

Virtue Ethics and Media Framing: Comparative Analysis of Conservative and Liberal U.S. News Coverage of Japanese Immigration During Policy Shifts (2019-2024)

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Abstract: This research explores how conservative and liberal U.S. media reported on Japanese immigration during the 2019-2024 immigration policy shifts and the impact on public perception. From a religious and ethical perspective, the research focuses on the media's ethical obligation to report truthfully on immigrants and to do so with fairness, justice, and compassion, arguments undergirded by solidarity, dignity, and the treatment of the stranger that most religious traditions articulate. The study design uses both content analysis of article frequency analysis and thematic analysis to examine how media framing influences discourse. The results suggest that, in conservative sources, immigration was framed noticeably negatively, while, at the same time, they and the liberal ones placed a lot of emphasis on the themes of history and community. These issues may sound more like the culture, and religion's messages on continuity and togetherness of people with similar moral principles irrespective of their ideological positions. The findings further supported by Chi-square tests suggest that media has become less polarized which is evidenced by the fact that their tones and thematic concerns are now rather similar. All the recommendations made in the study call for increased and more informative news and current affairs reporting, guided by ethical norms regardless of the meaning of the given society, which will enhance social cohesion. Subsequent research should incorporate increased sample sizes and diverse subjects as well as use cross-sectional research to understand media framing's effects on the immigration debate with an emphasis placed on the moral principles evident in religious and philosophic principles.

Keywords: Japanese Immigration, Media Framing, Ideological Biases, Mixed-Methods Approach, Policy Changes

1. INTRODUCTION

Immigration has excited the imagination of the media and has always influenced the identity, policies, and discussions of cultural assimilation of the country (Saitof, 2020). This influence is more apparent if the divisions

being analyzed stem from the ideological divide of the US media where such influence comes in handy when analyzing Japanese immigration. Possible negative representations by conservative sources could focus on Japanese immigrants through a law enforcement or security perspective, or be sensationalized as part of a cultural and economic story about diversity through metadata augmentation (Chavez, 2023). On the other hand, liberal media covering similar discourses may do it in other ways but both conservative and liberal opinions shape how Japanese immigration narratives are given. Thus, the analysis of the reaction to the changing immigration policies of the United States of America shows how and why media framing creates such differences and has an impact on public sentiment and policymaking. Employing the method of document frequency and sentiment analysis, this research investigates the representation of Japanese immigration based on the thematic analysis of articles published in conservative and liberal sources. The systematic analysis of media framing augments understanding of the role of media influence in shaping public opinion, and, in effect, policy. These findings are one contribution to a larger research agenda on media effects and sociopolitical stories (Luther et al., 2024). In particular, the study aims to examine whether media framing either strengthens or alters stereotypical and policy perceptions on immigration that are currently dominant among the public in an important way (Luther et al., 2024). Media framing can thus be defined as how media organizations decide on the angles to take while presenting information to the public regarding events, issues, or topics (Entman, 1993). This process is defined by a selective focus on certain aspects of a given reality to serve as evidence for a particular analysis, assessment of, or call to action (Entman, 1993). In regards to immigration, this is how media frames affect public thinking by encompassing topics like economic impacts, integration difficulties, and security issues (Gamson & Modigliani, 1989). Media framing thus has the central role of providing construction of social realities by the use of processes that amplify certain aspects of a sitting issue while minimizing others. These frames define how audiences pay attention or guide how certain issues are conveyed to form part of changing social impressions to further policy preferences (Goffman, 1974). For instance, the idea of Japanese immigration can be pitched as a negative effect on economic security or an attempt to protect the ethnic integrity of a country; therefore, the reactions of the population to such ideas depend solely on whether the source is conservative or liberal (Scheufele & Tewksbury, 2007). A vast literature review low a significant level of framing effect of media in

shaping opinion and policy making. Ideological battles take place on media channels where immigrants play a focal issue (Dempster et al., 2020). Immigrants have been depicted in the following ways in the stories and through such portrayals, humanize or dehumanize the immigrants determining the public and policy responses (Lee, 2021). It is a critical process in the making of nationalism especially when policy orientations change. Immigration is discussed mainly as a security and or economic threat by conservative media, in a way that is consistent with a more general conservative view that sees immigration as a threat to national identity and sovereignty (Kumashiro, 2020). On the other hand, liberal news sources use the rights of immigrants and multiculturalism so that policies that protect the well-being of everybody and embrace the contributions of immigrants (Chavez, 2023). Such approaches make it easier to have ideologies seen in media coverage on immigration. Most people were focused on the differing management systems and failed to realize that the news articles were soaked in ideologies. These empirical findings indicate that the half-bias is detecting a fundamental conflict between the media framing and the ideological values of the editors or reporters and the perceptions of the audience (Merklejn & Wiślicki, 2020). Mainstream conservative media is rather legal-oriented and has possible dangers, while liberal-oriented media emphasizes obstacles and achievements in the process of acculturation. Such differences in framing have an ideological background in the media environment. The Trump administration's policies and changes in the American approach to immigration have only intensified the divergence in approach between traditional and progressive media outlets. Authoritarian sources focused on the topics of law and order and ensured that a strict immigration policy is important for getting a job, and maintaining the stability of the home and the nation's safety. However, liberal media depicted these policies as vicious and anti-American while explaining the circumstances of such individuals (Alamillo et al., 2019). This is because polarized coverage inherently fuels division in existing public opinion on immigration issues. How stories being told, in the media influence the formation of public opinion as well as the policies issued. The presence of coverage from the mainstream media may help positive attitudes toward change and gain policymakers attention (McGregor, 2019) or, conversely, fan negative sentiments and amplify policy opposition. To maintain media frames' importance in framing legislative discussions and informing policymakers' actions concerning immigration topics (Wlezien & Soroka, 2020). Analyzing the way Japanese immigration was portrayed in U.S. media can provide useful knowledge to further examine discussions

concerning immigration, identity, and policy-making events in general. This analysis is important for policymakers, academicians, and media audiences who want to comprehend how and to what extent media power influences people's perceptions. This research offers a timely and informative contribution to existing literature to understanding how power relations theory affects immigration content in media through the lens of medialization analysis (Busemeyer et al., 2021; Erikson & Tedin, 2019). A study of media representation of Japanese immigrants provides us with crucial knowledge of how national memory and identity are negotiated in the United States. Thus, continuing the legacy of the last two decades' scholarship, this analysis highlights the need to approach media framing through ideologies. While media framing is highly political insofar as it forges the possibility of particular storylines into an ethical-political horizon that determines the terms of discursive engagement, it also helps produce debate over immigration and identity, as well as the policy to come, for several years.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The nature of media and its influence on the perception of the public on immigration is a phenomenon that remains an area of interest that deserves cemented analysis in this regard, this review aims at discussing the following philosophical and ethical aspects that have links to religious morality. The change in media portrayal over the years goes back to more fundamental ethical issues, which are well illustrated by themes that connect the social-existential narrative of immigration with the concept of human density and common morality. Media discourse shapes the perceptions that people hold collectively and such perceptions are related to shifts in policies, Media discourse is thus part and parcel of profound questions about morality and social justice which underpin religious and ethical philosophy. This section has adopted a philosophical perspective from different contexts and different epochs to analyze the relationship between media, public opinion, and immigration debate from ethical and religious perspectives.

