

# **Human Rights, NGOs, and Foreign Policy**

## **Case Studies of Japanese Foreign Policy Toward Indonesia and Myanmar and Efforts of Human Rights NGOs**

**Atsuko Yokobori**

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**Deborah J. Milly, Chair  
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Jeff J. Corntassel**

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**Atsuko Yokobori**

#### **(ABSTRACT)**

One of the elements that have often been neglected in the study of foreign policy is the role of norms and ideas. While human rights standards were formalized and became to be recognized as international norm, it is still not clear whether or how human rights affect the foreign policy of specific states. In the case of Japan, its foreign policy is often characterized by hesitance to take a decisive action for human rights and dictation of economic interest. In this paper the influence of human rights on Japanese foreign policy is examined through the study of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in Japanese politics, as new political actors that speak for the norm of international human rights in Japanese politics. Japanese NGOs have achieved a dramatic development in the 1980s and 1990s, and today they are recognized as important entities in Japanese society. In their challenging political environment that consists of Japan's hesitance in the area of human rights and strong influence of the business sector, NGOs adopt various strategies and tactics to influence Japan's decision making of foreign policy. Case studies examine active NGOs networks in Japan that work for human rights and democracy in East Timor and Burma and develop an in-depth analysis of their operation styles, foci, and organizations.

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## **Vita**

### **Atsuko Yokobori**

Atsuko Yokobori, the eldest of two children and the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Katsuhisa Yokobori, was born on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1973 in Chigasaki, Japan. She received here Associates of Arts in English from Obirin Junior College located in Tokyo, Japan in March 1995 and graduated as one of the top five students in her class. In May of 1999 she graduated from Winona State University with a degree in Bachelor's of Arts in Political Science with Sum Cum Laude. She matriculated to Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in August of 2000 to pursue her Master's of Art in Political Science.

Her interests include human rights, cultural studies, education and traveling.