The Roots of the English School: The Origins of International Relations in Great Britain

ONAKA, Makoto

The aim of this article is to search for the roots of the English School of International Relations in the historical context. The English School, as it has recently become known in Japan, is a school on a theory of international relations developed in Britain. First, this article examines the term "the English School" itself. The British Committee on the Theory of International Politics and the British International Studies Association appear to have played a major role in the School's birth. Second, it deals with four important figures in relation to the School: David Davies, Alfred Zimmern, Charles Webster, and Philip Noel-Baker. These distinguished persons contributed to the creation of the chairs of international relations at British universities after the First World War and were closely connected to the League of Nations. Finally, the author points out that the history of international law is an important factor to understand the English School.