PANNASASTRA UNIVERSITY OF CAMBODIA

For Essay Contest

Is Japan Located in "Zones of Peace" or "Zones of Turmoil"?

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Is Japan Located in "Zones of Peace" or "Zones of Turmoil"?

1. Introduction

In order to examine my topic, first we need to know about zones of peace and zones of turmoil from the various sources.

According to Zones of Peace International foundation, "A Zone of Peace is a site with sacred, religious, historic, educational, cultural, geographical and/or environmental importance, protected and preserved by its own community and officially recognized by a governmental authority. It is not merely a "Demilitarized Zone", but a sanctuary that operates within ethical principles of non-violence, free from weapons, acts of violence, injustice and environmental degradation."(http://zopif.org/)

Jaime D. Jacob also stated that "Peace Zones are geographical areas which community residents themselves declare to be off-limits to armed conflict."
(http://www.justpeace.net.ph/peace)

Then, we need to know what "zones of turmoil" is.
According to Robert E, Harkavy, "Zones of turmoil, by definition, are by comparison poor, overpopulated, disaster-prone, and virtually ungovernable".
(http://findarticles.com/p/articles)

Moreover, according to Muhadi Sugiono: "The zones of peace exist in only small parts of the world, while the zones of turmoil constitute the reality of many other parts of the world."(Lecture Hand Out, Oct. 30th)

Then, according to my topic, I believe that a lot of Japanese people will answer that Japan is located in zones of peace.
Some scholars also think that Japan is located in zones of peace.

According to Kenneth Boulding: "Now we have a great triangle of stable peace, stretching roughly from Australia to Japan, across North America, to Finland, with about eighteen countries which have no plans whatever to go to war with each other. This has happened without much planning or even understanding" (David P. Barash, Peace and Conflict Studies, Pg.403).

Robert E. Harkavy also stated "the zone of "peace, wealth, and democracy," includes Western Europe, the United States and Canada, Japan and the Antipodes, comprising some 15 percent of the world's population". (http://findarticles.com/p/articles)

Thus, Japan is being recognized is located in zones of peace in the world by several scholars.

However, we need to recognize that peace is separated into two kinds, "positive peace" and "negative peace".
That is to say that there are two kinds of zones of peace such as zones of positive peace and zones of negative peace. I will define them from several sources.
Furthermore, we also need to know what peace is.

According to Wikipedia, "Peace is generally the opposite of war. Peace can be a state of harmony or the absence of hostility. Peace is used to describe the cessation of violent conflict." (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peace)

Then, according to Norwegian peace researcher Johan Gultung: "Negative peace simply denotes the absence of war. It is a condition in which no active, organized military violence is taking place. Positive peace is more than the mere absence of war or even the absence of interstate violence. It refers to a social condition in which exploitation is minimized or eliminated, and in which there is neither overt violence nor the more subtle phenomenon of underlying structural violence". (Peace and Conflict Studies Page. 6)

Teacher Vision also stated that "POSITIVE PEACE is more than the absence of violence; it is the presence of social justice through equal opportunity, a fair distribution of power and resources, equal protection and impartial enforcement of law". (http://www.teachervision.fen.)

According to Wikipedia "Negative peace refers to the absence of direct violence. This aim raises the problem of the tyrant, who oversees a non-violent empire but does not foster a sense of peace. Parallels of this problem are to be found in literature such as 1984 by George Orwel. Positive peace refers to the additional absence of structural and cultural violence. This aim raises the problem of the "happy slave", who when told he is free, retorts that he "does not want to be free" ".
(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/)

Furthermore, we need to know what structural violence is, in order to understand positive peace clearly.

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According to Pat and Jeanne, sociologists in Toronto, "Structural violence is the causing of harm by inflexibility and rigidity of the rules of the structure in dealing with difference. In gender, race, and class we have become much more aware in recent years of the harm that can be caused without any given perpetrator, by the holding to rules that do not allow for differences." (http://www.csudh.edu/)

Deborah Du Nann Winter and Dana Leighton also stated that "Structural violence, however, is almost always invisible, embedded in ubiquitous social structures, normalized by stable institutions and regular experience. Structural violence occurs whenever people are disadvantaged by political, legal, economic or cultural traditions. Because they are longstanding, structural inequities usually seem ordinary, the way things are and always have been". (http://www.psych.ubc.ca/)

Furthermore, according to Wikipedia "Structural violence, denotes a form of violence which corresponds with the systematic ways in which a given social structure or social institution kills people slowly by preventing them from meeting their basic needs. Institutionalized elitism, ethnocentrism, classism, racism, sexism, adultism, nationalism, heterosexism and ageism are just some examples of structural violence". (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/)

So now I would like to examine whether Japan is located in zones of positive peace, zones of negative peace or zones of turmoil by investigating current situations of Japan and social problems there.

2. Case Studies

I already defined "zones of peace", "zones of turmoil" and two kinds of peace above. So let's inspect the problems that Japan and its people face now.
Japan is facing a lot of problems in both social and international problems. First, I would like to inspect the social problems of Japan in order to examine my essay topic.
The social problems of Japan can be classified to three: Childhood, adolescence& adult and old age.
Then let me introduce each category of the social problems of Japan.