2.1. Historical Framing of Immigration

Framing of immigration and crime in media has been in vogue from 1990 to 2013, and Harris and Gruenewald point out how the coverage has in most cases (Harris & Gruenewald, 2020), influenced public perceptions

and policy negatively, and their content analysis shows that immigration is linked with crime more often, which contributes to social exclusion. From a theological and ethical point of view, this kind of Co-voyage triggers reflection on moral orders and the otherness treatment. Christian ethics assumes that each person is born dignified, and other people should be treated fairly and with kindness. Given the above observation, it could be posited that when the media tips the immigrants in that direction the tenets of love your neighbor and social justice which most if not all religions promote are tested hence tricky. This requires a media ethics that is compassionate, and truthful to the tenets of human dignity. Murase explores shifts in media framing of immigrants in Japan, comparing two periods: 1987-1990 and 2016-2019 (Murase, 2021). Hence, the study shifts from an 'Us and Them' paradigm to a 'We' mentality that is mainstream in today's society. The changing face of immigrants is consistent with core values in religious ethics, the religious medium of Buddhism and Shinto which stresses integration, empathy, and interconnection. Media being a tool for creating awareness creates possibilities of either exclusion or inclusion; this is in line with religious education about the treatment of strangers. Religions invite people to solidarity and compassionate understanding, Murase's study lies in the need to research how media representations can either promote or impede social integration. Lee engages how media portrayals of trafficked women help to assign historical responsibility and seek reconciliation between Japan and its neighbors in East Asia (Lee, 2021). Ethical issues reminiscent of religious philosophy on human value, justice, and truth are also evident in the ways the media represents victims of human trafficking, either as helpless victims or, conversely, with no agency at all. The moral and ethical principles elucidated in Christianity and Buddhism presuppose that it is high time for the Historical realists to come clean in order restore the society. This perfectly agrees with probably the most elementary tenets of honesty, which in turn is truth as a moral imperative across all and most religious beliefs in the world including Lee's Christianity. Her critique of the media in this respect highlighted a social responsibility of informing and empowering society through a virtue that is ethical in the strictest sense of the word. This study establishes the moral imperative of the media to present complex figures in a way that fosters truth and the rebuilding of societies in the aftermath of the civil wars. Soderlund looks at the role of media in shaping discourses regarding Mexican migration and how media moves between reiteration and erasure of stereotypes and misrepresentation (Soderlund, 2007). It would be pertinent here to see this

dynamic using a religious ethical perspective and special correlation with Judeo-Christian culture where one of the cardinal virtues includes truthfulness justice as well as a moral responsibility towards the immigrants. Hazardous strong feelings for immigrants distort their humanity according to the biblical venture of the stranger. Through its critique of social network sites, Soderlund's study raises issues concerning the ethical function of the media in determining the reality of some groups and influencing the society to provide a more truthful account of these groups. It leads to religion by suggesting that self-organized media has a responsibility not to spread fear and to tell the truth about the community. Lindström, discusses how media framing influences attitudes in a society and whether it humanizes or demonizes immigrants (Lindström, 2016). She established that coverage either elevates or diminishes the immigrant worth and dignity so valued in many religions today. For instance, Islam's teachings regarding both peoples' relations including food and accommodation and justice demand that any oppressed people be treated fairly. It has profound implications for the performance of this ethical responsibility by the media as a whole. Lindström's work should make media analysis and key policy bodies reflect on the ethical dimension of the texts, including obligations to represent immigrants as people with inherent human rights.

2.2 Comparative Media Studies

Kowalik examines a qualitative analysis of media framing regarding immigration, crime (Kowalik, 2021), and policy in the United States between 2002 and 2016 to understand the understanding of the general public and its impact on policies. Based on the limitation found in the study, affirms the idea that negative representation of immigrants fuels adverse policies and these can be analyzed by religious ethicists. This study contrasts the Christian idea of justice and the ethic of care with media narratives that portray immigrants as criminals. Moses demands that people should love the stranger because everyone was a stranger at some point, and the media should portray fairness to everyone. The study also shows that media must meet ethical obligations that are rooted in some religious imperatives of global fairness, kindness, and justice. A critical evaluation of how media frames ideas about immigrants' legitimacy is carried out by Lawlor and Tolley, which brings ethical and philosophical value (Lawlor & Tolley, 2017). It appears that negative portrayals of immigrants by mass media decrease the likelihood of the development of a feeling of solidarity among citizens, while positive portrayals have the opposite inclination.

From a philosophy of religion perspective, these frames call into basic issues of conscience and morality, of the public good and right, and justice. In Catholic social teaching, for instance, it is the reverence for the dignity of each person and the special care that needs to be taken for the poor, aspects that media detract from immigrants. The work offers an ethical strategy for analyzing the ways media framing can either inflame or reconcile public opinion on immigration with religious appeals for justice and solidarity. Mortensen et al. discuss the perspective of using Marijuana in media in the United States focusing on the visual stereotyping impacts on the perception of race, culture, and crime (Mortensen et al., 2020). This study can be interestingly applied in immigration discourse where the usage of frames is characterized by race or culture stereotyping. Religious ethics, be it Buddhist or Christian, denounces stereotypes and supports the dignity of persons. Media that continues to disseminate stereotypes depicts this moral responsibility whereas media that portrays a fair picture in conformity with religious justice and equity. Mortensen's findings put the accountability on the media to look at the ethical ramifications of their stories, and to drive good sense and fairness.

2.3 Impact of Media on Policy

The study by Young et al. on how a selected sample of U.S. newspapers present Immigration policy demonstrates that media can influence public discourse and policy discourses (YOUNG et al., 2022). The responsibility of the media in these policies has tremendous ethical significance given moral consideration and religious teaching of justice and human rights. For instance, Christian social thought provides good references, such as the common good and the right to migration, which are opposed to the representation of immigrants. Using the analysis of media products by the researchers it is possible to propose new ones that require reconsideration of ethics in this field and the search for new forms of media messages aimed at enhancing social justice and human dignity. Mendelsohn et al. analyze discursive approaches to immigration through the lens of social media using computational approaches (Mendelsohn et al., 2021). The differences that they identified are profound ideological ones, and it is possible to look at them with the help of philosophical and religious ethics. The Islamic principle of fairness in representation is a criticism of media that seeks to put bias between two similar camps. Because of this, Mendelsohn's research raises a philosophical issue of the ethical obligations of social media in the construction of immigration narratives. Using big data to continuously reinforce toxic discourses is problematic in

