

**HOUSE RESOLUTION 121 FOR *JUGUN IANFU* VICTIMS OF
JAPANESE IMPERIALISM.**

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ABSTRACT

This paper analyze Shinzo Abe's government that accepting the House Resolution 121, proposed by Congress members, Mike Honda to the US House of Representatives. The main demands in House Resolution 121 are that the Japanese government has a formal apology to the *Jugun Ianfu* and recognize mistakes that have been committed during the Japanese occupation. This time the question that arises is why Prime Minister Shinzo Abe accepting House Resolution 121 offered by the U.S. to resolve the problem of *Jugun Ianfu*.

To answer these questions, this paper using the Decision Making Theory of Foreign Policy. Here will be described the results of studies that Shinzo Abe as the decision maker along his parliament are the actors who have to considering about Japan's national interest in every relation, maintaining relations with the US as the closest alliance, relations with other countries specially the victim countries and protecting the image of Japan in International politics.

Keywords: Jugun Ianfu, Shinzo Abe, Diet, U.S, House Resolution 121, Decision Making Theory, Decision Maker, Foreign Policy

INTRODUCTION

Problem Background

Right in 1940s, before Japan's defeat in World War II, the Japanese was one of the great nations and had strong influence at that time. Japan was known as the State of invaders. Japan tried to expand its territory by colonizing the areas around it, specially colonize area which had weak influence in International arena. After two and a half centuries of self-isolation, on 1853 Japan embarked the combative territorial expansion policy. Exactly on the last half of 19th century, the western imperialist countries i.e. England, France and Germany created new destination to continue their expansion to Asia, especially plan to make the partition of China into the center and strategies area. At the same time Japan also started to come with idea to expand its territory into the neighbor countries and other Asia countries.¹ Shortly Japan occupied many countries in Asia.

However in World War II, after the two atomic bombs dropped by the Allies in center of the State of Japan, Japan surrendered to the allies. At that time, Japan experienced a total collapse. Starting from the infrastructure, the economy, even the military, everything was paralyzed. After the defeat of Japan, U.S provided many help for Japan in form of materials and technology transfers in order to rebuild the country and the economy once again. This allowed Japan to be strong immediately after a total collapse before. Mostly, after a war happened between two or more countries they wouldn't get along because of their pride and feel of resentment for each other. However Japan and U.S have a unique relationship. Years

¹ Gordon, B. (2003). *Explanations of Japan's Imperialistic Expansion, 1894-1910*. Retrieved October 27, 2014, from <http://wgordon.web.wesleyan.edu/papers/imperialism.htm>

then Japan rapidly spread its wings to control the regional economy, especially in Asia Pacific.

With the end of World War II, Japan imperialist period ended too. Countries that were once colonized by Japan had been freed from the clutches of Japan. However even when it has already ended, every activity of colonization certainly took a lot of casualties. During occupation era, there were many cruel actions done by Japanese army towards its colonies. This happened due to Japan's interest of the war in Asia Pacific, such as seizing supplies and manpower to build the industry. The Japanese army also gathered men with ages around 16 to 40 years who were recruited to serve as *romusha*, it also happened to women with a range of 16 to 25 years, who were recruited to serve as *jugun ianfu* (sex slaves). One of the Japanese army cruelty is the practice of the exploitation of women, where most of the women were forced to become *jugun ianfu* or comfort women by several ways of violence, trickery, threats and terror. . *Jugun Ianfu* is a woman who is forced to satisfy the sexual needs of Japanese troops in the colonies of Japan. The *ianfu* recruited by Japan itself were mostly young and beautiful girls from Japan, however the girls were also taken from Japanese colony countries such as from Korea and China, also from several South East Asia countries, who came into war zones by deception or force. After Japan's perdition on World War II, when Japan left their colony and the army was evacuated, the women (*jugun ianfu*) were abandoned. There were many *Jugun Ianfu* who committed to suicides "*gyokusai*" at the end of the war, as in Saipan for example.²

According to Yoshiaki Yoshime, Japanese historian expert who studies this topic for the first time, back on World War II some 200,000 Asian women were forced to become *Jugun Ianfu*, they were placed in brothels in the camps of Japanese military bases. They received daily torture and were raped, and received harsh treatment of the Japanese army. Professor Yoshiaki Yoshimi of Chuo University also stated there were more than 2,000 camps which housed more than 200,000 women of Korea, China, Philippines, Taiwan, Myanmar, the Netherlands, Australia, and several European countries to become comfort women.

In 1991, Kim Han Suk broke the wall of silence by making public speaks related to *Jugun Ianfu*. She spoke as a former korean *Jugun Ianfu* to give testimony about her story regarding Japanese military action back at that time in front of a packed hall of Tokyo. At the same year in December, Kim Hak Sun initiated a legal action addressing Japanese state to apologize and give compensation for *jugun ianfu* victims during Japanese imperialism. Then on 1992, a historian expert, Yoshimi Yoshiaki spelled out data that he got from the ministry of Defense of Japan World War II. The data mentioned that Japanese military was indicated to be involved in recruiting agents to bring the woman to become *Jugun Ianfu*.³ When the facts found by Yoshimi were being published in the media on January 12th, 1993, claimed they 200,000 thousand women of Korea, the Philippines and China claimed they had been forced into brothels occupants during the 1930s until 1940s, causing an uproar in Japan.

Because of the pressure and uproar on this issue, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono, as substitute of Mr. Kato, on the 4th August 1993 recognized this fact and expressed apologies for the incident. This statement is known as the "Kono Statement 1993". The

² Levy, C. (2012). The Japanese Imperial Army's "Comfort Women": Political Implications and the Gender of Memory. *Online Encyclopedia Mass Violence*, 2. Retrieve by SENDA Kakô千田夏光, 1973, *Jûgun ianfu, koe naki on.na Hachimannin nokokuhatsu従軍慰安婦「声なき女」八万人の告発*(The Army's Comfort Women: The Accusation Made by 80,000 'Women without a Voice'), Tokyo: Futabasha双葉社.

³ Mere, S. (2014). *Terkuyaknya Fenomena Isu "Ianfu"*. Retrieved November 2, 2014, from Uni Sosial Demokrat: http://unisosedem.org/article_detail.php?aid=8318&coid=3&caid=31&gid=1of Retrieved from (Kompas : <http://www.kompas.com/kompas-cetak/0706/30/opini/3643521.htm>)

apology contained an acknowledgment towards the role of Japanese military in building and managing brothels during their occupation era in those countries.⁴ However, this case not ended at this point.

New Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, himself, even before becoming prime minister, had asked for the admittance of Yohei Kono in 1993 which revealed the involvement of the Japanese military sexual practices being revised again. On 1st March 2007, Prime Minister Abe made a public statement denying the truth of Japanese military organizing sex slavery over *jugun ianfu* case. Abe's denial was seen as if he was trying to spark the controversy and protests from inside and abroad, especially countries where the former *jugun ianfu* came. Some observers see the denial of Abe as a new form of historical violence, particularly over former *jugun ianfu* and dignity of women in general⁵.

