The novel Cocktail Party, written by Tatsuhiro Ōshiro in 1967, explores the complex relationships and suffering of the Okinawan people under U.S. occupation after World War II. The first half of the book focuses on the narrator "I", an Okinawan father attending a cocktail party hosted by an American named Mr. Miller. The second half shifts perspective to "you", implying the reader becomes the father and details his obsession with pursuing and charging American soldier Robert Harris for raping his daughter. This cocktail party can be represented as the post-war San Francisco System defined by John Dower, a new strategic order in Asia dominated by the U.S. The characters have symbolic meaning, with the father representing Okinawa, Mr. Ogawa as mainland Japan/Tokyo government, and Mr. Sun as countries invaded by Imperial Japan.

As historian John Dower explains, “The San Francisco System takes its name from two treaties signed in San Francisco on September 8, 1951, under which the terms for restoring independence to Japan were established.”(pp 2) However, Japan doesn’t include Okinawa, and the peace is delayed to many other countries. One treaty is the Treaty of Peace with Japan, which went into effect on April 28, 1952, the multinational treaty involving Japan and forty-eight "allied" nations to declare a formal end to hostilities but without China, Korea or The Soviet Union. (Huaffman pp 60, Dower pp 2). It was non-punitive and generous to Japan and helped it to be a democratic, prosperous and peaceful nation under U.S. influence. China, having borne the brunt of Japanese aggression and occupation since the 1930s, but neither Communist China nor the Chinese Nationalist regime that had fled to Taiwan were invited to the conference. However, later on, the Chinese Nationalist regime in Taiwan signed the Treaty of Taipei with Japan on April 28, 1952. The Soviet Union and Japan established diplomatic relations in a joint declaration on October 19, 1956, but they did not sign a formal peace treaty and left disputed islands. A separate Treaty on Basic Relations between Japan and the Republic of Korea was signed on June 22, 1965, but excluded North Korea. Japan's diplomatic relations with the PRC were not restored until 1972, and until 1978 a formal Treaty of Peace and Friendship was concluded. Dower believes the delayed peace treaties with its neighbors clearly introduced aftermath conflicts that continue nowadays. Okinawa, Senkaku, and other islands remained under U.S. occupation while mainland Japan regained sovereignty.(pp38, wk 10 slides). Okinawa remained under U.S. administration until 1972, when it was returned to Japan. The peace agreement for Okinawa was delayed for two decades.

The other one is the U.S. Security Treaty, "which allowed the United States to keep military bases in Japan in exchange for providing military protection." Article I states that the U.S. army in Japan will maintain international peace and security in the Far East (Hauffman, pp4, 5). This article assures the consistency of military presence in Japan. Additionally, Article II states that during the exercise of Article I, Japan won't grant bases or related rights without prior consent from the United States to third powers. The Japanese government had no right to intervene in U.S. bases, at least before the 70s. Japan gives up any right to wage a war in its new peace constitution(Huffman, pp157), but with the Security Treaty, it could cooperate with the U.S. in Korean and Vietnam War triggered Japanese economy boom in 1950s and 1960s (Hauffman, pp 162, 163, robson intro, pp 15).

Furthermore, in Dower's words, the San Francisco System caused "Okinawa and the "Two Japans", that divided the country by detaching the Okinawa Prefecture. Okinawa became Americans indispensable frontline bases against to communist threat,and the Japanese government knew that too, that "its residents were simply an expendable bargaining chip" to restore mainland Japan's sovereignty. In the Battle of Okinawa, its residents were expendable so they served as the last frontline of the Japanese Empire. However, the Robsen's introduction more clearly states the situation of U.S. occupation.

