



HÁSKÓLI ÍSLANDS

Hugvísindasvið

Japan is no more special than other nations

A look at Neo-nationalistic reactions in Japan to globalization

Ritgerð til BA -prófs í Japanskt Mál og menningu

Jóhann Daníel Jimma

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Ágrip

Japanska þjóðin hefur oft verið tallin hafa sterka þjóðernishyggju en á síðustum árum þá hefur svo kallaða ný-þjóðernishygg farið örvaxandi. Takmark þessa verks er að skoða ný-þjóðernishyggjuna, helstu ástæðurnar fyrir þessum öra vexti í Japan verður skoðað. Hlutverk hnattvæðingar, hvernig hnattvæðing hefur áhrif á þennan hugsunarhátt og tengslin á þeim vaxandi hugsunarhætti. Í nútíma þjóðfélagi ríkir sú regla allir til heyrir einhverjar þjóð. Einnig verður mismunurinn á þjóðernishyggju og íhaldishyggju skoðaður. Tengsli og ástæður. hvað þessir tveir hugmyndastraumar eiga sameiginlegt og hvað er mismunandi. Ástæðan fyrir því að Japönsk þjóðernishyggja hefur mjög íhaldssöm gildi. En það verður ekki farið í of nákvæmar lýsingar um það, aðeins nægilega til þess að ná grundvallar skilning á efninu. Hnattvæðing veður skilgreind og útskýrð í stuttu máli. Einnig verður litið á sögu landsins, hvernig hún mundi hafa áhrif á ný-þjóðernishyggjuna sem fer vaxandi í Japan. Þar næst verður ræt um mismunandi leiðir þjóðernisstefnunnar, þá öfgafullu þjóðernissinna sem eiga til að líta á útlendinga sem vandamál og neita einhverju neikvæðu um sína eign þjóð og ekki sjá gallana, svo eru þeir sem kallast alþjóðlegir þjóðernissinnar og hvernig hnattvæðingin leiðir til þess að fleiri taka upp þá hugsunarhætti. Ein ástæðan að ný-þjóðernishyggjuna fer vaxandi í Japan er vegna veraldarsvefsins, með auknum og auðveldari aðgangi að Japanskri popp menningu þá hefur áhugi fólks á Japanskri menningu farið vaxandi. Ástæður og hvers vegna veraldvefurinn ýtir undir þan áhuga verður skoðaður. Síðan verða áhrif hnattvæðingar og hvað það þýðir fyrir maneskju sem er fæddur og uppalin í Japan og hvernig þeir gætu brugðist við. Til að sjá hvernig þessi áhugi gæti hjálpað en á sama tíma eigning valdið vanda og misskilningi.

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Introduction

It is well known that, Japanese Nationalism has been known for its conservative nature as well as emphasis on re-militarizing and returning Japan to its pre-second world war glory. This occurs not just in Japan but all over the world, examples of such are the likes of the dictatorship that goes on in North Korea to date. The emphasis on giving everything for your country, and the focus on freedom and patriotism in the United States of America. These could however be considered to be conclusions drawn from mass medias such as television and the radio, as they tend to focus more on the negative facet of daily lives, in order to draw in more views or listeners.

Over the past few years the rise of the world wide web, or the internet in simpler terms, has made it so that getting access to facts and information from around the world is much easier, quicker and to a larger extent more accurate. As well as getting into contact with people all over the world, which in turn makes it easier for a person to make more informed opinions on these matters.

That is a part of globalization which is on the rise, and with the increased Globalization one would think that nationalism would decline due to the reductions of barriers that follows globalization, but instead it has given way to the rise of neo-nationalism. There are many different ways a person could be a nationalist, some are just too proud of their country while others wish to promote it even further, there are those might be a bit wary or even paranoid and regard outsiders with scorn. In order to gain understanding of the subject, it would do well to look at the reasons and the difference on these ways of thinking between those that wish associate more with outsiders and those that wish to do the opposite.

As Japan is mostly homogenous and is highly focused in the way of collectivism, with them focusing on maintaining a proper image for the public eye in order preserve harmony, the recent influx of outside interest and travellers in the past years, has left them wary as the Japanese people have more outsiders making their way to Japan than before. This reaction is based on past dealings with outsiders, and as the world grows interconnected, it becomes more and more common to have to deal with outside forces with or without consent. Some people find themselves painted into a corner, they feel

that the group-harmony that they so greatly value in Japan is in danger from these outside forces and that there is a need to protest. That is not to say that every person within the country reacts to globalization in this way, far from it. However due to the biased journalistic coverage that focuses on the words of politicians such as Shintaro Ishihara, the political scene in Japan is not painted in a positive light in order to gain more view.