This issue led the existence of draft "House Resolution 121", The HRes 121 is a resolution for *Jugun Ianfu* issue which Japanese - American Congressman Mike Honda of California's 15th congressional district introduced to the American House of Representatives in 2007. This resolution asks for Japanese government formal apology to former *jugun ianfu*, and includes this issues (comfort women/*jugun ianfu*) to curriculum in Japanese schools, reflecting to 1921 International Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Women and Children and United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 that Japan has ratified.⁶ This paper will analyze the decision that Japan took to resolve this issue and will examine the reason about deciding the appropriate foreign policy to this issue.

The solution offered made Japan in awkward position, Japan had been always refused to acknowledge the charges in forcing those women into *Jugun Ianfu* victims, however later the U.S. come and provide a resolution for this problem, Japan with no resistance diplomatically accept this resolution or not trying to put down the resolution.

Afterwards, in his early second term as Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe reaffirmed he would shelve his old plan to review the 1993 government statement (*Kono* statement) that expressed remorse for the suffering of *Jugun Ianfu* before and during World War II. Stated in The Asahi Shimbun (electronic news) when Shinzo Abe was given a question about his old plan to renewing *Kono* statement (Jan 31st 2013) by Kazou Shii leader of Japanese Communist Party. Shinzo Abe answered,

"The matter should not be turned into a political and diplomatic issue."

"I, as prime minister, will refrain from making further remarks."

"There have been many wars throughout history, involving infringement on the human rights of women,"

"When it comes to the issue of comfort women, my heart aches acutely when I think about those who had to go through painful experiences beyond description. I am no different from successive prime ministers on that point."⁷

Then he said it would be appropriate for the chief Cabinet secretary to handle matters related to the *Kono* statement. Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga indicated there will be no review of the *Kono* statement in the near future.

⁴ Ibid.,

⁵ Ibid.,

⁶ [Tsuayoshi Hasegawa, Kazuhiko Togo](#). 2008. East Asia's Haunted Present: *Historical Memories and the Resurgence of Nationalism*. ABC-CLIO. Page.148

⁷The Asahi Shimbun. (2013). *Abe: No review of Kono statement apologizing to 'comfort women'*. Retrieved by http://ajw.asahi.com/article/behind_news/politics/AJ201302010077 access on 26th July 2015

Purpose of Research

The aims of this undergraduate thesis are: (1) To examine how government on Shinzou Abe era reacts and its decision on facing the issue of *Jugun Ianfu* addressed to their country as their responsibility because of its historical. (2) To know more detail of contents about House Resolution 121 draft offered by U.S for Japanese government to resolve the case of *Jugun Ianfu*. Beside to examine this undergraduate thesis will also, find and describe about this issue of *Jugun Ianfu*.

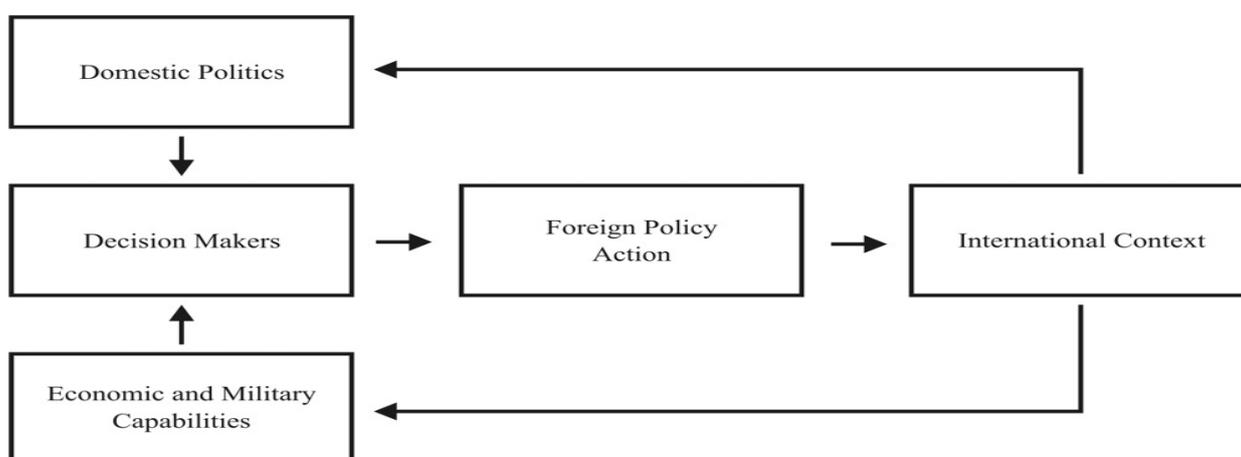
Theoretical Framework

In order to analyze the main problem, to examine Japanese politics regarding *Jugun ianfu* issues this paper use Decision Making Theory of Foreign Policy and Rational Actor. Theory is the most common form of explanation that tells us why something happens and when things happen, so in addition to use for explanation, the theory is also the basis for prediction.

Decision Making Theory of Foreign Policy

This theory proposed by William D. Coplin, it stated every decision made by putting many considerations that become factor in exercise the decision-making process. Foreign policy always aimed to meet its national interest, national interests can be described as the aspirations of a state operationally.⁸ This analysis can be found through the following figure of how four determinants influence foreign policy action

Figure 1: Source: W.D. Coplin & C.W. Kegley, p. 30.



From the scheme above, it can be seen the linkages between the economic, military, domestic political and international context here defined as the product from a variety of foreign policy in the past. Coplin stressed that the center of focus is the ones that plays a role in foreign policy decision making, in other words those who have formal responsibility and actual influence in decisions regarding his country's involvement in the relationship with other actors.

⁸ As cited in "Supri Yusuf, *Hubungan Internasional dan Politik Luar Negeri*, Pustaka Sinar Harapan, Yogyakarta, 1989" (Imron Wibosono: Kono Statemen (1993) as Japan's apologizing for Jugun Ianfu case, 2008)

Hypothesis

Shinzo Abe finally apology to *Jugun Ianfu* victims and there will be no revise towards *Kono* Statement and agree with solution offered by U.S. The acceptance of House Resolution 121 by Shinzo Abe towards resolving the *Jugun Ianfu* issue, mainly prompted by the international pressure and conservative basic perspective of Shinzo Abe that treasure relationship with U.S as the closest alliance and also to protecting Japan's image in international politic.

JUGUN IANFU ISSUE

This second chapter will explain the history of Jugun Ianfu, the development of Jugun Ianfu system, the impacts suffered by Jugun Ianfu and how the international community reacts to this issue. This chapter will be divided into three sub-chapters. The first sub-chapter will explain philosophy of women in Japanese society, the history of the established of Jugun Ianfu system, as well as the developments of Jugun Ianfu time to time, and describing the requirement by forcing the women and the way how soldier treats Jugun Inafu cruelty. The second sub-chapter will explain the aftermath suffered by former Jugun Ianfu even. The last sub-chapter will explain how international world respond to Jugun Ianfu issue.

