

Social and Political Diversity and the Democracy Road to Change in Venezuela

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This work will examine developments in Venezuela in order to define the general direction of the Chavista government and movement. Specifically it will look at three important areas that have impacted internal currents and pro-Chavista social groups over the recent past: the nationalizations and expropriations, the tensions within the Chavista labor movement and the consolidation of the community council movement. The analysis of the expropriations attempts to determine why the government (which in all cases was committed to paying compensation) embarked on such a costly undertaking even though it threatened to undermine all-important social programs and how they impacted the strategies of the Chavistas. The discussion of all three topics is designed to shed light on divergent and conflicting visions and interests within Chavismo.

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Environmental NGOs and Environmental Governance against Air Pollution in China: Challenge for the Information Disclosure and Dialogue

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Chinese people have no choice but to confront the continuous and serious air pollution in both cities and rural areas. It is already well known that previous Chinese governance for the air pollution which depends on the government measures is inadequate to change the pollution companies' behavior due to the corruption between the local government and the pollution companies. Public participation to the air pollution governance is indispensable to improve the both government and companies' air pollution control implementation.

Some Chinese NGOs and citizens are already trying to participate the air pollution governance through the way of information disclosure, dialogue, and field work etc.

This article examines the grassroots NGOs' challenge to the air pollution governance, especially since 2013 at North China. They are trying to extend the range of public participation through the information disclosure request and dialogue to the local environmental bureau, and share the information to citizens by Chinese SNS.

Their challenge is remarkable for the improvement of environmental governance, but in contrast, Chinese central government is oppressing the NGOs whose works regards the politically sensitive issues, even if the recent related laws and regulations admitted the public participation to the environmental governance. This contradiction will be the negative obstacle for the environmental governance, and impede improving the policy implementation of the air pollution in China.

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Zhangjian and Shibusawa Eiichi

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During his life, Zhangjian was irrevocably committed to Japan. Early in the 1880s, Zhangjian, a reformer of modern China, started to focus on this neighbor country's reformation and development. As a businessman and an educator, it's easy to find in his life a Japanese stamp, whether from a brilliant designation of rejuvenate the state by industrialization or the everyday business of factories and schools' construction. Shibusawa Eiichi, known as the Farther of Japan's capitalism, was the beginner and leader of Japan's financial circle, also was Zhangjian's respective friend. He actively participated in the Japan-China financial communication and had an intense connection with Chinese political and cultural circles. His diary recorded the interaction between Zhangjian and himself, however, its fragmentary and vogueness disfavored the related studies. With 10 pieces of material rarely seen in these two's communication, this paper tries to provide knowledge and clues for further study, and to discuss Japan-China relationship based on Zhangjian and Shibusawa Eiichi.

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What is a Global Basic Income ?(1)

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Translated by Tadashi OKANOUCHI**

This is the Japanese translation of the main part of the website of the Global Basic Income Foundation (<http://www.globalincome.org/English/English.html>) in Holland with translator's note on its significance in the history of the idea of the global basic income.

The Global Basic Income is a guaranteed minimum income that is given unconditionally to all people in all countries. Apart from the ethical and economic arguments, three specific arguments are given for the introduction of a global basic income: 1. humanity as a whole has a responsibility to end extreme poverty and hunger; 2. the need for a global framework of social security; 3. the advancement of global awareness. The introduction of a global basic income would first have to be targeted at eradicating extreme poverty. Because this is defined by the international community as having less than \$1 a day to spend, the author advocates a global basic income of \$1 a day as an intermediate target.

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