Between Intervention and Isolation

Introduction/イントロダクション

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Today’s Seminar: Program

Welcome and Introduction/イントロダクション
Jun Kurihara (Research Director, CIGS)/栗原 潤
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Session I: Presentation/講演
“Between Intervention and Isolation”
Henry R. Nau (Professor, The George Washington University)/
ヘンリー・R・ナウ (ジョージワシントン大学)

After seven years of President Obama’s foreign policy of “leading from behind,” the world is in chaos. . . . Nau draws lessons from four successful presidencies to chart an intermediate path between the excessive interventionism of President George W. Bush and the threatened isolationism of President Obama. This path calls for the defeat of threats from radical Islam but a focus on freedom where it matters most – along the borders with Russia in Ukraine and with China on the Korean peninsula. If freedom loses on these borders, America’s postwar ties with Europe and Japan may be in jeopardy.

Session II: Q&A/質疑応答
Moderator: Jun Kurihara (CIGS)/
栗原 潤 (キヤノングローバル戦略研究所)

Closing Remarks/閉会の辞
Jun Kurihara (CIGS)/
栗原 潤 (キヤノングローバル戦略研究所)
Nau is interesting, provocative, and sometimes convincing when he looks for signs of conservative internationalism through the long sweep of U.S. history. His description of that school of thought alone makes this book worth reading. Unlike realists, Nau argues, conservative internationalists accept the promotion of freedom as a legitimate goal of U.S. foreign policy. Unlike liberal internationalists, they believe that American power, rather than international institutions, offers the greatest hope for progress. They also believe in an aggressive combination of force and diplomacy to advance the American agenda worldwide, but they are less confident than either liberals or neoconservatives that a democratic utopia is just around the corner. This is a valuable way of thinking about U.S. foreign policy for a post-Bush, post-Obama future. It will be interesting to see if any 2016 Republican presidential candidates look to Nau’s ideas as a way to bridge the widening gaps within the GOP when it comes to foreign policy.
Absolute and Relative Strengths of Japan, the United States, and China in Economic Terms

Note: When it comes to international comparison, economists generally look to GDP in purchasing power parity (PPP) terms, while political scientists generally pay attention to nominal GDP in US dollar terms (because no state can purchase weapons from foreign countries in PPP terms).

Source: IMF

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The Japanese economy, though showing some signs of improvement, lacks vigor. Corporate and consumer sentiment remain lackluster, and there is a lingering wariness about what lies ahead, both in the new year and beyond. But by taking a hard look at itself and drawing inspiration from abroad, Japan can put itself back on an upward trajectory.

Domestically, there seems to be a gap between the popular image of Japan and what state the country is really in. The first thing that needs to be done is to correct the ideas and conceptions left over from the days when Japan was the world's second-largest economy.

According to data compiled by the International Monetary Fund, Japan slipped to 27th place in the world in terms of per capita nominal gross domestic product in 2014. Even in East Asia, Japan lost ground, falling to fourth as Hong Kong moved up the ranking. Singapore and Brunei rounded out the top three. Japan came third in the IMF ranking in the mid-1990s and remained among the top 10 throughout the rest of the decade. During that time, Japan was No. 1 among Asian economies. But during the first 10 years of the 2000s, Japan dropped to the 10s and then quickly moved down to the 20s. GDP, of course, is not everything. But by this measure, Japan is now only a middle-level economy.
Introduction: Food for Thought (4)

Divergence between the World’s Image of Japan and Japan’s Self-Image?

One of the World’s Images of Japan among Asians


Japan’s Self-Image among Asians

マブマニ 『大収斂 - 膨張する中産階級が世界を変える』
(邦訳本 中央公論社 2015年10月)

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