Before 1932 Period: Philosophy of Japanese Women in Ancient Society

Back on 3rd century, Japan ancient society believed on Shinto, the "Way of the Gods," so-called to distinguish it from Butsudō the "Way of Buddha,". According to the creation story found in the *Kojiki* (Record of Ancient Matters, dating from A.D. 712) and the *Nihongi* or *Nihon shoki* (Chronicle of Japan, from A.D. 720),the Japanese islands were created by the gods, two of whom--the male Izanagi and the female Izanami--descended from heaven to carry out the task.⁹ Which means in the early century, Japanese women and men have balance position in society and carried their own task to support each other as human being in the earth. The woman was the medium of direct contact with the deity and announced the divine will to humankind.¹⁰

There had been gender balance until before 8th Century, women took charge of the spiritual realm as shamans and men took the physical realm as warrior kings. There were several reigning empresses in Japanese history until the 8th century. The era in which women started to lose their power began on Heian era precisely on the 8th century. In this century the Chinese bureaucracy was introduced to Japan on that strictly male-oriented known as patriarchal orientation that barred women from political offices, resulting in the declining in number of official priestesses. Three factors are responsible for the declining in the number of priestesses at most shrines: 1) since the descent of the divinity could now be calculated "mechanically", as it were, women were no longer really necessary in the priesthood; 2) the Chinese legal system, recently introduced to Japan and on which the priesthood was based, was strictly male-oriented; and, 3) Buddhism strengthened the notion of the uncleanness of woman, due to her biological and psychological make-up.¹¹

⁹ As cited on Sam Houston State University, *Early Japan* by Ronald E. Dolan and Robert L. Worden, [eds. Washington, DC: Federal Research Division of the Library of Congress, 1994]. Retrieved from http://www.shsu.edu/~his_ncp/Japan.html access on 10th March 2015

¹⁰ Okano Haruno. (1993). *Women and Sexism in Shinto*. Retrieved from <https://nirc.nanzan-u.ac.jp/nfile/3517> access on 10th March 2015. Page 27

¹¹ *Ibid.*, page 28

Further, essay by Lyn Reese to support the claimed that Confucian philosophy tends to restrict the freedom of women and force them into complete subordination to men. Women were gradually pushed out from the feudal structure and into a peripheral and supplementary to men. Confucianism saw women as important for bearing children and perpetuating the family more than as helpmates or object of love, also considering love to be weakness and sex as merely a mechanism maintaining the nature need and also maintaining family continuity.¹²

Japan then decided to switch its political, they used to defensive political, a politic about how to get rid of the extra-territorial rights of European and US in Japan and to make it possible for Japan to be able to get the knowledge and learn technology from western world. Gradually, this defensive politic made Japan to be no longer feels sufficient and also Japan began to feel the need to have a colony areas to obtain the sources of materials for industry and as market for their products. Since that time Japan was began to behave aggressively toward war with the surrounding countries, especially Korea and China. China was the obvious target and so on September 1931, Japan started its moves.

Post 1932 Period: The Aggression of Japan Imperial and The mobility of Jugun Ianfu

According to the government of China, about 300,000 people were killed by the Japanese army during the first six weeks of the occupation. The number of victims of the incident was a prolonged debate in Japan. Some said the number ranged between a few thousand to 20,000 inhabitants, there was also other estimate on ranging about 40,000, or even exceeding 100,000.¹³

As the impact of the prolonged war, most of the Japanese army suffered mental illness and were becoming insane. During these periods many of them burned and looted civilian houses also they did raped, tortured and killed them. It was recorded about 369.366 people were killed. During six weeks of Japanese troops occupation, they had raped more than 20,000 Chinese women of all ages. Most were killed after a brutal rape.¹⁴ After the Japanese army occupied Nanking City, many of them suffered from venereal diseases. Therefore the Japanese army issued a new policy:

1. Those soldiers who suffered from venereal disease should not return to Japan until they recover, to avoid venereal disease being spread to the State of Japan.
2. The Japanese military to provide “clean” women (refer to health women) for the Japanese army, so they won’t be infected by venereal disease.¹⁵

Likewise, in order to control the sexual activity of the soldiers, the *Jugun Ianfu* system was implemented throughout the Asia Pacific region. By this means, the safety of soldier’s sexual activity could be assured and also could guarantee the strength the Japanese military. As causes of these policies, over 200,000 women in Asia such as Taiwan, North Korea, South Korea, China, Philippines, Malaysia, East Timor, and Indonesia were suffering

¹² Posted by World Women in World History Curriculum. *Gender Difference in History Women in China and Japan*. Retrieved from Lyn Reese (2003). *Teaching About Women in China and Japan*. Access on 20th February 2015

¹³ As posted by The Mail Archieve. (2007). *Jugun-ianfu Bukan Paksaan?* by Shigeru Takatori. Retrieved from <https://www.mail-archieve.com/forum-pembaca-kompas@yahoogroups.com/msg11734.html> access on 20th December 2014 (Kompas : <http://www.kompas.co.id/kompas-cetak/0704/09/swara/3439723.htm>)

¹⁴ Jugun Ianfu, *Jalan Panjang Perjuangan Jugun Ianfu di Indonesia*, Access on 12th February 2015, http://www.sekitarkita.com/more.php?id=616_0_1_0_M1

¹⁵ The Global Review. (2010). *Kejahatan Perang Asia Pasifik Yang Belum Terselamatkan*. by Eka Hindrati http://www.theglobal-review.com/content_detail.php?lang=en&id=2922&type=2#.VLK52j-MfCs access on 20th December 2014

as a sex slave to satisfy the sexual needs of Japanese civilians and military. Moreover, as the effect of the war with the Chinese, *Jugun Ianfu* system was then proceeded to the next colonies areas to boost the spirit of the war for the sake of the Japanese imperial army. Since this period, the Japanese military built prostitution facility bearing women who were forced into sexual slavery.

Number of *Jugun Ianfu* and *Ianjo*

Jugun Ianfu's stations spread all over Asia. The spread started from China areas first as stated in a report of the head of Reward Section of the War Ministry dated September 3rd, 1942, as follow: "Comfort facilities for officers and men were constructed in following way; North China 100, Central China 140, South China 40, South Asia 100, South Sea 10, Sakhalin 10.400 in total." (Women)

According to an article published in the report of the AWF documentation committee in basin of Yantze River, there were *Jugun Ianfu* stations in the following cities:

Table 1.1 The Number of *Jugun Ianfu* stations in each cities in China (Women)

No	Region of <i>Jugun Ianfu</i> stations existed	Number of <i>Jugun Ianfu</i> station existed	No	Region of <i>Jugun Ianfu</i> stations existed	Number of <i>Jugun Ianfu</i> station existed
1	Shanghai	10	9	Jiujang	22
2	Hangzhou	4	10	Nanchang	11
3	Zenjiang	8	11	Hankou	20
4	Changczhou	1	12	Gedian	2
5	Yanzhou	1	13	Huarongzen	2
6	Danyang	1	14	Yinshan	1
7	Nanjing	20	15	Yichang	2
8	Wuhu	6	Total	15 regions	111 stations (<i>Ianjo</i>)

From the table above, it can be already estimated that there were almost as many comfort stations as it was estimated in 1942 estimate by the War Ministry.

Based on data above estimation may vary, depending on the basic assumption applied and the related methodology selected on the researcher. One method is to take the total number of military personnel stationed overseas during the Pacific War, then to postulate how many personnel there would have been per *Jugun* (per women).

