

Japanese and American college students'

View on Issues with North Korea



Keiko Freeland
Yuma Kaida
Jonathan Phan

Advisors:

Dr. Yoshiko Saito-Abbott, Dr. Shigeeko Sekine

Outline

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- Research Questions
- Research Background
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Significance of the Study

Keiko Freeland:

As a Japanese citizen, I am concerned about the safe return of abducted Japanese citizens. I am also terrified by North Korea's action toward Japanese people, and I would like to know what the Japanese and the American government will do in response to that behavior.

Yuma Kaida:

When I study abroad to Japan, I saw North Korean news aired frequently and me born and raised in America I never thought about North Korea becoming an issue so I wanted to know American students point of view towards North Korea.

Jonathan Phan:

With hearing news about missile launching tests and threats of Nuclear weapons, I began to worry and started to wonder about the issues that causes tension with North Korea. I also wanted to know whether or not my peers feel the same way.

Research Questions

1. What is the Japanese and American students' perception towards the North Korean leadership?
2. What North Korean conflicts are Japanese and American students aware of?
3. What solutions to the North Korea conflicts are Japanese and American students aware of?

Research Background Outline

- History of North Korea and the Kim family
- Conflicts with North Korea
 - Japanese abduction issue
 - Nuclear weapon experiment and missile launch experiment
- North Korean leadership
 - Comparison of government structure and military expenditure between North Korea and the US
 - Human rights issues and how North Korean legislation passes laws
- Possible solutions for issues with North Korea
 - New sanctions
 - Peaceful discussions with North Korea

Glance of History in N. Korea



After WWII - 1948

- America and Russia temporary split Korea at the 38 parallel line
South-Korea was protected by the U.S.
North-Korea under Soviet Union influence
The Soviet Union chose Kim Il-Sung as a leader of the N. Korea

Political Actions of the Kim-family



1994-2011: Kim Jong-Il

2011 - : Kim Jong-Un

1972-1994: Kim Il-Sung

**Controlled Citizens
International Travel
All media
Possession**

**Started abduction of
Japanese citizens**

**Highly dependent
on trade and aid
from Soviet Union**



**Weak economy
and people
suffering from
hungry**

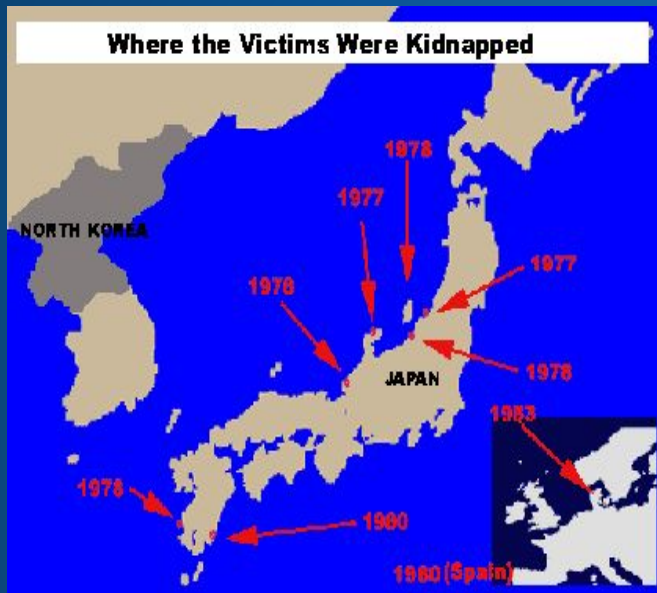
**Nuclear weapons
development
program**

**Missiles launching
experiments**

**More violation of
Human rights**

Growth of Military Power →
(Sang-Hunau, 2017)

Kim Il-Sung started Abduction of Japanese Citizens



When: 1970's-1980

Where: Japan's shoreline
And in Europe

How many kidnapped:
17 people, possibly more
(Boynton, 2016)

Purposes:

1. Sending N. Korean spies who pretend to be Japanese citizens to S. Korea
2. The kidnapped Japanese citizens taught Japanese language and customs for N. Korean spy training

(Think, 2007)

Government Responses to the Abductions

Japanese Government	N. Korea Government
Protested to N. Korea	Denied for 20 years
September 2002, Prime Minister Koizumi visited Kim Jong-II	Kim Jong-II acknowledged only 13 abduction and apologized October 2002, 5 victims were returned
Protests continues	Ignores the protests

North Korea and U.S. Government Comparison

North Korea

- Government System:
 - Socialist Republic
- Government's Role:
 - Increase military power and show power to other countries
- Kim Jong Un's Dictatorship

United States

- Government System:
 - Federal Republic under the U.S. Constitution
- Government's Role:
 - Divides power between the federal government and the states
- Democratic politics based on the constitution

Lawbreaking Punishments in North Korea and U.S.

North Korea

United States

- Felony:
 - Felony Example: Rebellion against the government, Food Theft
 - Punishment Ex: Public Death Penalty, Torture
- Minor Offense:
 - Minor Offense Example: Violence, Escaping to another country
 - Minor Punishment Ex: Death Penalty, Concentration Camps
- Felony:
 - Felony Example: Murder, Robbery, Arson
 - Punishment Ex: Death Penalty (By State) Jail Sentence
- Minor Offense:
 - Minor Offense Example: Shoplifting, Speed Violation
 - Minor Punishment: Warning, Fine

(North Korea and U.S Punishment, 2018)

Human Rights Issues in North Korea

Food Rights



Economic collapse of the Soviet Union weakened the economy of North Korea, and access to food drastically decreased.

Labor Rights



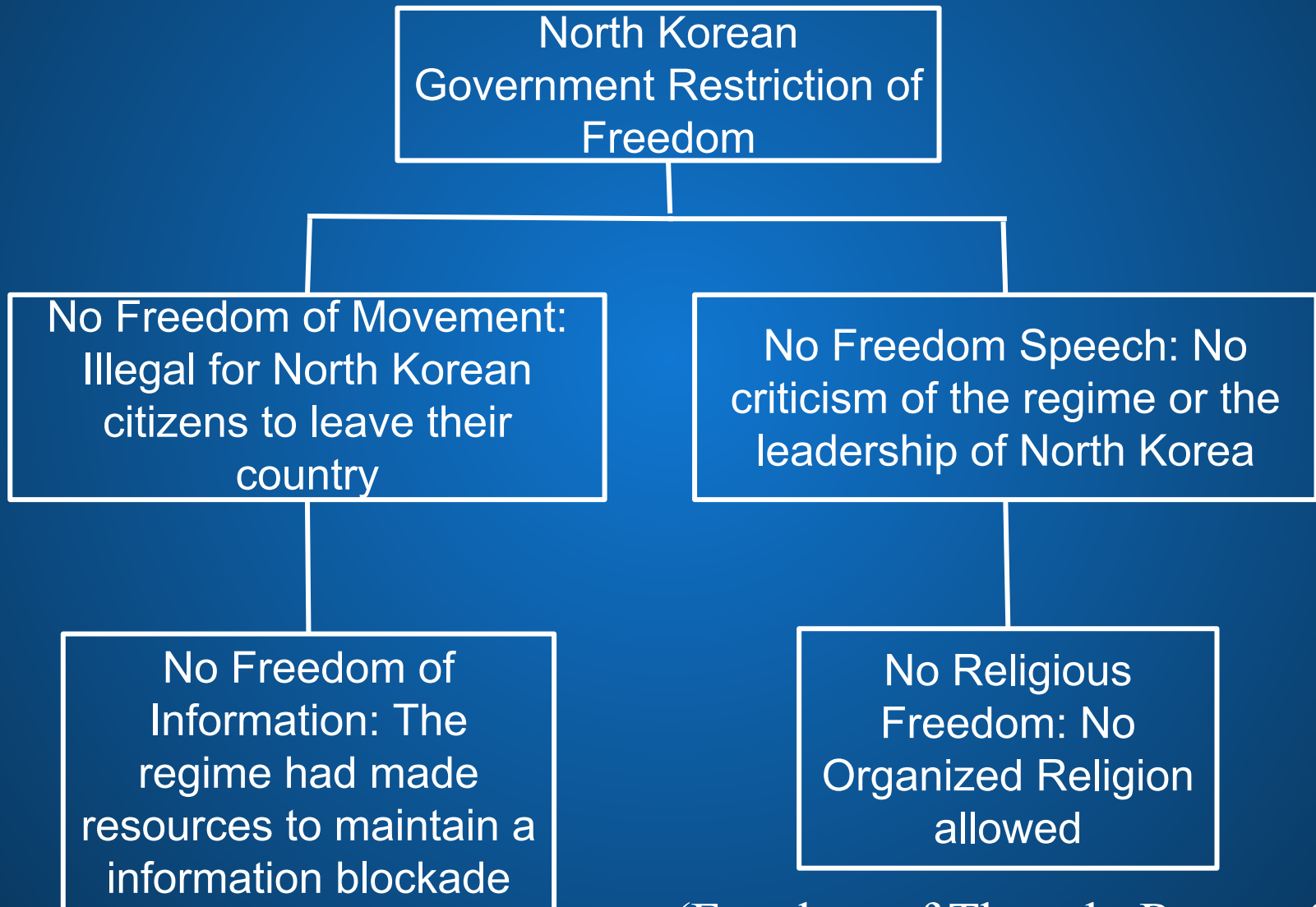
The North Korean government dispatched North Korean workers abroad and earned foreign currency income

Public Health



Easily preventable diseases such as tuberculosis and cataracts are suffering

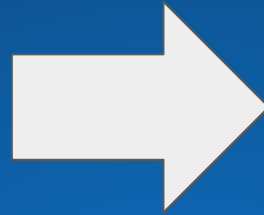
No Freedom in North Korea



(Freedom of Thought Report, 2017)

