

Can Patriotism Be Distinguished from Nationalism? Empirical Evidence Concerning Japanese National Identity and Its Ideological Significance

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Empirical findings, mainly from “Western” nations, indicate that PATRIOTISM and NATIONALISM can be distinguished both conceptually and empirically (e.g., **Germany**: Blank & Schmidt (2003), Mummenday, Klink, & Brown (2001); **Israel**: Roccas, Klar, & Liviatan (2006); **New Zealand**: Osborne, Milojev, & Sibley (2017); **Turkey/Czech Repub.**: Balabanis, Diamantopoulos, Mueller, & Melewar (2001); **U.S.**: Kosterman & Feshbach(1989), Schatz et al. Staub, & Lavine (1999)). In addition, INTERNATIONALISM is often found to be a distinct factor.

Karasawa (2002) revealed a separate factor unique to Japanese citizens, i.e., the COMMITMENT TO NATIONAL HERITAGE. Attitudes toward national symbols (e.g., flag and anthem) and historical/cultural heritage emerged as a distinct factor separate from nationalism and patriotism.

The purpose of the present study was to examine whether the same factor structure can be found even among the current Japanese people. We also aimed to reveal the ideological associations between each factor of national identity and attitudes involving ideological viewpoints.

METHOD

Participants 705 Japanese citizens with an age range between 20 and 69 (50.1% Female, M age = 47.93, SD = 10.73).

Survey period February, 2017

Measures 23-item short version of National Identity Scale (Karasawa, 2002) ◆ Self identified position of “conservative” vs. “liberal” concerning social, economic, and political domains. ◆ Attitudinal ratings involving ideological debates such as gender equality, inclusion/exclusion of immigrants, military defense, nuclear power, and environmental protection. ◆ Demographic variables including gender, age, annual household income, and the size of the residential area (3 levels).

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

- The 4-factor structure was almost unchanged since 20 years ago.
- Multiple regression analyses revealed that national identity, particularly CNH and INT, contributed to attitudes concerning ideological issues, **even more strongly** than self-identified ideological positions. This suggests a difficulty in applying the Western notion of “liberal vs. conservative” to countries with different historical/cultural backgrounds.

Table 1. Standardized Regression Coefficients (β) from Multiple Regression Analyses of Ideological Attitudes.

	Gender	Immigrants	Defence	Nuke	Environment
National Identity					
Comm. Nat. Heritage	.208 **	.201 **	.248 **	.182 **	.093
Nationalism	.140 *	.002	.144 *	.079	.023
Patriotism	-.044	.119 **	.079	-.027	-.055
Internationalism	-.207 **	-.353 **	-.187 **	-.132 **	-.309 **
Self-Identified Ideology					
Social conservative	.132 **	-.016	-.147 **	-.015	-.018
Economic conservative	-.114 **	-.143 **	.041	.040	.039
Political conservative	.068	.154 **	.150 **	.163 **	.032
Demographic					
Gender (Female = 1)	-.152 **	.019	-.178 **	-.032	-.006
Age	.064	-.064	-.112 **	-.156 **	-.116 **
Annual Income	-.011	-.054	.047	.085 *	-.035
Residential Community	-.061	-.020	.035	.036	.015
Adjusted R^2	.241 **	.255 **	.283 **	.148 **	.121 **

Positive values represent associations with **conservative** attitudes.
* $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$.

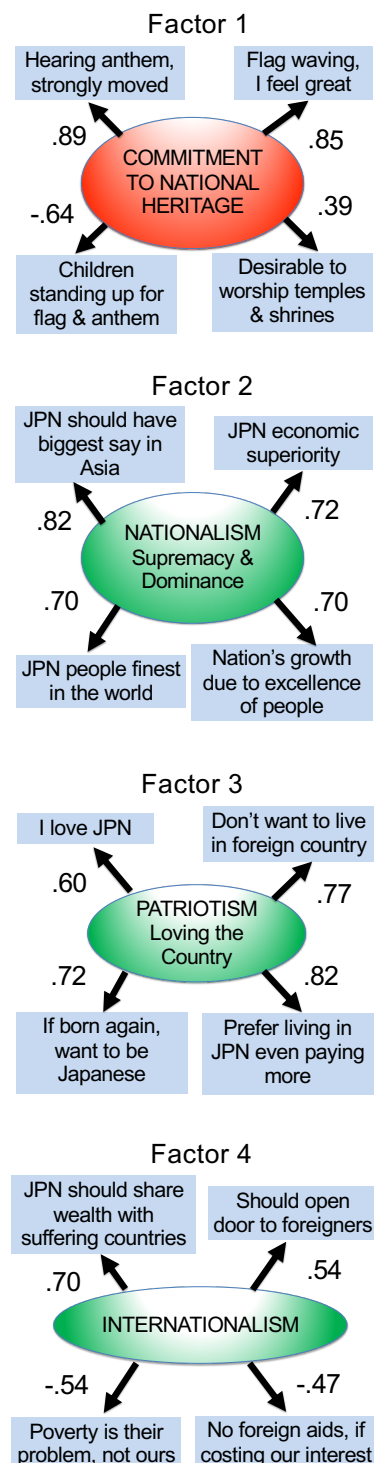


Figure 1. Factor loadings (maximum-likelihood estimation, promax rotation) of representative items heavily loading on *Commitment to National Heritage* as a unique factor of Japanese national identity, and on *Nationalism*, *Patriotism*, and *Internationalism* as relatively universal factors.