

Title	A consideration on the social change in a community : through the area study of a Japanese fishing village
Sub Title	
Author	仲, 康(Naka, Yasushi)
Publisher	三田哲學會
Publication year	1958
Jtitle	哲學 No.35 (1958. 11) ,p.B22- B22
JaLC DOI	
Abstract	
Notes	Abstract
Genre	
URL	https://koara.lib.keio.ac.jp/xoonips/modules/xoonips/detail.php?koara_id=AN00150430-00000035-0712

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A Consideration on the Social Change in a Community

—Through the Area Study of a Japanese Fishing Village—

Yasushi Naka

The sardine-fishery on the Kujūkuri Coast is now decaying in spite of the technical improvement in various minor points. We may point out, as its primary causes, two factors, the economic—the diminution of economic income of ship-owners due to the inefficiencies of productive techniques—and the social—the feudalistic human relations between employers and employees.

These factors are now driving the present “Aguri-ami Fishery” to the decay, as they once had played a decisive part in the fall of the former “Jibiki-ami Fishery” in this district. Because of the technical inferiority and the decrease of the number of fishing labourers due to the feudalistic labour conditions of the “Jibiki-ami Fishery”, the former great seineowners, “Ô Jibiki-ami-nushi” had been in vain in struggling against the rising of the present “Aguri-ami-nushi”, that is, ship-owners of the “Aguri-ami Fishery” which was a new fishing technique in the process of transition from the “Jibiki-ami Fishery” to the “Aguri-ami Fishery”.

In the face of the present crisis of sardine-fishery, these ship-owners are striving to overcome the difficulty by constructing a fishing harbour. The construction of a new harbour will result certain changes in the existing structure of this fishing society. The main object of this paper consists in the historical as well as analytical investigations of the social changes which are brought out by the adoption of new productive techniques in this small community.