale of global affairs and brings more interactions among nations. Not only the BRI project can support large-scale infrastructure development and enable connectivity along the Belt and Road, but it can also provide financial integration and cultural exchange. The European countries take these opportunities and benefit from the process of building this initiative due to multilateral financial coordination and people-to-people bonds and cooperation. The project of BRI is an example of the Confidence Building Measures.

The South China Sea Dispute May Cause Conflicts

China and its neighbor countries have been trying to reach an agreement on sharing the resources of the South China Sea. The war over territory and trade is inevitable. So far, no nation wants to destroy the harmony within the East and Southeast Asia. The outside participation in the region can impact on the multilateral agreement that can be reached within nations inside the region. Moreover, China does not want to negotiate with ASEAN (the Association of South East Asian Nations) because this organization has divided opinions over the South China Sea dispute. With the on-going conflicts from many countries in the region, it can indeed challenge the peace and prosperity in the region.

On China and Taiwan Cross-Strait Issue

The China-Taiwan cross-strait issue has been going on for decades, it remains unsolved, and it is a sensitive topic for both China and Taiwan. If this issue is not handled well, it can lead to a potential conflict between these two regions. The Confidence Building Measures and the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes should work at the same time to ensure the peace between this two regions. Both governments of China and Taiwan have been competing for the “legitimate government” of the one China. In 1945, Taiwan joined the United Nations at its founding. However, China replaced Taiwan and became one of the five permanent members of its security council in 1971. The international body such as the United Nations acknowledged the government of Taiwan as China for a short period until the United States and mainland China established the diplomatic tie in 1979. Since then, the world widely recognizes the government of China as the only legitimate government, which puts Taiwan in an awkward situation.

China and Taiwan have not had any agreement on solving their current situation, both governments do not give up on competing with each other, and claim their legitimacy. At the same time, China claims that Taiwan is part of its territory, but Taiwan does not give up its territory (the island), and it has been fighting for its independence. On the other hand, China does not give up on reunification with Taiwan and the “One China” policy. Moreover, tensions and limited contacts between these two areas have caused a certain level of instability in East Asia, which makes the peace-building process more difficult in the region.

The Political System of Japan and its Nationalists

Different from China, Japan is a multi-party system with the Emperor as the head of the state. Other than a few percentages of Korean, Chinese, and Pilipino that are residing in Japan, it does not contain multi-ethnic groups. Japan has been an industrialized Asian country, and its economy is the second largest in East Asia. In recent years, due to China having surpassed its economy, more and more Japanese nationalists are coming onto the surface. The Uyoku dantai are famously known for their highly visible propaganda vehicles. Big converted SUV vehicles, trucks and buses that are modified with loudspeakers on top of the roofs with political slogans drive all over the main streets in the cities to promote political propaganda. Anti-communism and Marxism, anti-Chinese government and supporting Falun Gong (banned in China) are often seen on their slogans as well. Most of these nationalists are seeking to justify the role of Japan during the Second World War, and they are a part of history revisionists.

The Dispute of Senkaku/Diaoyu Island

Senkaku Islands Dispute, also known as Diaoyu Islands Dispute in China and Tiaoyutai Islands in Taiwan, is a territorial dispute over a group of uninhabited islands among Japan, China, and Taiwan. The Senkaku/Diaoyu island dispute has been continually challenging the peacebuilding process in East Asia due to political tensions in the region. Although no major military conflict has occurred, both Japan and China have expanded their nationalist identity throughout the region. The lack of energy, resources, and the population decline add more pressure on Japan. Therefore, the Japanese people are highly involved and supportive towards keeping Senkaku/Diaoyu area as part of the territory regardless of the political actions of China or Taiwan.

Certainly, China and Japan each have its own differences, but these two countries are tied together by their trading activities between each other and among the countries in the world. Entire East Asia depends on these two nations for its stability and prosperity. If China and Japan continuously have tensions, it will create chances for outside powers gaining control over the region. Both nations need to focus more on their strategic and shared interests, such as environmental issues or providing the East Asian region stronger stability and greater prosperity. Moreover, both nations will have to find a middle ground of settling the disputes to finally achieve the peace-building process in the region.