Katsunori Kanehara stated that "Child abuse becomes serious problem.   In 1990 there were 1101 cases; however, in 1997 were 5352 cases. Just in seven years the number become nearly five times". (http://www5c.biglobe.ne.jp/)
Furthermore, according to Kanehara, most of the child abuse cases, mother of the children abuse their children so that child get strong trauma in their memory. By Wayne

Dennis, his report <u>CHILDREN OF THE CRECHE 1973</u> claim that child abuse makes children's brains' development delay remarkably.

The cases of child abuse increase rapidly year by year.

Problems of abuse are sometimes cannot be recognized by him/herself such as:

According to Wikipedia "Neglect is one of the important cases of child abuses". (http://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/)　Because parents don't recognize what they have done such as leaving their children in side of the car long time while they are shopping or doing their work. It is the serious social problems because parents cannot recognize it and they act unconsciously.

Wikipedia also stated that "Class disintegration is that the children especially at the Elementary school".　(http://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/)

Students don't follow what their teachers say so that the teacher cannot teach and cannot practice lectures for their students. It is a problem that a lot of Japanese school face.

And Naoki Ogi stated that "Class disintegration is caused by parents because they cannot discipline their children well. And those parents are created by the current Japanese society. So it is an important social problem of Japan".

(http://www2.odn.ne.jp/) Mr. Ogi also says that the parents of these children were made by the Japanese society so that the Japanese society also has the fault.

As a result of this, Japanese society should recognize and try to think about how to solve this problem.

One of the other problems, according to Wikipedia, "Truancy of students is that students don't want go to school without the reasons for sickness or lack of money which is a social problem in Japan now". (http://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki)　And in 2006, there were 126,764 cases of school truancy, which means in average, one truancy student in one class at Junior high school in Japan. Truancy is caused by the stress which children get from the school or their family so on.

Those problems are the problems of the childhood in Japan.

Second, I would like to discuss about the problems of adolescence.

According to Naotsugu Yoshiwara, who is from Hitotsubashi University "The Income gap is being expanded in young generation which causes increasing of jobless rate, producing NEET and part-time job".　(http://www.ier.hit-u.ac.jp/~yosihara/)

Furthermore, the Japanese comparative poor rate is evaluated at the rank following to

Mexico and USA by in the OECD (*Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development*) countries.

Then we need to define what NEET is in Japanese point of view.

Wikipedia stated that "NEET, stands for *Not In Education, Employment or Training* which is the classification for the people 15-34 years old. Furthermore, there are middle age NEET (35-49) as well which is more serious to the society having more suicide and increase of social security fee".　(http://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E)
The NEET was originally used in British government to create their policy during the Brair regime.

And NHK BS debate hour also claimed that "Especially, the number of male's low yearly income rates are increasing compare from 1992 to 2002".
(http://www.nhk.or.jp/bsdebate/)

About the suicide rate and one of the social problems, Professor Kayoko Ueno, Tokushima University, stated that "the prevalence of suicide is hardly negligible.　The latest statistics of Japanese National Police Agency says the number in 2003 has reached 34,427 (27.0 per 100 thousand population).　Per 100 thousand population in the year 2000, the rate in Japan was 24.1, compared to 10.4 in U.S.(2000), and 4.1 in Brazil". (http://www.espacoacademico.)
Moreover, before we could use the internet, it was hard to find a chance of meeting other suicide candidates; however, we can find other suicide candidates within a minute, we Japanese can find "I want to die too, let's do it together" in suicide sites which are available in the internet world. This web-site stimulates suicide candidates.

Uchuu sen chikyuu gou no yukue also stated that "Japanese suicide rate became a No.1 in the world by WPA(*World Psychiatry Association*)and the reason for suicide are health problem, living problem, debt".　　(http://park10.wakwak.com/~ooki/sub34.html)

Another problem is, Domestic Violence. An example is the following, the case of the violence between married couples are increasing more than three times from 1999 to 2003 which becomes more serious year by year.　Mostly domestic violence happens from the husband to the wife. But some cases are a wife does it to her husband.
By Osaka, Sakai City hall.　(http://www.city.sakai.osaka)

Furthermore, there are gender issues in Japanese society.
According to Wikipedia "Suppose the Japanese general worker's salary is 100, the Japanese general worker's can only get 68.8 in year 2004. The situation is getting better

but there are still a lot of discriminations to women".
(http://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E5%A5)
Also female office workers find promotion problems in companies. They think that male office workers have more chances to be promoted than female office workers.

These problems are the problems of adolescence.

Third, I would like to explain about problems of Japanese old age.

According to Nursing Care Center Yuryou "12,575 cases of the abuse against people advanced years (over 65 year age) were informed by Ministy of Health, Labour and Welfare in nationally in 2006." (http://careproduce.jugem.jp)

It is one of the serious social problems of Japanese society. The reason of the abuse against people advanced years is, internet medical information naoru, stated that "Children of the people advanced years used to be abused by their parents so that children tend to avenge e.g. a son give a slap to his old mother, do not change the dirty diaper so on".   (http://www.naoru.com/kaigo.htm)
So it seems the abuse is circulating between parents and children and it repeats itself.