Table 2.1 The Number of Jugun Ianfu based on Estimates of Researcher¹⁶

Name of Expert	Year of Publication	Number of Military Personnel	Parameter	Replacement	Number of <i>Jugun Ianfu</i>
Ikuhiko Hata	1993	3 million	One for 50 soldiers	1.5	90.000
Yoshiaki Yoshimi	1995	3 million	one for 100 soldiers	1.5	45.000
			one for 30 soldiers	2	200.000
Su Zhiliang	1999	3 million	one for 30 soldiers	3.5	360.000
				4	400.000
Ikuhiko Hata	1999	2.5 million	one for 150 soldiers	1.5	20.000

Source: <http://www.awf.or.jp/e1/facts-07.html>, access on 17th December 2014

Based on the table above, the calculation depend on the estimated number of military soldier per *Jugun Ianfu* and the replacement rate. This record from an April 1939 report of the head of the medical squad of the 21st Army in Shanghai, appears in a memo in the Operations Journal of Setsuzo Kinbara, Chief of the Medical Affairs Section in the Medical Affairs Department of the War Ministry.

At the ratio of 1 *Jugun Ianfu* per 100 military personnel “1/100”, an estimation can be concluded that on average, a soldier went to a *Ianjo* (comfort station) once a month, implying that each *Jugun Ianfu* was visited by five soldiers in one day; with an average 10 days off per month because women would unable to work due to monthly period. Kim Il Myon asserts that 80 to 90% of all *Jugun Ianfu* were Korean, for a total of 170,000 to 200,000 Korean women. However there was no statistics to back up any of these estimation. A careful reading of all available documents shows that many women were indeed from Korea, but probably not for the overwhelming majority. After all, many of them were Japanese.

Impact of *Jugun Ianfu*

Successfully occupying Korea, China and some Southeast Asia countries such as Indonesia and Philippines, Japan colonization lasted from 1931 until 1945. The leaves of Japan colonial did not mean the end the suffer for *Jugun Ianfu* eventhough they were no longer became sexual slave and receive no sexual violence anymore, they had nothing left even money or belongings from Japanese military. Furthermore, women who served as *Jugun Ianfu* suffered psychological and physical effect of their ordeal that left wounds which become scars on their bodies. Beside that, they also suffered structural, cultural and direct violence.

International Response towards *Jugun Ianfu*

The Korean historian Yun Jeong Ok published her investigation in January 1990 in the paper Hankyoreh, prompted a mobilization of women around the former comfort women. Then in May 1990, during the Korean President’s visit to Japan, Korean feminist groups

¹⁶ Yoshiaki Yoshim: *Jugun Ianfu (The Wartime Comfort Women)*, Iwanami Shoten, 1995, English translation, *Comfort Women: Sexual Slavery in Japanese Military during the World War II*, Columbia University Press, 2000
 Ikuhiko Hata: *Showa-shi no Nazo wo Ou (Inside Japan's Showa Years, 1920s to 1980s)*, Volume 2, Bungeishunju, 1993
 Ianfu to Senjo no Sei (The Comfort Women and Sex in War), Shincho-Sha, 1999
 Su Zhiliang: *Ianfu Kenkyu (Research on Comfort Women)* (in Chinese), Shanghai Bookstore Publishers, 1999

published a declaration in which they demanded reparation for the women who were forced to become *Jugun Ianfu*.

The issue spread rapidly to International community, then the testimonies came from many former *Jugun Ianfu* of other countries who were involved on this *Jugun Ianfu* / comfort system practiced by Japan during the occupation era in each country. Response toward this human right abuse case also spans to many countries in the world even they are not included as the victim. This issue somewhat threatens Japan's reputation in International view especially their allies.

EFFORTS IN RESOLVE JUGUN IANFU ISSUE

This paper will explain how the House Resolution 121 (*HRes 121*) was formed and how the reaction of Japanese government towards this resolution offered by U.S, also how the international community attitude towards the House Resolution 121 to solve the issue of *Jugun Ianfu* (comfort women).

Kono Statement

In 1992, the historian researcher Yoshimi Yoshiaki obtained records from the Department of Defense of Japan during World War II, then he spelled out the indicates of Japanese military involvement in conducting policy for *Jugun Ianfu*. One of the finding, its mentioned the Japanese military was involved in selecting agents to recruiting of girls who will become *Jugun Ianfu*.¹⁷ Later, to prevent the situation became worse Chief Cabinet Secretary at that time (1993), *Yohei Kono* made a statement which stated to acknowledge those facts and expressed apologize for the incident. *Yohei Kono* was a Chief Cabinet Secretary under Prime Minister *Kiichi Mizayama*, made an official statement that had the Following four major points:

First, *Kono* acknowledge the involvement of the military in the comfort women system: "the then Japanese military was, directly and indirectly, involved in the establishment and management of the comfort stations and transfer of comfort women. It represented a major change in the government's position.

Second, as for the recruitment of comfort women, it "was conducted mainly by private recruiters, who acted in response to the request of the military. In many cases they were recruited against their own will, through coaxing, coercion, etc., and that at times, administrative/military personnel directly took part in the recruitments." The report placed special emphasis on Korea, where "recruitment, transfer, control, etc., were conducted generally [emphasis added] against their will, through coaxing, coercion, etc.

Third, it concluded that comfort women "lived in misery at comfort stations under the coercive atmosphere."

Fourth, he started that "the government of Japan.... Extend its sincere apologies and remorse to all those, irrespective of place of origin, who suffered

¹⁷ Online Encyclopedia Mass Violence. (2012). *The Japanese Imperial Army's "Comfort Women": Political Implications and the Gender of Memory*. By *Christin Levy*.

immeasurable pain and incurable physical and psychological wounds as comfort women.”¹⁸

Those statements then known as "Kono Statement" declared on 1993. The apology are contained the acknowledging of Japanese military's role in building and managing brothels (*Ianjo*) during the occupation. Yoshiaki Yoshimi, also stated that approximately 200,000 thousand women from Korea, China, Indonesia and Philippines had been forced into brothels occupants of the 1930s and 1940s. The official evidences and explanation by Yoshiaki Yoshimi makes the Japanese government formally apologized in 1993 and became the basis of the handout compensation for the victims.

Japan 20th Century Government Denying of Responsible to *Jugun Ianfu*

The Kono Statement has been the target of criticism by some conservatives in Japan. It is still debated whether the statement acknowledged that coercion had been used in the recruitment and retention of the women by the Japanese imperial army directly, as the recruitment was believed to be mainly conducted by private recruiting agents (both Korean and Japanese).¹⁹

From the point of view of the Japanese conservatives Yohei Kono created a major problem for Japan by saying at a 1993 news conference that wartime *Jugun Ianfu* were forcibly taken away. This concern of Japanese conservative continued even under Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's era, exact on 2007. During his first term as Prime Minister in 2007, Abe stated that he did not believe women were coerced into working at military brothels. It started in October 2006, only a few weeks of the beginning of Shinzo Abe's tenure as the Prime Minister at that time, Shimomura Hakubun who was in charge as Japan's Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary, called for a new study of the *Jugun Ianfu* issue.