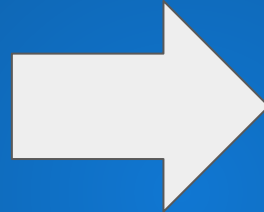
North Korean Government Passing Laws

Supreme People's
Assembly



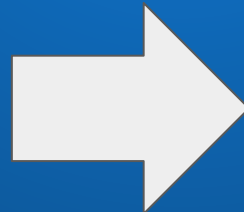
Determining state policy and budgets, adopting, amending

Presidium



Supervising Laws of state and ratify treaties with foreign countries

Cabinet of North Korea



Supplement regulations concerning state management: constitution and departmental laws

(Law of North Korea, 2018)

North Korea and U.S. Military Spending

North Korea

- Military Spending: \$10 Billion
 - (22% of the national budget)
- Neglect food production and education
- Focusing on military spending makes economy weak

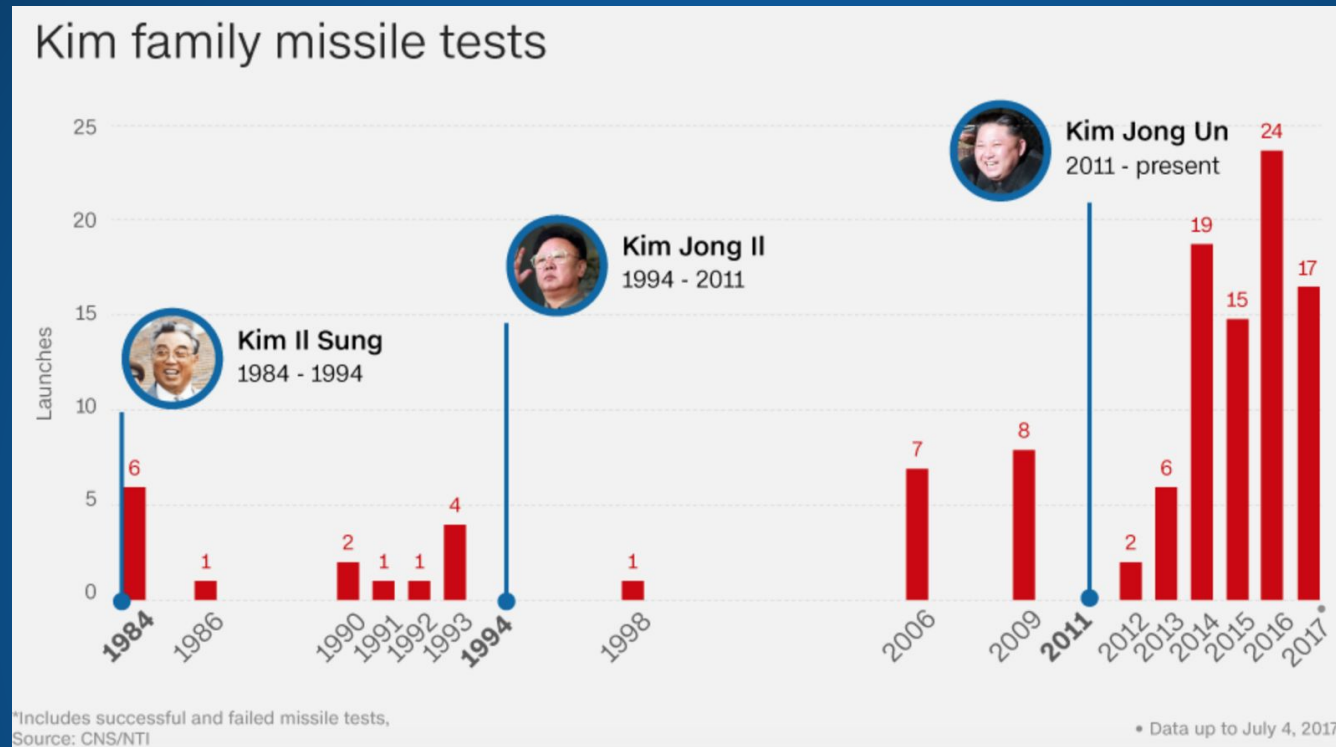
United States

- Military Spending: \$824.6 Billion
 - (57% of the National budget)
- Reduction of budget measures against global warming
- Significant Reduction of overseas aid

Focuses on military more than anything

Economic Downturn

Expanding Missile Program



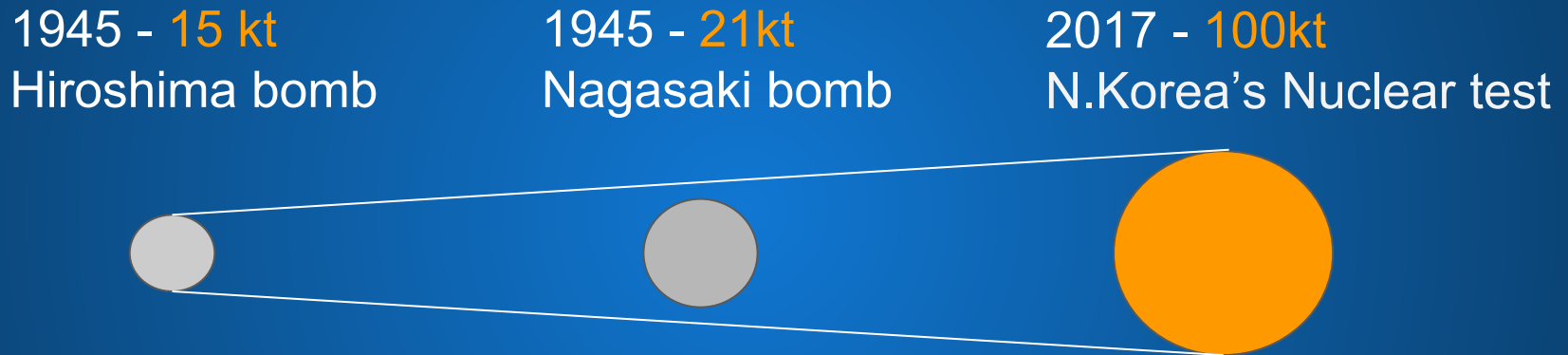
Kim Jong-Un's
Missile
program

Kim Jong-Un:

- Focuses on missile development
- Believes powerful weapons will deter foreign invasion
- Believes threats will attract international attention
- Thinks missile testing will lead to security guarantees

(Belvedere, 2017)

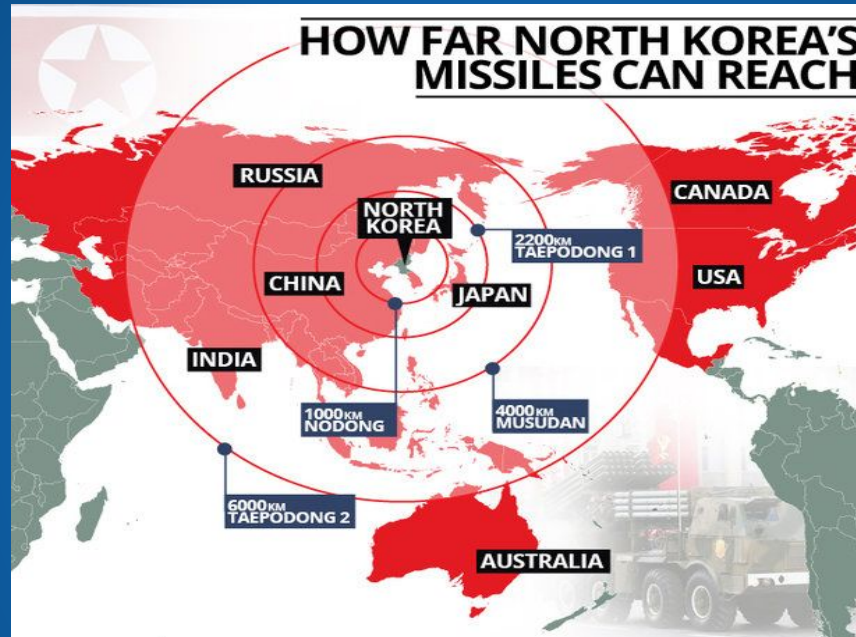
Comparison of North Korea's nuclear weapons explosive power



- In 2007, North Korea's bomb strength was 100 kiloton
 - That is four to six times more powerful than the nuclear bombs that were dropped on Hiroshima
 - (15 kiloton) and Nagasaki (21 kiloton) in 1945

