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The Economic Significance of the Theory of the Alienation (Entfremdung)

by Kyuzo Asobe

Marx' literary remains, "Economic-philosophical Manuscripts" ("Ökonomisch-philosophische Manuskripte") (1844) has ever been studied from the two different viewpoints. One is to study it from the viewpoint of history of social thoughts. According to this approach >Real Humanism< (realer Humanismus) in early Marx' thought has particularly been elucidated, and this Real Humanism has often been overestimated as >Original Marxism<, while the development of the later Marx' thought and Marxism underestimated. The other is the study from the viewpoint of political economy, according to which the germs of the doctrines in "The Capital" ("Das Kapital") are found in "The Manuscripts" and the relations between them are pointed out. Of these two ways of approach, the first one has been thought to be much superior than the second one, and the latter has been followed only incidentally in connection with the study of "The Capital". The theme of this paper, however, belongs to the latter. It tries to settle the place of "The Manuscripts" in the history of the growth of Marx' political economy, specially his theory of value, being based upon the elucidation of the significance of his theory of the alienation.

Marx grasped the meaning of the private property as a product of the alienated labour while other economists of his day considered it only as a condition given to their problem. This means that the major proposition by which the thorough criticism of the capitalistic society and bourgeois economics was made possible, was established. The major proposition was that the historical method should be used for analyzing the problems of political economy. Being grounded on this, all economic categories in the capitalistic society has become to be understood not naturally but historically. The positive significance of "The Manuscripts" must be found in this point. On the other hand, the economic substance contained in it is scanty in comparison with the methodological substance. Then what place does it hold in the history of the growth of Marx' theory of value? The answer is that,

being based upon this historical method "The Manuscripts" brought, the elucidation of the nature of value, and therefore of the form of value, was made possible later.

In "The Poverty of the Philosophy" ("Das Elend der Philosophie") (1847) we could find the progress on this point. But generally in 1840's, the commodity economy was not yet analyzed after the abstraction from the capitalistic economy. We could not find the formation of the theory of value as one part of the theory of commodity until the publication of "A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy" ("Zur Kritik der politischen Ökonomie") (1859). For this reason we can not support the interpretation that the germs of the concept of fetishism and the abstract labour stand in the same terms as these in "The Manuscripts". It is meaningless to look for the germs in the writing which still lacks the substantial relations. To conclude, the noticeable relation between "The Manuscripts" and "The Capital" should be considered as methodological and it is through the medium of historical materialism.

The Reform of Tariff and Financial System of 1879

by Michiyoshi Oshima

In 1871, German Empire, after her victory in the Franco-German War, was built up, uniting the North German Confederation and the South German states. The Empire was not of centralism but of particularism. Therefore South German states could retain their old privileges to impose their own duties and pay the Empire a limited proportion of their proceeds. But many obstacles against her capitalistic development were taken away by the establishment of the Empire. For example, the unified system of weights and measures and the monetary system were adopted throughout the Empire, and the central bank (*Reichsbank*) was established.

After the war, as a result of her victory, the Empire got the war-indemnity of nearly five milliard marks by France. Much of it was used to establish the *Reichsinvalidenfond* and some other funds,

and to repay the public debts. German economy was stimulated by that and there followed such results as excessive development of factories and mills, over-capitalization and over-production. In 1873, the crash commenced. It was widespread and general, not only in Germany but also outside. A rapid fall in price and general depression succeeded it.

The situation of the imperial finance became worse in the end of the seventies. Imperial tax revenue — most of it was excise taxes and customs duties — did not increase but even diminished, while the expenditure increased rapidly. After 1877, to improve the situation, the *Matrikularbeiträge* (contribution by the Federal States according to population) had to be increased and also the imperial debts had to be issued. The situation of State and Communal finance was also worsened. The increase of the *Matrikularbeiträge* and the direct taxation, which was the main resource of the local finance, were becoming extremely burdensome.

On the other hand, greater landowners and monopolistic industrial capitalists were affected by the great depression. Great enterprises in iron, chemical and textile industries were in severe competition in domestic market and sometimes in overseas. Greater landowners, especially in East-Elbia (the junker), were threatened their markets by the inflow of American cheap grain to Europe. The renewed demand for protection came from these two groups.

Rearrangement of the imperial finance and protection of the domestic industries, especially of the interest of the junkers and the monopolistic industrial capitalists, were the most important factors to carry out the reform of 1879. On June in 1879, the customs tariffs of 43 commodities including agricultural and industrial goods were revised and imperial revenue increased.

