OUKA
The University of Osaka
Institutional Knowledge Archive

Title	パブリック・ヒストリー 第16号　英文要旨
Author(s)	
Citation	パブリック・ヒストリー. 2019, 16, p. 104-105
Version Type	VoR
URL	https://doi.org/10.18910/71608
rights	
Note	

The University of Osaka Institutional Knowledge Archive : OUKA

https://ir.library.osaka-u.ac.jp/

The University of Osaka

Public History: Journal of History for the Public 16 (2019) Abstracts

British East Africa as an intersection of two empires: Competition and collaboration between the British and Japanese cotton and chemical industries in the interwar period

Shin TAMAMURA

During the interwar period, the transition and intersection of the industrialization of the British and Japanese empires were remarkable. The existence of a global trading network at the time, facilitated the development of both the cotton and chemical industries in East Asia and in the British Empire simultaneously.

This development created a cross-regional 'duality,' or a transition and uneven distribution, of the industries at the same time. One of the intersections of this duality was clearly in Kenya, which was a part of the British East Africa. British East Africa was a colonial economy and had the financial burden of maintaining the Uganda railway. The discovery of Magadi Soda impacted the local development and linked it to global entrepreneurs and merchants. The soda export to East Asia, especially Japan, had a large impact on the transition of the soda industry from Europe to East Asia, and the changes in the commercial distribution and trading balance between Kenya and Japan also increased the trade of cotton goods and other products. Thus, an economical complementarity of competition and cooperation was formed among Asia, Britain, and the East African colonies, courtesy of the Congo Basin treaties. This was also an intersection of the extra-empire trade between Britain and Japan, and these relations lasted until 1939 and the outbreak of World War II.

Additionally, the duality also created 'pains in prosperity,' or a disparity in the economic development of the spheres across the two empires. Both the governments had to intervene in disputes among the merit groups, such as economical winners and losers, and the related bureaucrats or politicians. The Anglo-Japanese economic diplomacy of the 1930s became a serious issue after the Great Depression when the political tensions arose between the two empires.

'Horrible Travel Days in the Land of the Future': the Experiences of Swiss Diplomat Paul Ritter in Siberia

Raphael STUDER

The present article deals with the three journeys through Siberia which Paul Ritter (1865-1921), Swiss diplomat to Japan made with the newly built Russian Trans-Siberian Railway in the years 1900, 1903 and 1904. In particular, it asks, from the perspective of a cultural history of diplomacy (where culture is understood as the prism through which we see and understand the world), how Ritter's judgements about Siberia might have been influenced by preexisting Swiss and Russian notions. As it turns out, the Swiss diplomat paradoxically saw in Russia's Asian possessions a "land of the future" with the most brilliant future even though his own journeys were plagued by all kinds of disappointments and hardships. His bright prediction of a politically liberal, economically thriving Siberia akin to the settler

colonies in North America constituted the exact opposite of the contemporary Swiss view of Russia, seen as a backward, truly despotic empire. Moreover, turning the usually negatively connoted idea of Russia's "Asiatic", non-European character on its head, Ritter claimed that this feature enabled Russia to interact more successfully with the local at population than competing imperialist powers. Since both the concept of Siberia as a new America and of a special Russian mission in Asia were widespread in Russian society towards the end of the 19th century (albeit in different political groups), it seems clear that they influenced Paul Ritter`s view significantly.

Reading *The Coal Question*

Yu OHNISHI

The aim of this paper is to read *The Coal Question* by W.S.Jevons and to extract important perspectives from it, and position them as new findings in historiography, in particular an argument about the mechanism of productivity increase, relationship between technology and economy, and today's energy theory including renewable energy.

Primarily, in known mechanisms for productivity increase, the economy is assumed to be independent from the environment. However, using Jevons' theory, it is possible to position coal as an element that links the natural environment and the economy. This reveals the vital importance of coal in the production of large quantities of basic industrial materials, which is a prerequisite for establishing the existing four theories of the mehcanism increasing productivity.

Secondly, Jevons' criticism of energy that was expected to replace coal includes an intrinsic understanding of the energy that is available today. Jevons's argument that wind power, hydropower or electricity cannot replace coal in principle, can be applied to the today's idea of substituting fossil fuels by renewable energy.

Jevons' analysis of resources, society and technology had a close observation and profound insight into 19th Century British society. His analysis is still useful in considering today's various economic growth, energy, and technology development.