

Discussion

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1. Alexis Dudden, *History Matters: The East Sea/Sea of Japan Naming Issue Through the Lens of the Japanese Empire*

This paper is very interesting to me and even somewhat touching since it is not very common to come across a study on the Japanese Empire focusing on its geopolitical vision and its strategy. Compared to the amount of study and representations by media on German Third Reich. The Japanese empire is slight out of attention from academia and media too. I also deeply agree on the argument of Prof. Dudden that the review of history is pivotal to understand the puzzle of naming issue between Korea and Japan. I strongly believe that majority of Koreans would have no objection to the importance of history.

As Prof. Dudden noted, the naming issue became a very thorny buisness. One of the reason behind this situation is how the history is read and understood by two counterparts, Korea and Japan. Japanese consider this naming issue as the one that Korean raised to denounce what Japanese did in the past. Thus the naming issue is not just about the place name but is one that has occurred in East Asia in 20th century.

Despite that the naming issue has been escalated to the discussion about the history in East Asia, one thing that should be kept in mind is that Koreans want to isolate this issue as much as possible. As seen in the title of this conference, Koreans would not use this issue as leverage to denounce Japanese. Rather Koreans want to take advantage of this naming issue to lay strong base to build peace in East Asia. In sum, we all understand history matters, but we have to have some space or buffer area between name and history. I think it is It is very challenging task but the key is how we successfully detach this naming issue from general historial issue between Korea and Japan. With regard to this understanding, regional economic cooperation plan should

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be welcomed but history comes in again. The regional economic integration always brings in so called Greater East-Asia Co-prosperity Sphere into the field.

2. Andrey Kovsh, Sea naming issues from the perspective of Korea-Japan relations and peace in East Asia

The paper investigating the sea naming issue by the perspective of Russia is very informative. Most of all, it was a great chance to review maps in the presentation of Prof. Kovsh. As the Prof. Kovsh addressed, the name of Sea surrounded by Korea, Japan and Russia has been changed in Russia from 18th century. The use of East Sea or Korean Sea was dominant in 18th century but Sea of Japan or Japan Sea became more common after the Russo-Japanese war.

Personally I believe that Russia can be a good partner to resolve this name issue peacefully in the context of Far East Asia. Moreover, Russia is a state that have direct access to East Sea and have a very important geopolitical interest in East Sea. The naming issue around the sea is a regional issue in East Asia. Also there are a few territorial disputes to cooperate. Despite the sea naming issue is fundamentally different from territorial issue, they share one important thing in that both naming and territorial issues become bases for states to actively engage in regional political issues. I believe that Russia has its own opinions on naming and territorial issues as Korea and Japan have. Although it is not very common to show opinion on territorial issues that persist between other states, place name issue is different and have some room that third party could participate in. In this vein, Russia should do something by its own to be a game changer in North East Asia. Based on my limited knowledge on Russian geopolitics, there are conflicting and competing geopolitical visions, such as Russia as European state, Asian state, or Eurasian state. In sum, I would like to anticipate the possibility of Russia to move it focus from West to East and raise it voce on the issue in East Asia. And the first step would be the naming issue around East Sea.

3. Franckx and Nohyoung Park, The naming of sea features: Legal aspects

The paper presented by Franckx and Park is very comprehensive and provide very detailed analysis on the role of international organization to resolve controversial naming issues. Most of all, the analysis on the UN secretariat seems very important since Japan has always taken advantage of the practice of UN secretariat as the legal justification for their argument that Sea of Japan is the only one approved by international society, According to the authors, however, UN secretariat does not represent the whole body of UN. The practice of UN secretariat is not the official declaration of UN about the name on the sea between Korea and Japan. I think the discrepancy between the practice of UN secretariat and decision of UN should be noted.

With regard to the paper, I would like to discuss on the status quo of naming practice. We all understand that the practice of naming does not mean the decision of UN or other international organizations. Nowadays many commercial publishers and internet-based map companies do their own practice of naming. But is it also true that the use of Sea of Japan has been maintained since 19th century, Thus some commercial sectors often ask resolutions, proofs or something equivalent to change the status quo. But it is not very promising to make definite success in the area of international organizations since the purpose of UNGEGN and UNCSGN is not enforce member state to change the practice of the naming. Therefore it may be a good idea we should establish a two-track strategy, which means we have to maintain our endeavor in international governmental bodies such as IHO, UNGEGN, and UNCSGN as well as disseminating the dual naming practice in the commercial field. For this strategy, it seems to be very important to publicize the fact that the practice of UN secretariat is not official and the decisive decision of UN itself. Then the question is how can we let other states and publishers know about the fact UN did not approved the single use of Sea of Japan