N. Korea's Missile Range and The U.S. Missile Defence

Abd



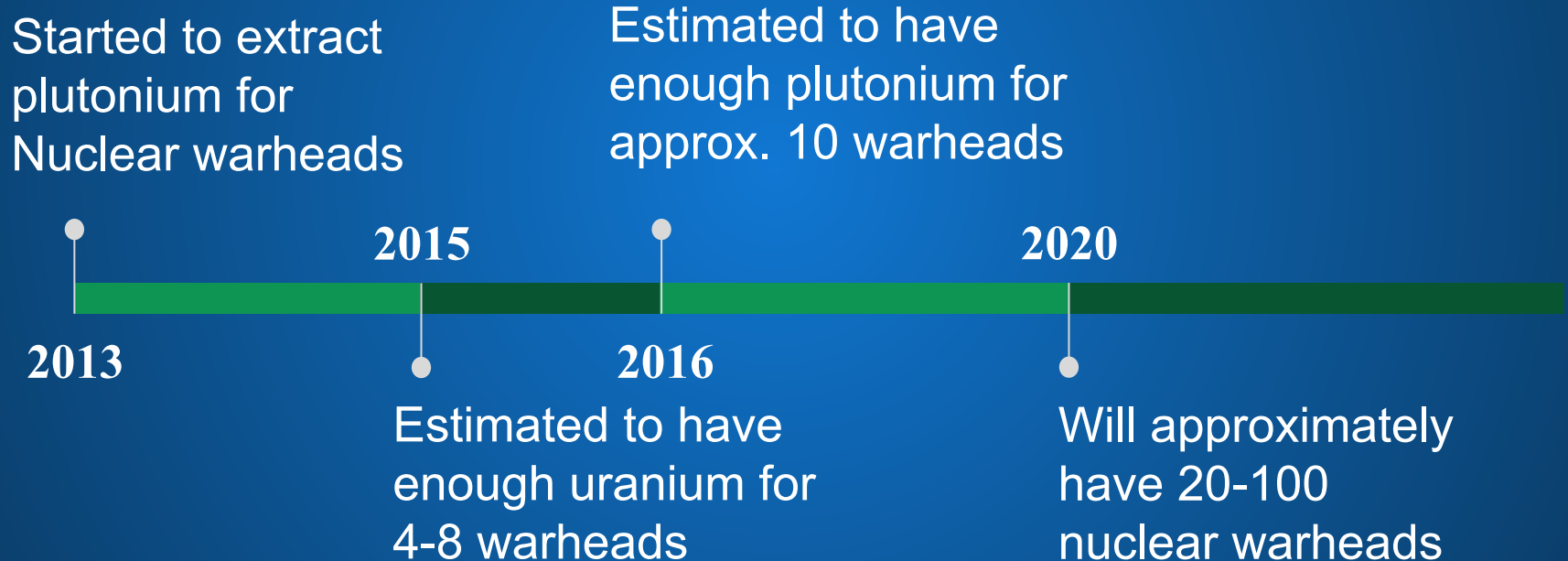
- N. Korea's missile can reach the U.S.

(Nevette, 2016)

- The U. S. has missile defense systems, reliability is still questionable

(Ferdinando, 2018)

Timeline of North Korea's Nuclear Development





Possible solutions to issues with North Korea:

- New Sanctions
- Talks with North Korea

What are New Sanctions?

The New Sanctions, proposed by President Trump and passed by the UN, allows the US Treasury Department to:

- bar an entity (company, bank, etc.) from US financial system
- seize assets of any individual it deems in violation of the New Sanctions
- Ban ship or aircrafts that made stops in North Korea from the US for 180 days

Old Sanctions vs New Sanctions

Old Sanctions

New Sanctions

- Proposed by the Obama administration
- Actions taken by United Nations
- Focused on activities that may have funded for the Nuclear Program

- Aimed to stop North Korea's Nuclear Program

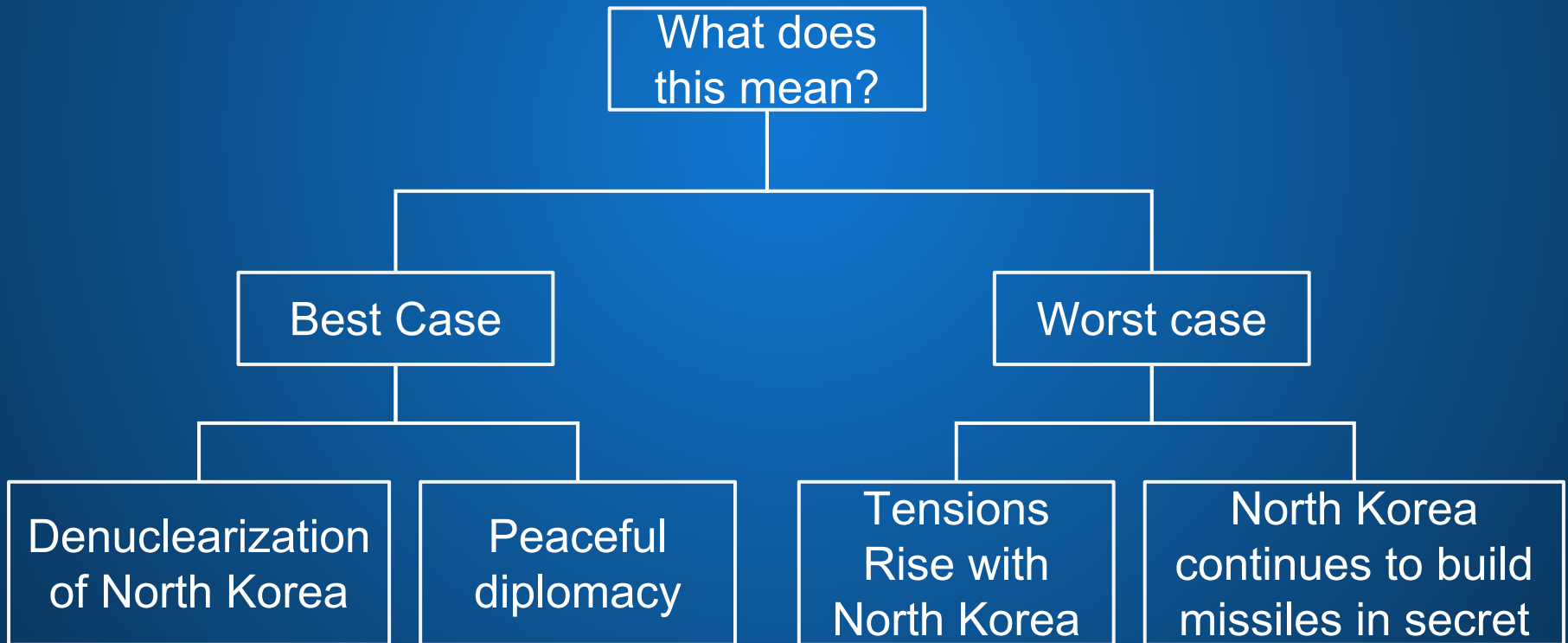
- Proposed by the Trump administration
- Actions taken by United States
- Focused on activities involving North Korea's Economy

What has happened so far:

- American military boarded suspected vessels bound for North Korea
- Blacklisted 28 ships
 - The countries the ships belong to are: China, North Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, Hong Kong, the Marshall Islands, Tanzania, Panama, and Comoros

Talks with North Korea

- Leader to Leader meeting scheduled for May 2018
- No missile testing during this time





Our Survey
Research method
and Results

Research Method

Subjects:

- Japanese college students: 46 students
 - Ages 18+
 - Male: 7, Female: 38, Other: 1
- American college students: 40 students
 - Ages 18+
 - Male: 18, Female: 22

Survey Instruments:

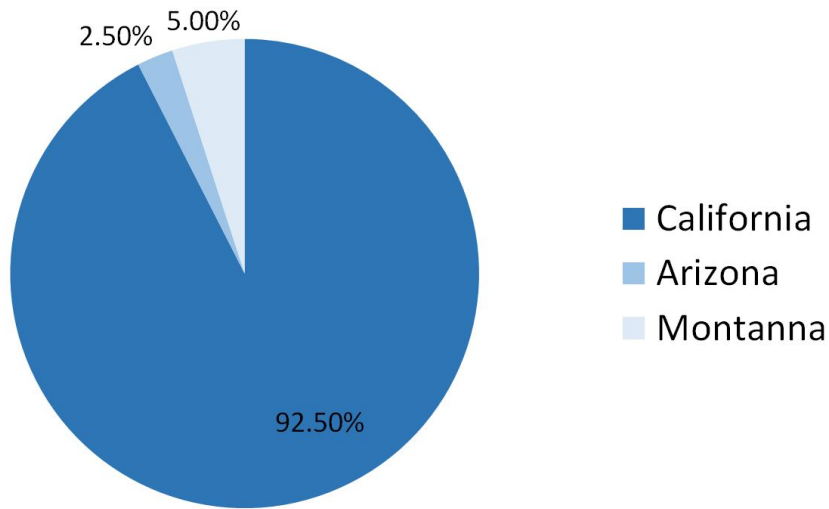
Google survey form:

[Japanese](#)

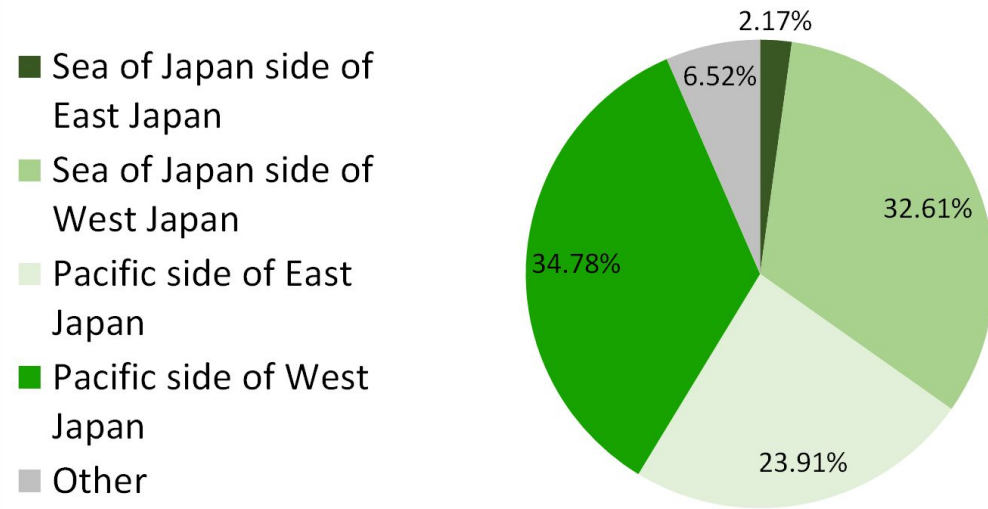
[English](#)

