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Osaka University

Public History: Journal of History for the Public, 21 (2024) Abstracts

Essays in Honour of Professor Shigeru Akita on his Retirement

Tomonori MIZUTA

It is our great honour to contribute essays to the special issue of *Journal of History for the Public*, dedicated to commemorating Professor Shigeru Akita on the occasion of his retirement from Osaka University. Professor Akita has significantly contributed to the development of British Imperial History and has conducted extensive research in Global History both in Japan and abroad. In this special issue, after a brief prefatory note, the following topics will be addressed:

1. From British Imperial History to Global History
Shigeru AKITA
2. A Study of the Economic Aspects of the Decolonization in India
Natsuko KITANI
3. Naval MPs and the Admiralty Boroughs in Long Eighteenth-Century Britain
Takeshi NAKAMURA
4. Mass Meetings of Lower Division Civil Servants in Late Victorian Britain
Tomonori MIZUTA
5. The Establishment of Tourism Research Institutes in Switzerland in the Early 1940s:
A Preliminary Study of Postwar Developments
Keita MORIMOTO

Who is the inventor of the cultured pearl?:

Selecting Useful Knowledge in the Pearl Industry

Ryuichiro MACHIZAWA

This study delves into an unconventional theory that challenges the conventional belief attributing the invention of cultured pearls to a Japanese individual. Instead, it posits that a British marine biologist was the true pioneer, a perspective that became popular in the 21st century. This study draws on the mapping and selection model between “ Ω (propositional knowledge)” and “ λ (prescriptive knowledge)” in Joel Mokyr’s “useful knowledge” theory. This consideration clarifies how the success or failure of access to the knowledge that enables pearl culturing, that is, the success or failure of mapping and selection, influences the development of an industry. This study also presents an answer to the question of the identity of the inventor of cultured pearls from an original viewpoint, utilizing the mapping and selection model. Only Japanese producers could easily access useful knowledge, which remained in their own communities. The resulting monopolistic supply system and Japan’s strong presence in the global market posed barriers for competitors who did not have access to it. The basic knowledge that Japan derived through the collection of useful knowledge was the “function theory,” which exploits the functions of mantle. Based on this recognition, Japan succeeded in the

development and mass production of spherical cultured pearls. Meanwhile, European researchers continued to follow the “stimulation theory” under which shells were stimulated to produce pearls and lagged behind in acquiring the cognitive basis that led to the selection of useful knowledge. In short, they made mistakes in the discovery process and experienced failure in their subsequent actions.

The Dispute over the Image of the Army in West Germany: with a focus on Baudissin and Schnez

Koto FUKUNAGA

The arguments of the reformists and traditionalists, represented by Baudissin and Schnez respectively, were not completely at odds with each other. Both believed that as part of NATO, they had to develop a strong army. Baudissin’s idea of “citizens in uniform” was not only the ideal image of a soldier in a democratic army, but also that of an excellent soldier fighting in modern warfare, which requires a high level of individual judgment.

Nevertheless, the reason for the conflict between the two groups was the gap between reality and ideals. The reformers attempted to bring the military as close as possible to civil society, and they were optimistic about the tensions that would arise. On the other hand, the traditionalists believed that there were limits to aligning the values of the military with civil society and that the army should maintain its own moral values. They called for West German people to be prepared to make self-sacrifices for national defense. At the same time, they were keenly aware of the need for some kind of coercive force against soldiers who lacked a sense of responsibility.

The two sides’ arguments, coming from optimism and realism, ran parallel. So the traditionalists switched negotiating partners to Schmidt, the Federal Minister of Defence, who was seeking to reform the Bundeswehr. He did not agree with them at all about their restoration values but avoided a decisive confrontation with them because of his desire to promote reform. He also understood the practical grievances held by conservative officers and their request for reform. The two sides proceeded to concrete negotiations, and the conflict within the military was settled.

Review Article

John Darwin, *Unlocking the World: Port Cities and Globalization in the Age of Steam, 1830–1930*

Koki HANADA

In this book, the author discusses how the ‘steam globalization’ of the 19th century, which emerged with the proliferation of steamships and steam engines, influenced the emergence of the modern world centered on Europe. It also explores the homogenization of commerce and culture globally, providing concrete examples from around the world and ancient history. The discussion delves into both macro-

and micro-perspectives, examining the connection between them.

From a micro perspective, the author explores the subjectivity of local societies, including collaboration with local merchants and elites. From a macro perspective, the book addresses the evolving international landscape, the rise and fall of hinterlands, and changes in international shipping routes. It portrays the intricate interplay of these numerous factors, with port cities worldwide serving as the primary setting.

While the book is a significant contribution to global history, outlining the historical globalization process leading to the present day, with a focus on port cities as the 'bridgehead' for Europe and the role of steamships, it falls short in fully discussing the importance of supply networks for a stable coal energy supply. Additionally, the role played by railways that extended inland, supporting 'steam globalization,' is not thoroughly explored.

This paper aims to complement the book's depiction of the inner workings of steam globalization since the 19th century. It does so by introducing a perspective centered on railways, enabling inland penetration, and highlighting the significance of the supply networks crucial for expanding influence on both land and sea. The goal is to provide a comprehensive view by adding the perspective of the establishment of energy supply networks essential for land and sea influence expansion.