

Comparative Analysis of Attitudes Toward Nuclear Weapons and World Peace Issues

An Inherent Disposition Toward Peace Among Japanese Undergraduates

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Submitted on January 7th, 2011

Abstract

In order to examine if there is a clear differentiation between attitudes toward nuclear weapons and those toward general war-related issues, a survey of first and second-year Japanese undergraduate students was conducted by disseminating a questionnaire. Various multiple regression analyses provided results which indicate that female students, those who belong to faculties of Education and Human Sciences and who are from Nagasaki Prefecture are more likely to demonstrate their more general anti-nuclear and anti-war stances compared to the participants with other attributes. Additionally, the respondents in this survey were asked to give their instinctive evaluations on nuclear weapons, nuclear power plants and the Japan Self-Defense Forces. Through comparative analyses with average values and scores of Standard Deviation, general responses tended to indicate their rigid objections to nuclear weapons and likely to be neutral toward nuclear power plants. In regard to Japanese future military policy, overall results showed that young people tended to recognize the issue of nuclear armaments to be more relevant or greater concern to them than any actual outbreak of war. As a result, a clear difference between those two attitudes can be found in their visions of future military policy in Japan.

Abstract: 195 words

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