Where the Students are from

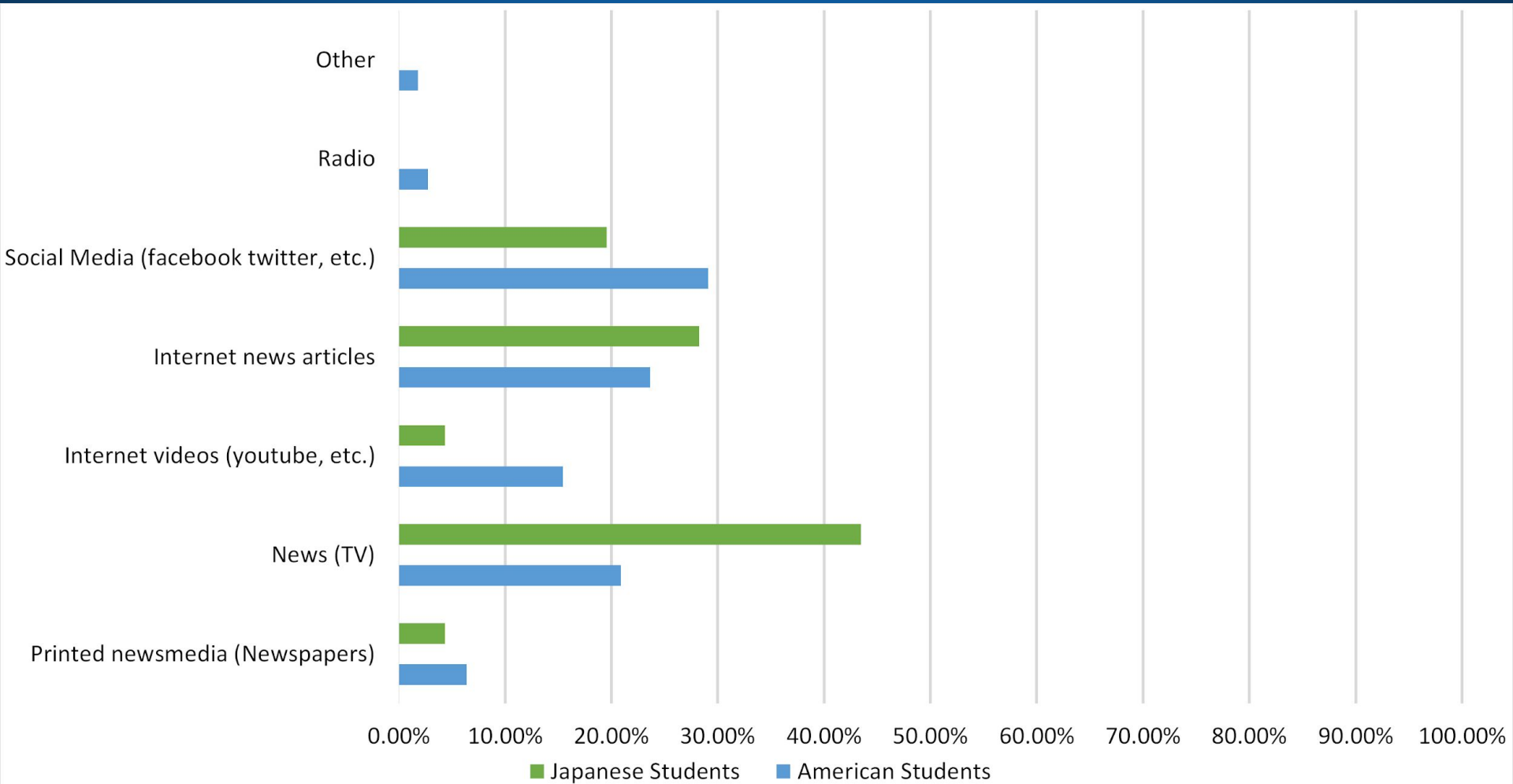
American Students



Japanese Students



Students' source of news on North Korea



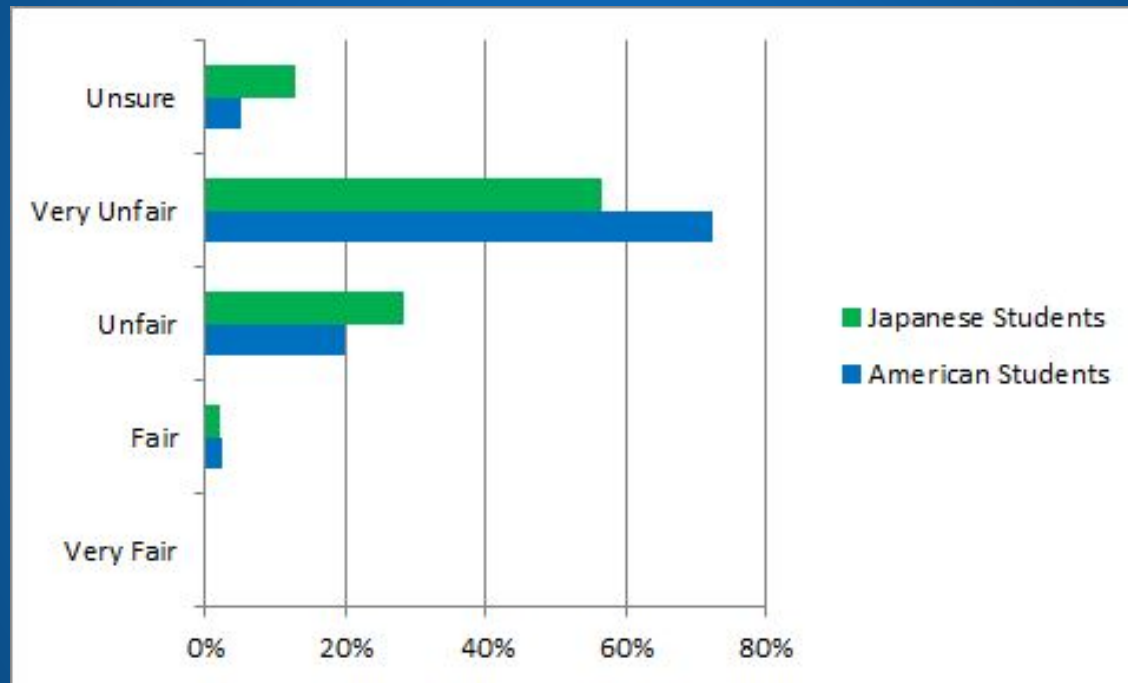
Most Japanese college students get their information from TV news programs, while many American college students use social media such as Facebook and Twitter as their source of information on North Korea.



Research Question 1:

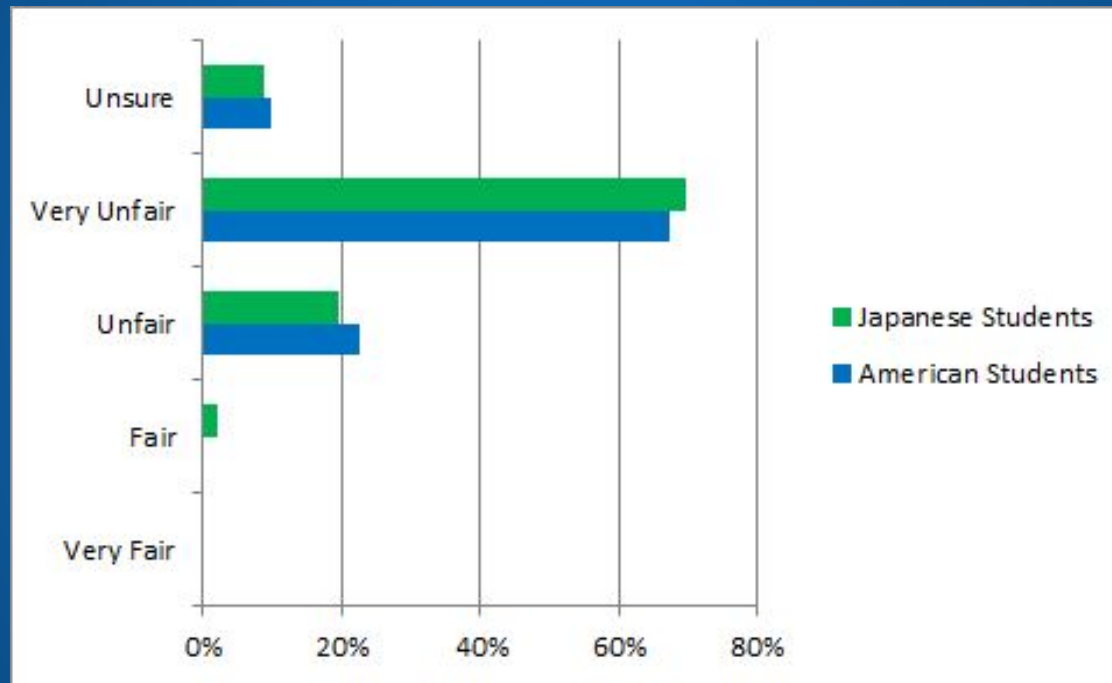
What is the Japanese and American students' perception towards the North Korean leadership?

What do you think about the North Korean Leadership?



