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The New Farm Village Construction Plan in 1950's Japan

Takemaro Mori

Abstract

This thesis targets an elucidated view of 1950's historical and concrete development in rural society.

The target region is Tatsuoka village, within Ina district in Nagano prefecture. It was a typical sericulture zone before the war, while the sericulture industry continuously developed after the war.

Agriculture and rural society underwent considerable change with the progression of the agricultural administration in the 1950's, although the agricultural structure of specific villages appeared to remain unchanged when the conditions before and after the outbreak of war are compared.

A movement to improve farming management was triggered by the farm village crisis after the Dodge line in 1949, following land reform, and subsidies to the agricultural administration became full-scale thanks to Sekikanho - Law for Cold districts prone to snowfall - in 1951.

In addition, Shinnoson Kensetsu Keikaku - the new farm village construction plan - was developed as part of the highly developed economic growth taking place in 1956.

After the war, this was the catalyst for major conversion of the rural society reorganization.

The rural society based on the "Independence" of the farm village and farmer's "Voluntary" efforts comprised the farm village order enabling high economic growth and market liberalization for international farm products. The success of these actions was reflected in subsequent agricultural structural improvement projects in the 1960's.

Regional Structure of Bengal Agrarian Societies under Colonial Rule (III-2)

Shinkichi Taniguchi

Abstract

This is the concluding part of my article "Regional Structure of Bengal Agrarian Societies under Colonial Rule (III)", the first part of which appeared in the previous volume of this journal.

The following material comprises two chapters (6 and 7) that deal with the land tenure system and living conditions of the residents in the district of Dhaka.

This paper clearly shows the historical origins of the complicated land-tenure system (the Dhaka system) as found in the district of Dhaka. The numerous subordinate landed properties (subordinate talukdaris) were created by the Mughal government's land-grants given to the first jungle clearers, the navy establishments and the government officers. The land system was further complicated by the creation of coparcenary rights and subordinate tenures during colonial rule. These processes finally resulted in more than 200,000 tenurial and proprietary rights within a district containing a population of fewer than 3 million.

Rapid expansion of jute cultivation, jungle reclamation and the fertile riverside sandbanks prompted an influx of many merchants and moneylenders to the region, and they began to acquire landed properties. In the estates of these new landlords, many tenants lost their occupancy rights and share-croppers settled in their place. Under the share-cropping system, rental rates increased several times; meaning cultivators were deprived of judicious rewards for their labor.

The paper also brings to light certain interesting facts about the social life of the residents in the first half of the 19th century.

Preliminary Concepts for Economic System Analysis

Yoshiro Kamitake

Abstract

In preparation for theoretical tools to analyze economic systems we need several fundamental concepts which have often been applied in various scientific investigations outside economic studies. Amongst others, the concept of *autopoiesis*, which was introduced by Niklas Luhmann into his sociological system theory, is the most important in constructing a theoretical model to explain the working of economic systems. An *autopoiesis* system can be regarded as the functional core by which other elementary concepts such as homeostasis, machines, corporation systems and social entropy are to be logically connected in series.

In conclusion, it is suggested that an economic system should be included in different social systems of an *autopoiesis* character and incorporated with them as a subsystem or partially independent system.

Machine Industry Labor Force Constituent Distribution in Local Cities during the Mid Meiji Era: Focusing on the Nagano Factory of the Government-Managed Railway

Yutaka Nishinarita

Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to identify the labor force constituents in the manufacturing industry in local cities during the mid Meiji era (the middle of Japan's industrial revolution) focusing on a factory of the government-managed railway in Nagano City. The conclusions of this paper are shown below: The Nagano Factory's labor force can be categorized into three groups. The first group includes blacksmiths and woodworkers who belonged to the poor classes of Nagano City or came from the surrounding rural districts. They were moderately low-wage earners. The second group includes ironwork specialists who gathered from Nagano, Nigata, Tokyo and other regions, with experience gained from many iron works while moving from factory from factory. They belonged to the highest wage group. The third group includes the assistant workers and trainees supplied from the bottom of the social pyramid of the rural districts surrounding Nagano City. They were the lowest wage group in the Nagano Factory. A commonly held view has persisted that this lowest class characterizes all workers in the machine industry in that period. However, the present paper indicates the necessity to consider the stratification of labor force constituents in the machine industry.

Self-interest and Culture Revealed in Game Experiments

Kazuhiro Arai

Abstract

The first theorem of welfare economics has serious defects, which, against its claim, prevent the pursuit of self-interests from generating optimal allocation of resources. Optimality requires such values as trust, self-restraint, thoughtfulness, and public spirit that are closely related to culture. Thus, it is worthwhile to examine the extent to which such values are possessed by modern individuals. This paper attempts to do so by undertaking experiments involving certain standard games and modified versions, with students used as subjects. The experiments involving the repeated prisoner's dilemma game reveal a high level of cooperation or a strong cultural influence. It is also found that the level of cooperation tends to decrease to some extent as the probability of game disruption increases. Of particular interest is the fact that the examiner's persuasion urging cooperation has a very strong positive effect. The experiment results from the ultimatum game show that the subjects attach importance to equality, while those from the trust game indicate that the more the subjects trust opponents, the larger the payoffs they receive. Playing the trust game in a public place increases the degree of trust and efficiency. Playing the dictator game in a public place makes the dictator more altruistic. The experiments discussed in this paper suggest that the favorable effects of culture are strengthened through active use of such cultural devices as persuasion, personal punishment, and public monitoring.

**A Political Economy Approach to the Long Downturn
of the World Economy: Robert Brenner's
Perspective Reconsidered**

Masao Ishikura

Abstract

The ongoing structural changes in the world economy can be characterized by the changing power relationship among industry, finance and labor, and by intensifying competition among different economic blocs. However, only a few economists have studied the economic instability worldwide since the late 1990s from a long-term historical perspective. Robert Brenner has provided a coherent analysis of advanced capitalist economies since the Second World War in his recent book, *The Boom and the Bubble: The US in the World Economy* (2002). This paper examines Brenner's analysis of the advanced capitalist economies from the early 1950s through mid-2001. He attributed the US boom in the late 1990s to the wealth effect from rising share prices, in the face of the rising dollar since 1995 and the overcapacity and overproduction in the international manufacturing sector. This paper also points out some problems with his perspective on the increasing instability of the world economy since the late 1990s.