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## Liberalism

### ▪ Introduction

In this section, I want to explain the reason why I choose this IR theory liberalism from several IR theories. The main reason is I am feeling that the practice of international relations are supposed not to have been accommodating to liberalism today. For example, Donald Trump was elected President of the United States, the people in the U.K. decided to leave the EU, and there are many news about military reinforcement in the U.S and in North Korea. We can relate these things to not liberalism but realism easily. So today we cannot find international relations of liberalism easily (so I think there are few students who select liberalism in this essay).

On the other hand, how do you think about recent world situation? Do you feel it improve? Actually, I do not feel it improve rather than before. Thus, I think it is necessary to use liberalism idea to improve the recent world situation. Therefore, I think understanding liberalism is important to improve it and want to try to find case study of international relations using liberalism in the recent world.

### ▪ Definition of liberalism

Liberalism is a one of the major international relations theories, and it is also called as idealism and pluralism. Liberal states are "pacific" because their goal is the flat world respecting international laws and international organizations. There are four dimensions of liberalism. First, all citizens are equal and possess certain ,basic rights to education, access to a free press, and religious toleration. Second, the legislative assembly of the state possesses only the authority invested in it by the people, whose basic rights it is not permitted to abuse. Third, a key dimension of the liberty of the individual is the right to own property, including productive forces. Fourth, liberalism contends that the most effective system of economic exchange is one that is largely market driven and not one that is subordinate to bureaucratic regulation and control, either domestically or internationally. Besides, liberalism consider each country should emphasize international order rather than themselves because international order, such as international laws and international organizations is important to make a peace in international relations.

### ▪ The history of liberalism

The philosophical basis of liberalism is diverse, and Bentham's Utilitarianism and Kant's world peace theory are mentioned as the origin. Immanuel Kant and Jeremy Bentham were two of the leading liberals of the Enlightenment. Both were reacting to the barbarity of international

relations, or what Kant graphically described as "the lawless state of savagery", at a time when domestic politics was at the cusp of a new age of right, citizenship, and constitutionalism. Early liberalism thought on international relations took the view that the natural order has been corrupted by undemocratic state leaders and outdated policies such as the balance of power. Enlightenment liberals believed that a latent cosmopolitan morality could be achieved through the exercise of reason and through the creation of constitutional states.

Liberalism was powerful after the First World War and the end of the Second World War. Therefore, they could succeed to establish the United Nations, and then the European Union. However, the hope of this theory was soon extinguished by the return of cold war. In addition, after 9/11, the pendulum has once again swung towards the realist pole as the USA and its allies have sought to consolidate their power and punish those whom they define as terrorists and the states that provide them with shelter.

- The differences between realism and liberalism.

What are differences between realism and liberalism? The main difference is that realism considers relative profit but liberalism considers absolute profit. Realism always compares other countries to protect own country. It had power in colonial period because at that time, they had to protect and expand their colonies rather than other countries. They always think that the opponent's gains compete with their own gains. So they often hesitate agreements and treaties with other countries. On the other hand, liberalism gives priority to increasing the collective profit even though it makes one's position weak relatively by cooperating. So if it can improve the collective situation, they do not hesitate to make the agreements and treaties. A lot of treaties, such as liberalization of logistics and common use of money in the E.U. are symbols of this theories. Therefore, unlike realism, which regards the "international" as an anarchic realm, liberalism seeks to project values of order, liberty, justice, and toleration into international relations.

Another difference is that liberalism argues determinant of national behavior is the preference of the state rather than the capacity of the state unlike realism argues determinant of national behavior is the capacity of the state. Thus, liberalism considers there are many factors, such as culture, economy, politics in one country.

- Neoliberalism

In this section, it will explain neoliberalism briefly because it is necessary to understand today's liberalism. Neoliberalism appeared as response of neorealism and structural realism that still says power is the most important factor in international relations, and instead propose that structural-not strategy, egoism, or motivation-will determine behavior in international relations. Neoliberalism is focusing on cooperative action in a decentralized system. They say it is easier to cooperate countries under international role even though main actor is nation because the international system makes it easier to predict the movement of the surrounding countries.

- Case study

I suggest situation and culture in Silicon Valley as one case study of liberalism and there are several reason why I think silicon valley has liberalism theory.

The first reason is that there are culture that they have no qualms about opening the information they studied to improve innovation in the world. For example, some technology companies, such as Google, and Facebook are sharing the information about the technology of automatic driving vehicle. If they have idea of realism, it is impossible to share the information that their company studied for a long with other companies because it absolutely makes the gaps of information be flat and the information might to be Intellectual property rights. Thus, the reason why they are willing to share their information is their goal is to make innovation and improve the world.

The second reason is that they often change jobs. According to recent study, the average of they belong to one company in Silicon Valley is just 13 months. This can be evidence why they consider collective profit, such as innovation to the world is more important rather than their own company's profit. In Japan, the people belong one company for a long time (most of them belong to one company whole life), so Japanese people tend to consider their company's profit is more important than innovation. I think this difference of mind between in Silicon Valley and Japan make huge gape of developing new technologies.

The third reason is they tend to develop new products as open source. Actually, most of technology companies opened programming sources as API to improve the service after finished the first product. In fact, Internet technology was developed as open source so it was developed by a lot of engineers, university professors, repair workshop, students, and ordinary people. I think this caused the culture of open source in Silicon Valley.

Other case study of liberalism is an international conference about genome editing in 2015. It was held to decide how to advance the study about genome editing by hundreds of people of about 20 countries. In this conference, they made policy and shared their studies. It is not necessary for them because it might cause leave their intellectual property rights.

As these examples, I was able to recognize that in science fields, they often cooperate across the companies and the countries, and there are many cases that are using the idea of liberalism. They tend to prioritize collective profit rather than their own profit to the world. On the other hand, it is difficult to find the same case in political and military fields. I think that the reason is these fields have to depend on each country. Therefore, in an increasingly connected world, as many kinds of fields shift from depending on the country to being globalized, they can be treated under the idea of liberalism.

- Summary

Liberalism is developed since an ancient time by Immanuel Kant and Jeremy Bentham to make a flat world. According to the history, while realism is considered as the "dominant theory" of international relations, liberalism has been a "strong" alternative. In fact, the idea could

establish the E.U, and the U.N. Although, it is difficult to find case study of liberalism without the E.U. and the U.N. in the fields of political and military in recent world, I could find some examples in science fields. Therefore, I recognized that globalization and making borderless world can lead the idea of liberalism and it can improve the world, such as the example of Silicon Valley's innovation.

#### Works Cited

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