Emerges of House Resolution 121

HRes 121 was idea by Micheal Honda, the U.S Congressman for California. This resolution's idea came out on January 2007

[I]t is the sense of the House of Representatives that the Government of Japan (1) should formally acknowledge, apologize, and accept historical responsibility in a clear and unequivocal manner for its Imperial Armed Forces' coercion of young women into sexual slavery, known to the world as "comfort women", during its colonial and wartime occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands from the 1930s through the duration of World War

II; (2) would help to resolve recurring questions about the sincerity and status of prior statements if the Prime Minister of Japan were to make such an apology as a public statement in his official capacity; (3) should clearly and publicly refute any claims that the sexual enslavement and trafficking of the "comfort women" for the Japanese Imperial Army never occurred; and (4) should educate current and future

¹⁸ Hasegawa, Tsuyoshi and Togo, Kazuhiko. 2008. *East Asia's Haunted Present: Historical Memories and the Resurgence of Nationalism*. ABC-CLIO. Praeger Security International

¹⁹ Kingston, Jeff. (2012). *Contemporary Japan: History, Politics, and Social Change since the 1980s*. John Wiley & Sons. p. 189. Access on 19th March 2015.

generations about this horrible crime while following the recommendations of the international community with respect to the “comfort women.”²⁰

This solution then submitted by Micheal Honda, Mr. Smith of New Jersey, Mr. Royce, Ms. Watson, Mr. Hare, Ms. Bordallo, and Mr. Wu submitted the these resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

In addition Micheal Honda also mentioned that he did not believe resolution aimed to strain the relationship between the two countries, but that it was an effort to bring about a public and official apology sanctioned by the Japanese government.

Shinzo Abe’s Decision towards House Resolution 121

Shinzo Abe kept got pressed to made decision as soon as possible, which is in every decision made by a government expected could give satisfactory results and not make others hurt or overwhelmed. Japan in such a huge dilemma, the situation driving Japan's image become worse, not only has made human rights violation but also they viewed have done history violation where the Japanese government during the reign of Shinzo Abe plans to revise the *Kono* statement, which is the statement was created in 1993 to ease the turmoil that related to the comfort women issue at the time. Japanese state increasingly being cornered because its alliance, the US also showed its concern to this issue by offering House Resolution 121, hoped that can solve the issue. The solution offered made Japan in awkward position, Japan would have to protect the nation's sovereignty and pride while Also they would have to maintain its close ties with the alliance, U.S.

Had been always refused to acknowledge the charges in forcing those women into *Jugun Ianfu* victims, however later the U.S. come and provide a resolution for this problem, Japan with no resistance diplomatically accept this resolution or not trying to put down the resolution. What is the reason behind Shinzo Abe as the lead of Japan government decides to accept the resolution?

REASONS OF SHINZO ABE ACCEPT THE HOUSE RESOLUTION 121

The historical issue is such sensitive problems that give big impact to the development of the country, including its relation towards other countries especially between two countries or more which are involved in particular problems. It is completely significant in shaping and creating the good or bad relation among those countries. In this case, Japan and several countries whose their women taken by Japanese military to become *Jugun Ianfu*, unfortunately have their own point of view in seeing the histories. In one side, Japan believe that those women who become *Jugun Ianfu* were not being forced to join that activity but rather those women voluntary entered the brothels. In the other side, *Jugun Ianfu* victims claimed they were being forced and taken away from their family by the Japanese military to provide the need of the soldier to have a sex or even being treated violently by them. After describing and spilling out all of data related to the issue, this paper will be elaborates the use and the relation of theory of Decision Making Process and concept of Rational Actor Model of Foreign Policy Analysis to analyze the reason behind of Shinzo Abe accepting the House Resolution 121 and in not giving effort to put down the resolution.

²⁰ H.R. Res. 121, 110th Cong. (2007)

A. International Pressure

U.S. Congress was the chairing of a hearing on February 15, 2007 entitled “Protecting the Human Rights of Comfort Women.” Along with other members of the House Foreign Affairs’ Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and the Global Environment, held testimony of three Comfort Women survivors: Ms. Yong Soo Lee and Ms. Koon Ja Kim from Korea and Ms. Jan Ruff O’Herne from Australia (formerly of the Dutch East Indies) .These three courageous women described in detail the suffering, humiliation and torture which they had endured.

Mike Honda as Congress Representative of California introduced House Resolution 121, which demand “the sense of the House of Representatives that the Government of Japan should formally acknowledge, apologize, and accept historical responsibility in a clear and unequivocal manner for its Imperial Armed Forces’ coercion of young women into sexual slavery, known to the world as *Jugun Ianfu*, during its colonial and wartime occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands since the 1930s till the end of World War II.

Mike Honda, along with 17 of his House colleagues, wrote to the Japanese Ambassador to the United States, calling the timing and contents of the Japanese government report on the 1993 Kono statement: regrettable, unfortunate, unacceptable, and destabilizing.²¹ Some two dozen members of the House of Representatives signed on to a carefully worded letter urging Abe to use his visit to address the “historical issues,” and to reaffirm past statements of apology from previous Japanese leaders. Nowadays, there are fewer than 100 surviving *Jugun Inafu* across the Asia-Pacific. Each year, this number declines due to their age that already quite old, then Mike Honda will invite Shinzo Abe to speak in joint meeting with several former *Jugun Ianfu* that survived, this is the opportunity that U.S give to Shinzo Abe to apologize to the survivors, even for those who are already passed away. They deserve the justice and apology that has been due to them for years ago. The opportunity to speak to a joint meeting of Congress is an honor that is reserved for heads of state of our closest allies.²²

Deputy National Security Adviser Ben Rhodes said the U.S. encourages Abe to constructively address historical issues “consistent” with Japan’s past statements and contribute to efforts to lower tensions in the region. Ahead of the press conference, Japan and the United States issued joint statements laying out visions of cooperation on multiple fronts, including economics, climate change and nuclear non-proliferation. They also announced updates to the guidelines governing U.S.-Japan military relations, effectively giving Japan leeway to deploy its military forces to defend other countries, not just itself.

Not only our daily diminishing number of World War II veterans, but women’s rights groups and the Korean-American, Filipino-American, Taiwanese-American and Chinese-American communities, among others, would greatly appreciate a sincere expression of remorse in the remarks prepared by the Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. Abe asked the occasion of his visit to the American Congress on 31st July 2007 to “formally acknowledge, apologize, and accept historic responsibility in a clear and unequivocal manner” for the historic human rights violations committed against the *Jugun Ianfu* / Comfort Women.²³

²¹ Mike Honda. CNN. *Time for Abe to Apologize, Properly*. <http://edition.cnn.com/2015/04/28/opinions/honda-abe-comfort-women-issue/>. Access on 2nd August 2015

²² Nahal Toosi. (2015). *Japanese leader sidesteps apology for WWII 'comfort women'*. <http://www.politico.com/story/2015/04/shinzo-abe-wwii-comfort-women-117423> Access on 2nd August 2015

²³ former Del. Eni F.H. Faleomavaega. Congress blog 'The Hill'. *Time for Japan to apologize*. Retrieved by <http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/foreign-policy/235134-time-for-japan-to-apologize> access on 26th July 2015

Not only there, there so many parties that supporting the passing of House Resolution 121, for example, in online there Global Petition to support House Resolution 121 that hits +4000 signatures at 2007. The Online petition was made by someone who active as *Jugun Ianfu's* sympathizer in Philippines. There were more than 4000 international signatures on the petition and comments from all over the world. She also provided data contained the cover letter that went along with the 125 page document of signatures, addresses, countries and comments from citizens in the United States, the Netherlands, Guam, Malaysia, the Philippines, the United Kingdom, China, Japan, Thailand, Singapore, France, Italy, New Zealand, Australia and many other countries. Until now people still able to access the petition (<http://www.gopetition.com/online/11466.html>).²⁴

The urge towards Shinzo Abe's decision also came from scholar from many countries, currently, approximately 200 scholars have signed a statement urging Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to renew apologies for the country's imperialist past and offer to compensate former *Jugun Ianfu* victims of its wartime brothel system.

