

STEPS Students Report

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(i) the subjects of my research

The subject of my research is related to the relationship between Russia and America. The relationship of these two countries has been the focus of attention for a long time from the age of the cold war, because the relation may affect the world situation.

Therefore, my broad research interest is the relationship of these countries.

In addition, in 2017, Trump won the election of U.S. president against the expectations by many researchers. I think this winning may affect the relationship between Russia and America, because Trump's personality is very different from the former president Obama and he belongs to Republican Party.

Considering the resent situation, I researched the 3 points as below;

- the points of the conflicts between Russia and America
- what Russian think about Crimea problem
- what Russian think about U.S. President Trump

(ii) my achievements in the research subjects

During the stay, I searched literatures via Internet sites, like International Affairs, Moscow times, Validai club and so on. Then I interviewed my professor to know more detail.

From my research, I found some points as I write after.

First, Russia-U.S. relationship become the worst since the end of the Cold war considering the law of U.S. sanctions in August 2017. This law names Russia as an adversary of U.S. officially. Why they see Russia as an adversary? There are some issues between these two countries. One of the main conflicts is ABM, missile defense system. Another is Syria problem. And the third is Crimea problem.

Crimea was reintegrated by Russian military in 2014. Many European countries and America criticized this military action, but Russian people do not have the same opinion. Second finding is about this. For Russian people, reintegration of Crimea is not illegal (when I told about this I said "annexation," but my professor told me such a phrase has wrong meaning and I should say "reintegration" instead.) rather a kind of justice.

Originally, Crimea was one of the important strategic areas for Russia. However, Khrushchev decided to devolve administration of Crimea to Ukraine in 1954 in order to

get political support from Ukraine, because he was Ukrainian and he had to consolidate his political base. Many Russian people think this devolution was the wrong thing. And in these days, there are many discrimination of Russian in Ukraine and it is said that Ukraine troop killed many Russian people in Ukraine and that Putin protected Russian from the troop and prevented the civil war. My Professor told me there are much information gap between Russia and America and such a bias in report make these position gaps between these countries.

Finally, I tried to search how Russian people think about President Trump. However, as some websites show, Russian people do not have interest in Trump because they have interests only in their lives. Just like Japanese people, most of people in Russia have no interests in foreign policy and the President of foreign countries. I saw some Trump matryoshka in Russia. Maybe the change of the President of foreign country is just some kinds of events just like Japan.

Before I came to Russia, I was worried about the life in Russia because I have no experience of the long stay in foreign country and I thought Russia as a terrible country. However, Russian people (from observer in museum to my Russian friends) are very kind to me, even though I cannot speak Russian so well. Through this stay, I changed my image of Russia. And as the finding I found through my research, there are many ignorance and biases in the world like my bias before this stay. I think we have to know the real not via some biased media but via our own experiences.

