



Title	パブリック・ヒストリー 第7号 英文要旨
Author(s)	
Citation	パブリック・ヒストリー. 2010, 7, p. 147-149
Version Type	VoR
URL	https://doi.org/10.18910/66485
rights	
Note	

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Journal of History for the Public (2010) 7 Abstracts

The Myth of Youth and “Non-Youth” from Imperial to Weimar Germany

Hiroaki MURAKAMI

This essay deals with the change of imagination on “non-youth” in the German myth of youth, which was cultivated in the early youth movement and radicalized during the Weimar period. Though there are a lot of studies on Jugendbewegung or -mythos, no historian seems to have recognized so far the significance of “negative” sides of the myth. However, it is clear that all positive imagination must inevitably depend on or be justified by the negative one and vice versa. That is to say, positive and negative imaginations are inextricably linked to each other.

From this perspective the essay reconstructs first the image of “non-youth” in the early youth movement. This image functioned as a “suppressor”, who was represented by teachers in school or parents (especially father) in family, and from whom German youth had to be emancipated. On the other hand, however, the suppressor on youth disappeared after the First World War or rather was replaced by the old man who got stiff with age. The reasons for this change are the following: Demographers became conscious to trends of the so-called “demographic transition” in the very Weimar period; foreseeable terrors resulted from this transition were agitated eagerly by contemporary scholars; the great number of youth unemployed was one of the urgent problems for Weimar regimes, while old population seems to have defended their own working places. The transformation of “non-youth” caused anyway to change the mission of youth, that is to say, from emancipation of self to renovation of Germany through exclusion of “stiffened” old men.

Spock Babies: The Discourse on Generation and Child in a Childrearing Manual in the Postwar Era

Takahito MORIYAMA

Many studies on generation often focus on the youth. This article, however, pays attention to children by analyzing Benjamin Spock’s *Baby and Child Care*, considering how the perception of children and the discourse of generation changed after World War II.

This article has two issues: the transition of authority from family to larger society, and the changing conception of young people in the postwar era. It is said that in the 1940s and 1950s the spread of television, the popularized education, and the culture of fun shifted the main influence on children from parents to mass media or peer groups. However, the childrearing manual shows that American middle-class families attempted to adapt themselves to the circumstances under which American works and occupations went through transfiguration and company organizations required a new kind of human character.

A huge generation of baby boomers always attracted much attention as children, students, and consumers. We can see the child-centeredness in families, and baby boomers were also the center of

the market. By the late 1960s when student movements occurred, adults “discovered” youth as a new stage of life between adolescence and adulthood. Here the rift between generations was emphasized, and more importantly, the line between childhood and adulthood was obscured.

The changing socialization and the discourse of generation intertwined with each other by the 1960s. Many have pointed out the historical discontinuity of generations, yet considering two issues above shows the continuity between new and old generations.

Notes on a History of Affirmative Action: Three Affirmative Actions in America

Michiko YASUI

This essay traces a history of the affirmative action policies in America, finds three of them and presumes the root is in the Reconstruction Era in the 19th century. By doing so the essay researches the process of how the policy had been succeeded by the following governments and finally was took over by the Civil Rights movements. The affirmative action policies, which firstly appeared more than a century ago, imply they are ‘compensatory’ policies for the people who have been suffering disadvantageous treatment in the course of the nation-making of the United States. How they differed depends on how the nation included or excluded its people in or out of the nation. Therefore this is the subject of historical research.

However, the arguments on the affirmative action policies have been and are rather more sociological, jurisprudential and political than historical. The reason of this tendency is that the policies are still functional and effective in many aspects of the life of American people. This essay argues seeing the affirmative action policies in the historical perspective will help us understand more profound meaning of the policies.

La Pratica della Mercatura by Venetian Merchants

Arata MORI

This research note introduces and examines the contents of two commercial manuals which had been compiled by Venetian merchants in the 14th century: *Zibaldone da Canal* and *Tarifa zoe noticia dy pexi e mexure di luogi e tere che s’adovra marcadantia per el mondo*, and considers their common features as Venetian type. The commercial manual is a genre of historical documents by Italian merchants in the late Middle Ages, which had mainly been compiled by merchants of the cities in the northern-central Italy until the 15th century.

In the late Middle Ages, Italian merchants, who had been engaged in the international trade, handled a large quantity of information and knowledge of distant markets in their work. Manuals had been compiled by putting such commercial records for the purpose of referring them and handing them down to younger merchants easily. However, in spite of the common purpose of compilation, there are two different types of manuals: according to the study of Ugo Tucci, one is Florentine ‘libro’, and the other is Venetian ‘tariffa’.

Two Venetian manuals examined in this research note are anonymous: the Zibaldone is a memorandum or a notebook of young merchant in the beginning of the 15th century, and the Tarifa is composed of two manuals. Both of them were not compiled systematically by one merchant, rather, they were compiled gradually by several merchants. The lack of intention of well-organizing is the common feature of Venetian manual, Venetian merchants had regarded convenience more important than coherence as one book, or 'libro', compared with Florentine one. It is supposed that these differences between manuals had been caused by the differences of situations of commercial activities, and had also reflected the social positions of merchants in each city.