both its logic of responsibility and respect for human personhood, which belong to the core of the religious and philosophical heritage. Access to healthcare for undocumented immigrants is addressed by Viladrich where structural violence underlying media narration is in focus (Viladrich, 2019). This generates immense ethical tensions, especially using distinctly Christian ethics where the weak and vulnerable should be promoted justly in health systems. The professional commitment to provide treatment equally, regardless of a person's legal status perfectly underlines the media portrayal of undeserving immigrants. The study trusts that a humanized approach must be taken to media representation and cared for enlightened by religious texts' teachings on compassion and justice.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The objective of this research was to establish the patterns and frequency of Japanese immigration coverage in both conservative and liberal media in the United States from January 2019 to January 2024, the period under which there was a drastic change in the immigration policies of the United States of America. The timeframe is crucial for analyzing the moral angle of media framing because the media is not only a mirror of public sentiments, but it also acts as a mediator and shaper of those sentiments, based on fundamental underlying religious and philosophical premises of justice, mercy, truth and fairness. As such, using media analysis, the study aims to reveal how or where ethical principles in religion, e.g., the stranger must be treated morally, reasserted, or omitted in the media discourse on Japanese immigration. To minimize sampling error and achieve generalizability, 400 articles were reviewed in total. A large sample size was needed to provide a closer look at how media outlets framed reports on the topic, within the framework of moral philosophy and ethical journalism, therefore the large pool of media sources that reported on Japanese immigration was selected. It was also important for this study not to only look at how often these events were reported on, but also at the ethical concerns that are raised from this reporting, issues of economic justice, culture, and human dignity that are core to a variety of religious beliefs and teachings including the Christian, Buddhist, and Islamic faiths. To obtain a sample, conservative, liberal, centrist, and independent dailies as well as regional newspapers were selected. This approach ensured that the study obtained politically diverse opinions in the country to reflect the ethical debate on immigration politics that is beyond the partisanship

debate. The permutations of the search terms which was entered under Nexis Uni like 'Japanese immigrants', 'U.S immigration policy,' 'Japanese diaspora', 'immigration reform' and cultural assimilation' were intended to capture not only commentaries but reports that addressed the philosophical and religious concepts of people such as communal harmony and preservation of culture. These concepts have their origin in religious beliefs and theories of social responsibility for the weak, for example, the migrant. The search returned 400 articles, out of which 200 articles concentrate on the experiences of Japanese immigration to the United States, and the other 200 articles address US immigrant policy in general. This sampling method allowed for a range of ethical considerations – both overt and tacit – to be elicited, especially two types of ethical issues related to immigration policies affecting Japanese communities. Thus, the study intended to address religious ethical systems concerning the rights of migrants, hospitality for the Christians, and fairness and justice for the Muslims. Each article was systematically coded for two primary variables: how ethical the coverage of the different media organizations was, and what the major stories produced in the different media were. The tone of the coverage was coded either as positive, neutral, or negative. This facilitated the analysis of how the ethical principles of truth justice, and human dignity which are held in many religious beliefs were captured in the media. For example, positive representations may be a reflection of proper tenets of faith and human respect and cultural diversity healthy for man while negative representations may depict some harmful features such as xenophobia or fear which is uncultured and unhealthy for man. Economic impact, acculturation, policing of culture, preservation of traditional buildings and structures, and fans were common themes that emerged in the media analysis. These themes are very much related to the ethical and theological issues of whether the migrant, refugees have any rights at all or whether the nations hosting them have any obligation toward them as per the teaching of the Catholic Church on 'Generous Immigration' and 'Islamic perspective of justice and charity'. For instance, articles that talk about the prospects of community endorsement converge at the religious value of togetherness, whereas those that speak about the economic impacts will address economic fairness which is a major issue of concern to most ethical and religious frameworks. Inter-observer reliability specifically for the coding procedure, the coders were trained regarding a detailed coding structure describing secular and spiritual ethical categories. For example, economic implications were categorized with code such as job creation and entrepreneurship; these were also addressed within the

contexts of economic justice and fairness; concepts that are sacrosanct to most religions. The reliability indexes chosen for the study were inter-observer reliability and intra-observer reliability, the latter calculated using Cohen's kappa and found to be greater than 0.75. This high reliability of the data made it possible to assert that the data were not only reliable but also ethical/moral in representing the media's portrayal of Japanese Immigration.

4. DATA ANALYSIS

The articles were collected from the entire range of the newspaper, whether it is a conservative or liberal newspaper, a newspaper affiliated with any political party, or an independent newspaper. To increase the generalizability of its findings, the study aimed to increase its sample size and become more dependable and accurate to provide a clearer picture of how media constructed immigrants during a time of shifts in the US immigration policies. The examination of immigration through the ideological screens of the media calls for significant ethical and philosophical concerns about ideas on how immigrants should be treated and what roles the press appropriate. When on a list of liberal values such as social justice, and compassion, as well as talking about the basic human right to a balanced and humane representation when it comes to issues such as immigration, the use of framing during politically sensitive periods cannot be overemphasized as it underlines the complete convergence of these liberal values with religion and ethics. The articles were gathered from across the newspaper's spectrum, which includes both conservative and liberal newspapers and papers affiliated with a specific political party, as well as independent papers. This range makes sure that the study includes different ethical views and moralities any given in the media focusing on immigration as a moral issue. This type of media framing is connected to religious ethics, according to which the treatment of the stranger and the vulnerable is seen as a primary moral imperative – as is seen both in Christian, Jewish, and Islamic traditions.

4.1 Descriptive Statistics

The descriptive analysis provided a broad overview of the themes, tones, and media outlets involved in the reporting of Japanese immigration. The analysis was segmented into three key areas: The Tonality of Articles, The Media Outlets by Tonality, and The Articles' Primary Themes. Categorizing

tone and themes in this way allows for deeper exploration of the ethical implications of how Japanese immigrants are portrayed in the media, particularly in light of religious values such as human dignity, justice, and compassion. These areas of analysis highlight the potential for moral and ethical divisions within broader religious and cultural debates, reflected through different ideological stances.

Table 1: Distribution of Articles by Tone

Tone	Frequency
Positive	88
Neutral	52
Negative	60

The frequency distribution of article tones: For this study, 200 articles are considered, out of which the table provided below shows the number of positive, neutral, and negative tones. Positive articles were seen in 88 articles while 60 articles were categorized as negative and 52 articles were seen as neutral. This shows that most articles are positive towards Japanese immigration though the negative articles are also numerous.

Table 2: Distribution of Tone by Media Outlet

Outlet Type	Positive	Neutral	Negative
Conservative	44	28	40
Liberal	44	24	20
Centrist	22	13	10
Independent	11	7	5
Regional	11	0	5

This table breaks down the tone of coverage by media outlet type. Conservative and liberal outlets have an equal number of positive articles (44 each), but conservatives publish more negative content (40) compared to liberals (20). Centrist, independent, and regional outlets contribute fewer articles overall, with conservative outlets showing more polarization in tone.

Table 3(a): Distribution of Articles by Primary Themes

Theme	Frequency
Community Support	20
Cultural Integration	10
Historical Preservation	28
International Relations	8
Economic Impact	4
Legal Issues	4
Cultural Preservation	8
Media Preservation	4
Historical Documentation	4

Table 3(b): Distribution of Articles by Primary Themes

Theme	Frequency
Community Preservation	20
Historical Injustice	4
Immigration Motivated by Gender Inequality	4
Historical Memory and Civil Rights	4
Cultural Heritage and Memory	4
Diplomatic Relations and Public Discourse	4
Cultural Recognition and Commemoration	4
Executive Discretion in Immigration Enforcement	4
Cultural Identity and Integration	4
International Relations and Renewable Energy	4
Community Formation and Anniversary	4
Diplomatic Engagement and Community Relations	4
Japanese Immigration to Canada	4
Japanese Immigrant Contributions in Nebraska	4
Historical Awareness and Education	4
Immigration History and Cultural Integration	4

This table illustrates the distribution of primary themes in the articles. Historical preservation (28 articles) and community support (20) are the most frequently covered themes, highlighting the media's focus on these aspects of Japanese immigration. Other themes such as cultural integration, international relations, and economic impact appear less frequently, suggesting secondary importance in media narratives.