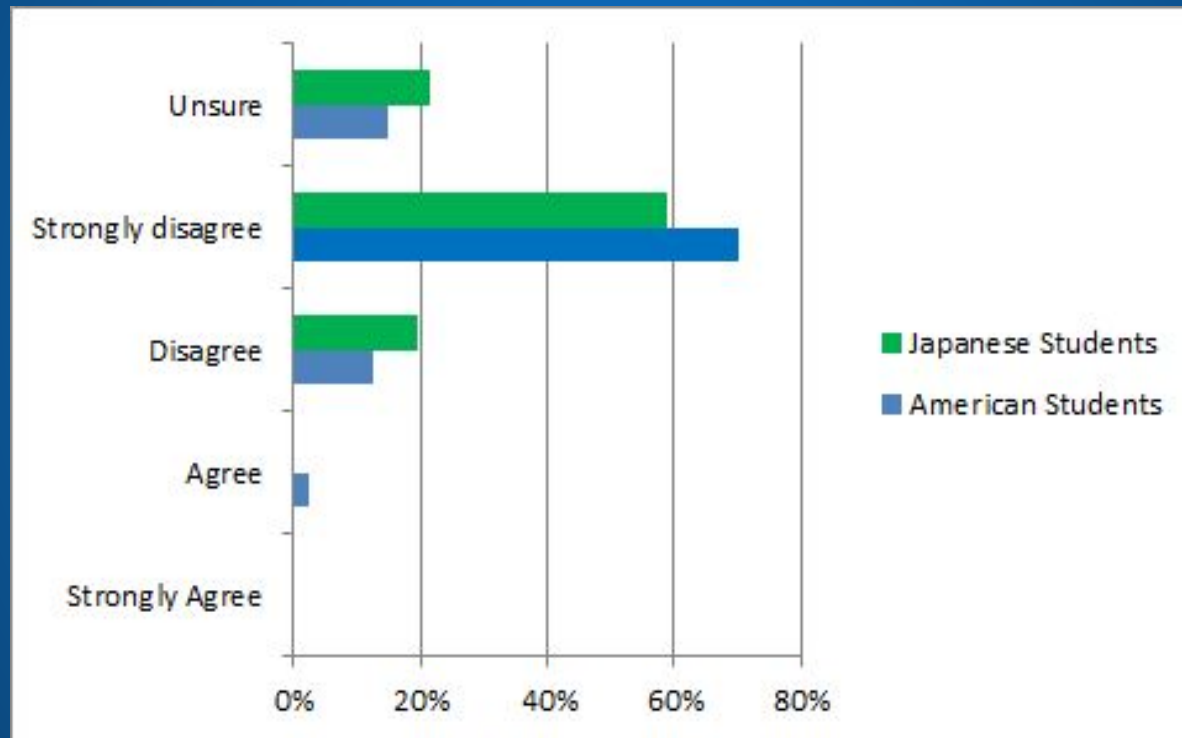
Both American and Japanese Students think that North Korean Leadership is Unfair

How fair do you believe North Korean citizens are treated as human beings?



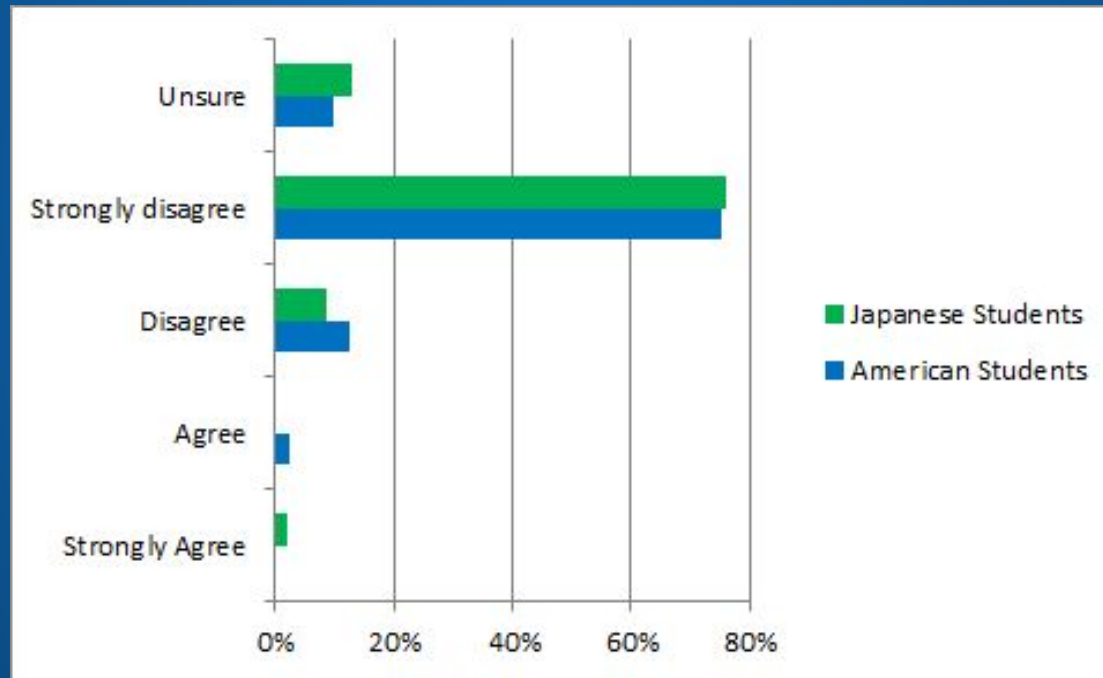
More than 60% of Americans and Japanese students believe North Korean citizens are treated unfairly

To what extent do you agree with the way North Korea's Leadership handles Law-breaking citizens?



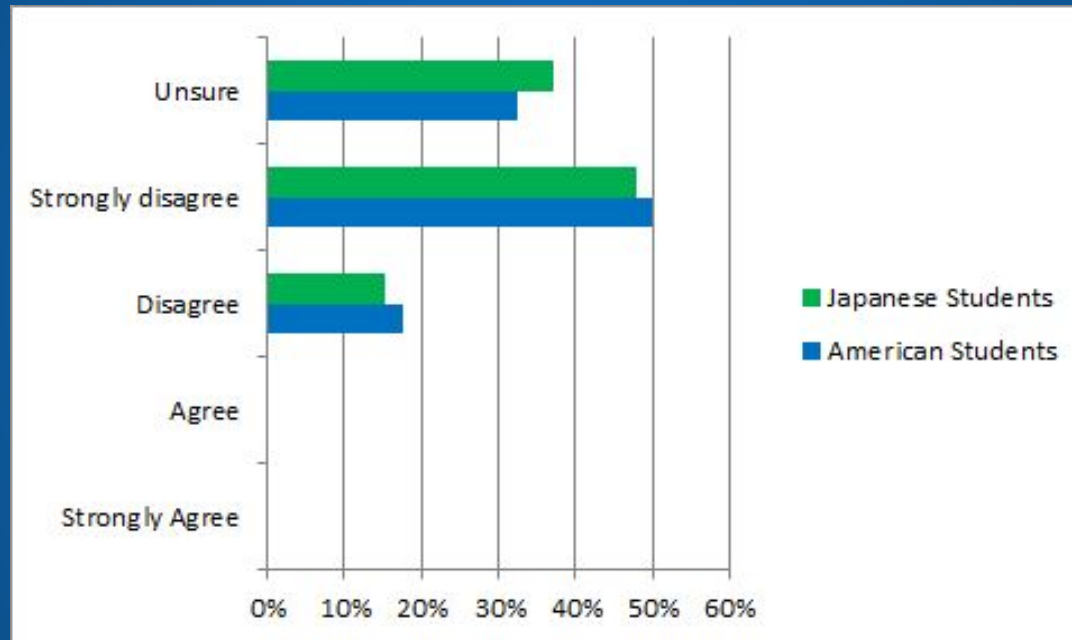
70% of Americans and 58.7% of Japanese students feel unfair or very unfair about the government's response

To what extent do you agree with the way North Korea's leadership restricts freedom of speech for non government affiliated groups?



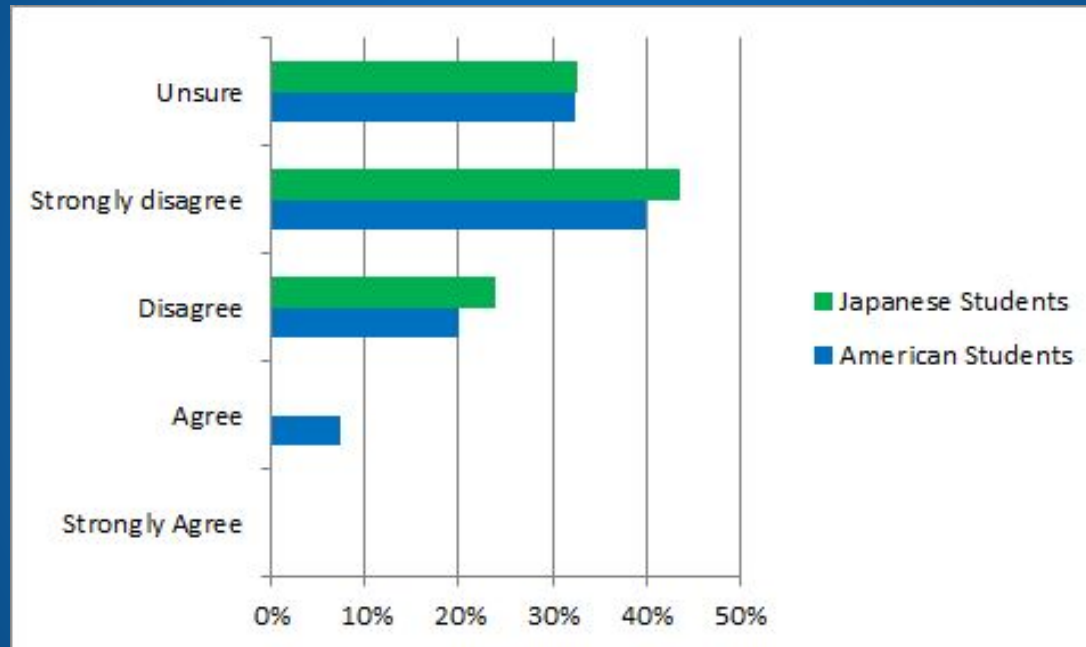
About 80% of Americans and Japanese students found that they do not support restrictions on freedom of speech

To what extent do you agree with the way North Korean leadership passes laws?