The Economy of Japan and Its Industries

A great amount of Japanese economy is from its export products. Although Japan seems to be an island nation that does not contain many resources, it possesses the most profitable industries in the world. The major production in Japan is now focusing primarily on high-tech and precision goods, such as optical instruments, hybrid vehicles, and robotics due to the existing economic challenges from both China and South Korea. The main industries that can bring profits in Japan are still focusing on the automobiles, electronic, animation and cosmetic industries. Japan has been the home to many companies that are producing cars, motorcycles, constructive vehicles. The most well-known brands in the world are Toyota, Honda, Nissan, Suzuki, Mazda, Mitsubishi, Subaru, Isuzu, Kawasaki, Yamaha, and Mitsuoka. At the same time, Japan possesses the most famous electronic brands in thw world, including Canon, Casio, Citizen, Fujifilm, Mitsubishi Electric, Nikon, Nintendo, Olympus, Panasonic, Pioneer, Sony, Toshiba, and Yamaha. Among these giant electronic companies, a big part of Nintendo and Sony productions are related to video games. The 21st century is a golden age of video games, and the video games' world has brought a lot of nations closer to Japan, especially from the perspective of young people.

The Political System of South Korea and Its Economy

Similar to Japan, South Korea has a multi-party system. The president is the head of the state. It does not contain multi-ethnic groups. The economy of South Korea is mainly based on

its exports. South Korea has been growing incredibly fast since the division to its neighbor state in the north. The mixed economy of the nation mainly depends on the family-owned businesses, and the owners of these businesses hold a great deal of the political powers in the country. The major concern of having the family businesses is finding the effective methods of passing onto the future generations that are capable of both running businesses and handling politics. The economy of South Korea has been mainly depending on its exports of automobiles and electronics, along with some other industries, such as the beauty industries.

A Better Cooperation between the South and North Korea

The future of North and South Korea is starting to head in a positive direction. In June 2018, North Korea and the United States held a summit to negotiate the deal of denuclearization of North Korea in Singapore. Before this summit, South Koreans were feeling threatened for quite a while because of North Korean's tests of nuclear weapons. South Korea was concerned that North Korean's continuing tests of nuclear weapons might escalate a war among countries, especially between the South and the North. Giving the fact that the United States has been the main military support in the South, it would take a long time for North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons when it sees the joint military exercise between the United States and South Korea. However, the summit between the South and North Korea has finally brought the leaders of these two nations to sit down and have a conversation for the first time since the division. It was a historical moment to have the world witness the progress of the future cooperation that has

been made between these two countries. The world would like to see peace maintained between these two nations, and by the same token, they both can contribute to the peacebuilding in East Asia.

After studying each country and providing the evidence, the three factors (politics, culture, and economy) have the biggest impact on the peacebuilding process in China, Japan, and South Korea can be summarized in the following table.

| Factors Countries | Politic | Culture | Economy |
|----------------------|---|--|--|
| China | Leadership: Xi Ideology: Socialism Institutes: One Party | Multi-ethnicity: Majority +Minorities Chinese Language Institutes | The largest economy in EA Economic Activities: Foreign Trade + BRI |
| Japan | Leadership: Shinzo Abe Ideology: Nationalism Institution: Multi-party with the Emperor | Single-ethnicity Animation/Pop Culture Industry | The second largest economy in EA Economic Activities: Foreign Trade |

| | | | |
|-------------|--|---|---|
| South Korea | Leadership: Moon Jae-in Ideology: Development of Nationalism Institution: Multi-party with the President | Single-ethnicity Pop Culture Industry and Plastic Surgical Industry | The third largest economy in EA Economic Activities: Foreign Trade |
|-------------|--|---|---|

Table 1: The Comparison of China, Japan, and South Korea

After putting China, Japan, and South Korea in comparison in the above table, it shows that these three countries share some similarities. The one factor that the three countries have in common is the economy. All three countries have the fastest growing economy in the region, and a lot of their activities are based on foreign trade. Not only these three countries trade with each other, but they also have trade relations outside of the region with other parts of the world. Under Xi's leadership, China launched the biggest trading platform in history. This platform has enlarged Chinese market and took the Chinese economy on the next level. Japan has been focusing on its automobile and electronic industry for a longtime. These industries have been growing at a steady pace. The Japanese automobiles are famous for being reliable and affordable for many families. Similar to the Japanese economy, the Korean economy is mainly focused on its automobile industries, and technology industries. These Korean industries have been growing at a relatively steady pace as well.