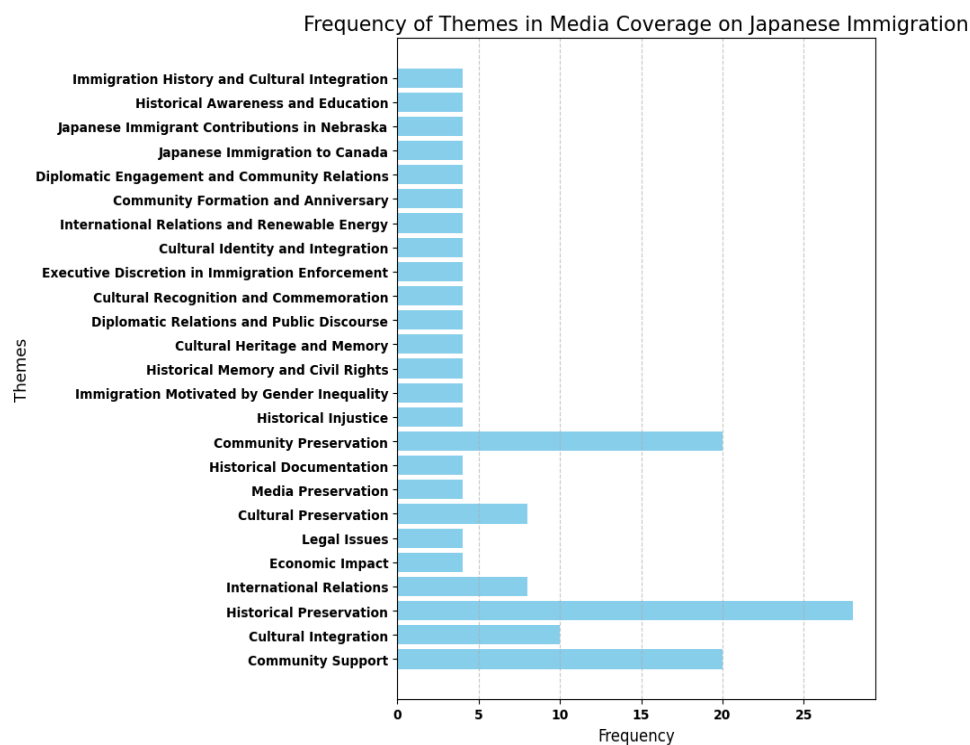


Figure 1: Frequency of themes in Media Coverage on Japanese Migration

This figure shows how often different topics were mentioned in media, when it came to Japanese immigration, and thus identifies main concerns. The first and second most important issues are Historical Preservation and Community Support mentioned 28 and 20 times respectively which show the essential concern for cultural and social values. Another set can be pointed out, such as Cultural Integration and Cultural Preservation thus underlining the importance of the interrelation between the two. The low-frequency domains are Economic Impact and Legal Issues, and these factors may be secondary in the media narrative because there were fewer policy shifts or events in this duration.

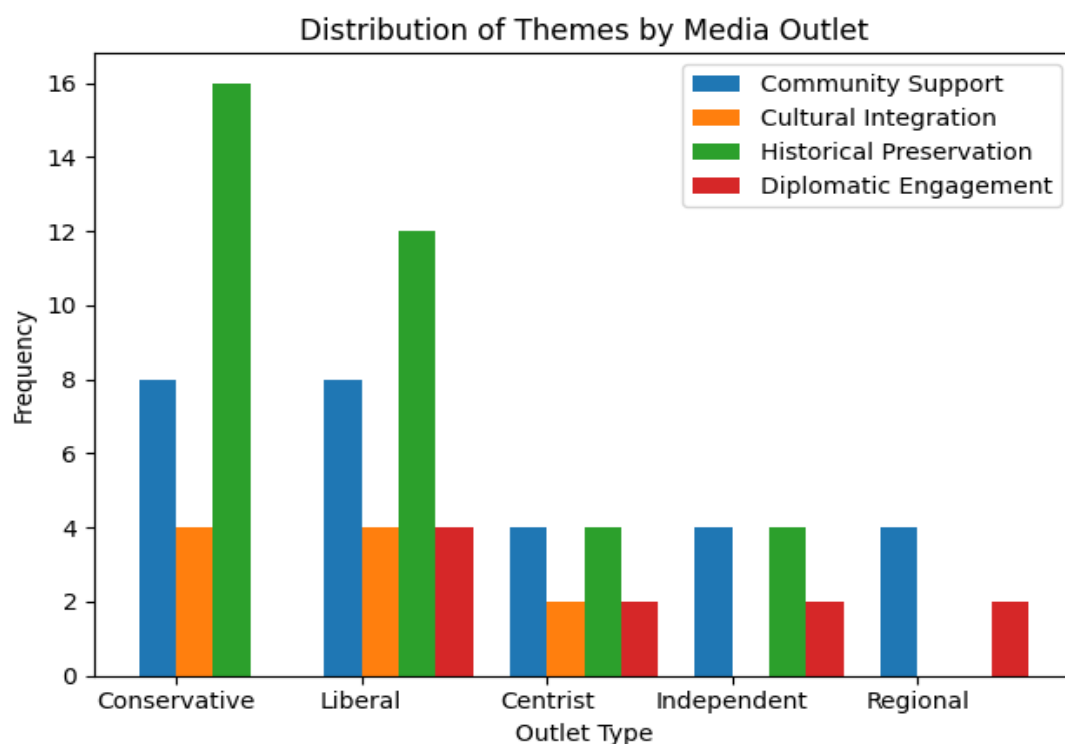


Figure 2: Distribution of Themes by Media Outlet

The figure illustrates the media's thematic coverage of Japanese immigration across various ideological outlets. The key themes represented include Community Support, Cultural Integration, Historical Preservation, and Diplomatic Engagement, with media outlets categorized as Conservative, Liberal, Centrist, Independent, and Regional. These themes are indicative of more global ethical and philosophic issues to do with immigration, and how cultures are assimilated or otherwise maintained sufficiently to maintain enough diplomatic relations with immigrant cultures. The study demonstrates that Historical Preservation is presented as more significant by conservative periodicals, indicating the narrative associated with cultural conservatism and the moral duty of how identity

and historical values on a national level should be saved. This is from a perspective that can be seen concerning the religious-philosophical outlook, especially those like Judaism and Catholicism, which maintain a stringent cultural continuity in Oriental Antiquity and consider it a religious duty to remember the past. On the other hand, liberal outlets focus more on Diplomatic Engagement as their ethical perspective is closer to the progressive approach to the role of countries in the immigrant's lives when emphasizing the responsibility to respect human rights and global interdependence as it is provided for Christians' social justice. Moderate Centrist & Independents offer a moderate bias to all four themes of the students, implying a closer match with the nonpartisan or ethical objectives of the media that seeks to disseminate both historiographic and ethnographic viewpoints of any society's indebtedness to the past while recognizing the moral responsibility of the receiving and assimilating society or community to embrace the values of the foregone while supporting the future of the constitutionally mandated populations of Regional outlets show almost no activity in Historical Preservation which may be since they are interested in issues closer to their community and time than such abstract idea.