Another problem is the Japanese pension system.
According to Wikipedia "From May, 2007, 40 million numbers of social security pension and 40 million numbers of national pension were entered wrongly".
(http://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E5%B)
And the amount of pension become decrease because of luck of young people to support the pension system

So the situation is too hard for a lot of Japanese who retired to set their mind at rest. Japanese people seem to suffer from the cradle to the grave.

However, there are not only social problems. I would like to discuss about international problems which Japan faces now.

According to Kuninaka "There are problems between Japan and China about oil and gas fields in the Senkaku archipelago and the East China sea".
http://www2.jp/higashishinakai/)
This problem is a very important problem to Japan because in this area, Japan can get a lot of oil, around 100 billion barrels of crude oil and 200 billion of natural gas in Japanese area. But there are also a few amount of oil in the Chinese side which is not as much as Japanese side hold. So China wants to get Japanese side's oil as well. As a result of this,

China has been researching the oil reserves in those areas without permission from Japan.

It might be the cause of conflict or war between Japan and China in the future.

Because of this, the defense agency of Japan is preparing the war against China.

Moreover, there is another problem with South Korea.

Seizaburou Tamura stated that "Takeshima (Doku to in Korean) actually belongs to Japan. However, Takeshima is occupied by the Korean army illegally".

(http://www004.upp.so-net.ne.jp/)

According this problem, the Korean government says that Takeshima belongs to Korea in its history. But this evidence is not adequate in the international court.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, stated that "Takeshima belongs to Japan in the fact of history and international law".   (http://www.mofa.go.jp/)

So under the international law and the historical facts, South Korea has no right to send their troops and their people to Takeshima. But South Korea doesn't follow the international law and they keep their armies in Takeshima. This is the important problem of Japan and South Korea.

These problems are the international problems of Japan.

3. Conclusion

To conclude, I would like to discuss whether Japan is located in "zones of positive peace", "zones of negative peace" or "zones of turmoil".

There are several problems that Japan faces as current issues as I already mentioned above, such as: child abuse, class disintegration, truancy, the income gap, NEET, the economic gap (income gap), high suicide rate, domestic violence, abuse against people advanced years, a pension problem, oil and gas fields problem with China and the land problem with South Korea.

However, Japan has no wars and any violent conflicts with any countries even though many Japanese people suffer a lot of social problems in the society and the Japanese government faces some international problems.

So it means that Japan is not located in "zones of negative peace" by comparing the Japan's situation with the definition of "zones of negative peace" as the definition are "the absence of direct violence and the absence of war".

Moreover, comparison poor occur in the Japanese society as Naotsugu Yoshihara stated.

But by comparing Japan's situation with the definition of "zones of turmoil" (comparison

poor, overpopulated, disaster prone and virtually ungovernable), the Japanese society face only one element of "zones of turmoil" as facing comparison poor so that Japan has the element of "zones of turmoil".

So now we can compare Japan's situations with the definition of "zones of positive peace" which defenition is "more than the absence of violence and the additional absence of structural and cultural violence".
In my point of view, stuructural violence occurs because of having small amount of rich people and huge amount of non rich people. In order to keep the rich people are rich, the other should be exploited. For example, the super power exploit the third world countries.
Then we can see that Japan's situation fit to the definition of "zones of positive peace" . Because structural violence occur in the Japanese society. But Japan has the second biggest economy in the world and Japan practices democracy. Moreover, Japan is recognized as located in "zones of peace" by scholars.
As a result of this, we are able to classify Japan is located in "zones of positive peace".

Even Japanese is located in "zones of positive peace", Japanese people are still suffering a lot of social and international problems. But their situation is much better than people who live in the third world countries such as: a lot of African countries and Asian countries.

However, in the future, Japan might be located in "zones of negative peace" or "zones of turmoil". The main and crucial problems are the relationship between Japan and China and the relationship between Japan and South Korea.
As I already mentioned that Japan has the area, the gas and oil fields' dominium problems with China. Even though the area named Senkaku archipelago belongs to Japan under the international law, China doesn't care about it. China has already built several oil fields in that area. Then the defense agency of Japan is reinforcing its armies against China because of China's attitude. As a result of this, we can think that the situation between Japan and China will be worse in the future, it might become a war between Japan and China.

Moreover, Japan also has a big problem with South Korea
It is the problem about a small island named Takeshima. Takeshima belongs to Japan under international law. Also historical facts prove that Takeshima belongs to Japan. However South Korea doesn't care about it. They sent armies and navies to occupy Takeshima. About this problem, Japan has been claiming South Korea at the international court but South Korea keeps ignoring it.
So Japan has to find another solution to get South Korean's army off from the Japanese

area of Takeshima. This problem might become a cause of a conflict or a war between Japan and South Korea.

I believe that in order to keep Japan in "zones of positive peace", Japanese people must recognize what kind of social and the international problems which Japan faces now. And Japanese people need to be involved more about politics to elect sophisticated politicians who can lead Japan to right direction.

So that I would like to warn Japanese people that they should know more about their country's problems and politics.

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