The political system of China, Japan, and South Korea are different although they all tend to focus on their economy. China is under one leader's role, and it is heading towards a socialist society based on the ideology of Marxism. Xi is the head of the State and the head of the party.

He is also the Chairman of the Central Military Commission. On the other hand, Japan and South Korea are heading towards a democratic society, although the Japanese and Koreans have different interpretations of the democracy. In Japan, the head of the state is the Japanese Emperor, and the head of the party is the Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe. While in South Korea, Moon Jae-in is both the head of the state and the head of the party. Both Japan and South Korea have single-ethnic groups, while China has multiple ethnic groups. Therefore, it is easy to see why Japan and South Korea prefer the nationalist society. Since people share the same culture, they are easier to be united than countries that carry many ethnic groups.

Going back to the original question of this paper, what are the factors that may help develop peace in East Asia, what methods can contribute to the peacebuilding process and what do these countries do to have a sustainable, peaceful influence within the region? It is evident that politics, culture, and economy are the three of the most important factors that directly influence the future of East Asia. These three factors can also work as the methods in contributing the peacebuilding process in the region. The effective methods that the nations can adopt are Confidence Building Measures (CBM) and Peaceful Settlement of Disputes (PSD).

By seeing the North and South Korea adopt the method of Confidence Building Measures (CBM) to reduce the fear of attack by both nations, it is the historical progress of heading towards to more stability in the region. Peaceful Settlement of Disputes (PSD) will eventually serve its purpose after China and Japan figure out a better treaty to settle their disputes. As a result, after studying the three countries (China, Japan, and South Korea) in East Asia, it helps people to understand the differences and similarities between these countries, it indicates that these countries can put away their differences as long as they have a desire of working together

for a more peaceful region. Hopefully, adopting the case studies in this paper and examining each country in depth can help future research.

REFERENCES

Asher, Saira. “Male make-up: Korean men have started a beauty revolution,” *BBC*—Feb 5, 2018. <https://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-asia-42869170/male-make-up-korean-men-have-started-a-beauty-revolution>

Brunstrom, David; Doina Chiacu. “U.S. targets Chinese, Russia entities for helping North Korea,” *Reuters*. August 22, 2017, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-nuclear-sanctions/u-s-targets-chinese-russia-entities-for-helping-north-korea-idUSKCN1B21OG>

Buerk, Roland. “North Koreans in Japan remain loyal to Pyongyang,” *BBC*—October 28, 2010. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-11534233>

Chen, Chien-Kai. “China and Taiwan: A Future of Peace? A Study of Economic Interdependence, Taiwanese Domestic Politics and Cross-Strait Relations,” *Josef Korbel Journal of Advanced International Studies*—Summer 2009, pp.14-25.

Chiu, Hungdah. “The Principle of One China and the Legal Status of Taiwan,” *American Journal of Chinese Studies*—Vol.7, Issue 2, April 2000, pp.177-187.

Chung, Chien-Peng. “Resolving China's Island Disputes: A Two-Level Game Analysis,” *Journal of Chinese Political Science*—Vol. 12, Issue 1, March 2007, pp.49-70.

Fan, Yongming. “Searching for Common Interests between China and Japan: a Chinese view,” *Journal of Contemporary China*—Vol. 17, Issue 55, May 2008, pp.375-382.

Gao, Haikuan. “The China-Japan Mutually Beneficial Relationship Based on Common Strategic Interests and East Asian Peace and Stability,” *Asia-Pacific Review*—Vol. 15, Issue 2, November 2008, pp.36-51.

