

Title	Dichotomus thought in modern society
Sub Title	
Author	横山, 寧夫(Yokoyama, Yasuo)
Publisher	三田哲學會
Publication year	1960
Jtitle	哲學 No.38 (1960. 11) ,p.B13- B13
JaLC DOI	
Abstract	
Notes	Abstract
Genre	
URL	https://koara.lib.keio.ac.jp/xoonips/modules/xoonips/detail.php?koara_id=AN00150430-00000038-0326

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Dichotomous thought in modern society

Yasuo Yokoyama

This report attempts to analyse the social and cultural basis of the dichotomy of thought exceedingly prevailed in the modern society under mutually opposite forms: right or left, friend or foe, sink or swim. Originally this thought has been derived from the ideological thought, and it also arises in the thought of bystanders. The leading points of this causes are as follows.

1. Ideological opposite situation, especially with relation to the modern massification.

2. Intolerance of thought caused by the ignorance for the another side of knowledge, as a result of specialization of labours.

3. Loss of social solidarity, above all in the time of reconstruction of society.

4. Utopian consciousness and fall consciousness. The former does not compromise by halves, and the latter prefers behaviors to theory.

5. Social status of the bearer of thought. The frustrations of those who are isolated from the political life give out to extreme reaction or retrocedence.

6. The thought as a borrowed plums. It is not worthy to throw away the thought if it is a borrowed one.

7. Authoritarian personality. It brings forth fast solution and intolerance to ambiguity.

8. Thought inclines to the puriness. It premises the imperfect society, and it will stick at nothing to gain its end.

And in order to avoid this dichotomy, one has to educate the spirit of tolerance in company with its sociological reflection. To solidify the spontaneous connection between the members of open society, will be of use to take off the unnecessary anxiety between them, and will help to pave the way for tolerance of thought.