Most Americans and Japanese students found that they do not support the government's decisions on law. On the other hand, more than 30% of respondents said that they are unsure about it

To what extent do you agree with the amount North Korean leadership spends on their military?



Most Americans and Japanese students answered that they do not support the military budget of North Korea, but students who answered unsure also exceeded 30%

Summary of Research Question 1 Findings

Overall, Japanese and American students think that North Korean leadership doesn't treat its citizens fairly

Japanese and American students strongly disagree on the restriction of freedom. However, they were either unsure or had no opinion on how North Korea passes laws

Japanese students are more concerned about the ratio of North Korean government's spending to military spending than American students



Research Question 2:

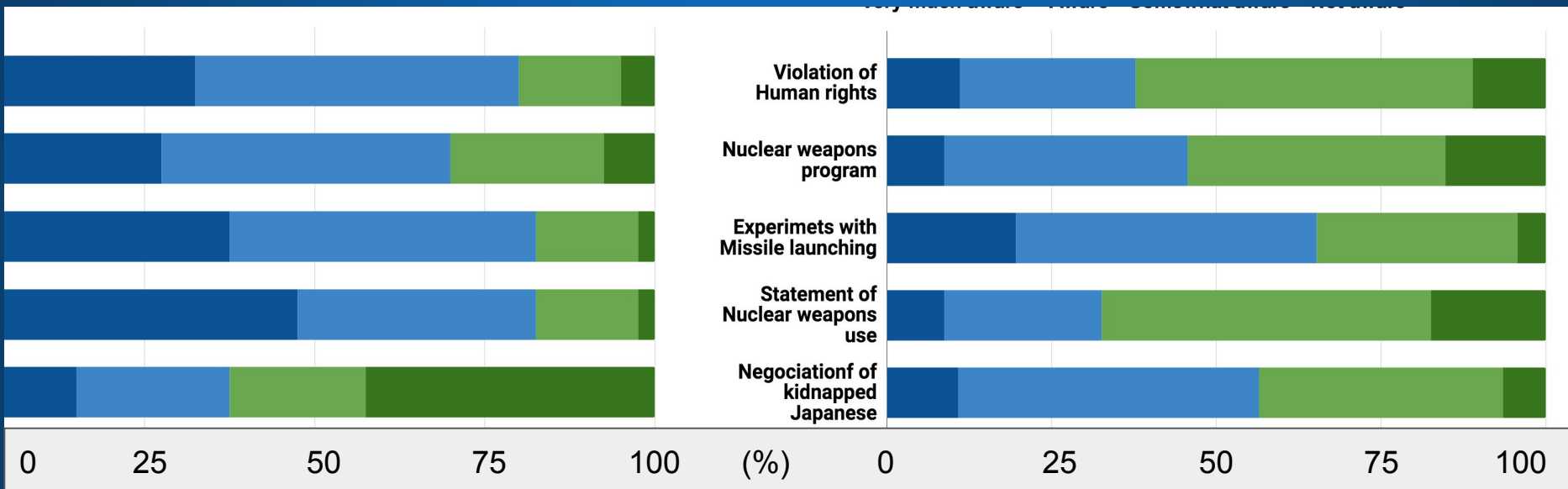
What North Korean conflicts are Japanese and American students aware of?

11. How much of the following North Korean conflicts are you aware of?

American students

Japanese students

Very much aware Aware Somewhat aware Not aware

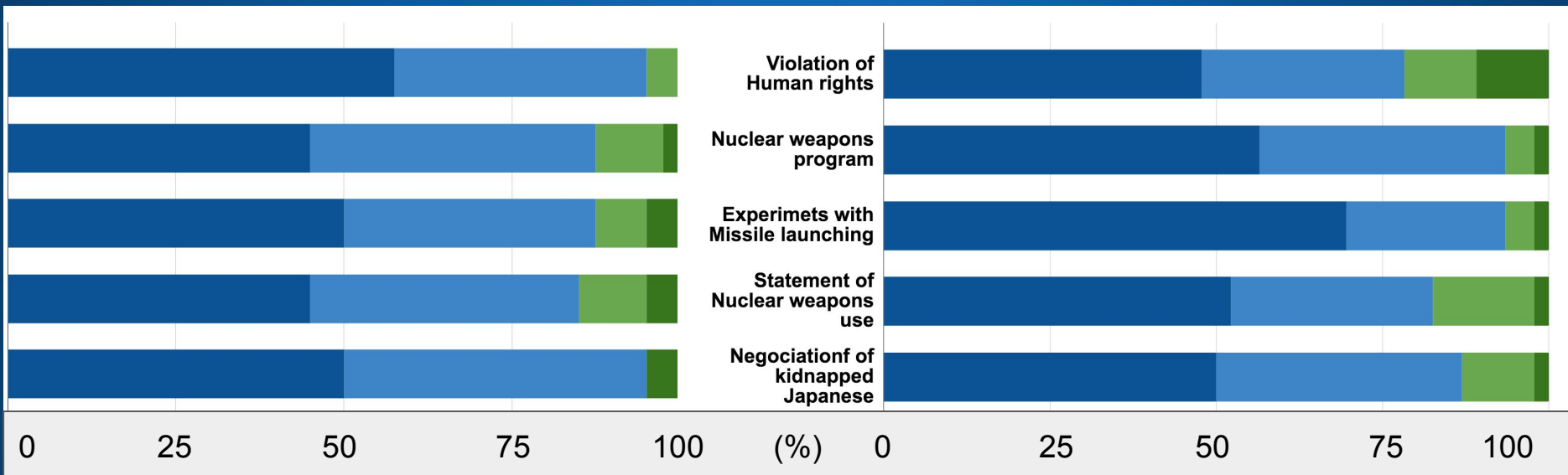


American students are aware of the violation of human rights, nuclear testing program, missile launching and statement of Nuclear use. However, American students are more aware of the N.Korean conflicts than Japanese students. Japanese students are more aware of the Negotiation for return of Japanese citizens than American students

12. What is your level of concern in regards to the following issues?

American students

Japanese students



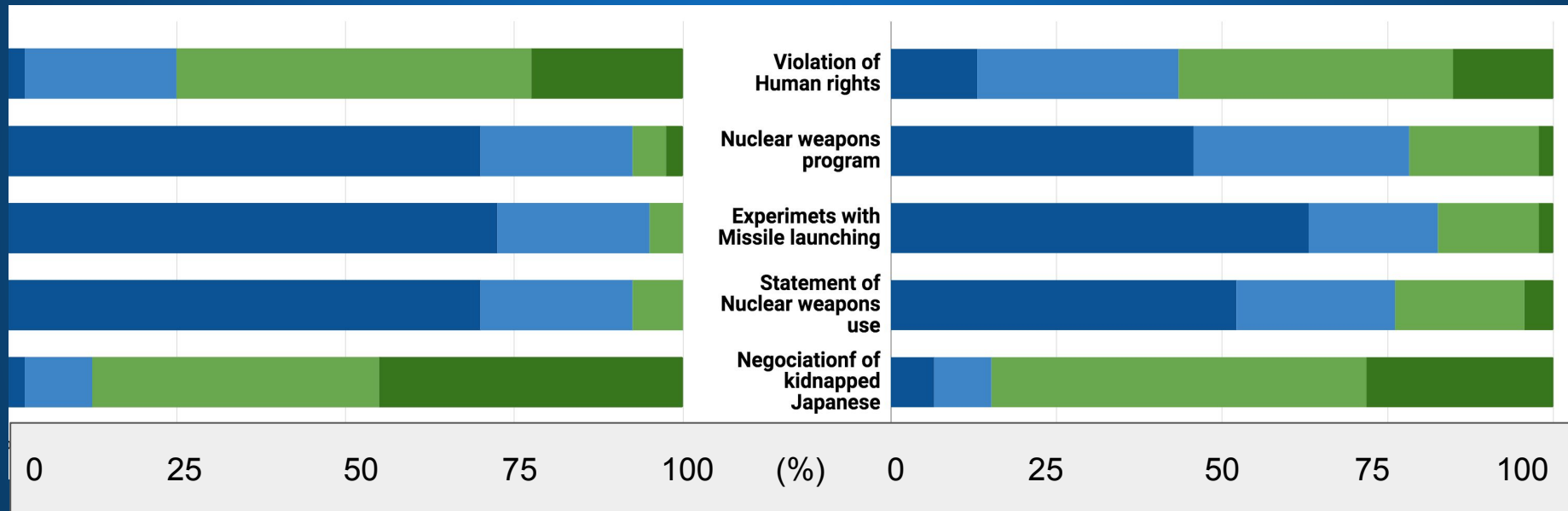
Majority of both **American** and **Japanese** students are concerned about issues with North Korea. However, **Japanese students** are more concerned than American students about Nuclear testing programs and Missile launching. On the other hand, about Violation of human rights and the negotiation for the return of Japanese citizens, **American students** are more concerned than American students

