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BOOK REVIEW

Isamu FUJITA: *The Review of the Socialist Society*,
Tokyo University Press, 1980, 237pp. (in Japanese)

This book gives a general description of the focal points emerging from the author's meticulous analysis of the dynamics of socialist societies as a whole given the existing circumstances of the world. The urgency behind this book derives above all from the necessity of researching the basic problems of socialism as a social system. Research is needed in order to overcome the many difficulties stemming from the ideological and political confusion with which all sorts of socialist movements and progressive forces have been confronted in every country following criticisms of Stalinism.

The book is divided into the following chapters:

Chapter I	the historical development of socialism and urgent issues of contemporary dispute,
Chapter II	socialism and ownership,
Chapter III	socialism and the state,
Chapter IV	socialism and civil liberty, and
Chapter V	the historical position of existing socialist systems.

After following the up-to-date debates about socialism from its genesis, the author concentrates upon the primary problems of the relationship between ownership and state power in a socialist community. For example, he considers the meaning of socialization and the continuing existence of commodities and money under socialist property systems, state-management and self-management, methods of control by bureaucracies and social autonomy. With a view to introducing the logic of 'civil liberty' into the socialist constitution, the author then proceeds to define the concept of a citizen. The latter is seen as possessing civil rights and civil liberties as well as the right to work in the broadest sense, thereby being involved in collective work-ownership relations. The author stresses the importance of civil rights in the sense of protecting individuals from illegality and arbitrary decisions made by government or civil servants. Individuals with civil rights above all have the

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right to know and enjoy freedom of expression.

It is an understandable and useful approach to the study of problems relating to socialism to consider that the evolution of a socialist society depends heavily on the dynamics of the total structure of international politics. In this way Prof. Fujita explains that the world socialist movement is a complex and contradictory process which combines socialist and national liberation with general democratic movements.

His extensive presentation of new ideas on socialism, his careful and logical description of crucial issues, and the unique theoretical approach make this book an indispensable source for research workers studying socialist societies.

Kenjiro NAKAMURA
Kagawa University

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Minoru NAGASUNA and Fumio ASHIDA (ed.): *The Soviet Socialism — Its Present and the Problems —*, Otsuki-Shoten, 1981, 317 pp. (in Japanese)

The book under review is a product of the recent research carried out by a group composed of graduates from Kyoto University, who appears to be one of the most active study groups on the subject of socialist economy in Japan. It is by this group as well that the following book was published six years ago: Masao KIHARA and Minoru NAGASUNA (ed.), *The Contemporary Japan and Socialist Political Economy*, 1976, as the joint product of fifteen contributors. This time, applying some new approaches to the problems the same group has published the book under review as the joint product of ten contributors, who include researchers in their early thirties, with the eldest twenty-two years older.

The purpose of this book and the basic position of contributors are clearly manifested in the editors' foreword, in which they say, "This book attempts