The Scholars included expert on Japanese and Korean history. The statement, implores Abe to repeat his predecessors' explicit apologies for Japanese violence.

The statement, which also signed by dozens of Journalist, lawyers and right activist, ask Abe's announcement "must reaffirm that invasion and colonial control caused harm and pain to neighbor countries.. and it must express renewed sentiments of regret and apology." Similar statements signed by several hundred academics on May, later, around 16 Japanese academic societies, including the Historical Science Society of Japan also gave the same statement related to *Jugun Ianfu* issue.²⁵

B. Shinzo Abe Perspective on *Jugun Ianfu* issue

Even as the representative of a party, Shinzo Abe as politician himself has his own political standing point. Reported by Reuters, the statement is delivered by Abe on 70th anniversary of the end of World War II in Tokyo, Friday (14/8). In the statement, Abe expressed "sincere apology" and "deep regret" over aggression and colonialism undertaken Japan. "To the people who are innocent, who suffered damage and suffering by our state. As I pondered about this fact, even today, I was not able to speak and my heart is very sad,"²⁶

Right after, that sentences mentioned by Shinzo Abe, then he continue his speech on the occasion said that the next generation of Japanese leaders do not need to apologize to repeat this tradition every year. This is in accordance with the political camps Abe's insistence that regard as humiliating attitude and damage the image of Japan's post-war peace.

"In Japan, the post-war generation has now reached 80 percent of the population. Do we let the children, grandchildren and even future generations, which has nothing to do with the war, had to apologize," said Abe

²⁴ Lague of Filipina Grandmothers (LILA Pilipina). 2007. *Global Petition to Support House Resolution 121 and Goes to Washington*. Retrieved by <http://labanfortheholas.blogspot.com/2007/06/global-petition-to-support-house.html> access on 3rd August 2015

²⁵ The Japan Time. (2015). *Scholars urge Abe to renew 'comfort women' apology*. Retrieved by <http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2015/06/09/national/history/japanese-academics-urge-abe-renew-comfort-women-apology/#.VdkqDSWqqkr> access on 3rd August 2015

²⁶ CNN Indonesia. (2015). *Shinzo Abe Minta Maaf Atas Kekejaman Jepang di Perang Dunia*. <http://www.cnnindonesia.com/internasional/20150814223353-113-72316/shinzo-abe-minta-maaf-atas-kekejaman-jepang-di-perang-dunia/> Access on 30th August 2015

"However, we as citizens of Japan, in every generation, have to face the facts of history in the past," he continued.

"will not forget the women on the battlefield at the time that the honor and dignity destroyed."

Based on this kind of speech, Shinzo Abe's described as a leader that really good in linguistic, that actually he want to show Japan's remorse but he is still put an effort to keep the dignity of nation. These kind of idea might influenced by some factore that give huge contribute in shaped Shinzo Abe's political standing point.

B.1 Shinzo Abe family background

Abe essentially originated from "a family of World War II". Indeed, it was also widely reported in the Korean mass media with some irony that Abe was an elite member of "a venerable political family of Japan", which actually descended from war actor of 2nd World War. The then Prime Minister Abe was indeed a scion of an old political family of right-wing militarist stripe which has ruled postwar Japan for generations. (In fact, his grandfather, Kan Abe, and father, Shintaro Abe, were both politicians. His mother, Yoko Kishi, is the daughter of Nobusuke Kishi, who was prime minister of Japan from 1957 to 1960.) It is not surprising that Abe would fight tooth and nails to protect the "honor" of his family and his political career and his country against the onslaught of heinous crime, ignominy, and stain of comfort women. An immense personal courage was demonstrated by a junior Congressman Michael Honda who was serving his third term in the U.S. Congress since 2001 to confront the formidable Japanese establishment and its self-righteous postwar leadership.

B.2 Shinzo's political background

Japan is a country that adheres to a parliamentary system of government and does not elect president directly. Japan's Constitutions which was applied since 1947 are based on three principles: sovereignty of people, respect for human rights, and the reject of war. The Constitution establishes the independence of the three bodies of government, that are: the legislatives in Japan called as Diet (Parliament), the executive (Prime Minister and the cabinet), and the judiciary (the courts).

Diet as Japan's national parliament is the highest body of state power and the only body with the authority as a state legislator. Diet consists of House of Representatives with 480 seats and the House of Councillors with 242 seats. The member of House of Representatives are elected for a term of four years, but this term maybe terminated if the house is dissolved. Whilst, the member of House of Councillors are elected for a term of six years. For amount of a hundred member will be elected by proportional representation from nationwide constituency, and the rest 142 members will be elected by 47 prefectural constituencies. Japan adopts a parliamentary government, where Japanese do not elect their President directly, but rather the members of the Diet choose the Prime Minister among themselves. Afterwards, Prime Minister is the one who lead Japan and has the authority to establish and lead the cabinet ministers of state. Later The Cabinet that in charge of running the executive power has responsiblity to the Diet.²⁷

B.3 Prime Minister as Decision Maker

²⁷ (n.d.). *Government*. Embassy of Japan in Indonesia. <http://www.id.emb-japan.go.jp/home.html>. Access on 16th June 2015

Shinzo Abe is the Prime Minister of Japan who led Japan government in 2006, he has been known both domestically and abroad. During his first term, Prime Minister Abe unleashed an international firestorm of criticism when he stated that there was no evidence of Japanese coercion and complicity in setting up and running the *Jugun Ianfu* system. Instantly, the *Jugun Ianfu* issue that is still very sensitive for some countries reemerges and make a buzz internationally. However, as examined more detail, there are some facts that underlies Shinzo Abe's action and also his statements which were considered to disappoint many parties.

Prior to becoming prime minister, Shinzo Abe served as the chief cabinet secretary during the reign of Junichiro Koizumi, Shinzo Abe later was appointed to be the chairman of Liberal Democrat Party, one of strong parties in Japanese politic that has most member sit in house of representative. Since then, Abe had been considered to be the most powerful candidate to replace Koizumi for the next reign.

Before the end of his reign, Prime Minister Koizumi actually also had sparked controversy that strained relations between countries, especially with South Korea and China, since his visit to Yasukuni Shrine as tribute to more than 2.5 million Japanese soldiers who died in World War II, who were regarded as hero for Japan but the invaders for Japan colonial countries. Yasukuni Shrine is considered as an insult to the nation of the former Japanese colony, as well as once regarded as the player-feedback historical fact. Therefore, the presence of a new prime minister who will replace Koizumi's reign soon was expected to improve relations with those countries.

