

# The Living Past

Hiroshi Mitani

Dynamics of Sustainable Historical Memory and Appropriate  
Countermeasures

**LECTURE2: NATIONALISM AND  
THE “UNFORGETTABLE OTHERS”**

# 1. Inconvenient Memory and Countermeasures

- “Escape” vs. “Face”

World is watching. Failure in obtaining permanent membership

- Reconciliation between Offender and Defender

From apology to forgiveness, is that all?

Fact Finding      Oath of no recidivism      Compensation

Adversary      Is the category by “Nationals” absolute.

- Relationship between Adversary and Descendents

Inheritance over generation of adversary views (Ji Lim)

Inheritance over generation of responsibility      Criminal vs. Civil

## ▪ Understanding Political Context

Goodwill alone can't be the solution. Necessity of Wisdom

Short Term Factors: Diplomatic Motivation

Domestic reason: "Innocent Patriotism"

Long Term Factors: Dynamics of Nationalism

Especially... Teaching National History  
National Sentiment

## 2. Dynamics of Nationalism

- Definition

Share Unique Features?

language, religion, physical features etc.

### Different View

1. Based on “Nation” level, human heart that does discriminate “Us” from “Others”
2. Penetration into a habitat

- Typical Example

## Political Deaths in Modern Japan

Japanese: approximately 30,000 ( 30,000 of Meiji Restoration + 700)

Foreigners: more than 10 million

This difference ← Nationalism

- Formulation of Nationalism in East Asia

	Japan	Korea	China
Ideology	Later 18 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Sino-Japanese War	Sino-Japanese War
Political Movement	Closing days of Tokugawa (1860s)	Korean Empire Independence Club (1897)	Hundred Days' Reform (1898)
Mass Penetration	Sino-Japanese War	Colonial Period	War against Japan

- Formulation and Sustainability of Historical Memory

Fact level interaction

Generation of war times

Generation due to hypothetical competition

China during 18<sup>th</sup> cent. Japan

Toward an independent and interactive memory

- Phenomenon of “Unforgettable Others”

“Commentaries on the Kojiki” by Motoori Norinaga  
“Shokinoagetsurai”

Oust “Nihonshoki” (The Chronicle of Japan)

- 1) Use of “Japan” in historical documents  
non-admissible
- 2) Countrified name

“Karagokoro”

- Generalization

Asymmetrical relationship (center vs. peripheral,  
universality vs. distinct)

Germany vs. France    former colony vs. suzerain state

Ambivalence    love ▪ hate    respect ▪ despise

Front and back    switching sides

Plurality    distribution of roles

China ▪ Japan in Korea

USA ▪ Japan ▪ Russia in China

Sustainability and Change

In case of Japan

China    West    disappearance of China    USA  
reappearance of China

- Lessons

- 1 Persistently maintain the relationship with the “Unforgettable Others.”
- 2 Appearance of third party does change one’s position
- 3 Sentiments do fade but a form of memory remains

Therefore

- 1 Don’t purposelessly provoke victim sentiment
- 2 Admit facts, make oath of non-recidivism ▪ compensate
- 3 Assist victims in their recovery of self confidence

Even then

As long as “National History” education continues, feeling of being victimized will live on.