After all, if a politician is a representative of the people why should the people not feel the same way? On matters such as not helping another country during a crisis or commenting about the influx of foreign workers. This type of outlook is what makes it easy to misinterpret intentions or policies of politicians that are elected by the other members of the nation, they feel that said politician is the one that has the best goals for them and therefore would do well in representing them. This applies to both the political world as well as the social world as well, as the ease of access to information and communicating with people around the world has grown easier thanks to the internet, with the speed of access and communications, along with the transfer of data such as documents and video files has made it so that the ability to learn new matter or view entertainment or news around the world, allows people to view and react to events around the world in much faster manner. That would include that groups or persons around the world would see a much quicker backlash against their actions than before.

The goal of this Thesis is to explain the differences between Neo-Nationalism and Conservatism. Why is it that Neo-Nationalism is on the rise in Japan and grant a better understanding on why it is on the rise. To be able to understand this, we shall examine Japan's history, and then see how Globalization factors in, and how outsiders are introduced to Japanese culture through various medias, such as the use of the internet to gain access to Japanese popular culture. This has stimulated an ever growing interest of Japanese popular culture that is only getting stronger as time passes.

A brief look at nationalism

Hello, I'm from....

"Hello, I'm from Iceland". This is a simple statement of a fact, a truth. A person saying this innocent fact is merely stating where he's from, where he/she lives and/or where he/she was born. There is no fault with this but yet a simple change to the country being stated and subsequently people's reaction can change, a person from the United States might get an annoyed response or a person from Afghanistan might get a fearful response.

Of course these responses are dependent on where in the world the conversation is located in the world. Another factor would be people's history with the country that is stated, but in the end this simple statement is a small but a good example of Nationalism. For the very core of Nationalism is the simple fact of identifying oneself with a country or a nation with statements like "I'm from x or y" or "I'm x-antic or y-pian" (Spencer & Wollman, 2002; Gingrich & Banks, 2006).

In modern society there is a great emphasis put on identifying oneself with a nation or country, this is mostly due to it be more common place to see a foreigner than it was before . With more outsiders in a country, a person of said country would become more aware of the fact that they are a member of the community of that country, there are those that think that they do not belong to a community, however due to modern society need to identifying a person with a nation is so great, that it has become almost unthinkable to not to do so. Everyone does this unconsciously and expects the same from others. This is due to the ability to get in touch with people of different origins, that has gotten easier. This accessibility to the outside world and information as well as contacting with people of different origins, has people become more aware on their own sense of nationality be it their own nationality or that of others. This trend only gets stronger as means and methods to get into contact with other around the world get better due to globalization (Stronach, 1995).

The fact is that everyone does this unconsciously, as that is the way general people are raised to respond to the question "Where are you from?", it is from the basic human

need to belong to a group, granted there are those that wish to change their nationality and can do so. The response to such a question and the need to ask it, is an automatic conditioning that comes in reply to the curiosity of others. Even if they do not wish to be associated with their country of origin, the society around them might force them to do so regardless, that is the nature of modern society. This is something that is greatly encased in mankind from its very origin as a species (Stronach, 1995; Spencer & Wollman, 2002).

Nations are spawned from human nature

For the longest of times humans have needed to group together in order to survive the environment and the other wild life. This led to tribes being established, with changes and growth of tribes, then the tribes settled and formed communities that would form towns, over time states being formed as the towns started to interact with one and another, which led to countries being formed, and the people of the countries referring to themselves as the nation of said country, of course there are nations without a country nomads as they are known, such as the kurds. Now the values of the nations of old were dependent on the environment as well as seasonal changes, for example: a nation living in a cold country that had long winters would value hard work during the summer in order to have enough food stocked for the following winter, while nations in hotter climates did not have such an empathy on rushed or hard work during the summer, and the work more equal for the entire year. However as time went by and nations started to expand they would come into contact with one and another eventually. This could either end in multiple ways such as trade agreements, if their values were alike, or with conflict, resulting in conquest or the other nation being wiped out. This evolution of nations has changed borders time and again, up until modern borders were formed, and can change at a moment's notice. These facts point to one strong fact, The human instinct to belong to a group gives rise to nations, and nationalism is born from that instinct (Baum, 2001; Spencer & Wollman, 2002; Patterson, 1988).

So to take it a step further and look at values that people hold, along with the history of their country, these values end up creating traditions that help them look back, which serves as a reminder on how much their country or nations has overcome and gain pride

in it, this pride ends up cultivating the need to preserve these traditions, even help others to understand them. That would be conservatism but that will be discussed later. One thing that these traditions do for a nation is to create a sense of nationality for its people, this feel of nationality is a aspect of Nationalism, so it would be best to look at what nationalism is (Casas,2008).

What is Nationalism?

What is Nationalism? The word nationalism invokes patriotic feelings or love for ones country. This is a brief explanation of nationalism. However it fails to cover what nationalism is. Nationalism is a word that has multiple definitions, nationalism for one person is not the same it is for another as it changes and takes different meaning for the person involved, one persons love for their nation is not the same as his friends, so trying to define it in a brief manner will not allow for full comprehension of it (Penney & Wakefield, 2008).