13. What do you think the AMERICAN GOVERNMENT's main concerns are in regards to the following issues?

American students

Japanese students

Strongly concerned Concerned Somewhat Concerned Not concerned



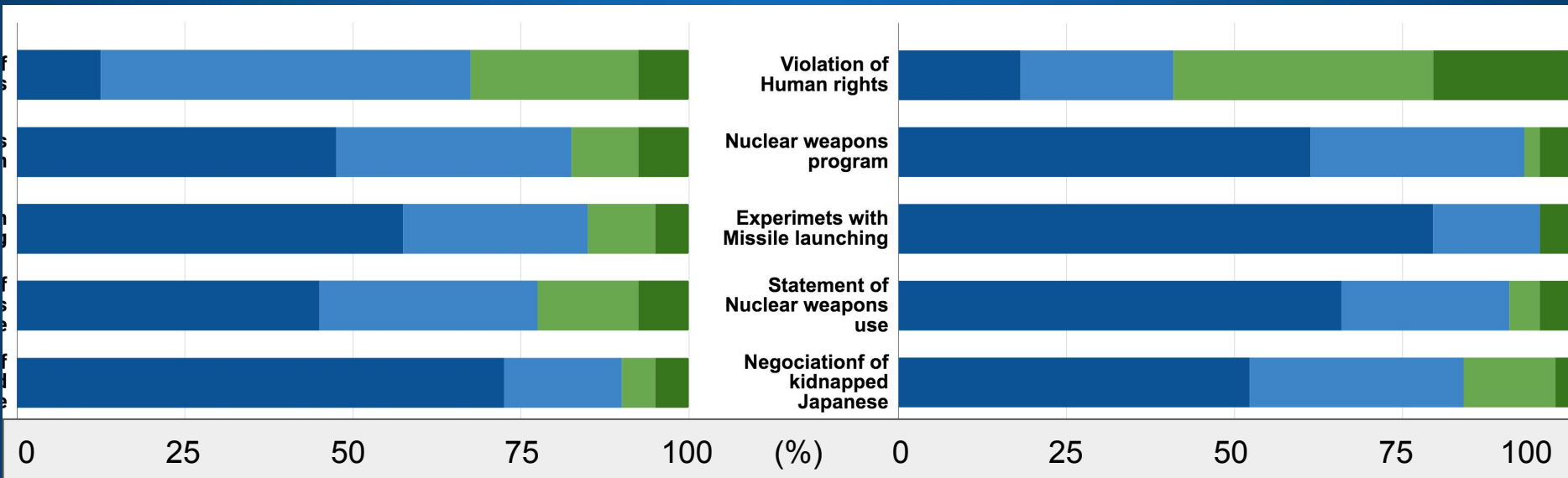
Over 90% of Americans and over 70% of Japanese students both think the American government is concerned about three main issues their Nuclear testing program and Missile launching. They are less concerned about the Violation of Human Rights or the Negotiation for the return of Japanese citizens

14. What do you think the JAPANESE GOVERNMENT's main concerns are in regards to the following issues?

American students

Japanese students

Strongly concerned Concerned Somewhat concerned Not concerned



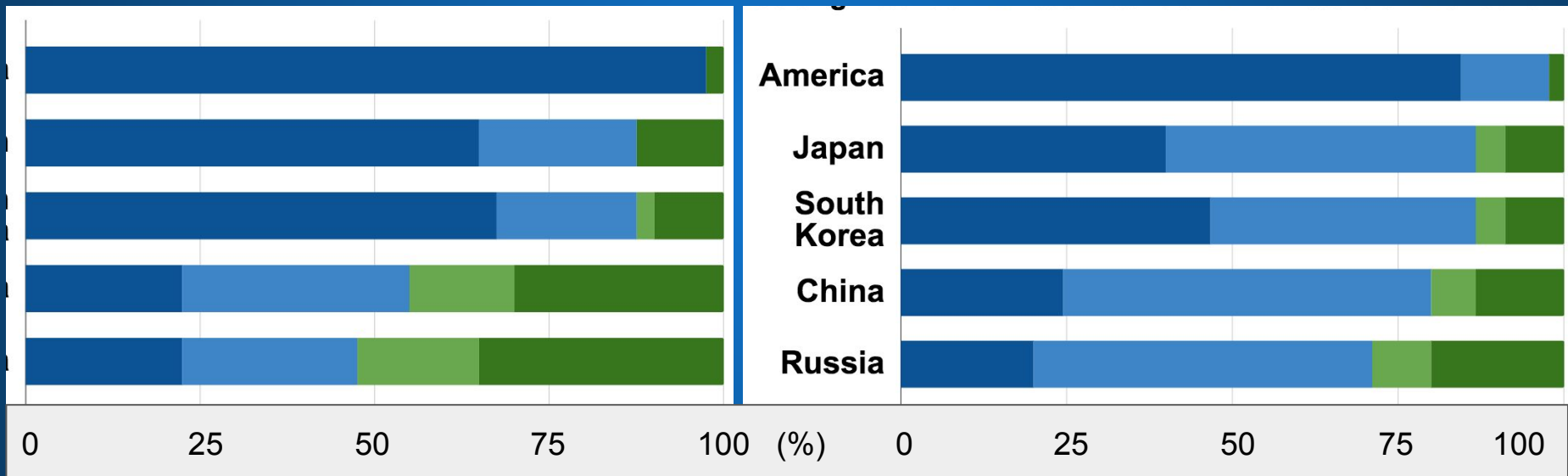
95% of Japanese students think Japanese government's main concern is "Experiments with missile launching". However, 90% of American students think Japanese government is mainly concerned about Negotiation for the return of Japanese citizens

15. Which country's attention was North Korea trying to attract when they tested their missile launching capabilities and nuclear weapons?

American students

Japanese students

Strong attention Little attention No attention Usure



97% of **American** and **Japanese students** think America's attention was the primary target country for North Korea's missile launching program. Japan and South Korea's attention followed America

Summary of Research Question 2. Findings

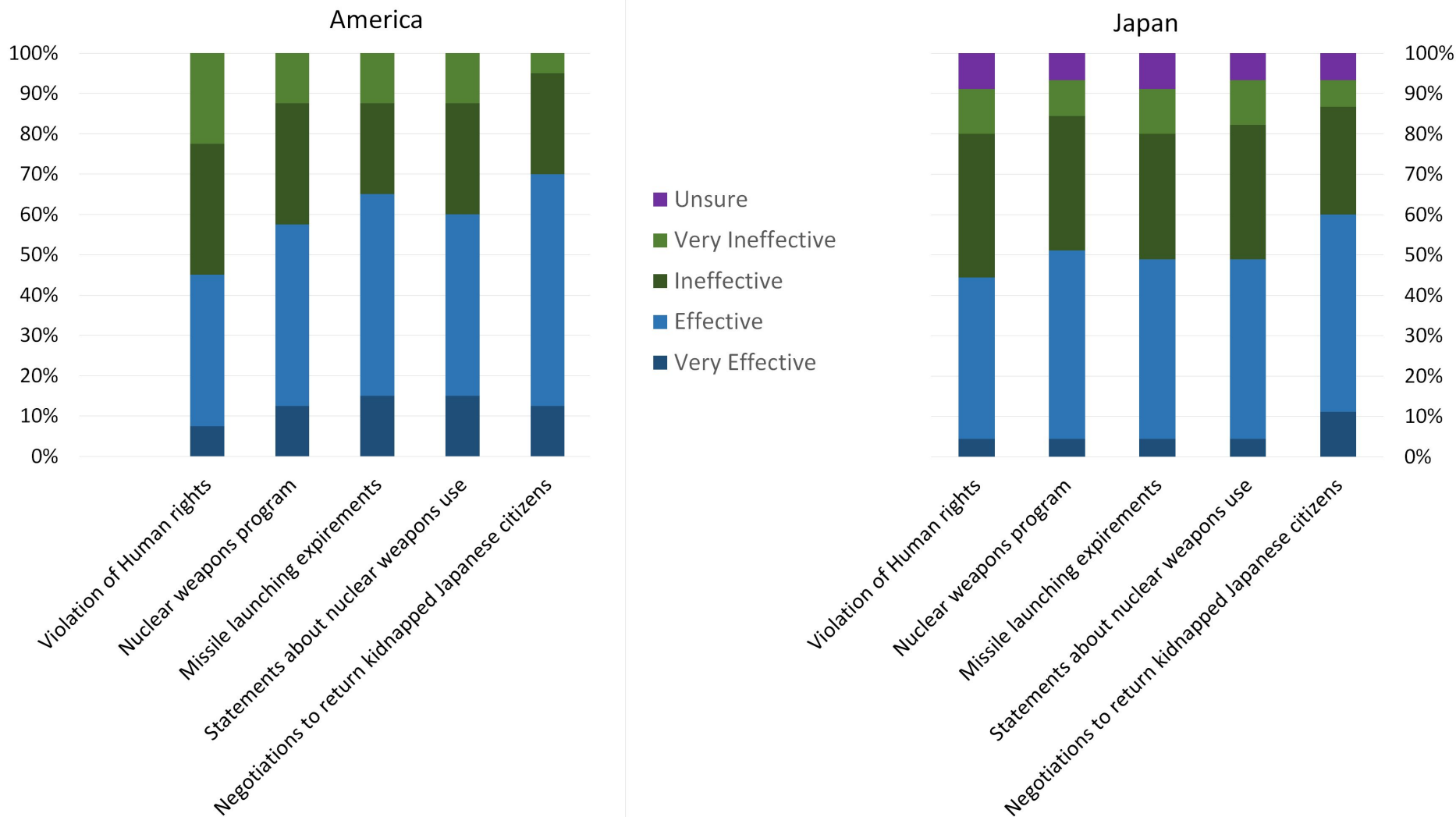
- Majority of both American and Japanese students are concerned about the North Korea's Nuclear development program, Nuclear use and Missile launching issues. On other hand, American students are more concerned about the negotiations for the return of Japanese citizens than Japanese students
- There are more American students than Japanese students who are concerned about the negotiations for the return of Japanese citizens. However, a majority of Japanese students think that the Japanese government is most concerned about Missile launch experiments
- Both American and Japanese students think that America is North Korea's target country for attention, and that Japan and Korea follow the U.S.A. in North Korea's targets of concern



Research Question 3:

What solutions to the North Korea conflicts are Japanese and American students aware of?

