

Nikita E. Kovrigin, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor

St. Petersburg State University

Shaping the Chinese Community in Japan and Russia: the role of political factor.

ABSTRACTS

In the XIX – first half of the XX century, Chinese migrants had played a visible role in the economy and social life of many countries of the world, including Japan and Russia. On different historical stages, the role of Chinese migrants was also very important to the Japan's and Russia's economies. In these two nations, conventional migration factors had mostly been favorable for the inflow of Chinese migrants. The existed migration situation suggested that well-rooted and developed Chinese communities should have formed in both Japan and Russia. Moreover, in the discussed period, the process of Chinese migration to Russia and Japan, as well as the process of formation of ethnic communities there had been influenced by a similar set of factors. The nature of migration to these countries also drastically differed from that of the other parts of the world. This paper aims to demonstrate that despite favorable economic and legislative conditions, political events played the pivotal role in fate of Chinese migration to Japan and Russia. Political factors gave impetus to migration waves, and ironically, those waves were put to end by the other political events. The paper also shows how Soviet policy toward the Chinese migrants was affected by Japan's policy in East Asia. The paper argues that the role and influence of irregular migration factors at the main historical stages had proved to be much stronger than that of conventional ones. As a result, unlike the U.S., Canada, European and Southeast Asian nations, no Chinese community existed in the USSR until 1980s. In Japan, such community was extremely small, divided and isolated from the Mainland China.