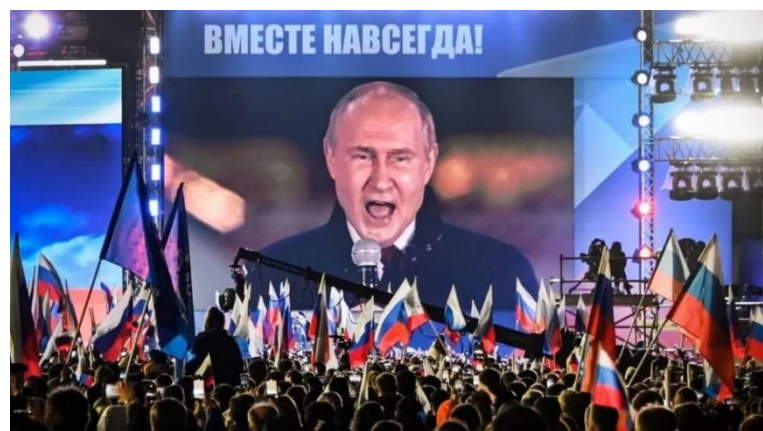


KIRITAKA English Journal Vol.13

~Stay Independent, Stay as ONE TEAM~ October 3rd, 2022

You should try to know

what has been happening in the world!



Russia's President Vladimir Putin announced that four areas of Ukraine were now "forever" Russian territory after referendums held in the areas. Four regions of Ukraine (Luhansk, Donetsk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia), that are partially or almost completely occupied by Russia are being annexed by the Russian Federation. The formal process, which will see these areas incorporated into the Russian Federation, will happen over the coming days.



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky announced he was accelerating his country's attempt to join NATO, hours after Russia declared it would annex four new regions of Ukrainian territory in a land grab widely denounced by the international community as illegitimate and illegal.

NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg said in a press conference that Ukraine has a right to apply for NATO membership, even as the alliance has sought to avoid entering a shooting war with Russia. "Every democracy in Europe has the right to apply for NATO membership."

As I told you last year on this Journal that this is not just a war between Russia and Ukraine, but one between Russia and Western countries. Many European countries have united as the EU for political and economic cooperation, but NATO is a much more influential "union" that has a great influence on the world. NATO is an organization including the US and several European countries, which give military help to each other. Russia has been worried about NATO's expansion since 1997.

★ KT's Power Song ★

As I told you before, I'm a big fan of Vaundy. Today, I'll introduce a song whose lyrics imply something involved in our feeling "anger" over conflicts among us. I don't know what he thought for when he made phrases like "憎み合うのはやめるだろうか", "手を握って話すだろうか", "思い合うようになるだろうか" and "もう僕が先に銃を捨てよう".

I heard that President Putin made a declaration of victory, but I wonder what is victory for him. I want them to stop fighting, to throw their weapons away, to shake hands and talk with each other to bring peace! <https://youtu.be/6h6AQbdTkaE>

The US is a member of NATO, and also a world leader, which has opposed Russia. So, this situation has been called the "New Cold War". To stop the war, President Putin wants Ukraine to recognize Crimea as part of Russia. And he demands that Ukraine changes its constitution to guarantee Ukraine do not join NATO and the EU. Under the present situation, you cannot say it has been going well.

I hope they will find a way to solve the problems through discussion, and that you will have an opportunity to think of what you can do for people who have been suffering due to this war. (Toru Hoshino)

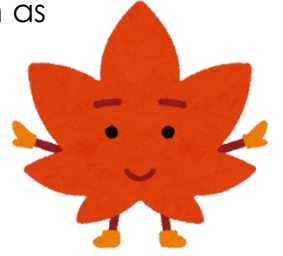
I hope the KIRITAKA English Journal will be accepted by you! (Toru Hoshino)



Kiwi Corner



Hi everyone! Now that we have entered autumn, the weather is starting to cool down as we approach the bleak and miserable winter, but it is still quite nice outside. Winter is, obviously, my least favorite season, and I'm terribly sad that summer has finished. One good thing about autumn, however, is that it has the best clothes to wear (in my opinion).



Speaking of clothes, I have noticed some students are starting to wear long-sleeved shirts and sweaters to school. And soon enough, it will be time to change into the winter uniform. During one of my classes with the first grade students, I asked them

"Why did you choose to come to Kiritaka?". I was surprised that a number of students answered **"Because the uniform is cute."** I then later heard that the former Kirijo uniform was

very popular and famous, and quite a few students went there because of the uniform. This was quite shocking to me, because in New Zealand, we would never think about the uniform when choosing a school.

At my school in New Zealand, all students except for those in the last year had to wear shorts ALL YEAR. That means in the middle of winter, our legs would be shaking from the cold as we had to wear shorts. Also, PE was always done in **bare-feet** (裸足). Sometimes we would have to run around outside and **the grass was frozen!** Aren't you lucky with your uniform here!? (Maybe that's why I don't like winter so much...)



Junior, senior summer, and senior winter uniforms

And I think our uniforms don't look as good as the uniforms in Japan. You have the famous **gakuran** and **sailor-style uniforms**, which I think look much smarter. For me, my uniform was a blue polo shirt, grey shorts, and grey knee-high socks. Very un-cool indeed. Then in the last year of high school, we could wear a white polo shirt, and blue shorts in summer, or a white shirt and tie with a blazer and black trousers in winter. I will admit that I'm glad I could wear shorts in summer, though.

Anyway, **which do you think is better, New Zealand's school uniform** (nice in summer and freezing in winter), **or Japan's** (which looks much nicer)?

For this month's article, I'd like to introduce this song. It's a sad song about the end of summer. If you are also sad that summer has ended, you can listen to it here: <https://youtu.be/uIRXvH8VOI8>

(Liam Campbell)



Lauren's Newsletter



Butterflies, Beetles, and Frogs, Oh My!

When I was a kid, I loved to be outside and catch bugs in my front yard. In college, I even took an insect class, and I discovered my new favorite insect: the



Taking an afternoon nap

orchid praying mantis! Last month, I was reminded of these memories when I visited Gunma Insect World.



My favorite insect: The Orchid Mantis

Gunma Insect World is a 450,000-square-meter site with indoor and outdoor areas where you can get hands-on experiences with bugs! The center even has a library where people can read books and learn more about the wonderful world of

insects! Here are some of my favorite places in Gunma Insect World:

A Thatched-Roof Farmhouse

People can walk inside the farmhouse and see live silkworms! There is also a piece of art that is made from plant materials such as leaves and flowers. The materials were creatively used to look like insects and natural scenery.

The Butterfly Room

When you walk into this room, there are butterflies everywhere you see! Visitors can also find frogs and other insects in the room, but you have to look carefully!

Insect Exhibition

There are bugs of every shape, size, and color! From praying mantis to the Kabuto beetle, this exhibition has a variety of insects for people of all ages to enjoy.

I hope you all can visit Gunma Insect World and enjoy what it has to offer!

Your Friendly Neighborhood ALT,

(Lauren Taylor)

For this month, I thought I'd share a song I often listen to on rainy days. It is called "Song of the Fireflies" by Pedram Pejman. Please take a listen here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ms8I_Vfvkow&ab_channel=pedram-Topic

Additionally, please click this link to learn more about Gunma Insect World:

<http://www.giw.pref.gunma.jp/>