The core of nationalism is the pride of one's country, but that pride can be extremely varied from one person to another, a person with a adverse history to a country might merely acknowledge that he was born there while a person with great history would have great pride in a country, and in some cases to a point of zealotry. While pride is one of core values of nationalism it is not the main factor of it, as explained earlier, most important value of nationalism is the instinct to belong to a group, and that instinct is what dives a person to identify themselves with a country or a nation (Spencer & Wollman, 2002).

However, many in the world look at Nationalism as a negative force. Extreme examples often brought up when discussing nationalism would include that nationalism as an illusion, an excuse for communists dictators such as Kim Il sung and Castro to justify their Dictatorships

How a nationalistic side will look at events and say that they are only doing things for the good of the nation or the country, and will somehow justify their actions with nationalism (Matynia & Michink,1991).

Such ways of thinking are known to exist, that dictators or extremists have use nationalism justification for their action. Many horrors of the past and present have been done out of love for a country, but this also applies to things such as religion, with

matters such as the crusades during the middle ages that ended with the slaughter of Muslims in the past. Those acts have the tendency to remain in people's minds and that has stigmatized nationalism (Matynia & Michink, 1991; Spencer & Wollman, 2002).

That is to say that nationalism is not without its negative sides, one of which being the tendency to focus on keeping the population homogeneous, in other words only letting those that are born with in the country stay there (Baum, 2001).

Another matter of nationalism that should be observed, is that some extremists might resort to racism and Xenophobia, examples of which would be Japanese has political factions and leaders that are openly pro homogeneity, such as Japan's Shintaro Ishiara, the former Governor of Tokyo who is known for being right-wing in his political views, his views have often resulted in negative backlash, such as many statements for Japan to re-militarize, or his negative words towards outsiders (Penney & Wakefield, 2008). Regardless, what remains is that politics aside, nationalism is a powerful social tool that is often used and still is used to run policies of countries, it's important due to the ability to move other members of a nation is one of the reasons why many politicians tend to resort to nationalistic values, motivating and reminding the people the importance of one's nation and pledging to making it better. For many, what is good for the nation, is good for oneself, and with the urge for self-improvement or better one's position in life is what makes it such a powerful tool in politics and is unlikely go away (Casas, 2008; Spencer & Wollman, 2002).

Differences between nationalism and conservatism.

Preserving Values

To nationalists preserving values and traditions is believed to be a great factor in making their nation strong (Mannheim, Kettler, Meja & Stehr, 1986; Spencer & Wollman, 2002).

That is one of the reasons why conservatism often follows nationalism in tow. Is based on a nations history along with their traditions (Mannheim & Kettler et al., 1986).

An example of this would be the hierarchy system that governs most Japanese way of behaviour. This comes from the tradition of the eldest member of a village or family having the most experience, thus listening to the eldest member, they could learn how to preserve their group. With matters such as how to do the planting during spring and summer, and then harvesting in time before the autumn tsunamis (Okimoto & Rohlen, 1988).

Another factor is how throughout Japanese history, they have had to deal with constant warfare amongst themselves, there for leading to the birth of the warrior class that would become known as the Samurai. The Samurai live by a strict code of honour, and due to the warfare, they became one of the higher classes, as those that could fight were held in higher regards then farmers or merchants, as such they had the authority to cut down those that disrespected them, that along with the need for superior warriors led to then need to listen to those of high rank. With these factors, such as listening to the their elders for their wisdom, along with their militant history, which gave them emphasis on preserving their line of command. Has lead to them wanting to keep the traditions that are the results of their country's history and let's them reflect on their roots as a nation (Schirokauer, Lurie & Gay, 2012).

Such is the nature of conservatism, and like nationalism it is not a bad thing in on itself, but with a world that is more and more globalized, such thinking is often considered backwards. Yet even if it's considered backwards conservatism is often at the heart of many nationalistic matters and policies it is good to consider why such is and how conservatism has the tendencies to align with nationalism (Spencer & Wollman, 2002).

They align but are not the same

In order to see the difference between nationalism and conservatism the base core of these values must be examined.

With conservatism being about preserving values and traditions, and pride being one of major values of nationalism, it is easy to see how these two ways of think align. After all it is easy to see how a country would take pride in its long traditions, an example of such a country might be Japan. With traditions like, Tea ceremony (Sadou 茶道), and Flower Arrangement (Ikebana 生け花), along with their wide range of

Marital arts, Like Judo(柔道), Karate(空手), Kendo(剣道) and more, these type of traditions have strong historic values and delivery of identity to a nation thus preserving them would benefit nationalists greatly (Schirokauer & Lurie et al., 2012).

Another example of a country that is known for their nationalism would be the United States, compared to Japan they the U.S are rather young as a nations, but yet can be considered one of the most powerful nations in the world at this moment, they do not have as many traditions as Japan, with one of the better known ones being Thanksgiving, as well as having local traditions with in each state that is just as prideful. Yet their nationalism seems to be more focused on the ideal of freedom and is just as infamous as Japans. Now both of these countries are both well known for their nationalism but yet Japan's is infamous for its highly conservative values (Wilson, 2002) yet the U.S their emphasises on the flag, pride and glory for their country.

