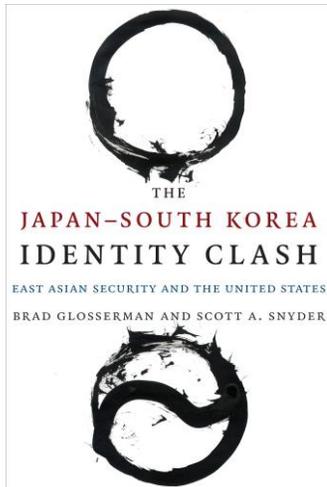


# COUNCIL *on* FOREIGN RELATIONS

58 East 68th Street, New York, New York 10065  
tel 212.434.9400 fax 212.434.9800 www.cfr.org



## Teaching Notes

*The Japan-South Korea Identity Clash: East Asian Security and the United States*

By **Scott A. Snyder**, Senior Fellow for Korea Studies and Director of the Program on U.S.-Korea Policy, Council on Foreign Relations

**Brad Glosserman**, Executive Director, Pacific Forum CSIS

Columbia University Press

May 2015

\$35.00 paperback

240 pages

ISBN 978-0-231-17170-0

Japan and South Korea are Western-style democracies with open-market economies committed to the rule of law. They are also U.S. allies. Yet despite their shared interests, shared values, and geographic proximity, divergent national identities have driven a wedge between them. In *The Japan-South Korea Identity Clash: East Asian Security and the United States*, Scott A. Snyder and Brad Glosserman investigate the roots of this split and its ongoing threat to the region and the world. Snyder and Glosserman isolate competing notions of national identity as the main obstacle to a productive partnership between Japan and South Korea. Through public opinion data and interviews, they show that fundamentally incompatible, rapidly changing conceptions of national identity in Japan and South Korea—and not struggles over power or structural issues—have complicated territorial claims and international policy.

This book is suitable for undergraduate and graduate courses in East Asian studies, comparative politics, and international relations.

## Discussion and Essay Questions

### Courses in East Asian studies or comparative politics

1. How does the collective memory of South Korea's colonial experience influence its contemporary perception of national identity? How does the collective memory of Japan's experience in World War II shape its contemporary sense of national identity? What national projects (such as holidays, monuments, education, and cultural products/media) perpetuate or shape these identities?

2. Fifty years have passed since the Treaty on Basic Relations between Japan and the Republic of Korea was signed. In what ways is the relationship between the two countries similar to what it was in 1965? In what ways is it different?
3. How has U.S. involvement in Northeast Asia promoted cooperation between Japan and South Korea? How has its involvement hindered or restricted cooperation?
4. Identify cases of postcolonial reconciliation that may provide lessons for Japan and South Korea. Why are these examples helpful, and why may they be insufficient?

### **Courses in international relations**

1. What role does public opinion play in international relations? How does public opinion affect Japan-South Korea relations, and U.S. alliances with each of these countries?
2. To what extent has leadership aided friendly Japan-South Korea relations since the 1990s? Cite specific examples of when a Japanese prime minister and South Korean president have implemented policies to enhance cooperation or tilt the dial toward favorable attitudes in either publics.
3. To what degree are realist, liberal, or constructivist schools useful in explaining the tensions between South Korea and Japan?
4. From a U.S. perspective, what role do Japan-South Korea relations play in its rebalancing strategy?
5. What is the “Grand Bargain,” and why would or wouldn’t it be effective in improving Japan-South Korea relations?
6. How does the rise of China influence Japan-South Korea relations? Will it aid or hinder cooperation? Make reference to opinion polls on shared values and threats in each country.

### **Further Projects**

#### **Negotiation**

Assign students to represent Japan, South Korea, and the United States. Organize a simulation in which students negotiate the introduction and implementation of the “Grand Bargain” for Japan-South Korea reconciliation.

#### **Speechwriting**

The “Grand Bargain,” as recommended by the book’s authors, has been finalized. Instruct students to take the role of a speechwriter for a South Korean president or Japanese prime minister, and write a speech to his or her citizens explaining the policies of the bargain, highlighting its benefits and downplaying its difficulties. Remind students that though directed to a domestic audience, the speech will also be read or heard abroad, including not only in Japan and South Korea but the United States and China.

## Analytical Essay

Ask students to identify a case of post-colonial grievance and write a paper on its lessons for Japan-South Korea reconciliation. In what ways are these lessons helpful, and in what ways are they insufficient?

## Supplementary Materials

1. Ashizawa, Kuniko. "When Identity Matters: State Identity, Regional Institution building, and Japanese Foreign Policy," in *International Studies Review*, 10, no. 3 (2008): 571-98.
2. Berenskoetter, Felix. "Identity in International Relations," in Robert A. Denemark, ed. *The International Studies Encyclopedia*, Oxford (2010): Wiley-Blackwell.
3. Catalinac, Amy L. "Identity Theory and Foreign Policy: explaining Japan's Responses to the 1991 Gulf War and the 2003 U.S. War in Iraq," in *Politics & Policy*, 35, no. 1 (2007): 58-100.
4. Finnemore, Martha and Kathryn Sikkink. "International Norm Dynamics and Political Change," in *International Organization* 52, no. 4 (1998): 887-917.
5. Hagström, Linus and Karl Gustafsson. "Japan and Identity Change: Why It Matters in International Relations," in *The Pacific Review*, 28, no. 1 (2015): pp. 1-22.
6. Klien, S. *Rethinking Japan's Identity and International Role: An Intercultural Perspective*, London (2002): Routledge.
7. Lebow, Richard Ned. "Identity and International Relations," in *International Relations*, 22, no. 4 (2008): 473\_92.
8. Moon, Chung-in and Chun-fu Li. "Reactive Nationalism and South Korea's Foreign Policy on China and Japan: A Comparative Analysis," in *Pacific Focus*, 25, no. 3 (2010): 331-355.
9. Park, Cheol Hee. "The Pattern of Cooperation and Conflict Between Korea and Japan: Theoretical Expectations and Empirical Realities," in *Japanese Journal of Political Science*, 10, no. 3 (2009): 247-265.
10. Rozman, Gilbert (ed.). *East Asian National Identities: Common Roots and Chinese Exceptionalism*. Stanford University Press (2012).