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## The Problem of Balance in Soviet Economy

by Kenzo Kiga

It is said in Soviet Russia that the balance of national economy is based on the Marxian schema of reproduction, that is the equation of  $IC=II(V+M)$ .

In the case of expanding reproduction, it is asserted  $II(V+M)$  should be somewhat greater than  $IC$ . Relying on this principle, Soviet economists insist that the growth rate of the 1st department of production (that of producer's goods) must exceed the growth rate of the 2nd department (that of consumer's goods). The present writer finds this insistence unfounded.

In so far as the organic composition of capital is unchanged, the expansion of economy goes on without any difference between both growth rates. If the expansion is accompanied by the higher composition, it might occur that the first department grows more rapidly than the second. However, the relation between the expansion and the organic composition does not always go in such a parallel way. When labor intensive methods are adopted, as it has been so often observed in Soviet, it would be necessary to increase the growth rate of the 2nd department more rapidly, in order to avoid inflationary pressure. In Soviet economy, where the planning authority can manipulate prices and real wages, the balance between the two departments would be kept, whatever ratio of the growth rates of them may be adopted.

In the micro-economic field the problem of balance means to maintain an efficient allocation of resources to satisfy various demands of people. Soviet planned economy lacks, in this respect, necessary conditions for it. What is most important for the efficiency is not to make a correct plan, but to adapt the resources to the needs as immediately as possible when the disharmony between supply and demand occurs. It is necessary for this purpose to see clearly where, when and in what degree such disharmonies take place, and then to let people automatically remove the obstacles. The writer points out

some of the inherent defects in Soviet planned economy to deal with these aspects of the balance problem.

## Die historische Bedeutung des deutschen Bauernkrieges (Nr. 4)

von Makoto Terao

Im Spätmittelalter entstand der Lokalmarkt im Südwestdeutschland. Der ökonomische Aufschwung des deutsch-südwesten Handelskapital beruht einerseits auf diesem Marktverhältniss, andererseits auf der geographischer vorteilhafter Position dieses Gebiet in Europa. Mit dieser ökonomischen Entwicklung können wir die merkwürdige Veränderung von der sozial Gliederung in der Stadt betrachten. Wir teilen nach Jecht die drei wirtschaftlichen Haupttypen des deutschen Stadt im Spätmittelalter. 1. die kleine Ackerbürgerstadt. 2. die mittelgroße Gewerbe- und Handelsstadt, die Mittelpunkt eines lokalen Absatzgebiet. 3. die Exportgewerbe- und Handelsstadt, z.B. Augsburg. In der Stadt des letzten zweien Stadtypus war die Differenzierung der Vermögen weiter fortschritten; Anwachen der vermögenden Klasse, Verkleinerung der Mittelklasse und Vermehrung der untersten Vermögenklasse.

Wir wenden unsern Blick auf die Zunft, dessen alte Verfassung als Kern der Mittelklasse in 15. und 16. Jahrhunderte durchbrochen war. Von einer Gleichheit im alten Sinne kann nicht annähernd mehr die Rede sein. Einzelne kapitalkräftige Meister erhoben sich über die Menge der Handwerker, Meist von welcher die verarmten Meister und die deklassierten Handwerksgesellen war. Zugleich entstand der Entartung der Zunftwesen und der selbständige Gesellenverband im Spätmittelalter oft macht Streit gegenüber ihrer Meistern wegen Lohn und Arbeitstag u.a.

Zu untersten Volksschichte in Städte gehörten die Tagelöhner, die Bettler und die bloßen nichtzunftigen ungelerten Arbeiter.

Über diese mitteln, untern Bürger stand die Gruppe der wenigen reichen Bürger, Geschlechter. Sie ergreifen die städtischen Macht durch den Stadtrat und benutzten diese Machtstellung zu ihrem Vorteil.

Während des Bauernkrieges können wir die manchen städtischen Unruhen, besonders in mittelgroßen Städte sehen. Aber gelang es ihnen eben so wenig wie den Bauern, sich ein weites politisches oder soziales Ziel zu setzen und in einer nationalen, über die lokale Beschränktheit hinausragenden, Bewegung anzustreben.