Nationalism is based on the feeling of belonging to a group or a nation while conservatism is about upholding certain values, traditions or ideals conservatism is more based on the feeling of keeping values that worked well before and maintaining them due to it having worked in the past. The presence of conservatism in a nation and nationalistic parties is dependent on the nations focus and its history and traditions (Gingrich & Banks, 2006; Mannheim & Kettler et al., 1986; Stronach, 1995).

Neo-Nationalism and Nationalism

What is Neo-nationalism?

Next neo-nationalism is to be examined. The first part of the term Neo does imply that it is a "newer" kind of a nationalism, that there is something more to it that it is implied, for example a characteristic that is often associated to nationalism is focused on homogeneousness, that is to only call those born with in the nation or country a member of that country, however Neo-Nationalism is willing to integrate foreign elements and make them a part of the nation, as long as it looks like it can be accepted.

An example of such is that Japan is more willing to accept people from other Asian countries due to how akin to the Japanese people they are in outward looks, a person from another country such as the United Kingdom or Kenya would have a much harder time being accepted by the local community, than a person from South-Korea or China

due to their far different looks that a person from Asia. And they would never feel as they belong as a result (Stronach, 1995; Wilson, 2002).

Now the nature of neo-nationalism is a bit different that of nationalism in a sense that neo-nationalism is a reaction to globalization. As Japan has in last 30 years been getting more attention from people all over the world, with things like how strong the Japanese economies was in the 1980's and then with rapid spread of Japanese popular culture from the start of the new millennium. Globalization it has forced them to deal more and more foreigners, as more foreigners make their way to Japan out of newly sparked interests from exploration of japanese popular cultures, but as they have done so Neo-nationalism has gotten stronger (Scholte,2005; Wilson, 2002).

A brief look at Globalization

Let's discuss Globalization and the effects that follow.

Globalization is a term that has been created to describe a phenomenon of borders and barriers meaning in the recent years (Scholte,2005). It is often used in matter such as economics, politics, academics and journalism as well, yet a proper definition of the idea seems difficult.

It is argued that globalization when defined is often redundant, yet giving it a proper solid definition is hard as it can mean different things to different people. There are 4 meaning that are most often associated to it. They are internationalization, liberalization, universalization and westernization.

These meanings are that, internationalization is about the growth or transactions and interdependence between countries in ways such as data or resources. Liberalization has the meaning of open and borderless world, that physical borders do not matter as the world is more and more connected via the internet and travel between countries is much easier than in the past. Universalization is the process of dispersing various objects and experiences to people all over the world with methods such as once again the internet in forms such as online messaging boards. The last, westernization is about social structures becoming more like Western European or the U.S, this process is often

referred to as Americanization due to the amount of influence coming from the U.S. These ideas are not enough to describe globalization, that globalization is about reducing barriers and that getting contact to other parts of the world is easier. This would give a general idea of what globalization is. Information and travel is handled differently with advances in technology, due to those advances has resulted the world has become globalized.

Thanks to the world wide web getting information around the world, getting into contact with people in other countries has never been easier, there are exemptions to this such as if a nations has chosen to seclude or allow extremely little interaction with other nations such as North Korea, or if a person is too poor to travel. However with advances in technology allows travel to the other side of the world within a day. With this basic definition on the word "globalize" points to that borders are starting to become irrelevant and the world is becoming smaller (Iwabuchi, 2002;Scholte,2005).

Neo-nationalism is a reaction

As stated earlier Neo-nationalism is getting stronger as globalization does, and as the section earlier just stated globalization is about the reduction or removal of barriers and as natural borders start to become more irrelevant, nation starts to see more influx of people of different nationalities into their countries. Some come as tourists, others as students or to work, or even that wish to live there as immigrants.

How people could react to the influx outsiders arriving to their country can go in any number of directions, for example some won't mind or even welcome it, other will be a bit wary or start to grow concerned.

Things like that are examples of why a person would start turning to neo-nationalistic ideals, even if they were not nationalistic before with the increase of globalization, they start to awaken to a sense of nationality that they did not have before, as the increased attention and curiosity from outsiders has them looking more at their own history and traditions, along with national traits and quirks. With what just discussed here the idea that neo-nationalism is adjusted nationalism and ideals, an idea why people start to turn to neo-nationalism starts to emerge.

However the neo-nationalists that tend get public attention are often on the far right of the political spectrum, as there are often political parties that are referred to as being far

right that can also be considered as extreme nationalists, due to their values and main focus on the betterment of the country for people while not being all that welcoming to outsiders. As the subject of neo-nationalism starts to get more attention, who and what they are saying becomes more an issue. To summarize a neo-nationalist is someone that is focused on keeping their nation's identity as the tide of globalization keeps on hammering their country (Gingrich & Banks, 2006; Patterson, 1988; Scholte, 2000).

Neo-Nationalism in Japan.

