

Summation of the NASSS International Graduate Students Politics/International Relations Workshop, July 30, 2008

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The Politics/International Relations section of the NASSS graduate seminar included eight presentations. The session was co-chaired by David M. Potter (Nanzan University) and Masaki Hirata (Nagoya City University) and mentored by Professor Michael Mastanduno (Dartmouth College).

The morning session included four presenters and began with Ms. Shoko Kohama's (University of Tokyo) "Unsettled Designs for Peace and Order in the Middle East." She reexamined American designs for peace and order in the Middle East from the late 1960s to 1970s. Previous studies have assumed that the only solution for Arab-Israel conflicts was/is peace treaties, but this study reveals that policy-makers at that time explored various ideas. Among these ideas, she argued, the idea aiming the creation of an "international" system which consisted of mutually recognized sovereign states became prominent after the Six Day War. This idea entailed two policies: promotion of the recognition of the existence of Israel by Arabs and containment of transnational Palestinian "nationalism" within Jordan.

Mr. Kyohei Yamada (Yale University) presented "Can Postcards Increase Voter Turnout? A Randomized Field Experiment in Japan." The paper examined the effect of non-partisan mobilization by postcard on voter turnout in Japan. Based on findings from a randomized field experiment Yamada concluded that circulation of postcards with positive messages about voter efficacy increased turnout in the districts tested. Discussion centered on whether the postcards really caused the turnout increase or whether unobserved factors were the real cause; how postcards change individuals' behaviors; and whether changes in postcard design might affect turnout.

Mr. Renny Babiarz (Johns Hopkins University) presented a summary of his dissertation project arguing that China's domestic situation is a major factor that influences how the Chinese party-state develops foreign policy. While the Chinese party-state accepts power and security as essential to state survival, it is spurred to action not by the structure of or distribution of power within the international system—as neo-realism would predict—but by internal threats to the survival of the party-state apparatus itself. While strategies stressing economic and security interdependence fit certain liberal methods of achieving security,

liberalism does not address the motivations behind these strategies. Rather, China's party-state faces a variety of domestic threats and addresses these threats within a broad strategic context that explicitly links internal and external national security interests.

Mr. Shin Han (Seoul National University) presented his research, "Political Emergence of Christian Fundamentalists: Looking at it Through a 'Religion-Moral Value-Politics' Perspective." He began by noting that the United States is a religious country in which a large percentage of citizens claim that they believe in God and they attend church every Sundays, yet the Constitution has strictly divided religion and politics by what some call the 'Wall of Separation'. The paper aimed to show why the political emergence of fundamentalist Christian organizations developed during the 1970s.

Mr. Jeffrey W. Meiser (Johns Hopkins University) began the afternoon session with a discussion of the origins of American exceptionalism. Scholarship on this topic tends to associate the emergence of the liberal American Creed with socioeconomic factors such as economic opportunity, equality, and prosperity. However, the detailed incorporating process of its land into its economy has not been seriously explored in the exceptionalist literature. Focusing upon the state provision of land through the military expulsion of Native American tribes in the 1790's, he drew out the materialist base of American exceptionalism and emphasized the importance of state development and military policy in the early republic.

Ms. Chihiro Nakayama (Nanzan University) analyzed the perception gap between Japanese mass media and the U. S. government on the view of the Vietnam War in the mid-1960's. She identified US policymaker's lack of understanding of Vietnamese culture and society as a major cause of U. S. defeat in the war and that such an attitude came from the historical characteristics of American diplomacy. Washington had justified its military intervention by combining the mission of expanding freedom and democracy with its self-image as a special nation. Comparing different views of the war between Japanese media and the US government, she explored the arrogance and limits of U. S. power.

Mr. Toshinao Yokoi (Nanzan University) shed light on the evolving process towards the ANZUS treaty with the main focus of the dilemma of alliance on the Australian side (it had not only fear of "abandonment" but also fear of "entrapment"). In its negotiation, American representative John Foster Dulles initially suggested a similar regional security pact like NATO, comprising Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Indonesia and Japan. But it never materialized because Australia feared the possibility of attack by "communized Japan." Mr. Yokoi implied the fact that the US-Japan security treaty was signed a week before the signing of the ANZUS treaty showed the US consideration towards the Australian concerns at that time.

Mr. Jeffrey Hornung (Georgetown University) examined Japan's decision-

making process responding to the 1991 Gulf Crisis and War. Japan's decision-making process has traditionally been described as dominated by powerful bureaucracies that act as veto players vis-à-vis one another and no central executive able to coordinate their efforts. This resulted in a fractured decision-making process. According to his analysis, Japan's Gulf War experience proved to be a major turning point in Japanese policy-makers' cognitive reference points that resulted in convergence of policy option among them. Since then, their decision-making has become quicker and increasingly incorporated the lessons learned from the War.