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Comparative Study on Small-Medium Enterprise Problem of Japan

by Taikichi Ito

This article is the tentative conclusion of the writer's comparative study on small-medium enterprise of more than ten countries covering Europe and United States during his one year long research trip in 1957.

The writer selected four points out of Japanese small enterprise problems and made them the measure to compare with those of small business problems of Europe and U.S. Those four points are as follows:

1) Inter individual small enterprise problems are rested on its smallness in size and its out of date and irrational management — Need of the policy for modernization and rationalization.

2) Inter-relation among small businesses is characterised by excess-competition. The policy to eliminate this kind of abuse is to overcome the disadvantage derived from size of enterprise and to adjust excess-competition, to encourage the growth of their organized power in economic and political field.

3) Inter-relation between monopolistic big enterprise and small business is spread to many sides. There is price differential amongs monopolistic price and excess-competition price; Big enterprise invades into small business area extending their control through their vertical grouping; Through contract relation big exploits unreasonably small sub-contractors; Concentration of financial organization leads concentration of financing big enterprise causing loss of financial support for small business.

4) Through the media of government big exploits small. Outstanding example has been post-war unfair heavy taxes on general level and concentration of public expenditure towards big enterprise. Many economic policy particularly the policy for state economic control has been favorable to big and has been pressed hard small business.

These four phases closely inter-related each other and especially in post-war period the influence of phase (3) and (4) has been go

outstanding that phase (1) and (2) has been increasingly enlarged. At the same time phase (1) and (2) has been utilized as a exploitation media of small business by large monopolistic enterprise. Therefore such inter-relation among big and small has been the ever growing vicious circle maintaining and enlarging serious problem of dual economy or two sector economy in Japan.

In this connection, there has been remarkable change in labor-market and labor relations which reflects the formation of two sector economy. Large enterprise selects the best qualified young employees and trains in the firm but does not hire old aged workers from general labor market. In this sense the labor market for big enterprise has been closed for majority of new labor force and old aged workers. Then these outside workers has been forced to find their jobs in small business where excess-competition has been growing among workers to be employed. Whereas workers in big enterprise mostly organized in the enterprise-wide union naturally enjoy relative advantage in wage raise out of monopolistic profits of their employer, workers in small business have to suffer under the pressure of lows average profits of small business which is in excess-competition and is under the yoke of big business. All the difficulties are shifted to wage-cut or bad working conditions of workers in small business. Moreover those un-organized workers in small business under the pressure of surplus supply of labor force has not been able to reject against the pressure of wage-cut or worsening working conditions. All of those factors around Japanese workers develop extreme wage differentials by scale of enterprise compared with workers of Europe and United States.

The writer of this article has made comparative research on the four phases of small business in Europe, United States and Japan. He found that there are similarity in each country on any of those four phases, but in Japan's case there are very peculiar quality in any of them. He finds and now is analysing the following problems as the concentration of the Japan's small business features: (1) Japan's irrational excess-competition, (2) unfair inter-relation among big and small business expressed in delayed payment of contract payment and price-cut by the big business to small sub-contractor, (3) extreme wage differentials among big and small enterprise workers.

As the result of those findings, the sketch proposal for policy

from the writer will be as follows; first, by relieving the exploitation and pressure of big business upon small business and by changing the government policy of favoring on big business, the position of small business should be treated much better, on the other hand to improve by themselves, the organization of small business and their workers must be developed; thirdly the minimum wage system by law also must be enacted.

On the Regulating Price of Production in Agriculture

—A Study on the Second Form of Differential Rent—

by Masaharu Tokiwa

In this paper the writer intends to make clear the characteristic of the formation of the price of agricultural products through the analysis of the conditions under which the additional capitals are invested upon the soil.

Usually, it is said that the market-value of the products of the soil is determined not by the average value of the products of an entire line of production, but by the individual value of the worst soil under cultivation. However, by which is it determined, by the average price of production upon the worst soil, or by the marginal one which brings the average profit even upon the additional capital with the worst productivity? The writer's conclusion is as follows: It depends upon the productivity of the additional investment of capital whether the regulating price of agricultural products is determined by the average price of production upon the worst soil under cultivation or by the individual one of the additional capital with the worst productivity. When the productivity of the additional investment increases, the general price of production is regulated by the average price of production; and it is regulated by the individual price of production of the marginal investment as the productivity decreases.

