

My Ideal School for the Globalized World

I have been attending high school in the United States since last May. Although I could not understand English initially, I noticed a striking difference between Japanese and American education as I became more fluent in English.

“The topic this time is whether the atomic bomb was justified.” It was a debate I had in my U.S. History class. As I grew up in Japan, I believed that the nuclear bomb was not justified. Killing thousands of people and leaving many with illnesses was immoral. I predicted that there would be many people holding the same opinion. However, over 50% of the class answered that it was justified. I suddenly felt uncomfortable. Soon, one classmate said it was not an act out of cruelty, but a necessary evil to stop further destruction. She suggested that scientists and the president had a lot of internal conflict when developing the bomb. Hearing her explanation, I could understand why my classmates considered the act justified.

Why had I never considered the viewpoint of the U.S. before her statement? I believe that it is because history is inevitably told from each nation’s point of view. For example, concerning the atomic bomb, Japanese education focuses on the measures to prevent future nuclear warfare. On the other hand, U.S. education focuses on the effects and dangers of the atomic bomb in WWII. If only one aspect of history is gained, your opinion will inevitably depend on where education is received.

With globalization, people of many nationalities often interact with each other. When communicating, understanding the background of each country through aspects such as history is vital. Those aspects shape each nation's national culture and affect individuals' identity. Without learning about other countries, it is more likely that people will unintentionally hurt each other,

just like how I first felt uncomfortable during the debate. These small moments of uneasiness can mount to major conflict.

Thus, I propose a school with two unique traits. The first is that history would be taught from various perspectives. The history classes at this school would utilize primary sources and literature from different countries, enabling students to engage directly with diverse viewpoints. Interactive and project-based learning would be integral to this curriculum as well. Students would participate in debates, role-plays, and simulations where they would adopt the roles of historical figures from different countries, understanding the complexities of historical events. The second is that it would be mandatory for students to study abroad for six months in their high school career. They will receive education there and be free to choose their classes of interest. This allows students to get in touch directly with the culture and people of other countries. It also enables them to explore numerous fields of study and think about their future paths.

In a globalized world, international cooperation is essential. Understanding the background of each country, directly and through history can be its first step. With it, we will steadily move forward to a better society.