

ABSTRACT

Under the Moon Jae-in administration, the issue of comfort women persists to become a major diplomatic contention between South Korea and Japan to a point where it disrupts any progress in their bilateral relations, as the issue constitutes as a “memory problem” between the two nations. Through an identity-focused approach, this thesis aims to analyze how the comfort women issue has been brought into the diplomatic arena by, firstly, taking the historical context of the issue into account, and, secondly, by examining how President Moon Jae-in utilizes South Korea’s victimhood to Japanese military wartime aggression, in the case of the comfort women issue.

Keywords: *comfort women, Moon Jae-in, Shinzo Abe, national identity, collective memory, collective trauma*