But then things got worse, when Shinzo Abe who served as president of Liberal Democrat Party, which successfully had two-thirds of the seats in parliament of House of Representative, sworn as new Prime Minister in 2006. In his early term, Abe just brought a plan to revise the *Kono* statement. *Kono* statement is internationally known as the apology by Japanese government over the *Jugun Ianfu* issue done by Yohei Kone in 1993, indicating Japan to be responsible toward the issue. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe tried to revise it claiming that Japan has no responsibility toward the issue and that there is no formal data to give absolute evidence over the issue.

Every plan by Prime Minister will always be under the influence and agreement of Diet, meaning the plan of revising the *Kono* statements also has interference from Diet and not just the Prime Minister personal thought. The interesting fact to be discussed lies on the background of the parliament and the executive of government in agreeing and trying to execute the plan.

Diet of Japan consists of 480 seats for House of Representative and 242 seats for House of Councillors, and each of houses has their perspective authority and task. The House of Representative has the right to prior deliberation on the budget bill drafted and submitted to the Diet by the cabinet, other side its also given precedence over the House of Councillors in designating a new prime minister and considering the conclusion of treaties. The House of Representative has the power to submit motions of non confidence or confidence in the cabinet, which is the most important power of its in parliamentary politics.²⁸

During Shinzo Abe's reign, the House of Representative were dominated by member of Liberal Democrat Party which is his own party. Liberal Democrat Party (LDP) is one of five major political parties in Japan and was always monopolizing its power for 38 years since it was formed. The following is a brief data of the political strength of LDP in the National Diet:

²⁸ The International Society for Education Information, I. (1996). *The Japan of Today*. Tokyo: Royal wakaba.

Table 4.1 Election result, 21th 1996²⁹

Party	House of Representative	House of Councillors
Liberal Democratic Party	207	111
New Frontier Party	170	68
Social Democratic Party	63	36
New Party Sakikage	23	3
Japanese Communist Party	15	14
Minor Parties	14	18
Independents	5	2
Vacancies	14	0
Total	511	252

Source: Retrieved by The International Society for Educational Information, Inc. The Japan Today. 1996

Table 4.2 Election result, 2005³⁰

Party	Single member	PR	Total
LDP	219	77 (25,887,798 / 38.18%)	296 (+59)
DPJ	52	61 (21,036,425 / 31.02%)	113 (-64)
Kōmeitō	8	23 (8,987,620 / 13.25%)	31 (-3)
JCP	0	9 (4,919,187 / 7.25%)	9 (0)
SDP	1	6 (3,719,522 / 5.49%)	7 (+1)
PNP	2	2 (1,183,073 / 1.74%)	4 (+4)
NPJ	0	1 (1,643,506 / 2.42%)	1 (+1)
Shintō Daichi	0	1 (433,938 / 0.64%)	1 (+1)
Lain –lain	18		18 (+59)
Total	300	180 (67,811,069)	480

Source: from INOVASI Online: <http://io.ppijepang.org/old/cetak.php?id=258>

LDP was formed in November 1955 through the merger of two conservatives parties founded after World War II and governed Japan without any interruption until 1993. LDP, also can defined as right-wing party, is based on the principles of the Conservative as the main stream of the party, among other things are: to work closely with the US, to respect Tennoo-System (monarchy), to prioritize economic over defense “preference for butter than

²⁹ Ibid., page 21

³⁰ Akbar, M. (2008, Juli). *Golongan Karya dan the Liberation Democrat Party: Sebuah Telaah Singkat Perbandingan the Ruling Party di Indonesia dan Jepang*. Retrieved May 17, 2015, from INOVASI Online: <http://io.ppijepang.org/old/cetak.php?id=258>

cannon” or in other words creating policy with the term: rapid, export-based economy growth is better than military, and to also greatly appreciate warrior who had done their tasks to the nation.³¹ In the point of view of conservative idea, the LDP believes that what has been done by the prior ruler were correct actions, and was considered as a hero for their country. Thus LDP the dominant parliament from which even Prime Minister Shinzo Abe came from, considers that it is important to clear the name of its predecessor over the accusation as a criminal of history and as the party that should be responsible for the victims of *Jugun Ianfu* issue. Further planning for revising the Kono Statement was made.

Kono Statement was released on 1993, when LDP was weakened by defections and lost its parliamentary majority and was then subsequently replaced by a coalition government backed by all of the former opposition parties (excluding the JCP) led by Prime Minister Hosokawa Morihiro.³² Then it could be considered by the return of LDP in dominating the parliament once again, there were hopes from members to be able to restore the good image of the heroes of the country and the dignity of the Japan that have no responsible to any countries history.

However back to the essence, all actions taken by the state are part of state policy, and in determining a policy to be taken and implemented, the decision maker must understand the issue very well that this action is the right, and beneficial choice for the country.

B.4 U.S as Japan closest alliance

In its character, the LDP pledges to protect civil liberties to be open and democracy party, and to preserve the global environment. At the heart, LDP’s foreign policy platform is to support cooperative relations between Japan and the United State, based on The Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security.³³ Since 1996, Japan already maintained the Japan-U.S security arrangements. On U.S. visit in April 1996 to Japan, Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and U.S. President announced the Japan-U.S. Joint Declaration on Security. Both leaders reaffirmed that. this Japan-U.S. security alliance will continue to play an important role for peace and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region and that the declaration is the starting point for further cooperation between the two countries. Furthermore, both Prime Minister Ryutara Hashimoto and President Bill Clinton agreed to promote bilateral policy coordination, including studies on bilateral cooperation in dealing with situations that may emerge in the areas surrounding Japan and that will have important influence on its peace and security.

Japan and United States work on mutual exchange for technology and equipment, including bilateral cooperative research and development of equipment, such as the support fighter F-2 of the Japanese Air Self Defense Force. In the same time, Japan and U.S. signed an agreement of the Unites States of America Concerning Reciprocal Provision of Logistic Support, Supplies, Service between the Self-Defense Forces of Japan and the Armed Forces of the United States of America.³⁴ This agreement sets basic conditions for mutually providing goods and service for such activities as joint exercises between the two countries and peacekeeping operations.

From brief exposure above, it can be seen how close bilateral relationship between Japan and the U.S is especially for sensitive issue like military, seen as symbol of power of

³¹ Ibid.,

³² Opcit., Page. 20

³³ The International Society for Education Information, I. (1996). *The Japan of Today*. Tokyo: Royal Wakaba. page. 21

³⁴ Ibid., page 32

the country. It can be seen that Japan relies on U.S. as U.S. has the strongest military in the world. It can be said literally that Japan depends on U.S. military so much, so they can have military joining practice and increase the capability of Japanese military.

The very close relation between the two countries is highly taken as consideration towards the offer of House Resolution 121 by U.S in resolving the *Jugun Ianfu* issue.

C. Japan's Image

The World War II was end, the greatest war in human history. When representatives of Imperial Japan surrendered to General Douglas MacArthur on the *USS Missouri* in Tokyo Bay on September 2, 1945, it not only brought that war to an end. It also brought an end to the enslavement of up to 200,000 women and girls who had been coerced into sexual servitude by the Imperial Japanese military, even though most have passed away in the intervening years, the survivors who remain deserve justice and closure in their final days. They have waited too long, the time for Japan to apologize.

