

Thinking of World Order after COVID-19 (I)

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According to Oxfam's 2019 report, a new billionaire was created every two days and the world's 26 richest people owned as much as the poorest 50 percent. By escalating this polarization and inequality, neoliberal globalization fueled the chronic problem of overaccumulation and militarization. At the same time, it includes the divide of community, region, the construction of walls, huge numbers of refugee, emigrations, pandemic, and many conflicts.

This article focuses on the covid-19 pandemic and neoliberalism. In consideration off the above mentioned, chapter II summarizes the present and approach on Anthropocene under neoliberal globalization, and chapter III argues the present on neoliberal globalization, which means critical reconsideration of modern capitalism which brings now deep misery to human history, including poverty, refugees, immigration, transnational crimes, climate change and pandemic. This chapter expressly points out the "prison industrial complex" (PIC) and global police state.

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Did the Arab Spring Make Flowers Bloom in West Kurdistan?: For Research on Rojava Revolution in the Syrian Civil War

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Rojava Revolution in the Syrian Civil War since 2011 has been relatively neglected by most of Japanese researchers including Middle East specialists, although some prominent foreign scholars, e.g. Antonio Negri, John Holloway, David Graeber, etc., have been very much attracted by the revolution and the thought of its ideological leader, Abdullah Ocalan.

The reason of such neglect seems to rely on conventional wisdom about Kurdish problem, i.e. it is a “tragedy of a nation without state”, and prejudice about PKK, i.e. an outdated militant Marxist party or a terrorist organization. Moreover, an influential article in Japan, i.e. Leezenberg, Michiel (2016) “The Ambiguities of Democratic Autonomy: The Kurdish movement in Turkey and Rojava,” had paved the way to see the Rojava Revolution as an ambiguous revolution lead by Leninist party with Stalinist personality cult around Ocalan.

However, a Japanese journalist’s book on Iraqi Kurdistan and Turkish Kurdistan, i.e. Fukushima(2017), clearly shows that non-democratic Kurdish nation-state is not a solution, and that poverty in Turkish Kurdistan makes PKK sustainable.

Therefore, Japanese audience will be able to appreciate the significance of Rojava revolution based on anarchist, feminist, and ecologist ideology lead by a sister party of PKK and Ocalan in the context of Kurdish history, consulting with some newly translated books on Rojava revolution, i.e. Cudi(2019=2019) and Knapp et al. (2016=2020).

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Myanmar Coup

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On February 1, 2021, the state counselor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the president, and the NLD executives were detained. The military is now back in charge and has declared a year-long state of emergency. It is shocking coup because the democratization progress since 2011, and economic growth is steadily progressing and foreign investment is also increasing.

This note examines what has happened now, and why by looking back on Myanmar's complex politics, the issues of ethnic minorities and the achievements of the democracy 's administration over the last decade. It is also elaborated that the public protests are differences from the 1988 democratization movement as an example. The conclusion of the dispute between the military and the citizens' strong will for the democratic country is hard to predict. In last author summarize 3 points as her outlook and expectations at this stage that the ethnic armed organization's movement, strategic pressure rather than economic sanction and Japanese's contribution.

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