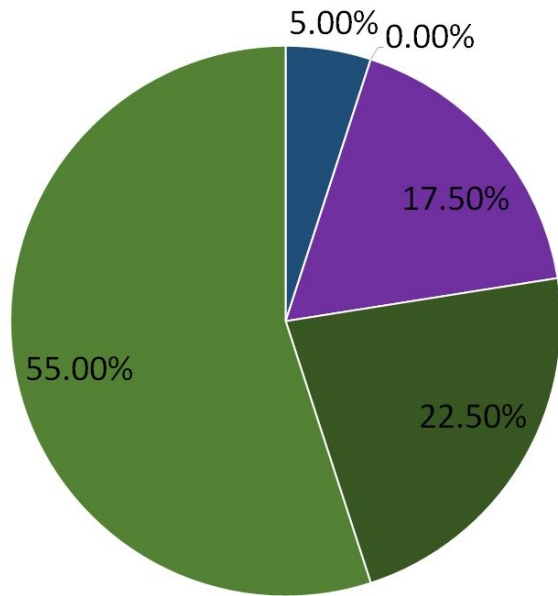
16. How effective do you believe PEACEFUL DISCUSSIONS will help resolve the following issues?



There is a large percentage of students (America and Japan) that believe **PEACEFUL DISCUSSIONS** will help with issues with North Korea

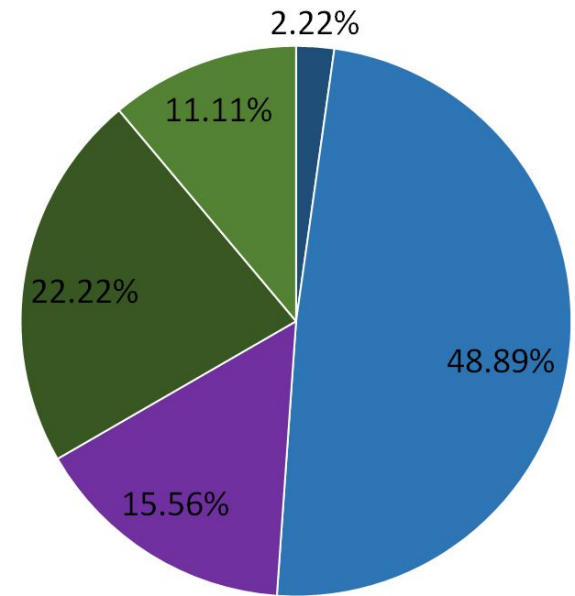
17. How effective, do you believe, are **STATEMENTS** used by President Trump for solving conflicts with North Korea and its nuclear weapons research and development?

American Students



- Very Effective
- Effective
- Unsure
- Ineffective
- Very Ineffective

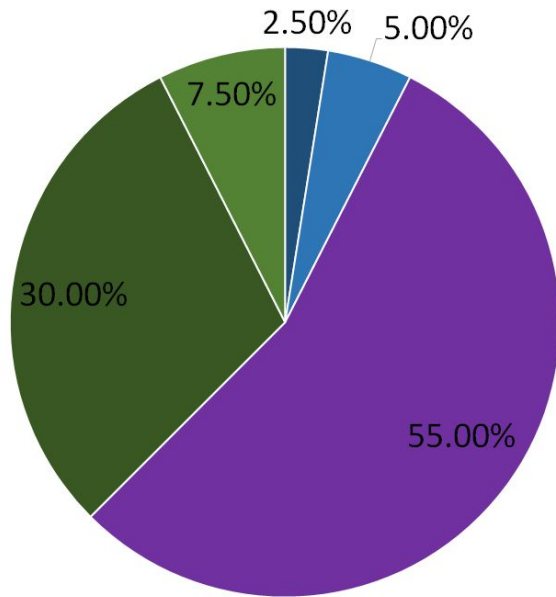
Japanese Students



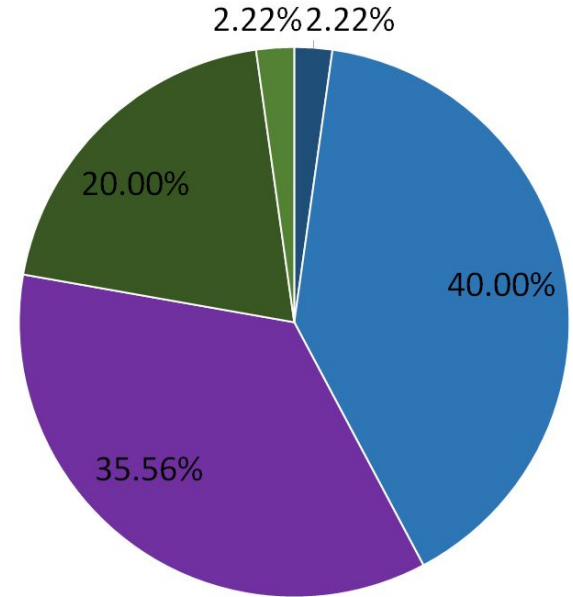
Approximately 50% of Japanese students believe that statements from President Trump are effective, while about 77% of American students think that they are ineffective

18. How effective do you believe the **NEW SANCTIONS** (Economical pressure from the UN proposed by President Trump) on North Korea will help stop the North Korean nuclear weapons research and development?

American Students



Japanese Students

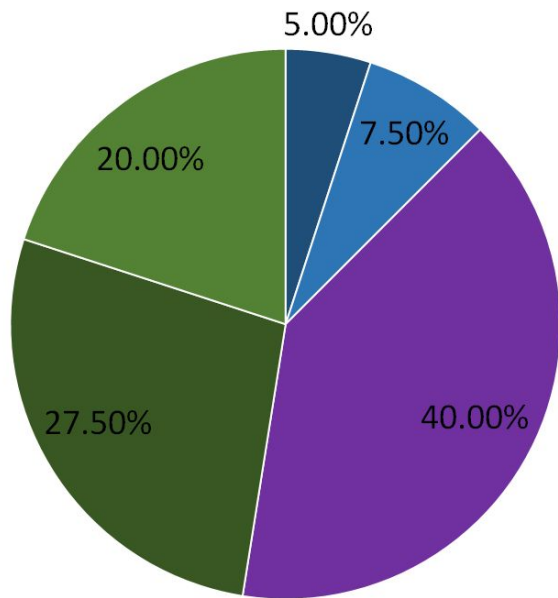


- Very Effective
- Effective
- Unsure
- Ineffective
- Very Ineffective

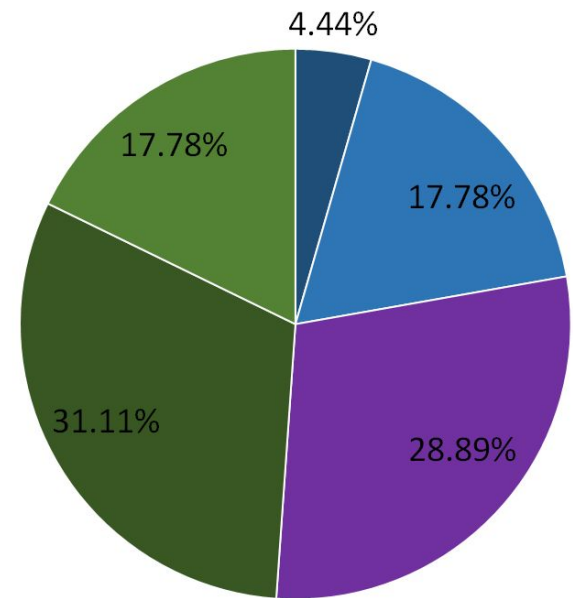
Approximately 40% of Japanese students believe **NEW SANCTIONS** can be effective, however 55% American students are unsure of the effectiveness

19. How effective do you believe taking **MILITARY ACTION** would help resolve conflicts with North Korea?

American Students



Japanese Students



- Very Effective
- Effective
- Unsure
- Ineffective
- Very Ineffective

Both groups of students' thoughts on the effectiveness of taking **MILITARY ACTION** were similar. However, there is approximately 10% more Japanese students that believe it will be effective

Summary of Research Question 3 findings

Half of the students in both countries think that peaceful talks are effective against the North Korean problem, but there is a slightly larger percentage of Japanese students who believe in the effectiveness of taking military actions

Regarding statements by President Trump to resolve North Korea's nuclear weapons retention and development program, nearly half of Japanese believe it will be effective, but most American students believe it will be ineffective

While the number of students in the United States who responded that sanctions are effective is very small, nearly half of Japanese students think that it will be effective

Conclusion & Discussion

Most of the students in both U.S. and Japan have negative views toward the North Korean government, which is probably due to the influence of the media. Also, there are students who answered unsure because the North Korean government is closed and the information is not disclosed and it's not possible to know the exact system.

Japanese students have growing concerns about North Korea's nuclear weapons development and missile launch tests, which may be due to Japan's changing security measures. American students have shown a strong concern about the violation of human rights and the return of Japanese citizens. This may be because of American students coming from a diverse and individualistic rights-focused country.

In terms of the validity of President Trump's statement, new sanctions and military action, the opinions of both students are different. However, many students in Japan and the United States think that there is a possibility that peaceful discussion may settle conflicts with North Korea, but the percentage of Japanese students who want to be more assertive is slightly higher than American students.

Current Events with North Korea

- North-South Korea peace summit realized after 11 years (April 27, 2018)
- Kim Jong-Un and President Moon Jae-in have started negotiations:
 - Signed a joint declaration aimed at denuclearization, peace consolidation, development of inter-Korean relations
- Expectations for the resolution of Japanese abductee victims are increasing



Limitation of the Study and Future Research

Limitations:

- Due to the closed national situation of North Korea and the subjects that change day by day, it was difficult to find an accurate and academic information source for research background
- Questionnaire survey participants were numerous women
- Majority of our American participants are from California

Future Research:

- Develop and expand our research on North Korea's nuclear weapons development
- About the lives of returned Japanese abductees
- What daily life is like for North Korean citizens

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