

Abstract

This master thesis deals with the perception of territorial dispute concerning Tsushima and Korean claims to this Japanese island. The impact of these claims is quite noticeable in the perception of Japanese society, as it is one of the current disputes between Japan and the Republic of Korea, and even in the 21st century provokes significant reactions among the residents of both countries. Reactions to this topic can be seen on the online forum Yahoo! Japan, where since the beginning of the year 2000 has been a visible increase of posts regarding the issue of Tsushima. For this reason, the platform was chosen as the subject of a study on the independent understanding of territorial claims to Tsushima in the public sphere of Japan. Using the published posts of this Internet community, the thesis deals with the way in which the perceptions of Korean claims to Tsushima developed during the years 2000 to 2021. The analysis uses the principles of resolving territorial disputes according to the theory of B. T. Sumner, who states the decisive factors for the assessment of territorial disputes in front of International Court of Justice. The thesis compares these legal factors with the circumstances as perceived by the online community of Yahoo! Japan, and at the same time focuses on the public factors most often mentioned by the users.

Key words: Japan, Korea, territorial disputes, Tsushima, public opinion