In order that the additional capital with the decreasing productivity is invested, it is necessary that the market-price of agricultural products is rising on the increase of the social demand for them. In

this case the surplus profit is the effect of the rising of the general price of production. But, the rising price of market is not always necessary for the additional investments. In the case of the increasing productivity, the surplus profit is not the effect of the rising of the general price of production, but that of the depreciation of the individual price of production below the general one. Such an additional investment with the increasing productivity becomes the cause depreciating the general price of production. That is a process of the appearance and disappearance of "Extramehrwert". In such a case, there is no differential rent on the worst soil under cultivation. The temporary surplus profit in the Agricultural department is "Extramehrwert" as well as in industrial one, and it should not be transformed into ground-rent.

A Consideration on Some Problems in the Theory of Modern Nationalism

—Historical Development of "Nation" and
the Actual Leading Class of its Movements—

by Atsushi Shirai

The word 'nationalism' implies several meanings; it means not only the modern nationalism in Asia and Africa, but also the 19th century nationalism, or sometimes even Fascism. It is not easy to point out its essential meaning. That is, however, an urgent problem to analyze the true import of the word, considering the present situations in Asia, Africa, and Eastern Europe.

E. H. Carr, a prominent English scholar of politics, divided the history of nationalism into three periods, and showed their characteristics in "Nationalism and After" (1945). But his observation is a bit too formal and superficial: that is he overlooks the actual leading class of a nationalistic movement; he overlooks the plurality of a movement in the same period; his theory lacks that of imperialistic capitalism; he has no concrete prospect of the present movement.

Nationalism appeared along with the development of capitalism. Indeed the commonness of language, territory, economic life and

national culture did exist, to some degree, in the pre-capitalistic period, but the great increase of commodity production united people into a nation. The protagonist in this process is in fact a commercial capitalist. In this sense, a nation means a capitalistic market, and the leading class of nationalism is a capitalist. Therefore, we must understand the movement of nationalism as a phenomenon in the movement of the capital, and grasp it from the relations among social classes.

Thus we are able to consider the movement of nationalism in relation to the law of history.

From this view-point, we may divide the movement of nationalism into the following types:

- 1) the first form of nationalism such as mercantilism,
- 2) nationalism based on democratic bourgeoisie, as seen in French Revolution,
- 3) nationalism based on international relationship, as seen in the English policy in 19th century,
- 4) state-nationalism such as Fascism,
- 5) nationalism against the oppression by other nations as seen in the present stage.

It is important that we realize the fact that a type of nationalism in one nation is determined not only by the degree of the capitalistic development in the nation, but by the peculiar situation of the nation in the whole world capitalism. We must admit, though opposed to Carr's observation, that nationalism in one period is not homogeneous but heterogeneous. Moreover, nationalism in one nation may hold plurality in itself according to different strata of people who assert different opinions.

In the Japanese nationalism of Meiji era, for example, the movements to enhance national prestige supported by H. Kato etc. belong to the first form of nationalism based on absolutism, and the assertion of defending the people's rights is a kind of nationalism based on democratic bourgeoisie. Moreover, there were both nationalism against the oppression of foreign countries as seen in the movement of treaty revision, and the radical free-trader such as U. Taguchi.

The modern nationalism in Asia and Africa, as W. MacMahon Ball says, is significant in its resistance against 1) imperialism, 2) poverty

and 3) the Western race. It is not, however, except in China, carried by proletariat or Communist Party as Сталин expected, but by bourgeois intelligentsia, national capitalists, or military men. Indeed these movements of nationalism are, as Ленин had admitted, very important as those of anti-colonialism.

But here again it must be considered who are the people that carry these movements.

India aims at a kind of socialism, but as long as the National Congress Party is bourgeois and is supported by Indian family trade combines, the reformation will be incomplete and end in compromise. The Arab Revolution may fall into the hand of military dictatorship, because after the emancipation from foreign powers, it caused variances between United Arab Republic and Iraq, and to compose the conflict of interests among many strata in and outside the nations is very difficult. There we can point out the stagnation of agrarian reformation, oppression against the communists, the instability of the political situation etc.

These types of nationalism are not necessarily friendly one another. When they should be intimately combined with the interest of common people, and establish the democratic system, they will truly become what can be called internationalism.