

英文レジュメ

The Development of Productive Power under the Conditions of Structural Depression

By Katsuaki Onishi

This article is an attempt at critically evaluating the development of productive power under the conditions of a structural business slump. While basic materials industries are now in the trough of depression, highly-advanced systems, best symbolized by FMS, are certainly here to stay. Today's capitalism is firmly based on such highly-advanced systems of which automation is a vitally important built-in factor. In order for capitalism to survive, ceaseless improvement and upgrading of such systems are mandatory. Every measure, as a matter of fact, is now being taken for the purpose.

What, then, are the factors making up such systems? The present writer tries to tackle this problem from various angles, such as automation, subcontractor systems, business and administrative setups and manufacturing processes. Then, the writer tries to find out what changes the Japanese economy's shift from high growth to low growth has brought about in its wake. The conclusion is that a stagnation of a certain system necessitates development of even more advanced systems. The cases in point are the decline of basic materials industries and the rise and development of manufacturing machines.

Thirdly, the writer tries to find out whether continuing improvement of various systems will actually lead to sustained prosperity of capitalism and improvement of working conditions. The conclusion is that the choice of completely automated production systems is bound to seriously shake the very foundations for obtaining surplus value. In other words, continued advancement of the systems will show capitalism at its worst unless it is always accompanied by penetrating and tempering inquiries into the true nature of capitalist economic system.