

Acknowledgements

Published by

Moriyama, Takahito. Empire of Direct Mail: How Conservative Marketing Persuaded Voters and Transformed the Grassroots.

University Press of Kansas, 2023. Project MUSE. https://dx.doi.org/10.1353/book.101233.



 For additional information about this book https://muse.jhu.edu/book/101233



Since I stumbled across the topic of political direct mail as an undergraduate, I have explored American history and politics. The research was a great journey, literally and figuratively, as I moved back and forth between Japan and the United States. This project would be impossible without the assistance of numerous people and institutions that I have encountered in the two countries over the years.

I appreciated that Toru Takenaka, Takao Fujikawa, Shigeru Akita, and other professors at Osaka University, offered generous support to me when I had not yet decided to make my way to academia. I am also grateful to professors at Kyoto University such as Masugi Shimada, Akio Kawashima, Jun Yoshida, Eisaku Kihira, to name just a few. In particular, Professor Shimada emotionally supported me and wielded profound influence by teaching American history as well as the excitement of cycling, which have become my lifetime job and hobby. I was lucky in Kyoto because I took a course in US history by G. Kurt Piehler. He encouraged me to go abroad to advance my research and helped me for years as a mentor at Florida State University where I completed my PhD. In the early stages of this research, Neil Jumonville, Michael Creswell, and Michael McVicar provided me with insights and criticisms. I am also indebted to Suzanne Sinke, Jennifer L. Koslow, Brad T. Gomez, and Alf Tomas Tønnessen who read the manuscript in its entirety. After I returned to Japan, I was able to move forward with publication at the University of Tokyo. While the coronavirus pandemic dramatically changed our lives, Yasuo Endo, Kenryu Hashikawa, and Kotaro Nakano provided me with circumstances under which I could put all my energy into the manuscript. At the University Press of Kansas, David Congdon gave me much advice in altering my PhD dissertation into a book for wider audiences.

This project has received the help of many other people. I would like to thank the staff of the Harry S. Truman, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard Nixon, Gerald R. Ford, Jimmy Carter, and Ronald Reagan presidential libraries. In addition, librarians were always supportive at the universities I visited, including Yale University, Brown University, Columbia University, Indiana University/Purdue University, Duke University, University of Arkansas, University of Kansas, Arizona State University, University of Texas at Austin, and University of Wyoming. Especially significant for my research were the Hoover Institution Archives and the Library of Congress, which provided a number of materials concerning conservative activists and organizations. Looking back at these archival research trips reminds me of the fact that many people across the United States made contributions to my project.

I would not have achieved my research goals without the generous assistance of the Fulbright Scholar Program, which provided not merely financial support but also opportunities to socialize with other brilliant friends from around the world. The Alvin Achenbaum Travel Grant of Duke University, the research grant of the America–Japan Society, and that of the Harry S. Truman Library also made it possible for me to do research in several archives. I am grateful that I presented parts of this book in talks at the University of London, the University of Alabama, Lebanon Valley College, and the University of California, Berkeley, along with other places in which I received encouraging advice from scholars.

Last but not least, friends and family were essential to me. Since I was a master's student in Japan, it has been always thought-provoking to have conversations with Hideaki Kami. I was fortunate to benefit from the generosity of the "gang" in the Institute on World War II and the Human Experience at Florida State University. In the last few months at FSU, I truly enjoyed working with Huaqing, Shi, Gabriela Maduro, Gillian Morton, Julianna Witt, Andrew Flaxman, Bianca Pallo, Lee Morrison, Laran Dixon, Jenna Pope, Jessie Mrock, Allison Overholt, among other students. Some of them kindly proofread my dissertation quite carefully. Michael Kasper, then institute archivist, was among the most amiable and congenial persons I ever encountered in Florida (probably in the United States). I was also happy to share with Anne Marsh several stories about the Second World War. And Kurt, as the director of the institute and my mentor, patiently helped me. I can confidently say that the years in Florida were the most wonderful chapter of my life. No matter where I am in the world, Yasuhiro Moriyama, Yuri Moriyama, Hirokazu Moriyama, and Aya Omae have always helped me a lot, and it is my greatest pleasure to see my nephews and niece—Toru, Wataru, Sho, and Kokomi—growing up in Kochi, Japan.

EMPIRE OF DIRECT MAIL