

# The Olympics and Capitalist Society: (3) The Olympic Invitations (1940, 1964) and the Japanese Capitalist Society

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Previous research has revealed a large gap between the 12th Tokyo Olympics (1940) and the 18th Tokyo Olympics (1964). The former did not hold official games; therefore, the political, economical, and military aspects of its process of bidding-preparation-abandonment have been strongly scrutinized. In the latter, the games were held with great success and gained a good reputation after being lauded by the international media, who described them as “the happy Games,” “the technology Games,” “the television Games,” and “the science fiction Games.” Thus, the many descriptions of the 18th Tokyo Olympics focused primarily on portraying the games movingly. However, the games were not adequately considered from the aspect of social science. There was a lack of consistency in the theme and methodology of the two games. The social science approach of the former became ambiguous in the latter. However, this shortcoming is common in many foreign studies on the Olympics.

As described in “(1) Setting up the Theme,” there are many accounts of the history of games and records or biographies of participants; however, the research is deterministically weak from the social science perspective. In “(2) Why and How were the Olympics Revived?” the Athens Olympics was analyzed in terms of its significance for Greece.

The following scenario emerges from the analyses of the studies on the Olympics. Although there was an emphasis on the peace movement through Olympism by the host country and the world, domestic economic stimulus, political national integration, and sports promotion were carried out merely for form's sake.

After the 1980s, anti-Olympics movements have been initiated in every country that has bid to host the Olympics. We need to earnestly confront their assertions and requests, and not ignore them. Only then can we cope with the current and future barriers to the Olympic Games. In the Sydney 2000 Olympics, many researchers conducted in-depth examinations of the domestic issues. Under these circumstances, we have to seek the path to realizing “the Olympic Games as a sports meet and a peace movement” instead of “the urban development and upsurge of nationalism that has utilized the name of the Olympic Games.”