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Journal of History for the Public (2012) 9 Abstracts

Special Issue: Reciprocity and Social Order in the Historical Context

Asako KURIHARA

Social Order is a historical construction rooted in the structure of personal networks in a given society. In this issue, six topics were chosen from various areas of European history to depict the different ways in which reciprocal behaviors were ‘embedded’ in the public order. It will be shown that reciprocity was not a remnant of ‘primitive’ society, but rather was kept modified, incorporated, and adapted to each historical circumstance to play an active role in the making of social order. After a brief introduction, following topics will be dealt with:

1. Asako KURIHARA, Reciprocity and Civic Order in Classical Athens: A Perspective
2. Kyozo NAKAO, Magnesian *Asylia* and Interstate relationship
3. Arata MORI, An Alien Merchant Guild: ‘Statua et Ordinamenta Societatis Mercatorum Florentinorum Bononie Comorantium’
4. Satoshi SHIGAKI, Recent Studies on the Order in Local Societies: Early Modern Germany
5. Tomonori MIZUTA, The ‘End’ of Patronage in Late 19th Century Britain: Civil Service Reform and the Principle of Competition by Merit
6. Masafumi KITAMURA, Reciprocity in 19th Century Germany: Association and Social State

Vietnamkriegs-Berichterstatter als unerreichtes Vorbild? Selbst- und Fremdzuschreibungen einer Reporter-Generation

Lars KLEIN

This article deals with the myth that has developed on American war reporting from Vietnam. A group of reporters around David Halberstam, Neil Sheehan and Peter Arnett has been described as influential “generation” of war correspondents. While the article finds that the group can indeed be described as “generation” according to the classic theory of Karl Mannheim, this theoretical approach does not help to fully understand the meaning and function of the group. Rather, the “Vietnam generation” of war correspondents has to be understood as a construction which helped the journalists to find their place in the media establishment. They have been among the first correspondents of the American war in Vietnam, worked for influential institutions, received awards early on and have been singled out by politicians and military personnel as being responsible for undermining American support for the war. Thus politicians and military officials made the journalists scapegoats and referred to them to justify tighter media regulations. The reporters themselves successfully placed the idea that it was their work that laid the foundations for critical media reporting after the Tet offensive and during the Watergate scandal. By using generational vocabulary this understanding not only works against a re-evaluation of the Vietnam years, but is transmitted further. The myth of a free and influential reporting from Vietnam, understood as norm and ideal, gave legitimacy to later reporters

but also provided an unrealistic basis for their work.

The War of the League of the Public Weal: the Complementarity Relation Between Duke of Bourbon and King Louis XI

Kozo UEDA

The War of the League of the Public Weal broke out in 1465. The local feudal lords formed the League of the Public Weal against the Louis XI' policy that was managed only by the King's favorable retainers. The dukes defeated the royal army and got the advantageous terms.

In light of history, however, this battle has been generally regarded as just a part of the process that King Louis XI incorporated the dukes under his power by taking a conciliatory approach. To put it simply, all the measures were merely calculated to break up the League. There is a gap between historians' perception and historical evidence. The purpose of this study is to compensate this gap and address the meaning of the battle.

First, the author reviewed King Louis XI's general evaluation. He placed the right person in the right jobs and governed the country appropriately as the situation demands. It is not necessarily true that he wanted to undermine the dukes to take them control.

Next, let's focus on the outcome of the war. Duke of Bourbon, one of the most disaffected lords among the league, got the chief position at the military ordonnance. From the reign of King Charles VII, it was customary to take over the important post of the royal army by the Bourbons. They put the profit from this position into their territory. That's the real reason he wanted to get the position.

This battle was the dialogue between the dukes and the King. King Louis XI accepted the claims from the dukes and grasped the problems of France. This reminded him of the significance of the dukes. Consequently, he accepted and satisfied the dukes' needs. The war brought about the cooperative framework between King and the dukes rather than strong power of King.

The Dutch East India Company and the Asian Economy in the 18th Century: Focusing on the Trade of Cotton Textiles and Precious Metals

Kunihisa FUKUSHIMA

The purpose of this article is to reconsider the relationship between the Dutch East India Company (VOC) and Asian economy from a new perspective of the intra-Asian trade in the 18th century. Usually, it is said that the intra-Asian trade is in the age of 'stagnation' in the 18th century. And from this perspective, the VOC was a 'ruler' that monopolized the Asian trade. However, recent researches have revealed that the intra-Asian trade didn't stagnate, and on the contrary, increased in the second half of the 18th century. Such perspective indicates that we should reconsider the relationship between Europe and Asia at that time.

In this article, I follow the new perspective by focusing on the trade of cotton textiles and precious metals of the VOC. Indian cotton textile was the most important commodity for the VOC in the 18th century. However, to purchase textiles in South Asia, the large amount of precious metals was needed. In order to acquire enough precious metals, the VOC made use of the intra-Asian trade network. The VOC invested precious metals exported from Europe to the intra-Asian trade, and increased the amount of them. And to succeed in the process, ‘cooperation’ with the Asian merchant was necessary for the VOC. This means that the VOC was dependent on the Asian economy.

In the late 18th century, VOC’s trade of the cotton textiles declined, because of the difficulty in the acquiring process of precious metals in Asia. Some Primary factors of the difficulty were the changes of the conditions in Asia. The VOC couldn’t adjust to the new conditions.

This is an example that Asian economic conditions influenced on the European power. In this period, the relationship between Europe and Asia was not unilateral. They maintained the interactive relationship even in the late 18th century.

Okmulgee Conventions in the Indian Territory during the 1870s: Step forward to Formation of a United Indian State

Yoshitaka IWASAKI

This paper discusses the historical implications of the General Council of the Indian Territory (also known as the Okmulgee Convention) held between 1870 and 1878 at Okmulgee, the capital city of the Creek/Muskogee Nation, the Indian Territory. Additionally, this paper reviews several other instances of federation-building amongst the Indian tribes of the United States. These conferences were held by representatives from the various Native American tribes including the ‘Five Civilized Tribes’, which had been forced to relocate to the Indian Territory, and the Plains Tribes, which already occupied the region. The 1870 Convention succeeded in drafting the first written constitution for the Native American nations, the Constitution of the Indian Territory (or Okmulgee Constitution).

This groundbreaking constitution foundered during the ratification process due to confrontation between the majority and minority tribes, and the stonewalling and ostracising tactics used by the ‘Civilized’ Tribes against the ‘wild’ Plains counterparts. Nonetheless, the importance of the Okmulgee Convention (the 1870 and 1871 sessions especially) and the Okmulgee Constitution itself cannot be overstated: they pre-figure the first-ever constitutional coalition government comprising the legislative, executive and judicial branches by indigenous peoples within United States borders.