Abe is undercutting his own efforts to raise Japan's international profile by making these insensitive remarks. The insensitivity in his initial remarks on the issue of comfort women contradicts the "value-based diplomacy" that his government tries to pursue. Moreover, these comments aggravate concerns in some corners of Asia that Japan is becoming a belligerent power, hindering his government's efforts to play a more robust role in global and regional security affairs. *Jugun Ianfu* is one of most tragic slavery that occurred in World War II. By Japan accepting House Resolution 121, though not completely heal the suffering felt by victims, but at least showed a willingness for Japan to aware that they are the one who are responsible for such a dark history of the victim and in each country. By the legalization of the House Resolution 121, Japan will fulfill the demands to include the histories of its colonialism into the school textbook as an acknowledgment for Japan's current and next generation. So, that later, they will never forget the history.

Further, Shinzo Abe just drive puzzlement about Japan standing point because after declaration of *Kono Statement*, most of Prime Minister who served before or after Shinzo Abe, they are apologize and approve about *Jugun Ianfu* as part of Japan's responsibility, by the unstable Japan standing point over *Jugun Ianfu* will just make other countries specially victims countries triggered to remember the passed wound that can't never healed.

In January 2007, U.S Congressman for California, Micheal Honda propose the resolution House Resolution 121 to resolve never-ending sensitive issue between Japan and several Asia countries as former Japan colonial countries. The House Resolution 121 is expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that demand for Government of Japan should formally acknowledge, apologize, and accept historical responsibility in a clear and unequivocal manner for its Imperial Armed Force's coercion of young women into sexual slavery, known to the world as *Jugun Ianfu*, during its colonial and wartime occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands from the 1930s through the duration of World War II.

As the two countries are pretty close, it also made a huge influence for Japan to consider the offer of House Resolution 121. In the other hand, the Decision Maker should be aware of the rational choice in order to allow Japan to maintain their national interest, their image and their relation with many parties. Japan is aware that the country should not only have bilateral or cooperative with United State but they should also manage some cooperations with other countries. If they just keep acting so selfish without caring about other that were hurt by their own concern, it can make the situation become worse.

Then later, on July 30th 2007, the U.S House of Representative passed the House Resolution 121 (HRes 121) after going through several debates. According to American daily

newspaper, New York Times on Wednesday 1st August 2007, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe expressed his disappointment on Tuesday at the resolution approval by the House of Representative in Washington which ask Japan to acknowledge *Jugun Ianfu* issue as Japan's historical responsibility. Furthermore Mr. Abe commented, "The Resolution's approval was regrettable".

Reason why Shinzo Abe stated that the acceptance of House Resolution was regrettable was regrettable because it was a dishonor to world war II soldier who had sacrificed their lives for the nation, but were blamed for something which was actually not their responsibility instead.

However, it can be said that it is a great choice made by Japan because they got much more advantages instead getting one concern to be realized. Its true that Japanese at that time was dominated by LDP people known with their conservative idea, but in other hand the government of Japan has to carry Japan to the better condition in the current and next future. National interest of Japan much more guaranteed able to realize by the action of Japan that apology to the victim countries and internationally. Japan already chose the option that has maximum benefit and minimum cost.

The alliance facilitates the forward deployment of about 50,000 U.S. troops and other U.S. military assets based in Japan. In addition, Japan's participation in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) talks could enhance the credibility and viability of the proposed trade pact, which is a core component of Obama Administration efforts to rebalance U.S. foreign policy priorities toward the Asia-Pacific region, such as joining the proposed TPP trade pact and increasing the Japanese military's capabilities and flexibility. The political continuity in Tokyo has allowed Abe to reinforce his agenda of revitalizing the Japanese economy and boosting the U.S.-Japan alliance, both goals that the Obama Administration has actively supported.³⁵

CONCLUSION

On 30th July 2007, the U.S. House of Representatives passed unanimously H.Res. 121, a resolution calling on the government of Japan to deliver an apology for its sexual enslavement of *Jugun Ianfu* during World War II. The House of Representatives has never before considered such a resolution, which garnered 168 bipartisan cosponsors and was not opposed on the House floor during its consideration.

Prime Minister and Japan's Parliament has been made a decision that they are agree to accept the offer of House Resolution 121 which is the originator idea proposed by Mike Honda who in charge as California's 15th congressional district, he submitted the draft to the American House of Representatives in 2007. This was related to the case that emerged in early 2007, during his first term, Prime Minister Abe unleashed an international firestorm of criticism when he stated that there was no evidence of Japanese coercion and complicity in setting up and running the *Jugun Ianfu* system. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe himself, since before becoming prime minister, has asked for the admittance of Yohei Kono in 1993 which revealed the involvement of the Japanese military sexual practices being revised again.

Every plan by Prime Minister will always under the influence and agreement by Diet, means the plan of revising the *Kono* statements also have interference by Diet, not only the Prime Minister selfish thought. This paper try to examines the interesting fact about Shinzo Abe and Parliament that led Japan at that time, the paper been observed in the first term of Shinzo Abe's government, party that dominates parliament House of Representative is LDP,

³⁵ Ibid., page 5

in which Shinzo Abe as the President of the party before he pointed as new Prime Minister. Reason of Shinzo Abe able to be the new Prime Minister is LDP winning the election at that current vote. LDP is well known as the conservative party or people usually called it as “Right-Wing” party. As they have principle of the conservative as the main stream, they have several character that already rooting in their political body. In the point of view of conservative idea, there is belief to respect *Tenno* system (monarchy) in case they praise the predecessor ruler, and considering as hero for nation because what predecessors have done before is considered as sacrifice from them. In other hand, LDP’s foreign policy platform is support for cooperative relations between Japan and the United States, Japan considered U.S as the closest alliance and it can said much more Japan depend on U.S for certain issue as example is military. This fact cannot deny give many contribution to Japan to considering which one is the best decision in case to accepting or not the House Resolution 121, because the solution offered directly by U.S to Japan.

According to William D. Coplin, he stressed that the center of focus is the ones that plays a role in foreign policy decision making, in other words those who have formal responsibility and actual influence in decisions regarding his country's involvement in the relationship with other actors, when it comes foreign policy always aimed to meet its national interest, national interests can be described as the aspirations of a state operationally. It Means Shinzo Abe as the Prime Minister and Diet as the sole law-making body in Japan have the task to be decision maker to deciding the foreign policy that they will take for granted. Government should concern the national interest, in which government expected to understand well what the state needs as national interest. Before deciding the new policy there must be several alternatives as the possibility of new policy. The decision maker get a lot of information of each alternative to measure the advantage and disadvantage.

Finally Japan accepting the House Resolution with rational consideration, where by accepting the solution give most advantages for Japan eventhough the Shinzo Abe have to cancel his plan to revise the *Kono* statement and finally apologize and admit that *Jugun Ianfu* is Japan’s responsibility. In other side of those lost, Japan got many advantages considering about its national interest, that are keep the relation with U.S as the closest alliance, gaining more trust by other countries as Japan willingness to responsible what their predecessor have done before, maintaining its image in international politic. Basically economic, military, domestic political and international context of a state here defined as the product from a variety of foreign policy.