In this article, considering political relations and economical backgrounds of the political parties and the leading classes, and the development of German capitalism during the eighties, the analysis of the historical meaning of the Reform is tried. The writer thinks that this reform was the first step to establish the financial foundation of German imperialism, as Prof. Gerloff says; "This reform means the beginning of the period of Neo-mercantilism."

Monopoly and Competition. — I.

by Isamu Kitahara

In this paper the writer intends to see into the germination of monopoly, and analyze the dominance of free competition in the pre-monopoly stage of capitalism.

The law of concentration and centralisation of capital, which is generally admitted to bring about monopoly, had continued to operate in the whole stage of the pre-monopoly capitalism. Consequently, we find the germ of monopoly in some industries of Britain in the first half of the nineteenth century, but in most industries there had been no monopolistic agreements.

The so-called "limitation of the vend", in the coal trade in the north of England, was the output and price controlling combination. This combination, which was doubtlessly the most conspicuous one in the early nineteenth century, broke down with the extension of the railway.

The informal combination of the "Marked Bar Houses" — some half-dozen old established firms in Staffordshire which had long had a reputation for the quality of their "marked" bar iron, may be another important combination.

As these combinations were based on the concentration of production, it might be said that they inevitably proved a forerunner of the monopoly in the present stage of capitalism. In other words, they were the germ of monopoly themselves.

But these combinations were only local, and besides the concentration of production had as yet achieved a relatively insufficient development.

This is, the writer believes, the reason why these combinations had to depend largely on various elements: e. g., advantage in position in the case of "the limitation of the vend", and the high quality of products in the case of the "Marked Bar Houses".

In the cotton industry there was no monopolist combination to fix the prices. This industry was the most typical one where free competition prevailed.

During the third quarter of the nineteenth century, free competition prevailed in the greater part of mining and manufacturing of Britain. Britain held a leading place in the world industrial production and an undivided monopoly of the world market. The demand both for consumption and for capital goods increased constantly in this period. The number of undertakings was continually growing. On the other hand, the importance of joint-stock companies was comparatively slight.

The concentration of production had not yet developed to such a high stage that it could create the firm monopoly as can be seen in the present. Therefore, ever-growing competition was the chief characteristic of this great industrial expansion in Britain.

The study attempted in the present essay consists only part of a large monograph. The writer wishes to investigate the following subjects in succeeding essays:

1. the transition from pre-monopoly to monopoly capitalism.
2. monopoly and competition in the present stage of capitalism.

The Characters and Thoughts of Workers in the Chartist Movement

by Hiroyuki Noji

The Industrial Revolution brought not only technical innovation but structural changes in the society. In early nineteenth century England this social transfiguration reflected on the sphere of politics. Middle class, namely the industrial bourgeoisie growing up in the process of the Revolution, had obtained their votes by the Reform Act of 1832. While the working classes, in spite of their powerful support to the acquisition of the Act, remained outside of the legislature. Seeking remedies for their intolerable distress, they launched their own extensive movement to secure universal suffrage. They petitioned to the Commons for three times, in 1839, 1842, and 1848, but in vain. This period of political unrest is known as an age of Chartism.

As Lenin said, Chartist movement is the first, extensive, politically shaped, proletarian revolutionary movement. But the labourers of this

period had not yet reached class homogeneity like modern proletariat because there still existed several old types of workers bearing diverse historical characters. This diversity in the components gave the movement an extreme complexity and serious internal conflict. The theoretical difficulty to estimate the historical significance of the movement results from this diversity in the components.

Hitherto we have had pretty many studies on the movement but few have made effort to analyse the diversity and value the meanings of the components. According to A. L. Morton and G. Tate, the leading components of the Chartism are:

1. Middle and lower middle-class radicals
2. Artisans
3. desperate rural hand-workers
4. factory labourers

In this paper, I am trying to fix the significance and the limit of Chartism in the history of labour movement by analysing each component with its historical character and proper thought and feelings of each.

After the last culmination of 1848, the age of political unrest passed over, and English working class has never reminded of its revolutionary tradition of Chartism since then. Engels found the cause in the outward development of English capitalism as "factory of the world". But, positive intention of my study is to supplement this Engels' explanation by putting stress upon the internal changes in the composition of working classes.