Okinawans called the Treaty of Peace with Japan signing date a "day of shame", reflecting resentment towards the U.S. and Japan (introduction, pp10), along with a huge protest in 1952. The presence of B-52s, radars, helicopters, planes, and chemical weapons in Okinawa greatly damaged the people mentally.(pp 15) In 1968, 43,000 American troops were stationed there. Okinawa's economy depended on serving the US troops, as there was little industry. Many farmers turned their lands into GI bar businesses or other base enterprises, giving up generations of farming. (pp21)

During Vietnam build-up, prostitution was believed to be the largest off-base "consumer" expenditure by personnel (pp21, 22). The number of crimes, including robbery, assault, and rape committed by U.S. military against Okinawa residents was a major concern, often occurring near bases or GI bars. The U.S. soldiers who committed severe crimes usually had little or no punishment from the army, and the Okinawa government had no rights to trial them, unless they volunteered to show up at Okinawa court, which is rare. As the author said,

"Such legal inequities result in the dilemma of the father who seeks to press charges against his daughter's assailant in the novella Cocktail Party."(p18) In the novel, Robert Harris, who raped the daughter at camp M, easily get away from the case. In hospital, He claimed that the father's daughter had committed a crime against him, specifically mentioning an injury to his leg, and maintained his refusal to appear in court. and charged the daughter instead.

With these backgrounds, a conversation between Mr. Morgan, an American army mechanic, and Mr. Ogawa, a reporter, represents the debate over Okinawa's political status after WWII. When Morgan asked if Okinawa's reversion to Japan was inevitable, he revealed his belief that Okinawa should be independent, citing George Kerr's book The History of an Island People as proof. However, Ogawa dismissed the book as a biased justification of U.S. foreign policy, not valid history. The narrator adds nuance by noting that Okinawans invented the word "mainland" to distinguish their culture, yet also disagrees that Okinawa is not Japanese or needs independence, at least not by way of the United States.

Besides, after conversation of war responsibility with Mr. Sun, "Don't give yourself a guilt complex. This has nothing to do with us during the war." (pp39) Here, Mr. Ogawa clearly stands for the official position of the Japanese government.

However, in the second half of the novel, each person's metaphor becomes more clear. Mr. Miller who is revealed as part of the Army Counter-Intelligence Corps and represents the U.S. military influence in Okinawa. All the conversations, parties are part of intelligence collecting. The father saught help to his good friend Miller on the rape case, but Miller said "Why do you single me out to help you condemn the act of one young American just because I also happen to be an American?"(pp56) Clearly, Miller never truly sympathizes with the father.At the case in 1963 a middle school boy was hit by a truck driven by U.S. marine, and the marine was acquitted of responsibility.(intro, pp17) Clearly they don't condone each other in the army, as a culture.

Mr. Miller still invited the father to go to a party, pretending everything didn't happen. Miller still thinks "we" Okinawans and Americans need to maximize friendship. There might be resentment now, but it'll be fine in the future. But, eventually, the narrator stands out as a rebellion, said to Miller that "It's only a disguise", and "I want to indict, but all the pretense of the cocktail party." (pp74) Under international relations, U.S. officers said they would bring more prosperity than ruled by mainland Japan due to their investment and soldiers' expenditures

outside bases which are nor real. Similarly, the Japanese government made them as a bargaining chip to trade with sovereignty.

Mr. Sun wife was raped by a Japanese soldier while their son was kidnapped under the police of "protective custody." Mr. Sun fled China to Okinawa where he lived as a foreigner, isolated and alone in a dreary rental unit complex inhabited mostly by Americans.(pp30) He insisted on wearing disguises, and he had to put on a mask to ease the pain to live. (pp45) He represented a majority of “delayed justice”, those who are not included in the Treaty of Peace with Japan. In lecture, 311, comfort womens, or Southeast Asian laborers died in Burma Railway, the confiscations still not resolved nor admitted. It can also be many Japanese who lost their family during air raids, starving during occupation.

The father decided to charge Robert Harris with a lawsuit, even though winning was impossible. This action was likely compensation for the treaty that occurred with Mr. Sun. When Mr. Sun had asked about his father's time as a soldier invading China. It brought back memories of begging a Chinese couple for food and water in the middle of the night. The couple had given fake smiles and deep bows to the father - the same type of gestures that Okinawans now showed Americans. In my view, the lawsuit against Harris was the father's way of compensating for Mr. Sun's tragedy and his own regrets over not doing enough to prevent suffering during the war.

Moreover, there were many people as the father decided to fight against the intruders. 3 years after the novel was released. In 1970 December, a full protest happened after an accident involving a local pedestrian and a car driven by an American soldier, without trial. Eventually the accidents were serious enough that the U.S. decided to give Okinawa back to Japan in order to continue military missions.

The essay discussed metaphors of the novel Cocktail Party based on the San Francisco System, life of Okinawa under U.S. occupation.