Time will Tell

In order to understand this phenomenon, one would do well to know where the Japanese people come from, there for a condensed and extremely brief look at their history will help set the base to understand this ideal, though the main focus shall be from 1500's and up. The early 1500's till the start of the 1600's marked the end of Japan's warring state period or the Sengoku period (1467–1573). However during the early 1500's the first Europeans that came from Portugal landed on Kyushuu, main land Japan's most southern island (1542) (Schirokauer & Lurie et al., 2012).

Along with them they brought Christianity with them, also with new weaponry that included the rifle which was key to unification of Japan. More European nations followed like the Dutch, the British among others. To a Japanese person, these outsiders were completely different from any they had encountered, as that view was limited to people of Asian origins. Due to this difference the Japanese became cautious around them and the religion that they brought.

They mostly tolerated them due to the added trade that they brought with them, which is why they allowed them to continue their missionary work mostly un-harassed.

However this soon started to prove worry some as many quickly converted to Christianity at an alarming rate, and this started to scare the leaders of Japan at the time. Towards the 1600's, Toyotomi Hideyoshi declared that Christianity was illegal and had 26 Christians executed as a warning to others (Schirokauer & Lurie et al., 2012). This merely scared Christians into hiding, to the Shogun it seemed that the source of influence came from foreigners, as such in 1635 Tokugawa Ieyasu's successor,

Tokugawa Iemitsu ordered that all foreigners should be banned from setting foot in Japan, and Japan should not trade with any other nation, except the Dutch that were allowed to trade on a small island near Nagasaki as the Dutch had not made any attempt to invade Japan, as well as given them various knowledge in various fields such as medicine.

This seclusion lasted for 250 years and was forcefully ended by one Matthew C. Perry from the United States in 1854. During the seclusion, Japan did not advance technologically and with the arrival of the Black ships as the Japanese called them, which were coal-powered steam ship, that Perry arrived. these ships out classed anything that the Japanese had in their arsenal at the time, who due to their seclusion had not seen the technological revolutions that had swept Europe and the U.S and had nowhere near the fire power that Perry's ship had. As a result Japan had no choice but to end their seclusion, after that for the Japanese was spent frantically trying to catch up to the outside world in these terms (Shimazu, 2006).

Since then the Japanese borders have never been closed again and they spent the next years frantically catching up to outside nations, they even fought in both world wars. In world war one they were in the alliance with the allied forces, however in the second world war, they allied themselves with the Nazi. That would prove disastrous for Japan is the only country in the world that has been a target of Nuclear attacks during war time. Many would argue it was due to them not surrendering but in the end Hiroshima and Nagasaki ended up being targeted by the U.S's nuclear attacks, that along with their allies surrendering or having already surrendered is what lead the Japanese to surrender. When this ended they were forced to sign a treaty that had them give up the right to have an army, they were allowed to have a Self defence force (SDF) but they can never have a military force again. They now have a constitution that was given to them by the U.S and the section of it that forced them to disarm is referred to as article 9, and article that had the Japanese renounce the right to go to war with another nation. after this the japanese started to focus building the economy which has been their main focus ever since the end of the Second World War.

This focus served Japan well to such a degree that during the late 1980's they had one of the largest economy in the world but during the 1990 their economy crashed and Japan has been recovering since then (Schirokauer & Lurie et al., 2012).

With these historic facts in place it is time to look at how they could translate to a nationalist. The First arrival of Christianity would mean that outside forces would seem to disrupt the balance in their lives. That views could come from the rate that the religion spread, and could lead to them believing that it corrupts their nation and believes. or a National could believe so.

During that time there was a strong class system in Japan, and with the most numerous ones being the lower class, the teaching of Christianity would sound appealing to them, as it lets them believe that there would be better things from them to come.

The reason why Christianity spread the way it did in the past was due to the way that the class system worked, since people were made to believe that life would never get any better for them, this feeling came due to how rigidly in place Japans class system was at the time, along with war fatigue that the japanese commoners had at the time due to the Sengoku period that had raged for decades made the peaceful ideals of Christianity that much more appealing. This reasoning could also be seen by a nationalist as well.

There is also the matter on how the view of a person of a non-Asian decent could cause them to be wary due to the differences in appearances.

So with that in mind seeing how much of an impact this would be a during the 1600's. During those times (up till 1542), the only type of people that the Japanese had seen were of Asian descent. The drastically different style, look and mannerism of a person from Portugal, would be shocking. Then the Seclusion cut off that contact till their borders were open again in the late 1800's by the means of threats from Matthew C. Perry, that claimed that if Japan did not open their borders he would return with even more black ships and force them to open. Then during the early 1900's it seems that they were dragged off to war once again by other nations. During the world wars Japan came to have a military force, to such a degree that they claimed regions within Asia during the World Wars. With the end of the Second World War forced them to surrender all the regions they had claimed outside of Japan. Along with renouncing Japan's right to have any military force, that the japanese public took well to. With their history of war and bloodshed that they had felt for too long (Schirokauer & Lurie et al., 2012).

When they accepted the constitution, they lost some old traditions as well as the class system.

