

The Peace on The Horizon - 70 Years after The World War 2 in the Middle East (43)

[\(Japanese Version\)](#)

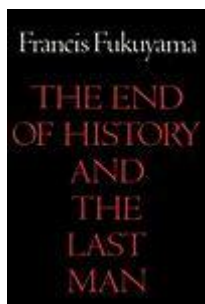
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Chapter 5: Two calendars (Gregorian & Hijri)

5-7(43) Two books: "The End of History and the Last Man" & "The Clash of Civilization and the Remaking of World Order"

In the 1990s, the last decade of the 20th century, two books were published by a political scientist in the United States, and had the great reputation. One was "The End of History and the Last Man" by Francis Fukuyama in 1992 and the other one was "The Clash of Civilization and the Remaking of World Order" by Samuel Huntington in 1996. When one century was coming to the end, it was apt to be published abnormal literatures which predicts the end of the world like "Harmagedon" or "The predictions of Nostradamus". But two books refereed above were the papers on civilization by renowned scholars. The assertion of two papers were quite different.

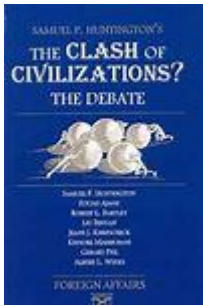
The Middle East has been at the mercy of history as a crossover point of East and West civilizations. In that sense, both books suggested important points for the history of the Middle East.



Professor Fukuyama predicted that in 21st century the world would turn into one global society with democracy and market economy. He also claimed the era of "the end of history" where there were no major conflicts of ideology. On the other hand, Huntington said that the world of the 21st century would not be global integration, but rather would be divided into units of many civilizations, and the conflicts between each civilization would form the new world order.

Professor Huntington listed the seven civilizations as the main ones of modern age. They were Western Europe civilization, Islamic civilization, Confucian civilization, Hindu civilization, Orthodox Church civilization, Latin American civilization and Japanese civilization respectively. It was interesting that Huntington thought that Japanese civilization was an independent one. In sense of folklore or geopolitical studies, it is natural that Japanese civilization might be integral part of Far East Asian civilization.

Among these seven civilizations, the Western European civilization is the latest one originating from the industrial revolution in the 18th century. The Western European civilization focused on the ideology such as liberalism and capitalism. In contrast, the Islamic civilization is a religious one by Prophet Muhammad in the 14th century. The Orthodox Church civilization is a civilization rooted in the religion of Christianity.



Once there had been four ancient civilizations. Two of them were in Egypt and Mesopotamia in the Middle East. The other two civilization were along the banks of Yellow River in China and Indus River in India. Yellow River civilization in China was the mother of Confucian civilization. And Indus civilization in India was the mother of Hindu civilization. But Egyptian and Mesopotamian civilization had no successors. They only remained their names as an archaeological civilization. Latin American civilization and Japanese civilization were related to ethnicity.

Prof. Fukushima's "The End of History and the Last Man" was written being affected by the falling down of Berlin Wall in 1987 and the dissolution of Soviet Union in 1991. The United States became the super power of the world in 1990s. Socialism and communism were driven out and liberalism and capitalism became the de facto standard. His book symbolized such age. Meanwhile, it was sure that Huntington wrote "The clash of Civilization and the Remaking of World Order" under strong influence by the drastically changing history of the Middle East. They were the Iranian Revolution in 1979, the invasion and withdrawal of the Soviet Union in Afghanistan from 1980 to 1989, and the Gulf War in 1991.

These two philosophical books were published in the paradigm shift of dramatically changing history. Just at the same time, neoconservatism was emerged in the United States. The roots of neoconservatism dated back to the 1930's. And it grew up as a theoretical pillar of the political party which opposed to the Detent (Release from tension) with the Soviet Union during the Cold War. The Jewish lobby in the United States supported the neoconservatism.

Senator Barry Goldwater who was the Republican presidential candidate in 1964 made the speech which was enthusiastically supported by conservatives. Senator Goldwater told that; "The radicalism for defending freedom was not a vice in any way. But the moderatism in search of justice was not a virtue in any way". The conservatism became the mainstream of the Republican Party.

During the Republican governments from President Ronald Reagan in 1981 to President George H. W. Bush in 1993, people believed that United States was undoubtedly correct. They also convinced that God chose them and gave the mission for world peace. The United States made the Soviet Union to withdraw from Afghanistan and promoted reunification of the East and West Germany. The United States supported Saddam Hussein of Iraq of the secular regime in the Iran-Iraq war. In the field of economy, they forced other countries the globalization through free trade. The United States became the most powerful country in the world.

"The End of History and the Last Man" by Prof. Fukuyama traced the real history. But Prof. Fukuyama never said that history would end. He said that the world after the Cold War was the beginning of the final chapter of history where democracy and market economy might be unified to

the one ideology. He claimed eschatology at the end of the 20th century. This made his book the best-seller.

The United States overthrew the Hussein dictatorship in Iraq in the Gulf War by force. Rulers of the Arab and Muslim countries trembled. The United States intended to materialize Prof. Fukuyama's idea in the Middle East in 21st century. However, Prof. Huntington challenged the philosophy of Prof. Fukuyama through "The Clash of Civilization and the Remaking of World Order". Unfortunately, 9/11 terrorism at the beginning of the 21st century proved the prediction of Prof. Huntington.

(To be continued ----)

By Areha Kazuya

E-mail: areha_kazuya@jcom.home.ne.jp

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