Schluß—Der deutsche Bauernkrieg war die Frucht der jahrhundertelangen antifeudalen Bewegung des deutschen Bauerntum. Aber Engländer und Franzosen hatten ihre Bauernkriege schon in 14. Jahrhundert durchgemacht. Erst in 16. Jahrhundert, Zeitalter des Frühkapitalismus erhoben sich die deutschen Bauern gegenüber ihrer Herren. Meist von Massen und ihrer Führer aber kann nicht die Lokalborniertheit und die gemäßigte Charakter ihrer Bewegungen hinaustreten. So vor die verbundene Macht ihrer Herren, Schwäbische Bund runierte die ganze Bewegung. Dieses geschichtliche Sozialgeschehnis mit Reformation war das Signal-Feuer des Zeitalter der bürgerlichen Revolution in Europa. Aber Unreife der wesentlichen Bedingungen für die bürgerliche Revolution kann es nicht die siegreiche Revolution sein worden.

## Trade Unions in Modern Economy

### — Production and Cost Structure —

by *Yohko Sano*

The writer's ultimate object is to examine the rôle of trade unions in modern economy. The present case study of Japan's coal mining industry makes a part of the writer's research together with the former studies. On account of there being no available data the analysis is restricted within big 18 firms which occupy 70 percent of all coal output.

1. It is generally observed that labor cost percentage in a industry does not change so greatly as its wage level does. From 1951 to 1954 wage rate rose by 35.5 percent in our coal mining, while the ratio of labor cost to total cost of the coal industry seems only to fluctuate around a certain constant level. On the other hand in the depression period 1924-1930 German coal industry faced a rapid increase in wages.

It resulted in rapid mechanization, and labor cost percentage remained almost constant. These facts imply that there is a stable structure of production and, relating to it, of cost.

2. There are two approaches to production function. One is economic such as J. Robinson developed, and the other is technological such as R. M. Solow tried to set up. (1) The writer's formulation of technological structure is the followings.  $X=f(Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_n)$ , where production is denoted by  $X$  and the level of technology by  $Y_i$ . If confined only to mining process, technology means pick-mining, cutter-mining, etc. Entrepreneurs select this level of technology. Thus  $C=g(R_1, R_2, \dots, R_n)$ , where the capacity of production is written with  $C$  and the indicator of equipments and machinery (technology), e.g. picks, cutters, etc. written with  $R_i$ . Technological production function shows substitution among equipments. (2) From another point of view production function shows substitution among productive factors. Let  $L$  be labor (defined in any way) and  $R$  be all the substitutes for labor, then output  $Q=h(L, R)$  will be the case.

3. Only a few successful results of calculation are obtained from both approaches in Douglas type using cross-section data.

(1) By the least-square method.

$$\begin{aligned} Q &= cR_1^{j_1}R_2^{j_2} & Q: & \text{output (ton)} \\ j_1 &= 0.311 & R_1: & \text{picks (number)} \\ j_2 &= 0.583 & R_2: & \text{coal-picks (number)} \\ r &= 0.915 & & \text{(in March 1956)} \end{aligned}$$

(2) By the structural estimation method.

$$\begin{aligned} Q &= bL^{(1+s_1)k}R^{(1+s_2)j} & Q: & \text{output (ton)} \\ k &= 0.832 & L: & \text{miners (man)} \\ j &= 0.168 & R: & \text{book value of machinery (yen)} \\ r &= 0.952 & & \text{(in September 1955)} \end{aligned}$$

4. Let  $w$  and  $d$  be unit prices of  $L$  and  $R$ . It is well known that  $\frac{wL}{wL+dR}$  is equal to  $\frac{k}{k+j}$ , if  $w$  and  $d$  are paid equivalent to their marginal product. According to the cost data of 1956, when  $w$  is labor cost and  $d$  depreciation cost, the average of  $\frac{wL}{wL+dR}$  is 0.851.  $\frac{wL}{wL+dR}$  corresponds to  $\frac{k}{k+j}$  in this way, that is, cost structure is founded on production structure.

When trade unions are strong enough to raise their wages

relatively to the price of machinery and equipments,  $w/d$  rises and entrepreneurs have to substitute machinery for labor according to this law of substitution. It is by no means sufficient as to changes in  $L$  and  $R$ , but the above is a fundamental form. The effect of trade unions on wages reaches entrepreneurs' labor demand behavior under the condition of production and cost structure. (April 1958.)