The emperor lost his divine status since he was forced to denounce his divinity. This divine statues of the emperor had a close held believe in Japan ever since the first Emperor Jimmu(神武), who was believed to be a descendent of the sun goddess Amaterasu(天照) and he was enthroned in 660 BC (Schirokauer & Lurie et al., 2012)

As such the emperor became a major symbol for nationalism in Japan. This in addition to the use of nuclear weapons against them, would gave nationalists even further reason to feel wary of outsiders. This is one of the things that far right aligned nationalists in Japan will point out, that the nuclear attacks that were made on them during WWII as well as what their solider had to go through made them feel unjustly treated. Yet they still fail to acknowledge the war crimes that the Japanese forces performed throughout Asia.

For example the comfort women that were used during WWII. they were women that were originally Japanese prostitutes. However as the demand grew the Japanese military began to force women and girls from conquered villages and cities with in Korea to comfort the solders as well. To a extremist these indications of their countries wrong doing is not relevant, it is all for the good of their country yet they try to blame any incident that involved and outsider on that outsider, for example the nationalists that wish for remilitarizations often argue for the constitution to be re-written due to Article 9 being in the biggest hurdle in their way, and said constitution was brought to them by the U.S, as such, to them, the ones that are responsible for them not being able to remilitarize is the U.S, yet said notion is often stopped by other Japanese themselves as the rest of the nation has grown to like the peace that they have had since WWII (Schirokauer & Lurie et al., 2012; Tanaka, 1996; Penney & Wakefield, 2008).

There are some traits of Japanese Nationalistic extremists that should be looked at.

As discussed earlier Japanese Nationalism is strongly tied to conservatism, that is due to the fact that the people wish to retain their traditions and values, some of these traditions are even well known around the world as was stated earlier in this thesis, for example: Karate is know all around the world along with what is considered one of the more noble warriors of old, The samurai. These among many other are highly well regarded around the world, that would lead to someone to take great pride in it as well.

That sense of pride drives the nationalists to feel that their country can do no wrong. Then there is how they look at outsiders, as explained earlier the history of Japan has them a bit wary of outsiders yet in the case of extremists it goes as far as xenophobia, this feeling only comes from the urge to protect their culture, thus they take to conservatism. Another factor is how many of the nationalistic parties of Japan have argued for re-militarizing and returning pre-war Japan's glory along with restoring the emperors divinity, these are the traits that the journalism tend to focus on when covering the matter of nationalism or neo-nationalism from Japan.

Now these fears are the fears of losing the traits that the Japanese value most in a society which are group-harmony, the emphasis on maintaining the integrity and harmony within ones group and collectivism, the idea that one should rather focus on what is good for the group or nation on whole rather than what is good for oneself. Due to how individualistic western are compared to the Japanese, they would be seen as being selfish upstarts and could be views as troublemakers. That coupled with their history has made the Japanese wary, but nationalistic Japanese even more so (Stronach, 1995; Scholte, 2000; Penney & Wakefield, 2008).

However it should be noted that this wariness of outsiders will most likely never leave Japanese mindsets, as it is in Human nature to be wary of anything bit different. With Neo-Nationalism has the same properties as "normal" nationalism, the caution and pride are just as present in Neo-nationalism as it would be in the normal kind , after all it is a reaction to the increase of outsiders in the country as it was stated before. However these traits tend to get magnified in Neo-Nationalism but that tends to be the case with most "Neo" movements as well. With subject like Neo-liberalism or even the often heard Neo-Nazism as well, both of these are well known for extreme views such as Neo-Nazism is known for its empathises and claims that Caucasian are the superior race as well as cases of hate crimes and speeches (Gingrich & Banks, 2006), so in current society tends to associate anything extreme with Neo, however that is in fact wrong. The term Neo is about the newer instances of nationalism, rather than being right winged political views, it is important to note that age does not factor when addressing the issue of nationalism in Japan (Gingrich & Banks, 2006; Patterson, 1988; Penney & Wakefield, 2008).

As explained earlier this trend of neo-nationalism is a reaction to the ever more growing globalization. In the case of Japan the easy access to the internet has made it so that getting access to popular culture has drawn massive amounts of attentions from foreigners (Iwabuchi, 2002).

Compared to in the 1990's when Japans economical bubble collapsed they had been enjoying some publicity due their dream like economical success but once the collapse happened they lost the spot light until the turn of the new millennia (Schirokauer & Lurie et al., 2012).

With the advent of the internet getting access to Japanese media and residents has sparked a greater interest than before. The main interest aspects of Japanese pop culture are the following: Book bound style comics known as manga, animated cartoons, movies or drama referred to as anime, Japanese music be it rock, pop or R&B are classified as J-pop, and at last there are day time dramas or T.V shows which are referred to as J-drama. While comics and animated cartoons exist around the world when, it comes the Japanese ones they tend to be referred by the western world such as the U.S in these definitions due to the styles and language that they are created in (Craig, 2000).

