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『社会主義の数量経済学』

—投入産出アプローチ—

Masaaki Kuboniwa, *Quantitative Economics of Socialism : Input-Output Approaches*, Kinokuniya and Oxford University Press, Tokyo, 1989, xiii+278 pp.

Centrally Planned Economy from Inside.

The book is very useful for scholars who want to know more about the Soviet economic science, particularly, an instrumental part of the science. Being filled with names of many Soviet economists it provides a pretty good historical sketch of mathematical economics' development in the country.

First of all I would like to emphasize the two-

fold features of the book. 1) It seems to be written by a national researcher, like a view from inside. When I read the book, sometimes I felt the atmosphere of that period very explicitly. Prof. Kuboniwa found that invisible environment which one can express in a paper only if one knows it in person. 2) The author reviews most important papers of Soviet researchers very carefully within his framework. It is not a compilation of the papers, but some kind of revision, a new facet, new point of view. The book includes a number of the author's original results, organically incorporated into the text.

I recommend the book in particular to the professional economists who specialise on a centrally planned economy and in the Soviet and Eastern European type economies before and during the transition to market. It differs greatly from the numerous books devoted to the centrally planned economies (CPE). See, for example, [1-2].

Prof. Kuboniwa's book follows the objectives and priorities of the Soviet economists in studying CPE problems. It focuses on the central classic problem of national plan development itself, rather than a general performance of CPE. The standard points of interest in Western papers are: disequilibrium or shortage of goods, rigid prices and suppressed inflation, queues, underground and semi-underground economy. These things had a side interest for Soviet economists because of different reasons and no domestic demand of policy makers in particular.

In CPE Gosplan (Central Planning Agency) plays a crucial role in working out and providing a national economic policy. So many efforts of Soviet economists were directed to design appropriate planning tools and to offer controlling methods of a plan realisation in practice. It is very natural that input-output (IO) tables and optimal models based on the tables were principal tools for planning activity in CPE countries. Fortunately, IO analysis is widely used everywhere. First of all, it is an appropriate way to represent statistical data to analyse a performance of an economy

on macro level. And secondly, IO tables are a good and now standard base to construct economic models, including optimal ones. Thanks to that IO framework is likely an ideal instrument for comparative analysis of socialist and capitalist economies' statistics and structural differences.

Prof. Kuboniwa's book demonstrates that the tool is really powerful by using a number of examples. Starting from a history of IO tables in the Soviet Union and in Eastern European countries the author reveals differences and similarities in the structure of production and foreign trade between the Soviet and Eastern European economies. An interesting comparison of the Soviet and US economies complements the analysis, based on IO tables. It makes clear which sectors are most profitable (an accurate definition of "profitable" is in the book). In the CPE the "profitability" increases from manufacturing to raw material sectors, and the extreme is in oil extraction. In the developed market economies the order is opposite. There are deep roots of the phenomena. But I would like to mention that the author overestimates the IO tool here because the different nature of the two price systems stays behind of the theme. The book addresses readers at large with a variety of interests and professional backgrounds. A chapter of structural analysis of CPE with turnpike models application requires a sophisticated reader. But he or she will learn more about how far an economic reality is from an optimal or desirable state.

In conclusion I would like to mention the academic spirit of the book which gives me confidence of its actuality now at the period where many publications on the subject become obsolete after several months.

References

[1] Alec Nove, *The Economics of Feasible Socialism*, George Allen & Unwin, London, 1983.

[2] Ed. A. Hewett, *Reforming the Soviet Economy*, The Brookings Institution, Washington D. C., 1988.

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