4.2 Analysis

The descriptive statistics results also indicate that the most sentiment scores generated in the news articles analyzed in this study were of positive tones rather than negative and neutral tones. From the 400 articles, 88 were found to have a positive sentiment, 60 were negative and 52 were neutral. This distribution is an indication that during the sample period, Japanese immigration probably had more positive media coverage than negative ones. This research study raises significant philosophical and ethical questions specifically on how media framing conforms to societal values. Enthusiastic representations of immigration may correlate with cultural values based on respect and protection of the stranger within the religious framework of hospitality and care, which enlarges a humane ethos. Analyzing the articles, the total of positive and negative tones present in the publication shows interesting results; 44 of them are positive and 44 are published in conservative and liberal media sources correspondingly. This balance leads to the conclusion that regardless of the political calibration, there is a common intention to present immigration in a benevolent manner, which seems as media organizations' moral obligation to show desirable attributes of immigrants under religious principles of justice and tolerance. Nevertheless, conservative sources continued to

publish 40 negative articles as opposed to 20 articles from liberal sources, which shows that while positive frames dominate the discourse, conservatives are apt to engage in framing from the negative angle of immigration. This might express an ontological conflict of sameness and otherness which also echoes through the religious axiology of protection of the community and the stranger. A total of 24 articles were obtained from liberal sources and 28 from conservative sources showing that the latter has a slight tendency towards non-partisan news, during the period analyzed. From an ethical perspective, this balance in tone may suggest a bid to depict the truth and is in tandem with tenets of religious reporting, the tenets of Christianity, Islam, and Judaism, which depict justice and truth as the right things to do. The remaining 24 groups of outlets, which this study classified as centrist, independent, and regional, published fewer articles in total. Centrist organizations produced 22 articles with positive sentiments, and independent and regional media produced 11 each. These overall neutral and negative were mostly observed in centrist-independent or regional sources. These variations in tone across different media types may reflect broader ethical differences in how immigration is framed, with some outlets striving to maintain balanced or neutral perspectives, potentially aligning with religious values of fairness and moral integrity in journalism.

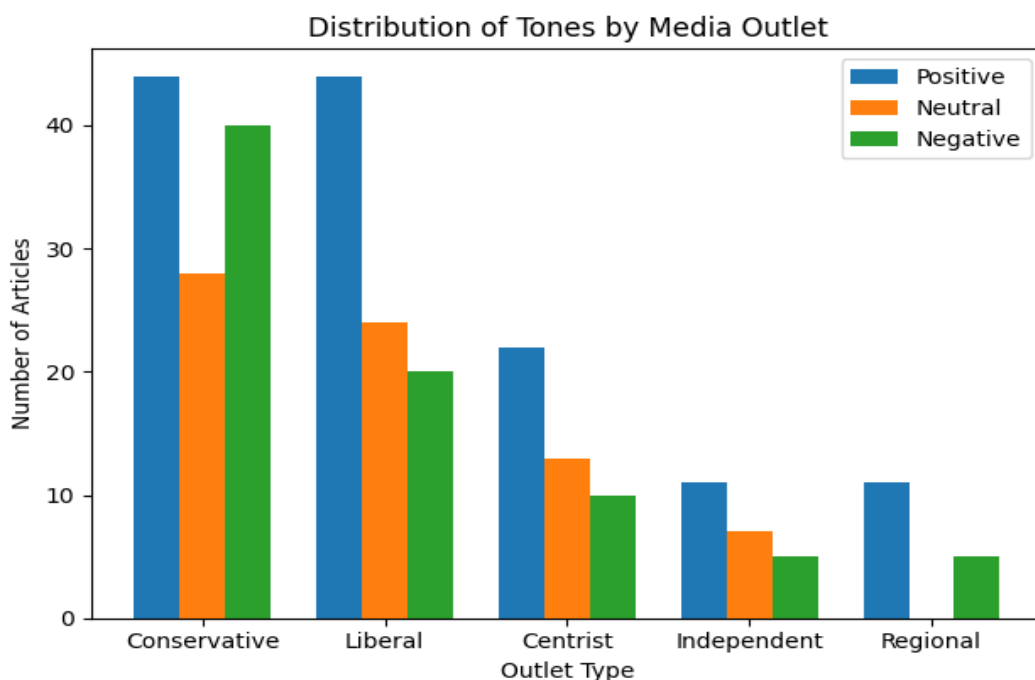


Figure 3: Distribution of Tones by Media Outlet

The generally positive focus noticed in the sample could be explained by the predefined policies of the media outlets, as well as the social and

political environment of the period considered. Conservative media for example used more negative tones, a finding in line with the hypothesis that challenges and concerns of Japanese immigration were skewed in these media outlets. While potential mitigation of this pattern makes nationalist audiences of conservative sites more negative towards immigration, the liberal one might get a balanced estimating or even positive exposure to it. From the point of view of philosophical and ethical considerations, this indicates a shift in the moral mandate of the media to educate the public; it shifts the mandate on the one hand between the national identity and the opportunities to embrace the other – which is enshrined in religious ethical consideration. As the amount of positivity for Japanese immigrants shown by conservatives and liberals closely resembled each other then there may be a mutual understanding of the benefits accrued from the immigrant's side effect of the discourses of cultures and the economy. On this level, there is a convergence across ideological divides that recognizes immigrants as human beings possessing inherent worth or value in accord with the teachings of faiths about the equal intrinsic worth of every man and the importance of diversities as to the common good. Specifically, media presentation of outsiders as generous and helpful can be seen in many religious traditions such as Christians and Muslims, because there is moral value in this portrayal of outsiders in society. The results have indicated that there is a more positive attitude towards some specific aspects of Japanese immigration that have a connection with economic and cultural investments. This cross-ideological consistency may be because there is such a thing as meeting on high moral ground to acknowledge the positive effect of immigration hence agreeing on this. From the religious philosophy point of view, relaying happily ever after stories falls under social justice, the fact that each person has value and is useful to society no matter his/her status.

