Immigration Policy in South Korea & Japan
- A Comparative Perspective-

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Immigration In Korea and Japan

Both state face common problems

(1) Globalization
   - As international trade increase, migration also increases.

(2) Economic factors
   - State’s competitive power is important in this age.

(3) Aging Society
   - Population problem.
   - Increasing demands for welfare systems.

(4) Low birth-rate
Immigration in Korea and Japan

Immigration is a good solution?

- There are **no evidence** that immigration is a solution of population problems, economic growth and long-term lack of labor. (OECD, 2001; Tapinos, 2000; United Nations, 2000)

- In Japan and South Korea, there is no social consultation about immigration issue

**State’s responses:**
- Western scholars expect the states that face migration to go same **mode** (convergence).
  - Actually, individual State seek to their own type of policy and institution according to their history and legacy of institution
Purpose of Inquiry

- To describe dramatic immigration policy change in South Korea with comparative perspective

Research question
- Despite Japan and South Korea face common factors in migration issue, Why does South Korea’s immigration policy change dramatically?
- Beyond western scholars expectation, Why does not Japan’s immigration policy change?
Immigration Policy

Definition of immigration Policy

Immigration policy consist two parts: (Hammar, 1985: 7-9)

(1) immigration control policy or immigration regulation, namely, the rules and procedures governing the selection and admission of foreign citizens; and

(2) immigration policy, namely, the conditions provided to resident immigrants (e.g., work and housing conditions, welfare provisions and educational opportunities)
Arenas of Migration Control Policy

- To disaggregate migration policy, which is helpful to analysis immigration policy and politics.

- Freeman (1994): Migration policy/control and regulation aspect;
  1. Managing legal immigration through planning and migration and migrant selection
  2. Controlling illegal migration by patrolling by the boarders and enforcing visa requirements and employer sanctions
  3. Administering temporary worker program
  4. Processing asylum seekers and refugees and deterring frivolous claims
Common Purpose

Common purpose

(1) policy purpose
- Skilled worker: welcome
- Unskilled worker: want to control
- Utilize overseas people: Less cost integration cost

(2) Want to Control capability
- In Japan and South Korea, do not allow to family reunion.
  → means that states have control capability on migration.

(3) No term: “immigration” or “immigration policy” in both state.
- Worldwide economic depression
(1) Early Experience of aging society, aged society
   - 1970’s: aging society
   - 1994 : aged society
   - Japan has a time to prepare for these problems than S. Korea

(2) 在留邦人 policy(2000), 日系人 policy(1990)
   - Japan worry about massive immigration in this areas
   - Instead of accepting immigrant in close area, Japan utilizes overseas Japanese.

(3) The first destination in Asia.
   - In economic perspective, Real GDP gap(receiving country, sending country) is a important factor in immigration.

(4) Myth of unit nation, value of strong group
Japan’s Response

Japan

(1) Keep Closed-door policy
   - Keep closed-door policy in immigration control policy
   - In economic perspective, Japan is the first immigration destination in Asia area.
   - Illegal worker’s number declined under government control

(2) Public administration of migration
   - Except immigration control policy, Japan support various public administrations of immigration.

(3) Reluctant to Multicultural society_ (Kymlicka, 2005)
   - but, 2006 Japan government officially announced “head for multicultural society”
South Korea’s Conditions

(1) Pace of aging is the fastest country in the world
   - Year 2000: aging society
   - Year 2018: aged society, Year 2026: Post-aged society

(2) Potential labor is plenty relatively: Geographical position is close..
   - Overseas Koreans: Chosonzok (朝鮮族), North Korea
   - South Korea also worry about massive immigrant and political concerns.
   - Allow to the South East Asia guest-worker policy

(3) Increasing International marriage
   - 10% of total marriage : 40% of rural area marriage.
   → Multicultural Society: Government is especially interested in integration policy of immigration policy.
South Korea’s Response

South Korea

(1) Control policy: Partly open in guest-worker
- Government allow foreign worker to work in specific niche market of labor or market in Korea.
- After 1997(IMF), Korea’s labor market becomes flexible than before.
- 2002: illegal worker rate go up to 80% of foreign workers.

(2) Integration policy: Multiculturalism
- International marriage rate go to 40% in rural areas.
- 2006.4: State-centered multicultural discourse is driven

(3) No more Japan policy emulation-> looking for another country’s policy and develop own policy
- Taiwan, EU, etc.
Conclusion

South Korea

- South Korea’ response: at policy level
  - Change’s pace is so fast
  - Change becomes policy challenge to the state: State have to respond to that problem
  - lack of public administration of immigration tend to grow a problem
  - South Korea gives answer each problem at policy level

- Immigration control policy
  - partly open

- Integration policy
  - focus on international- marriage immigrant

-> Not yet, inclusive and expansive immigration policy convergence
Conclusion

Japan

■ Official immigration policy level
  - No change in immigration control policy
  - “No action” is also a type of policy.
  - Not Japan doesn’t change policy (politics) of immigration, But don’t want to change policy.
  - Illegal worker’s number declined

■ Actual immigration administration level
  - Public administration of immigration is active.
  - Various support system have developed
  - Inner pressure for immigration policy change does not reach the point
Remain Question & Farther study

- Immigration policy shapes immigration pattern (Meyer, 2000)
  - In the future, Japan and South Korea will have distinct pattern of immigration?

- In Asia, immigration policy will convergence like western scholar’s expectation?

- The state will lose control capability?
どうもうありがとうございました

Q & A