

PROSPECTUS

Comparative Research on international history between Europe and Asia - the Cold War and regional integration -

1. General concept and research objectives

The research aims at a comprehensive analysis of international history between Europe and Asia, both of which have been in expansion and transformation brought by the end of the Cold War and accelerated by globalisation. The analysis is focused on I) research of the Cold War and II) regional integration to be considered in key topics including international norm, security, ethnicity and mobility of people. A joint research is set for an interdisciplinary and inter-regional scope beyond Europe and Asia, and also academic specialisations such as international politics, comparative politics and history.

(A) Research of the Cold War: achievements and further questions

Recent contribution made by researchers of the Cold War can be exemplified with (1) detailed verification with new historical source materials discovered in the former Soviet Union and East Europe (2) focusing on such an actor as Europe between the two superpowers (ie. the US and the former USSR) and (3) analyzing cultural exchange at the transnational level and NGOs as non-state actors.

Yet there still remain several issues to be examined further. The interaction of the end of the Cold War and regional integration can be seen as one of such issues. While the US government basically supported European integration at the end of the Second World War, American diplomacy towards Europe was nevertheless observed to be often changed vis-à-vis the former Soviet Union and each of West European countries. There was actually no accord among West European countries as to which direction towards regional integration in terms of external relations to the US and political stance on the Cold War.

What were dynamics of European integration and the Cold War with various ideals, policies and interests? The corollary of such a question may lead to new knowledge of the Cold War and regional integration in Europe as well as bring a clue to the causes of non integration in Asia during the Cold War.

(B) Multi-layered sovereignty and new viewpoints of research

Research of regional integration in Europe (the EU) has been intensively developed by institutional, regulatory and economic viewpoints from the end of the Second World War to the

Cold War and post-Cold War periods.

In the process of transformation of nation-states in further globalisation, “four-layered structure of sovereignty” has rapidly created mostly in Europe, which is composed of the following features: (1) global (2) “regional” in a broad scope (3) governmental as a country (4) “region” in a narrow scope. Transformation of sovereignty is an indispensable point of argument on the government and regulation of regional integration, and a new perspective of research can be presented on this base.

(C) Position and role of Japan

The position and role of Japan in international history will be reconsidered as the long-term goal of the joint research of the Cold War, the enlarged EU and regional integration in East Asia where there are various plans for “Asia” such as the ASEAN, East Asia and Asia-Pacific. In particular, various issues such as (1) globalisation and competitiveness with regard to regional integration, (2) relationship between the US-centred norm and other international norms, (3) economic disparities and social security, and (4) question on sovereignty and identity are subject to further interdisciplinary examination which will go beyond the present paradigm of international relations.

2. What should be clarified to which extent?

To prepare an international conference, we will organise the comparative research in two groups: (1) Comparison of East Asia and Europe during the Cold War in international history, and (2) Regional cooperation and integration in both international relations after the end of the Cold War. Their achievements will form the basis for our joint research by researchers from various countries of international history, the Cold War, European and other regional integration in an intensive, detailed and precise manner for two-day sessions.

We expect:

(1) firstly to make empirical and theoretical verification of the transitional process from the end of the Second World War to the Cold War in Europe and Asia and then clarify the significance of regional integration in globalisation vis-à-vis the US and the former Soviet Union (Russia) with particular focus on the role of small and neutral countries.

(2) to analyze the enlargement and transformation of European integration with the focus on nationalism and cross-border immigration and to examine the feasibility of an initiative for regional integration in East Asian diversity in comparison with the diversified, multi-ethnic EU which faces serious challenges involved in the inclusion of the former communist countries in Central and Eastern Europe and the possible expansion to , so called “Western Balkan”.

(3) to review ongoing research of the ARF, the APEC and the idea of creating a East Asian community with regard either to the ASEAN or to China in an international and multilateral perspective. In comparison with the enlarged EU, particular reference will be made to: (i) change

in international and regional structure such as China's emergence and America's global unilateralism and the impact on regional communities, (ii) economic globalisation and the influence of change in development policy in each country on the creation of a regional community, (iii) competition for norms and principles of international relations and the making of a regional community, and (iv) international system and regional system

(4) to make policy recommendations based on analysis of practical issues regarding to globalization and regional integration which are a matter of urgency for researchers and policy-makers in Europe, Asia and Japan

3. Deadline for proposal submissions

A proposal for research presentation must be submitted to the CHIR Japanese conference office by 31 August 2009.

The paper also has to be sent by 30 October 2009 by the attachment file.

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--The Cold War and Regional Integration--

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