4.3 Primary Themes

The analysis reveals that Historical Preservation and Community Support were recognized as the most frequently reported Issues, having been mentioned in 28 and 20 articles, respectively, out of all the studies included in the review. This of course means that the media has been keen to maintain cultural purity and encourage mutual compatibility through the Japanese immigrants. This emphasis points to a very strong focus on cultural preservation for both aboriginal and immigrant populations and is in harmony with many ethical questions of how various communities tolerate themselves and integrate. For reasons that will be explored below,

these issues are also core to most religious beliefs which uphold the need to uphold and promote the culture and heritage of the community as a moral obligation. Historical Preservation became the most significant concern, particularly within the conservative-focused media outlets, and was mentioned in 16 out of the 28. This 'backward thinking', as well as focusing on historical points of view might be explained by the intentions of conservative media to strengthen and spread the narratives of ethnic identity and culture conservation. These concerns are in harmony with the religious imperative, predominantly Jewish and Christian, of thus preserving history and culture in the hope of continuing to pay tribute to the past by endorsing this senility throughout the generations. Nevertheless, liberal sources identified 12 references to historical motifs meaning that these topics remain relevant for the specific societies represented by these outlets, and it again underlines the global relevance of historical concerns in the construction of group and individual identities. Another category was the Community Support which was identified in 20 articles at the conservative and liberal sources (16 articles each). It is for this reason that both the government as well as the immigrants seem to understand that the process of absorbing immigrants into society is mutually beneficial to both parties due to the marked moral paradigms inherent in any society. From a religious ethics point of view, this theme can be addressed to Christianity, Islam, and Buddhism, under which people have to respect the solidarity of the society with the designated vulnerable and displaced individuals and their integration. The theme as outlined by the media shows the moral responsibility that must however be taken to guarantee the needed support mechanism that will foster conformity to the democratic principles of acceptance and tolerance in a pluralistic society. Other recurring themes, such as Cultural Adaptation and Cultural Conservation, were mentioned in 10 and 8 articles respectively. These themes reflect the dual nature of immigration debates—whether immigrants should fully integrate into the host culture or maintain their cultural practices. From a philosophical and religious perspective, this dilemma touches on the tension between assimilation and cultural pluralism, with many religious traditions advocating for a balance between the two. Cultural integration can be seen as contributing to the common good, a key concept in Christian social teaching, while cultural preservation emphasizes the intrinsic value of diversity, reflecting principles found in Buddhism and Hinduism that celebrate the richness of varied cultural expressions. The less frequent themes of Economic Impact, Legal Issues, and Diplomatic Relations appeared only four times each. Although these

themes are not as dominant, they remain important concerns in discussions of Japanese immigration. Their relative scarcity in media coverage may be due to a lack of major economic or legal events affecting immigration during the study period, or they may reflect a broader media focus on cultural rather than policy-driven narratives. From an ethical standpoint, economic and legal issues are significant, as they relate to justice, fair treatment, and the right to work and live with dignity, principles deeply embedded in Islamic and Christian social teachings. Future research could explore these themes more thoroughly, particularly in terms of how media coverage of economic justice and legal fairness influences public perception and policy formation. The focus on Historical Preservation and Community Support highlights the role of the media in shaping narratives that reinforce cultural identity and support structures for immigrants. This emphasis is consistent with broader religious and ethical paradigms that prioritize cultural heritage and the communal responsibility to care for and integrate newcomers. Whether conservative or liberal, the media's focus on these themes highlights the shared recognition of the moral importance of preserving cultural traditions while fostering an inclusive and supportive environment for immigrants. The balance between Cultural Integration and Cultural Preservation further reflects ongoing societal and philosophical debates about how immigrants should participate in the cultural life of their new communities, a topic deeply rooted in both religious teachings and moral philosophy.

4.4 Statistical Tests

Thus, chi-square tests were conducted to confirm whether it is possible to speak about the significant distribution difference between conservative and liberal media regarding tones and themes. These tests are used to assess whether two categorical variables are independent, for example, media type on the one hand and coverage tone or main themes on the other hand.

4.5 Chi-Square Test for Tone of Coverage

The chi-square test for the tone of coverage yielded the following results:

- Chi-square statistic (X^2): 0.71197
- Degrees of freedom (df): 2
- P-value: 0.7005

The calculated p-value of 0.7005 is well over the arbitrary cut-off level of 0.05, therefore suggesting that the mode of media outlet type and its tone of coverage are not significantly related. In other words, the frequency

of positive, neutral, and negative tones in conservative and liberal media outlets is statistically comparable in the sample.

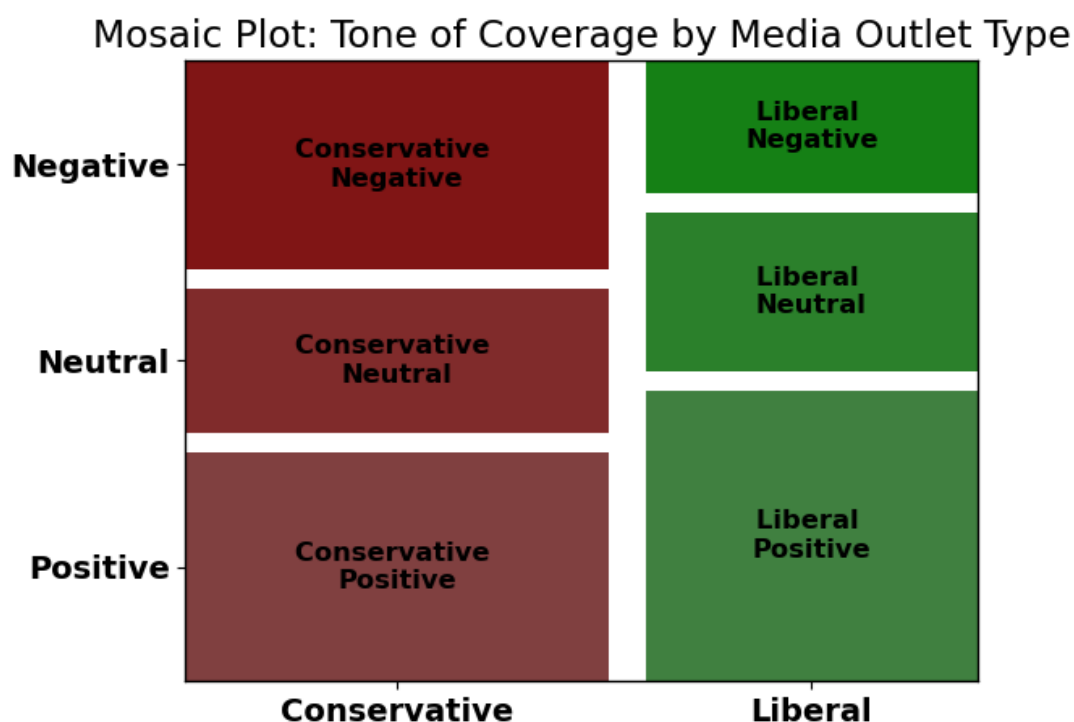


Figure 4: Mosaic Plot

The mosaic plot presents the cross-tabulation of media outlet types with the coverage tone of the news as Conservative and Liberal, Positive, Neutral, and Negative respectively. The size of each block is proportional to the total frequency of appearance of each tone in the concerned media businesses. So characterized by large blocks are frequently tones, while those reflected by small blocks are comparatively rare tones. Thus, the plot is unobstructed and becomes easier to read at the same time getting more attention due to the change of the font to bold and the increase in the font size. The plot indicates that both conservatives and liberals have an approximately equivalent positive outlook share, but the conservatives provide more negative coverage on average.

