

Preface and Introduction

This is an introductory textbook on international relations and Japan's foreign relations, written by professors who are teaching at Japanese universities. Japanese universities in general have belatedly been making much more effort to prepare their students for the globalized world, which is usually termed as "internationalization". One aspect of this effort is to teach at least some classes in English. It is now possible that a degree can be conferred with classes taught entirely in English, which makes it much easier for non-Japanese students to study in Japan, too.

Despite this effort, we believe there is one area that is lagging behind; textbooks in English that are written by Japan-based professors and published in Japan. One might think that we should use a textbook that is widely used in English-speaking countries. We can certainly do so. However, one could say that has a certain drawback, so to speak. They tend to explain international relations theories, case studies, and so forth based on mainly European-American histories and experiences; not much, if at all, on Asian experiences. We believe that we should take careful note that the students we have in mind are studying in Japan at Japanese universities, although their medium of instruction happens to be English. We consider that there had better be an international relations textbook that explains not only international relations theories, histories and current issues, but also Japan's situation in terms of foreign, economic, and defense policies. Based on this kind of thinking, our textbook is born. The main focus of this introductory textbook is for international relations and Japanese foreign policy-related classes at Japanese universities. However, it is also possible to use it for an advanced English class for Japanese students. It would be easier for them to read and understand the subject that they have some knowledge of.

As might be clear from the above explanation, this textbook has mainly two groups of students in mind. One is non-Japanese students who are currently studying in Japan and who are not necessarily familiar with Japan's foreign relations. The other is Japanese students who are studying international relations in English in Japan. For the former, it should be much easier to understand Japan's foreign relations, with a

Japanese perspective for that matter, when they are in Japan. For the latter, it should be noted that the foundation for studying international relations is a firm grasp of their own country's foreign relations, without which their understanding of international relations would be shallow. It would be much less intimidating to study a subject in English where they have some familiarity, to begin with.

To briefly introduce this textbook, it has basically two parts. The first part is about international relations as such. The second part focuses on Japan. Chapter 1 is on the concept and history of the sovereign nation-state system and on other major worldviews, i.e., Islamic and Chinese. Chapter 2 is about theories of international relations such as realism, liberalism and constructivism, and has a case study on Japan about their explanatory power. Chapter 3 is on international relations history from the Cold War and after. Chapter 4 is about peace and security, which describes humans' efforts to restrain and manage nuclear weapons, missiles, and other weapons. Chapter 5 explains about the United Nations (UN) and its peace-keeping operations (PKO). Chapter 6 deals with economic aspects such as the impact of economic globalism and regionalism. This chapter also explains Japan's trade policy.

The second part that explains Japan's foreign relations as well as defense policies has four chapters. Chapter 7 explains Japan's overall foreign relations and defense policies after 1945. Chapter 8 deals with Japan's so-called "peace constitution", which prohibits her from having any "war potential" as such. This prohibition has a huge impact on her foreign as well as defense policies, if not fundamentally directing her foreign relations and defense policies. Chapter 9 is about the security alliance that Japan has with the United States, which has been the linchpin of Japan's foreign relations as well as defense policies. This chapter includes a brief discussion on the theory of alliances. The last chapter, Chapter 10, describes Japan's tense relations with her neighbors, especially with China and (South-) Korea, due to the legacy of historical issues.

Lastly, many thanks to all the contributors, who have made the job of being the editor much easier, for diligently submitting their drafts on time. And we would like to specially mention Prof. Craig Mark, one of the contributors, who did all the proof-reading singlehandedly and expeditiously. Without his wholehearted help, it would have taken much longer for this book to see the sunshine. And finally, many

thanks are due also for Mr. Satoh Mamoru and Ms. Yasuda Ai at UNIVERSITY EDUCATION PRESS Co., Ltd., the publisher, whose editorial work helped us, the contributors, a great deal to make our manuscripts publishable and better.

August, 2013

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Contents

Preface and Introduction	<i>i</i>
CHAPTER 1 Different World Views	<i>1</i>
CHAPTER 2 Different Paradigms: Realism, Liberalism, and Constructivism	<i>19</i>
CHAPTER 3 Recent World History: The Cold War and Beyond	<i>43</i>
CHAPTER 4 Peace and Security: Nuclear Deterrence and Disarmament	<i>63</i>
CHAPTER 5 The United Nations and Its Peacekeeping Activities	<i>81</i>
CHAPTER 6 Economic Globalism and New Regionalism: WTO, FTA and Japan's New Trade Policy	<i>100</i>
CHAPTER 7 Japan's Foreign and Security Policy after 1945	<i>119</i>
CHAPTER 8 Japan's Constitution and Its Implications	<i>142</i>
CHAPTER 9 The Japan-U. S. Alliance	<i>159</i>
CHAPTER 10 Japan's Diplomacy and East Asia	<i>178</i>
Index	<i>196</i>

