Any research has its motivations. It is said a maiden work often reveals the writer's deepest concerns and philosophy. It would be useful for readers to know why and how I chose the NPT as my PhD thesis. In retrospect, I can explain several motivations, which drove me to choose the NPT as my PhD thesis.

First, my education at KEIO University mattered. Prof. MORIMOTO Satoshi, a security specialist, often emphasized that understanding of nuclear weapons are essential as good IR scholars "even after" the end of the Cold War. I learned much from Prof. SATO Seizaburo, a great political/social scientist, about theory, history and practice in international security. Under the guidance of Prof. SATO, I read MURAKAMI Yasusuke's Hankoten no Seiji-Keizai Gaku (translated by Kozo Yamamura, An Anticlassical Political-Economic Analysis, 1996) again and again. I was deeply impressed by Prof. MURAKAMI's remark that nuclear weapons seems to affect our consciousness profoundly far greater than its physical destructiveness. Nuclear proliferation has become an important agenda in our world today.

Second, my thinking about nuclear weapons in world politics was oscillated between idealist progressivism and realist pessimism. During the Cold War, I was critically idealistic enough that the delicate balance of terror (so-called "MAD") between the US and the former USSR was abnormal state to risk the existence of entire human-beings and ecology (needless to say my existence itself) on the planet. Just after the Cold War, I was critically realistic enough that human-beings could not eradicate conflicts, wars, and nuclear weapons anytime soon. In this rapidly changing world today, I am probably realistic enough to recognize nuclear disarmament becomes more and more difficult, most probably impossible in my life time. But I am also idealistic enough to hope that we should avoid further nuclear proliferation and nuclear use, the real and imminent dangers and threats to us today and for the foreseeable future.

Third, I was also impressed at the huge perception gap between Japan and India on nuclear weapons and the NPT-based nuclear order. India's policy was realistic enough to
realize the currency of nuclear weapons and the discrimination and hypocrisy of the NPT. Japan's policy obstinately insisted nuclear disarmament and arms control on the basis of the NPT. On the one hand, I did not feel at ease with realist justification of nuclear weapons, on the other hand, I was equally never content with idealistic, rather naïve, claims for nuclear disarmament. We should be realistic and idealistic together. Be a real realist, to be a real idealist.

Fourth, I felt the apparent signs of drastic change in the NPT and nuclear politics. Indian and Pakistan nuclear going in 1998 seemed to be just a beginning of coming radical changes in the NPT-based nuclear non-proliferation regime and nuclear order. Policy debates were divided between liberal disarmament utopianism and realist cynicism. I wanted to search for somewhat reasonable answer.

Fifth, I wanted to choose a research topic which is very fundamental and salient to world politics in our age. The topic is global in width, crucial in international relations and security, which deserved theoretical, historical and empirical investigations. I wanted to explore the case important to our contemporary world for the foreseeable future. The result is what follows.

Regarding methodology, epistemology and philosophy, I developed policy-oriented interdisciplinary approach during my study at the pioneering and newly established Department of Policy Management, KEIO University. I always admired Prof. SATO's rich and deep understanding of political/social science and history. I was deeply influenced by MURAKAMI Yasusuke's works combining theory, history, and practice especially his Han-koten no Seiji Keizai Gaku (An Anti-Classical Political Economic Analysis, 1996). I learned the critical insights of "scienticism" in social science especially neo-classical economics, from NISHIBE Susumu's conservatism, especially Chisei no Kouzou (A Linguistic Structure of Thinking). I am owed my post-positivistic and Grotian understanding of IR theory to the teaching of Prof. Steve Smith and Dr. Timothy Dunne at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth. I read and thought upon Edward Hallett Carr's classic The Twenty Years' Crisis and his political thoughts again and again. My
ideological pluralism was further developed in my JNU years, under the influence of Kanti Bajpai’s liberalism, Prof. Varun Sahni’s liberal-realism, and Prof. Rajesh Rajagopalan’s realism. Probably, many traces above may be seen in this research.

It is also noteworthy that I have been influenced by the thinking of classical Indian philosophy of religions to see our existence, world and universe in relationship and wholeness with spirits of philosophical tolerance and pluralism. In some sense, the state of my thinking about world politics may be like our humanity and contemporary India in the rapidly globalizing world in the 21st century: it does face the danger of deterioration, division, and disintegration, but it should walk toward harmony and unity in diversity. Even if remarkable progress is just an old modernist dream, we human-being should, at least, seek for coexistence in this “age of extreme”.

We have witnessed so many unexpected events in world politics in recent years. These challenges of nuclear proliferation and the NPT do not undermine my research thesis, but rather confirm that this topic is important today and, most probably, for the foreseeable future.