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Tamizo Kushida and Historical Materialism The Study of Marxism in Japan (1)

by Kanae Iida

The name of Tamizo Kushida is less famous than those of Hajime Kawakami and Tokuzo Fukuda in the history of study of marxism in Japan. It is not easy to tell the reason why Kushida is not so familiar as Kawakami and Fukuda. Kawakami has been very well-known as a pioneer scholar in the study of Marxism and the introducer of 'Das Kapital' ('The Capital'), afterwards a member of Communist Party under antisocialist repressive period for the maintenance of order of the old Emperor Constitution.

Fukuda, though he had never been a Marxian, played an important rôle in promoting the study of Marxian economics and making the knowledge on socialism and social reform prevail. Both has been regarded as unforgettable contributors in the introduction of political economy of the western countries to Japan, but Kushida was not so popular. Nevertheless, he is now occupying a very unque position in the history of economic thought of Japan.

He has three fields of study on Marxism, that is, the thought on historical materialism, theory of value and study on tenant farmer's fee. He has distinguished himself as the researcher of the theory and practice of the rent in Japanese agriculture. Therefore, the writer tries to mention about his thought on historic materialism as the means for studying political economy first, and the relationship between his views on the tenant fee and Japanese capitalism.

The Contents of this essay as follows.

- (1) Preface
- (2) The Study of Marxism in Japan, Toshihiko Sakai, Tokuzo Fukuda and Hajime Kawakami.
- (3) Sakai's critique against Fukuda and Kawakami and Kushida—around historic materialism.
- (4) On 'The Study of Tenant fee,' by Kushida.

The Significance and Methodology of Analysis
of Schemes of Extended Reproduction
—Critical Analysis of Recent Arguments—

by Kiyoko Imura

Contents:

Introduction

Section 1 Conditions of Extended Reproduction

Section 2 The Expansion Rates of Departments I and II in Extended Reproduction

Section 3 "Preceding Development of Department I" on the rising of the "Organic Composition of Capital"

The Significance and limitations of analyses of schemes of reproduction for the economic crisis theory have been argued repeatedly by many Marxian economists since Marx's "Capital". Recently, in addition to the traditional arguments, many arguments have been put forward which try to analyze the process of extended reproduction using the schemes of reproduction. However, we can also recognize various errors and confusions therein.

This article considers the correct methodology for utilizing the schemes of reproduction for analyzing the process of extended reproduction by criticising recent arguments.

Problems of Estimating Import Demand Function
for Consumer Goods — Case of Japan

*by Yoko Sazanami,
Junichi Kikuchi
and others*

Rather slow and small responses of Japanese imports to price changes often cause suspicious that there may be some hidden trade barriers. However, according to table 2-1 in

Stern and Leamer [29], import price elasticities of Japanese manufactured imports are not necessarily small compared to other industrialized countries. Therefore it is more likely that slow response to price change is due to the fact that about 80% of Japanese imports consists of raw materials and intermediate goods where price elasticities are small any in other countries.

The purpose of the present study is to estimate the import demand function in Japan by major commodity groups that are consumer goods, intermediate goods and capital goods. We have tried to formulate different types of demand functions for each group to see how habit formation, technological relationship, and institutional factors affect import demand. Present paper takes up the problem of consumer goods in particular and tries to see how habit formation affects import demand. We also try to see if there are marked difference in price elasticities prior to and after the trade liberalization.

Among imports of consumer goods, we took up nine commodities, namely, meat and meat products, processed fish products, chocolate and sweets, dairy products, alcoholic beverages, photographic films, small-sized cars, optical instruments and watches.

Our major findings were as follows.

(1) Import price elasticities for these nine products ranged between -0.4 ~ -3.1 and most of them were statistically significant. (see table 6-1)

(2) Quantitative trade restrictions were abolished in 1972 and also substantial tariff reduction took place in the same year. In case of meat & meat products, and chocolates & sweets, there were marked reduction in price elasticities after 1972. Price elasticities of these two showed substantial stability ranging between -0.6 ~ -2.9 from 1973 to 1978.

(3) Purchase of goods in the preceeding periods was considered to reflect the effect of habit formation in the present study. Purchase of both imports and domestic goods in the past had increased imports in case of meat & meat products and processed fish products. The purchase of photographic film, small-sized cars, optical instruments and watches in the past seemed to have had an adverse effect on imports. Such adverse effect was larger in small-sized cars, optical instruments and watches. Maybe the effect of habit formation is more pronounced in non-durable consumer goods. Imports of durable goods were depressed after they have purchased substantial amount.

From above findings we came to the conclusion that we must formulate different types of import demand function for each group of commodities taking account of their market

structure, technological characteristics and institutional setting. In the next paper we will try to estimate import demand for intermediate goods.

La conception des besoins chez le jeune Marx (2)

—La dialectique entre les besoins individuels et les besoins sociaux—

par Akihiro Matoba

On va montrer le contenu.

(a) Aliénation et besoins

Le problème de l'aliénation commence par le fait que le salaire doit être le minimum vital. Cela signifie que les besoins du capital limitent les besoins des travailleurs. Pour surmonter l'aliénation, c'est nécessaire pour les travailleurs de détruire le monopole du capital. Mais, à ce niveau, Marx met l'accent sur le point négatif de l'aliénation, et il ne comprend pas le point positif de l'aliénation.

(b) L'argent et besoins

À ce niveau, il s'agit du développement des individus à travers M(marchandise)—A(L'argent)—M. Il reconnaît le point positif de l'aliénation, qui a créé l'indépendance des individus.

(c) Division du travail et besoins

Il affirme que l'histoire humaine est celle du développement des individus par l'intermédiaire de la division du travail. Le sujet, dont il s'agit ici, n'est pas l'aliénation, mais plutôt l'indépendance de l'individu. L'indépendance de l'individu est l'établissement des besoins indépendants de l'autorité.

(d) Besoins individuels et besoins sociaux

Il admet que l'on doit exiger de développement de l'argent et le marché pour établir les besoins indépendants de l'autorité. Ainsi, au moins, on pourrait comprendre que l'argent et le marché ne sont pas l'objet de la critique de Marx. L'unification dialectique entre les besoins individuels et ceux sociaux va être établie sur la base du développement de l'argent et du marché. Le centre de la critique de Marx est le capital, plutôt, on doit tourner son

A Cohort Analysis of the Fertility Transition in Japan

by Machiko Watanabe

The purpose of this paper is to examine the nature and the process of the fertility transition in Japan over approximately six decades from 1920 to the present. Examination was mainly directed to the historical change in the fertility and childbearing pattern of each birth cohort and its effects on the total fertility of each calendar year.

The major findings can be summarized as follows:

(1) The fertility transition was accomplished during the two periods of 1920-1940 and 1950-1957. The fertility decline in the former period was mainly due to the postponement of marriage and the decline in the latter was mainly attributable to the reduction of the marital fertility through the practice of birth control.

(2) The fertility of the Japanese population has approached the replacement level due to the transition, and the age pattern of childbearing became a late single-peak type, where the reproduction largely concentrates in ages of 25-29 years.

(3) The sharp fertility decline in 1950-1957 was caused by two generations of women, one generation which reached the childbearing ages before World War II and the other which began to reproduce after the War.

(4) The reproductive behaviors of the two generations differ significantly in that the prewar generation was forced to reduce the number of their children by the postwar socio-economic hardships but that the postwar generation chose to keep the stationary population level in the midst of rapid economic growth.