4.6 Chi-Square Test Results for Primary Themes

The chi-square test for primary themes also generated major findings about the thematic distribution of media coverage on Japanese immigration between conservative and liberal media. The results were as follows:

- Chi-square statistic (X^2): 17.3224
- P-value: 0.8346

This means that with the observed p-value of 0.8346, the result of this

analysis does not indicate that the distribution of the first themes is different across conservative and liberal media sources. Indeed, $p < 0.05$ demonstrates that in the choice of material terminology and style of narratives, both media types are statistically similar, irrespective of their ideological leanings when covering the experience of Japanese immigration. This finding is in contrast to the existing assumption that conservative/liberal would uniquely occupy different thematic structures particularly, on contentious topics like the immersion debates since political discursive ideologies push for diverse tones. The findings of this chi-square test are a long way from what one might expect from a highly fragmented media, and the dominance of ideological biases as factors controlling the choice of themes in reporting about Japanese immigration is not among them.

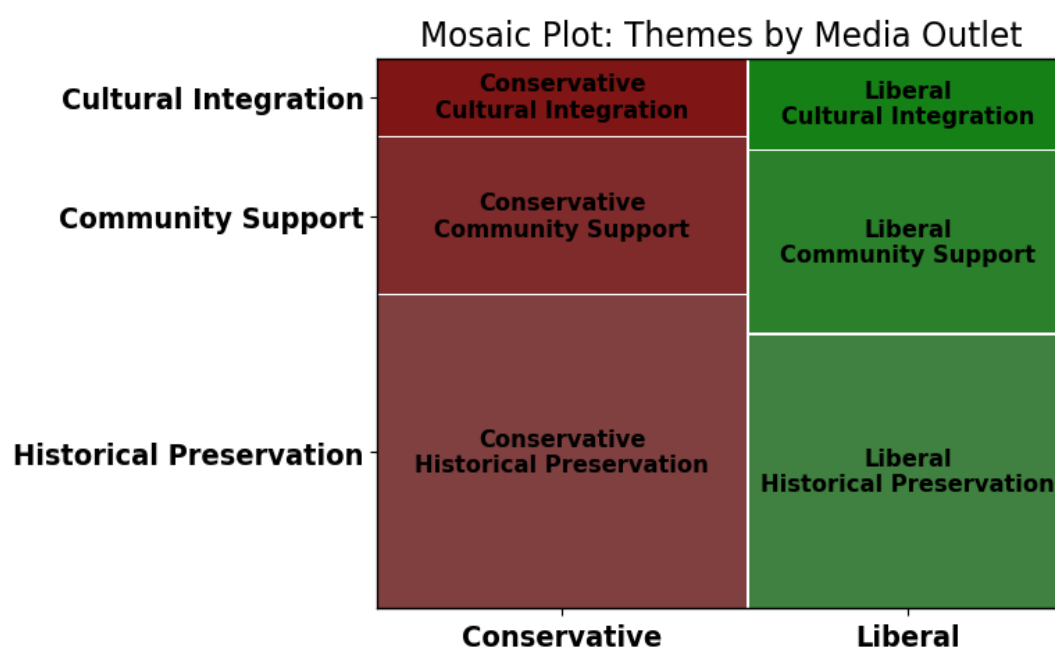


Figure 5: Mosaic Plot: Themes by Media Outlet

4.7 Interpretation of the Mosaic Plot

The chi-square test is visually supported by a mosaic plot that illustrates the distribution of media outlets and the primary themes they followed regarding Japanese immigration. The width of the bars represents the frequency of each theme's occurrence, while the height reflects the importance assigned to these themes by different media types. What is particularly notable from the mosaic plot is the absence of a strong ideological division between conservative and liberal media when it comes to thematic coverage. This means that contrary to expectations of increased

political polarization, both conservative and liberal outlets are covering similar topics, including Historical Preservation and Community Support, in equal ways. This convergence of thematic content across these media types suggests that all of them deal primarily with cultural and community-oriented issues which are not a function of political orientation. From an idealistic and ethical viewpoint, this points to a higher correspondence with postmodern values regarding the place of culture and the value of cultures as ethics as opposed to individualism inherent in many religious systems. Therefore, the fact depicted in the mosaic plot of the relations between conservative and progressive media sources that such stations on the whole do not diverge in their approaches and sources of funding contradicts the belief that mass media has become highly polarized in the wake of sociopolitical divisions. However, the findings presented in this paper imply that media, both of a liberal and conservative orientation, discuss immigration from a position that corresponds to social and cultural paradigms. These values, including historical identity and the maintenance of a system that accustoms immigrants to accepting supportive communities for their new cultures, are not only political but hold close religious moralities. For instance, calls for community support relate to the Christian, Jewish as well as Islamic prohibitions against the suffering of others and the encouragement of solidarity among people of different backgrounds. Furthermore, their acts are reflected in the Raging ridge system; nonetheless, when using the mosaic plot, there is no special shading toward either emphasizing conservative or liberal channels. This lack of politically partisan positions in the thematic material leads to a conclusion that both sides of the political spectrum deal with immigration as a question that belongs to culture and ethics rather than mere political agenda. From a religious-philosophical point of view that may mean, there is moral signification in terms of culture and integration which are significant in the ethics of Buddhism and Islam for example in terms of interconnectivity and justice. The similarity in the coverage of the thematic concerns in both conservative and liberal-purchased media may also be due to a shift in culture where people appreciate history and immigration. One might regard this solidarity as belonging to a more extensive ethics that assumes ideational integration, cultural appreciation, and social equity as universal principles in religious ethics and moral theory. This kind of convergence disrupts the partisan agenda that one would expect of media outlets on immigration and suggests a common cause with the protection of cultural identity and public interest. Therefore, the mosaic plot provides a

consistent analysis of the structures within media framing of Japanese immigrants that cannot be controlled by perceived ideological disposition. But this focus on shared culture and community concerns indicates that both the conservative and the liberal media are working within the same moral plane, where questions of history, care for fellow community members, and cultural assimilation take over from partisan politics. These themes relate to those derived from religious and philosophical approaches that capture solidarity, dignity, and justice, making the role that media plays in determining public discourse visions of wider moral and religious teachings.

4.8 Results Interpretation

The results of the conducted chi-square test and the mosaic plot give findings contradicting the initially stated thesis, indicating that coverage of immigration is not as ideological as assumed. It can be inferred from the present findings that conservative and liberal constructed representations of Japanese immigration are statistically identical, again, in terms of quantity and quality of appearance, be it numerically or categorically, topics or tones. This result is somewhat surprising since ideological biases would predict that conservatives will emphasize more negative or security aspects of the narrative, while liberals will emphasize the positive or human rights aspects of the narrative. About tone, it is observed that while conservative sources produce more negative articles on average, the share of negative, positive, and balanced tones in both media is not significantly different. This indicates that both print and electronic media do not always ideologically portray Japanese immigration. From an ethical position, this convergence indicates a heightened sense of professionalism in presenting the news largely because religious teachings frown on partiality, deception, and unfairness; thus, the sacred mission of the press as the watchdog of society to present news that has been produced professionally and ethically. The lack of much variance between the two media types means that both types may be biased by universal cultural factors or journalistic ethics not aligned to any political leaning. Based on thematic content, there is an even greater convergence of this type of animation with the second type. Examples are the Historical Preservation and Community Support issues that both conservatives and liberals wish to see in the media. Such alignment indicates that the media is in a way discussing other aspects of the societal narratives that are beyond the political separation for ethical morality – cultural preservation and socio-responsible support for unity.

