

Will Europe's Past Be Asia's Future? International Relations Theory, Area Studies and Security in Northeast Asia

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Abstract

Aaron Friedberg posed this controversial question in 1998, creating a link between the developments of International Relations in these two regions of the world. To get closer to an answer, we will first explore what standard IR theories

such as liberalism and neo-realism have to tell us, followed by a look at the potential and actual role of Area Studies in this context. We will then move on to the more specific level and see how three major issues - China's rise, North Korea's nuclear gamble and Japan's remilitarization - can be interpreted from the various perspectives introduced before. In the end, we will not only have come closer to an answer, but also see how a fruitful combination of

area-specific East Asian Studies and Relations methodologically oriented International Theory could look like.

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