

The Structure of the Japanese Company-Dominated Society

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Abstract

The theme of this paper is to bring to light the big gap between capital and labor in the distribution of wealth produced through economic growth since 1955. Wealth is defined here as income, stocks, and the shortening of working hours. For example, while big businesses in Japan have accumulated capital stock faster than those in other developed countries, workers in Japan work for 500 to 700 hours a year more than their German or French counterparts. Wages evaluated by purchasing-power are also relatively low, and social welfare for the aged lags far behind other developed countries. Furthermore, housing conditions in urban area are poor. The clue to understanding this gap is to understand the so-called Japanese company-dominated society. The objective of this paper is to set up a starting point to identify the mechanism by which it works from the view point of the situation it has created.