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## Membership of Lübeck City Council in the Latter Half of the 14th Century

by Shohei Takamura

It has been said that the direct cause of the riots of the crafts men of the Hanseatic cities in the northern Germany in the latter half of the 14th century was the resentment against the Patricians who held exclusive control of the City Council at that time. However, there is a question whether the Patricians were chiefly composed of the traders who had been the leading powers in those cities, or the controlling power of the City Council was in the hands of the rentiers who aimed at obtaining the right to rentals and who at this time had come to take over the City Council by pushing out the trader class.

Because the present author felt that the solution of the above point was the deciding factor in the correctness of the existing theory, he undertook the survey of the membership of the City Council and the career of each member between the years 1365 and 1384. By this survey he has discovered that the City Councils were still composed chiefly of wealthy traders. There were some who could be called the rentiers among the councilmen, but they were formerly the traders who because of the necessity in giving all their time to the official business, purchased the right to rentals for the purpose of sustaining their living, and this should be regarded as a continuation of commercial activity since before their election to the Council.

Therefore, the riot did not originate in the citizen's resentment against the control of the City Council by the rentiers who were a class apart from the citizens. The true cause of the riot cannot be understood until the concrete survey of their resentment has been made, and the character and the social positions of the leaders and the followers have been determined.

## On the Economic Structure of Reproduction of the Farm Household and the Differentiation of Peasantry in Post-War Japan

by Masaharu Toliwa

The relative increase in number of medium-scale farming has marked the differentiation of peasantry in the stage of monopoly capitalism. This phenomenon, however, does not imply the negation of the differentiation of peasantry, but only the transformation of its present form. It is incorrect to set the question whether the peasantry differentiate or not. The crux of the problem lies in how to appreciate the transformation of the differentiation of peasantry. Some people place great importance on that monopoly capitalism is checking the growth of farmers. As the fundamental problem of agriculture, they regard the general contradiction between the monopolistic capital and the peasantry through the process of circulation of goods and the relation of distribution of income. But according to our opinion, the general contradiction should be grasped through the mutual conflict and antagonism inside of the peasantry. Because the differentiation of peasantry always brings forth and intensifies the contradiction inside of the peasantry. This contradiction occurs even without the employment relation and the tenant system in farming.

The writer tries to make it clear through analysing the data for research on the actual condition of a hamlet, *Majino* in *Suwa* City of *Nagano* Prefecture. On the basis of this analysis he confirms the following conclusions.

1) The differentiation of peasantry in the stage of monopoly capitalism does not always imply the creation of capital and labor in farming. At present the differentiation is progressing in the form separating the peasantry into a group who can live on the agricultural income alone and another who can not maintain the household without drawing the income from off-farm work.

2) Japanese agriculture had ever regulated the economic structure of Japanese capitalism. But, conversely it is being regulated by the development of industry in Japan nowadays.

3) Accordingly, we have to pay attention to the difference of historical meaning between the differentiation of peasantry in the present of monopoly capitalism and that in the stage of classics when the mode of capitalist production was being created. The subject of inquiry into the former is to grapple with the problem how the mode of capitalist production already created outside of agriculture promotes the differentiation of peasantry, especially under monopoly capitalism; while the inquiry into the latter makes clear the prerequisite and the process of creation of the mode of capitalist production itself.