Historical Preservation for example; illustrates the need to embrace history and its relevance in the formation and patriotism- this concept is based on Jewish /Christian religious and philosophical values where history is the foundation in sustaining a community's tradition and ethos. In contrast, Community Support as a concept of awakening requires society to be united with one another, which is quite similar to teachings from Islamic, Christian, and Buddhist religions where people are encouraged to be compassionate to their fellow person and collectively responsible. These themes can by their very nature be non-partisan, which underlines the understanding of this research that immigration coverage can be unifying rather than dividing. Instead of acting as a catalyst for immigrant phobia, the media continues to uphold key values such as culture, and the ability to unite as one solid community. From a religious and philosophic perspective, this agrees with justice, compassion, and respect for mankind within religious philosophies. The propensity of conservative as well as liberal media to cover similar themes supports the view that media can construct an ethical vision of immigrants that stakeholders have a moral duty to uphold.

4.9 Implications for Media Polarization and Framing

These results present new evidence that does not support mainstream theories on media polarization and its relation to immigration news. There is a tendency to think that conservative and liberal sources belong to different ideological polarities and tell opposite stories with the help of different strategies of framing. However, from this perspective, no massive swing in the general positive-negative-paranoid ratio and no tilt of the novel toward either pole points to a more complicated picture. Further, ideological biases are not necessarily reflected in clear partisanship or polarizing frames, meaning this is not a clear-cut case of the narrative divide that was previously assumed. That is why knowing that media polarization, especially in terms of admitting Japanese immigrants, is significantly lower than supposed, is quite promising. Conservative and liberal media organizations have the same ideological narratives regarding historical memory and the support of ethnic minorities and immigrants. These shared themes lead to a greater narrative consistency in immigration discussions, and indicate common cultural assumptions over ideological differences. The focus on these focuses shows that overall media regardless of political bias address immigration in a way that is acceptable by society and does not polarize the readership. This supports the notion that the

decisions made by editors are not borne out purely of ideological agendas but may also be governed by other journalistic predispositions and informational logic. Therefore, the study refutes the notion that political inclination is fully responsible for exercising discretion on matters of immigration. It appears that political affiliation, Historical Preservation, and Community Support are the dominant themes in both regional weekly papers, as well as dailies.

4.10 Editorial Practices and Balanced Reporting

This analysis also explains why there are no sharp differences in the choice of tones and topics between conservative and liberal media and the transformation taking place in the media organizations. From these reports, it is clear that it does not necessarily mean ideological inclinations that determine the kind of approach to take when presenting Japanese immigration stories but other aspects of societies' or even the journalists' ethical practices. This evolution is important as it indicates that other sources both self-described as conservative or liberal may be catering to a similar set of standards for news that largely transcends the ideological positions. This may have been out of changes observed in journalism where much emphasis has been placed on the issue of bias when delivering their reports. In this regard, such topics as Historical Preservation or Community Support are perceived as the result of the desire to meet the public's expectations toward journalism that promotes unity and continuity rather than division. These arguments indicate that both conservative and liberal media are presenting Japanese immigration in a less partisan but more societal fashion. As with the first pattern, this shift could be beneficial to the future of the media's output concerning immigration matters since both types of media sources are gradually seeming to lean from highly sensationalized to less sensationalized sources.

4.11 Impact on Public Perception and Policy-Making

The nature of moderate variation in terms of orientation between the conservative and liberal media business also has important implications for the perception of society and the formation of policy. However, since the common source effect did not find that the tone or the themes of the media portrayal of Japanese immigration differed substantially, the effect on public opinion may be more consistent than previously thought. Where the media's narratives are extremely simplified and opposed, divergence opposes the formation of a unified public opinion, which may in turn shape

agendas in line with the partisan divide. Yet, in this case, the overlap in themes on one hand and the absence of clear conservative-leaning and, on the other hand of liberal bias may contribute to the creation of more united and better-informed public conversation. This convergence of framing in media could decrease the likelihood of polarization in opinion-making and help in coming up with a holistic approach to framing immigration policies. Through its generally positive portrayal of Japanese immigration, the media can somewhat reduce the polarization of post-reform immigration policy debates. This shift toward a more integrated media narrative could enable a move toward better aligned and content-focused immigration policies, which served a wider population rather than just electoral bases. Thus, this attention to immigration media unification may help in informing the public on this significant subject and policy-making with methods when this concern is often polarized.

5. CONCLUSION

This study looks at the conservative and liberal news sources' portrayal of Japanese immigrants during the main changes in immigration policies in the United States in the period between 2019 and 2024. This study involves analysis of 400 articles from various media sources thus offering the best representation of the portrayal of Japanese immigrants during that transformation period. Nevertheless, this study raises doubts about the accuracy of the premise of 'media polarization' and walks the reader through the evidence for comparing conservative and liberal media in their treatment of Japanese immigrants. The research results indicate that politically sensational media did not offer any differences in the coverage of Japanese immigration. Media scans of both electronic and print media were categorized into positive, neutral, and negative hit chi-square tests giving $p > 0.05$. In some themes like Historical Preservation and Community Support, the ideological difference of the media channels came out to be negligible which pointed to the conclusion that the media was trending to portray Japanese Immigration in tune with the reality. This thematic convergence testifies to the ethicizing of the immigration question as a process that goes beyond party-political controversy, responding to religion, ethical imperatives of solidarity, and responsibility for protecting heritage and fostering social cohesion. The results are thus important in debates about mediated polarization and framing processes concerning immigration. This study also found that Japanese immigration is not portrayed in sharp ideological terms which contradicts the current

analysis of a polarized media environment. On the contrary, based on the findings, media approaches could be becoming more integrated, which may help to prevent opinion fragmentation and promote less polarization in the constructs of immigration policies. This harmonization conforms with the religious ethical perception most world over religions is known to embrace where fairness and balanced dialogue form part of the acceptable principles in societal engagement. Several reasons for this convergence of framing in the media are suggested. Perhaps due to the principles of 'objectivity' in journalism and the now-existing codes of ethics, what is coming across is less skewed politically. Another reason could be historical preservation and community support tradition which would employ the media more than partisan. This means that for some topics, therefore, the public good may at times precede political leanings – a tenet that holds its roots in religion. However, there are some limitations to the study. Though the work has its strengths. Social media information included in the analysis might only reflect a portion of all groups involved in the discussions, for example, groups using only Japanese or other non-English language media sources. Also, almost all the topical buckets that we identified as having low density but high relevance to advertising have hardly been discussed. However, it can only examine events up to the year 2024, and one can come across new perspectives when viewing the potential trends. Future research can be extended by using more various media sources including International and languages other than English media outlets. A longer study period might also give a better understanding of the change in media framing of Japanese immigration. Furthermore, there is potential for enhancing knowledge by employing different qualitative techniques including content analysis or audience studies to unravel the effects of Media framing on the public discourse and policy. This study contributes to the understanding of media and immigration coverage by questioning the narrative of media polarization and suggesting ways in which media can promote public solidarity. The evidence that both conservative and liberal outlets cover immigration similarly highlights the potential for balanced media coverage to shape more inclusive and ethical policy responses. Understanding what drives this convergence could help guide the development of media strategies that promote fairness, justice, and social cohesion, principles that resonate with many religious philosophies.

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