Notice of the Final Oral Examination
for the Degree of Master of Arts

of

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BA (University of Southern California, 2011)

“Shinzo Abe’s Version of History and the “Rise of China”

Department of Pacific and Asian Studies

Wednesday, April 18, 2018
1:00 P.M.
Clearihue Building
Room B007

Supervisory Committee:
Dr. Katsuhiko Endo, Department of Pacific and Asian Studies, University of Victoria (Supervisor)
Dr. Richard King, Department of Pacific and Asian Studies, UVic (Member)

External Examiner:
Dr. Robert Stolz, Corcoran Department of History, University of Virginia

Chair of Oral Examination:
Dr. Lianne McLarty, Department of Art History & Visual Studies, UVic

Dr. David Capson, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies

Abstract
This thesis examines how Shinzo Abe’s historical perspectives on “comfort women” and the Nanjing Massacre are influenced by global demands. Abe’s official account on these issues have been affected by pressures to reconcile with South Korea and to face China’s rise for strategic reasons. This originates from sources including think tanks such as the Center for Strategic and International Studies and media. Joseph Nye’s concept of soft power will provide the theoretical background to analyze Abe’s views on both issues. The existence and method through which these pressures are applied will be detailed and explored. This research will hope to contribute to the understanding of historical memory in the Asia-Pacific and how it remains an issue that undergoes changes in the current political climate.