With the ease of access to these aspects of Japanese culture, people around the globe have more and more started to make their way to Japan be it to study, work or just simple travel, ether way the amount of foreigners in Japan is greater than it has ever been before (Iwabuchi, 2002).

This would bring more and more foreign influence which might make some residents feel as their nation is starting to lose their identity due to the influence that arrives from abroad, to them this could mean the erosion of their history as well as traditions. Who are important in Japan. While they have done their best to keep them, the japanese feel that it is necessary to go even further to preserve their history and tradition. This explains the rise of neo-nationalism in Japan (Adria, 2010; Calichman, 2005).

While it is easy to point fingers and claim that the nationalism in Japan is only negative, one would do well to remember that there are two sides to every coin, the reason for the way that journalists cover the news should be examined.

As it is well know, journalists can be rather biased when it comes to reporting, the world seems to have more bad news than good news. When it comes down to it

journalism has become rather biased and have often twisted words around to get more views, as well this is becoming more and more apparent as the time goes by and it has been told that foreign reporters would do well to adopt a more nuanced view. An example of a Japanese politician that is openly right-winged and has made numerous xenophobic statements in the past. shall be Shintaro Ishihara, while he is known for being pro nationalist it is not the reason why he was popular. The reason why he was popular is due to his willingness to challenge and stand for his believes, not due to his stand on policies or the believes themselves. However for some who have never gone to Japan nor met with a person from there would start to think that this is the way that most people think over there and there for conclude that this is the way that they act and behave (Penney & Wakefield, 2008; Iwabuchi, 2002; Gingrich & Banks, 2006).

Anime and manga open the gates

One thing that could be looked at is how the pop culture represents the country, due the ever growing popularity of japanese pop culture and how simple it has become to gain access to it, the question if it is a good representative or not? With the ever growing interest in Japanese pop culture around the world, they tend to paint foreigners views of Japan and it might make them come off as being ignorant or misinterpret their ways. To a normal person that is fine and forgivable but a nationalist might feel insulted. The reasons a foreigner might misinterpret the culture is that one of the more popular, pop culture that foreigner tend think of are manga and anime. Leaving out the differences of the languages, animation have an interest in. however manga and anime can be biased or an out acting of the authors fantasy (Craig, 2000).

With that in mind one could conclude that most of manga and anime are works of fiction, an fantasy created, some of the Manga often have a un-popular protagonist become the centre of affection of many beautiful women, take place in an alternative worlds or even alternative Japan. There is also a type that focuses on the everyday life, they are referred to as slice-of-life and they can give a good insight in to what life in Japan might be like. These work of fictions that focus on Japan as the base of its story, do not often represent Japan as it truly is but rather what the author of the work wishes it is or was. While one can see the influence of Japanese culture with in manga and

anime it cannot be considered a solid representation of the country, however to a foreigner it serve as a good entry point to start exploring the culture and the country, that is due to the much bigger range that they cover than their western counter parts. Mangas are known to cover everything from romance, comedy, action, even horror and more, along with them covering different subject matters. It is this range that makes them as popular as they currently are (Craig, 2000; Iwabuchi, 2002).

One of the major worries that nationalist tend to have is that foreigners have no respect their country and their traditions, and will argue that outsiders are so different that they will never understand them, they even claim that they are just too unique to be properly understood. That would be wrong, every country in the world is unique and there is no such thing as being too unique (Stronach, 1995).

If anything with the ease of access to information and media around the world, with the interest showed by foreigners due popular culture, greater number people are starting to make greater efforts to understand Japan as a nation.

This interest is growing so rapidly that it does cause a nationalistic reaction from the Japanese who for the longest of times have be homogeneous that some see it as nothing short of an invasion, and there for react to it in the way of neo-nationalism.

Another fact that nationalists do not want to acknowledge is that conflict does happen more often then they think, the nation as a whole is less harmonious than they think. However they do not see the acts of small groups. As long as it is with in the country itself and caused by its own people and not by outside forces neo-nationalists tend to overlook it (Stronach, 1995; Scholte,2005; Gingrich & Banks, 2006).

While the main focus of this thesis has been on neo nationalism is Japan one would do well to know that there are more types of nationalisms within Japan, and the very fact it is possible to define something as "neo" means that it is hard to pin down, that nationalism is dynamic. There can't be one solid definition of nationalism, there can be a static core to it as it can change and adapt as the times change (Shimazu, 2006).

With the increased globalization, the world becomes more interconnected, as a result more nations start take a look at their own culture and feel that it needs to strengthen its sense of self, that leads to more nationalistic mind people start to emerge not all of them fall under the sense of nationalistic extremist, some just get more pride for their countries. How people react to globalization varies case to case. In the case of Neo-

nationalists they fear for Japan's sense of "self" and wish to preserve it. As for Japan, due to their history of seclusion, they have also have a drive to want to modernize themselves (Shimazu, 2006).