“International Students in Japan 2016,” *Japan Student Services Organization*—March 2017. https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/about/statistics/intl_student/data2016.html

“Japan’s automakers achieve record U.S. sales in 2015,” *The Japan Times*—January 6, 2016. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2016/01/06/business/japans-automakers-achieve-record-u-s-sales-2015/#.Ws7BOIjwbIU>

Jin, Qiu. “The Politics of History and Historical Memory in China-Japan Relations,” *Journal of Chinese Political Science*—Vol. 11, Issue 1, March 2006, pp.25-53.

Kwak, Ki-sung. “Corporate influence on the media in South Korea: The case of Samsung,” *International Journal of Media & Cultural Politics*—Vol. 13, Issue 1&2, pp. 25-37.

Lee, Jung-Nam. “The Rise of China and Soft Power: China's Soft Power Influence in Korea,” *Institute of Peace Studies*—Vol. 8, Issue 1, 2008, pp.127-154.

Masamiito. “Owner OK with metro bid to buy disputed Senkaku Islands,” *The Japan Times*—May 18, 2012. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2012/05/18/national/owner-ok-with-metro-bid-to-buy-disputed-senkaku-islands/#page>

Nagata, Kazuaki. “‘Anime’ makes Japan superpower: Culture extended from manga finds ever-increasing global fans,” *The Japan Times*—September 7, 2010. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2010/09/07/reference/anime-makes-japan-superpower/#.Ws6yW4jwbIX>

Nordquist, Myron H.; John Norton Moore. *Security Flashpoints: Oil, Islands, Sea Access and Military Confrontation*, Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, 1998, pp. 155.

Otmazgin, Nissim. “A regional gateway: Japanese popular culture in Hong Kong, 1990–2005,” *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies*—Vol. 15, Issue 2, June 2014, pp.323-335.

Pollack, Johnathan. “Changes and prospects for the structure of regional stability in East Asia: A U.S. perspective,” *Bookings*—January 25, 2016. <https://www.brookings.edu/on-the-record/changes-and-prospects-for-the-structure-of-regional-stability-in-east-asia-a-u-s-perspective/>

Shane, Denial. “Trump wants Japan to build more cars in the U.S.,” *CNN Money*—November 6, 2017. <http://money.cnn.com/2017/11/06/news/economy/trump-japan-autos-fact-check/index.html>

Shen, Lijun. “Peace over the Taiwan Strait?” *Security Dialogue*—Vol. 33, Issue 1, March 2002, pp.93-106.

Smith, Paul. “The Crisis Postponed: The Senkaku/Diaoyu Island Controversy,” *Naval War College Review*—Vol. 66, Issue 2, January 2013, pp. 27-44.

Song, Su-hyun. “S. Korea’s electronics industry No. 3 by production,” *The Korea Herald*—Jan 26, 2018. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20180126000750>

Tiezzi, Shannon. “What Did China Accomplish at the Belt and Road Forum?” *The Diplomat*—May 16, 2017. <https://thediplomat.com/2017/05/what-did-china-accomplish-at-the-belt-and-road-forum/>

“Why is the South China Sea contentious?” *BBC*—July 12, 2016. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-pacific-13748349>

Yang, Miaoyan. “Trapped in Politicization of Ethnicity: The Dilemma in China’s Ethnic Minority Education,” *Chinese Education & Society*—Vol. 48, Issue 5, 2015, pp. 327-331.

Zhang, Lianhong. “The Nanjing Massacre and the traumatic memory of Nanjing residents,” *Chinese Studies in History*—Vol. 50, Issue 4, October 2017, pp. 258-265.

Zhao, Quansheng. “Beijing's dilemma with Taiwan: war or peace?” *Pacific Review*—Vol. 18, Issue 2, June 2005, pp.217-242.

Zhou, Bo. “How China Can Improve UN Peacekeeping,” *Foreign Affairs*—November 15, 2017. <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/china/2017-11-15/how-china-can-improve-un-peacekeeping>