

# 《THE SOCIAL CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE JAPANESE》

(Ed. by Tadashi Fukutake), 1960

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The experience of Japan's defeat in the World War II, caused the Japanese researchers of social science to make scientific self-examinations about the mentality of the Japanese. But a few books dealing with the Japanese from the standpoint of psychology and sociology, have been published in the elapse of fifteen years posterior to the War. As the psychological work, "The Psychology of the Japanese" by the present writer (1953) is the only relevant book.

In the field of sociology, the treatise titled "Social Consciousness of the Japanese" to be reviewed below, is the first research work that was published in the form of one volume of book in regard to the social consciousness of the Japanese, although many articles on the same subject-matter have been made public.

This treatise, consisting of nine chapters including Introduction and Concluding Remarks, was edited by Professor Tadashi Fukutake at Tokyo University in collaboration with young researchers of Sociology.

Introduction: "The relation of the social and occupational classes and their dynamic situations in Post-War Japan" (by Akira Hamajima) develops its theory regarding the change of capitalism in post-war Japan in three items, viz., transition of the industrial structure, conservation and internal changes of social status system, and further differentiation of occupational classes; it also gives consideration about the dynamic situation seen among social and occupational classes by examining how Japan's monopolistic capitalism is related to the governmental power, middle and small or tiny capital, private enterprisers, staffs and labourers, and farmers; and it gives description in regard to inconsistency existing within the system of Japan's capitalism and the opposing movement of labourers, farmers, students, women's organisations etc. against the ruling class. The writer of the Introduction explains the relationship between the social consciousness and economic substructure in the following schema:

- Individual behavior
- Individual opinion
- Ideology
- Social attitude
- Social psychology
- Value system
- Basic mode of behavior
- Chance of life
- Class position
- Political superstructure
- Economic substructure

Chapter I, "The consciousness of bureaucrats and statesmen" (by Akira Tsujimura) describes the consciousness of the privileged bureaucrats, the structure and character of bureaucrats and the consciousness of the low strata of bureaucrats.

Chapter II, "The workers' consciousness" (1) (by Hiroshi Hazama) takes up the present status of organized workers, the workers' class characteristics in big industries (new middle class mentality), workers' families and their consciousness of life, "Japanese traditional 'labour relations and the workers' attitude to the management. Chapter III, "The workers' consciousness" (II) (by Kazuyoshi Hagiwara), reports the detailed case study of the workers' consciousness in small and middle enterprises by means of the sociometric technique. Also the consciousness of the unemployed and day laborers, their anti-unemployment struggle, and the change of their consciousness are analyzed.

Chapter IV, "The farmer's consciousness" (by Minoru Shimazaki), reviewing the present condition of farmers and their corresponding consciousness and its change, gives the detailed analysis of the post-war land reform and the farmer's movement as their data of its background.

Chapter V, "The consciousness of the white collar", summarizes the consciousness of the middle strata under the following items, viz., the present condition of the white collar, their consciousness as union members, attitude toward the management, political consciousness and political action.

Chapter VI, "Women's consciousness". Section I "The consciousness of working women" (by Hiroko Hashimoto), explains the growth of the social consciousness of present working women by describing the condition of the pre-war, wartime and post-war working women as the background material. Section II, "Women's consciousness other than that of working women" (by Sayo Hozumi), clarifies the process of awakening of the social consciousness in connection with the past and present of various women's movements.

Chapter VII, "Consciousness of intellectuals and students" (by Takayoshi Kitagawa), reviews how the dual nature of critical and conservative tendencies coexisting in the intelligence of intellectuals and students has changed in the post-war period.

In Concluding Remarks, "The Japanese people and Japanese society", (by Tadashi Fukutake). Section I "The social character of the Japanese people and the reconstruction of mentality" takes up the character formation of the Japanese people, attitude in daily life, philosophy of life and ideology, and formation of new man in Japan. Section II, "The total structure of the Japanese society and its reform", describes how the Japanese mentality corresponds with the reform of the socio-economic substructure.

As seen from the aforesaid description, this book is the collection of research articles written by several contributors, all of whom shows their own interests and use various methodology and technique. Accordingly the lack of unity is inevitable among these articles in many aspects; above all, there is ambiguity in some basic concepts such as concept of the social consciousness.

Nevertheless, this book gives a bird's eye view of the social attitude of the contemporary Japanese, and will be recommended as indispensable for the people who want to know the present and future situations of Japan and the Japanese.