The United States and East Asia

World View
Global Education Leaders’ Program

Cheryl L. Brown, Ph. D.
Department of Political Science and Public Administration
University of North Carolina at Charlotte
cbrown@uncc.edu
“Even though we are oceans apart, we are close as neighbors.”
Turning Point of 1979

- China addresses domestic devastation after the Cultural Revolution, 1966 – 1976

- The United States and the People’s Republic of China normalized diplomatic relations, January 1, 1979

- The U.S. severed diplomatic ties with the Republic of China (opened embassy and consulates in China)

- The U.S. established the Taiwan Relations Act (to help maintain peace, security, and stability in the Western Pacific...” on April 10, 1979

- Establishment of the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT), 1979
Assassination (or “accidental killing”) of South Korea’s President Park Chun Hee, October 26, 1979

Former Prime Minister Choi Kyu-hua became the acting President after the assassination and later, became President in an uncontested election.

U.S. threatened any attempt of North Korea to exploit the situation and invade South Korea (see map)

Coup of government power, December 1979

Prime Minister Ohira Masayoshi (1978-1980) died in office
38th Parallel
Multi-level e-Government

- International Level
- Regional/Second Tier Level
- National Level
- Mid-level
- Local Level
- Community Level

United Nations
G-8
EU
APEC
ASEAN
Central
Federal
State (US)
Province (China)
Prefectures (Japan)
City
County
Town
Committee
Neighborhood Center
Unit
Why Asia Matters?

- Look East Policy and regional conflicts that affect the rest of the world (Vogel, 1979)

- Over half of the world’s population (China, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Russia, Japan—with diverse religions, languages, ethnicities, and cultures even within countries)
Economic dynamism—double digit growth rates, privatization of industries, trade and investment special economic zones (S. Korea-Incheon), research centers and think tanks, transportation networks, job creation, middle class status

Regional need for energy supplies and sustainable environment to feed the population and maintain production
China, as a rising power, is shifting the region and global balance of power with hard power (building the navy) and soft power (language and educational outreach via Confucius Institutes, educational exchanges and programs, and international campuses such as Xiamen University in Malaysia).

Growing civil societies and participation in government. Taiwan, South Korea, the Philippines, and Indonesia as democracies.
Why Asia Matters? (cont’d)

- The region represents military threats to regional and global security (North Korea)

- Host of nontraditional dangers to domestic, regional and global security and health—transboundary diseases, terrorist cells, separatist movements, organized criminal gangs

- Environmental issues of deforestation, depletion and conflict over minerals and marine resources—managers, policy analysts, local content creator
Why Asia Matters? (cont’d)

- Environmental issues of deforestation, depletion and water and air
- Conflict over minerals (resource curse?) and marine resources (Spratly Islands)
- Conflict over trade goods (Japan-rice, South Korea-beef)
Concerns for the U.S.

- North Korea—nuclear threat, food shortage
- South Korea-young generation of reunification
- Japan-military presence
- China-debt and cybersecurity
Role of the U.S.

- Regional groupings—APEC, ASEAN, Six Party Talks (Russia, Japan, South Korea, North Korea, China)
- Side meetings
- New Opportunities—Myanmar/Burma
- Engagement
Questions