Education Through Finding Truth of Hidden History

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Summary

I think our discussion on "Effective Ways of Improving Quality of Teaching for International Understanding" very important and meaningful. We cannot ignore the fact that the advancement of education for international understanding is a natural result of the development of practical teaching methodologies.

Especially among the neighboring countries, there were few cases that the superficially normalized international understanding had met educational objectives successively. Unlike geographically remote countries, the neighboring countries have shared a mountainous pile of inherent problems.

The relations of Korea and Japan, for example, cannot be compared with those of Korea and Spain. Japan also approaches China and Spain respectively with very different angles. With complicate and sensitive historical backgrounds, the neighboring countries keep psychological distance in proportion to their geographical distance.

Therefore, Korea, Japan and China as the neighboring countries, really need to develop effective teaching methodologies for "education through finding truth of hidden history."

1. With the many Korean people's viewpoint, Japan has been reported not to admit the history of Japanese invasion and occupation of Korea, while the school curriculums of Korea have emphasized the realization of the nature of that period. To study history is to search for true knowledge, which must be considered as the touchstone of righteous international understanding.

2. The recent distortion of the ancient history by China in the name of "Northeastern Project," doesn't make sense. Even though China's Prime Minister promised to take proper steps on the distortion of Korea's ancient history by Korea's stern request, the Chinese Academy of Social Science, which is funded by Beijing, tries to give misleading historical information, makes Koreans embarrassed, and eventually causes negative implications to the bilateral ties.

3. A series of historically distorted claims by China and Japan on Korea's ancient history must be considered by the different point of view. In the case of Japan, their claims can be understood as a part of rewriting procedure of history which had many unintentional mistakes and wrongs as a country defeated in World War II. However, China's distortion of the ancient history is an unjustifiable theoretical invasion. Their claims do not resort to truth but to theory of power, which threatens the neighboring countries inter-relationships. The most wonderful teaching methods cannot approach
properly to international education for understanding in such situation.

4. Therefore, to improve quality of teaching for international understanding, we must lead a direction of education to find the true nature of history in the context of other nations. Japan's education is wrongly conducted by a small number of extremists of the right, while China performs a nation-level wrongly directed education. This attitude can be considered as ethnocentrism, which is an obstacle to progress for international understanding.

5. The necessity of direct experience in education cannot be overemphasized. So, I suggest a field trip education as one of effective methods to improve quality of teaching for international understanding. An increasing number of Japanese students visit Korea as a first step to find truth of hidden history. We must encourage such activities. To teach untested history without international verification is very dangerous and causes undying distrust and international isolation.

※ In conclusion, education through finding truth of hidden history means the development of teaching methodologies of history in the context of other countries. History should be studied and discussed by others' point of view for international education. In addition, teaching methods for direct educational experience of culture and history of the neighboring countries must be developed. This measure will stop self-justifying education.

※ Finally I recite a poem that helps education for international understanding.

二人一心同道  Two persons follow honor with one mind
二家一心同義  Two families do justice with one mind
親睦二國一心  Two nations with friendship become one mind
同仁化育二洋  If two nations are educated for mutual understanding,
一心天下太平  Blessed with peace and grace.