Once Japan's solitude ended in the late 1800's, they rushed to modernize themselves and ended up as one of the stronger military force during the WW I & II, it is this drive to catch up that allowed them to develop into the economical giant that they were during 1980's due to them feeling left behind they have always feel the need to rush to catch up, however in doing so they have always gone too far ahead of themselves and ended up burned by it. As in both cases things ended badly for Japan with the Nuclear attacks during the end of the WW II and the economic crash in 1990 (Schirokauer & Lurie et al., 2012).

From that it is easy to see how they start to be more careful in economical and political matters, yet words of nationalistic extremist such as Ishihara could lead to misinterpretation of Japan's policies. For while one often hears about xenophobic and narrow minded remarks made by the extremist it is not often noted that there are other nationalists that oppose to this idea. Extremists will only try to see Japan in a positive light and brushing off their negative traits. Many other nationalists with in Japan that oppose the idea of remilitarization point out the reasons why Hiroshima and Nagasaki were attacked in the first place. It was due to the highly nationalistic government of Japan at the time refused to surrender after the Nazis and their allies had lost the war. Because of that the U.S had to show such an over whelming force in order to end the conflict once and for all (Shimazu, 2006; Schirokauer & Lurie et al., 2012).

Most of Japan has no interest to join any type of military campaigns again while the Nationalistic extremists claim that it is only a matter of time until Japan re-militarizes. while they might resources to do so, they lack the desire to remilitarize again, such as Japan refused to join the U.S during the Vietnam war, while joining the U.S at that time would mean that there would be loop hole for Japan to militarize again, with there being no "only this". They had no desire to do so and used article 9 and pointed out the logic that a constitution does not change when it is continent and ether the article would stay or be removed (Baum, 2001; Schirokauer & Lurie et al., 2012).

With the changes that are going on in the world, and as Japan gets more attention from the outside world these different types of nationalism will only start to get more

apparent, Japanese outside of Japan do their best to introduce other to their country. Most Japanese within Japan will help an outsider if they can, let them know what they did wrong and teach them how to avoid it, that is another way to be nationalistic. The trend of neo-nationalism in Japan is merely the people reacting to maintain Japan's national identity as the world starts to get smaller. The media focuses on the radical idealists which is what then become known as the Neo-nationalists, however as stated earlier nationalism is not static it changes and reacts as the world does the same. As that happens more and more, people start to awaken to their sense of nationality. How that awakening goes depends on the person (Shimazu, 2006).

Conclusion

With the ever growing popularity of Japanese culture that is often sparked through the observation of Anime/Manga and J-dramas along with the growing interest in J-pop, more and more eyes have focused on Japan. As globalization makes it so that gaining access to facts and which makes more Japanese realize their Nationality and the pride they take in it. When it comes to neo-nationalism many think of it in the same terms as neo-Nazism, it has people think that it is some new form of radical ideals that are xenophobic and conservative in nature.

Conclusions such as these are based on the writings of biased journalists, there is a general tendency to focus more on the negatives of life rather than the positive. People enjoy acting out, being enraged, shocked or just plain stunned. Not all journalistic coverage is biased, of course there are unbiased ones as well, however they tend to get overshadowed by the ones that are not. That is the sad issue at hand.

Neo-nationalism is on the rise due to the fact that globalization is on the rise, world barriers mean less and less today than they did 10 years ago and will continue to do so as long as information is as easy to access as it. As it has been stated often during this thesis neo-nationalism is a reaction to globalism, this happens more and more as people start to focus on their country's sense of self. Some feel the need to preserve it, to spread knowledge and traditions to those that wish to know it.

This thesis's focus has been to explore and explain the reasons for this growth to put it into the perspective of an outsider as well as that of a member of the Japanese nation. Japan's history is relevant due to the fact that nations are just as people forged from their past actions.

The way the world has treated Japan and the way they have treated it back. For Japan the pre world war years after the borders were open again were years of frantic catch up with the outside world. As they quickly caught up the people's ego got too great for them and it started to feel like they could do no wrong, and it ended up burning them, causing Japan to suffer attacks that the rest of the world fears. Yet the glory that the Japanese felt in pre world war Japan is something that Nationalistic extremists seem to cling on to and when one of said extremists becomes a major political figure the biased journalists will report on that.

Yet within Japan there are people that can be defined as international nationalists, the people that wish to correct and help outsiders as well and the number of these people is growing as more and more foreigners make their way to Japan.

Neo-Nationalism will keep on rising as the world gets more Globalized, however that is not necessarily a bad thing. What a outsider needs to keep in mind is what type of a nationalist is being dealt with, as the world gets smaller, people would do well to try to see things from the prospective of the another nations and try to understand them better. Surely there are both good and bad sides to everything. As the points that were made during this thesis the matter of Neo-nationalism in Japan is much more complicated, the reason for their caution towards outsiders yet the passion that they hold to spread knowledge of their culture is based on how rich they feel their culture is yet past dealings with outsiders have not always turned favourably for them. The reasons why nationalism is complicated matter should be clear after this thesis.

After all every country in the world is dealing with nationalism in one form or another. And Japan is no exemption. Regardless of what the nationalistic extremist like to think. Japan is no more special than other nations.

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