

橋場弦監修『WORLD HISTORY for High School 英文詳説世界史』山川出版社 2019年8月25日刊を読む

WORLD HISTORY for High School — SUMMARY —

1. (1) Part IV focused on the global world.
 - (2) It emerged in the Age of Imperialism in the late modern period, and became firmly established in the contemporary era after World War I.
 - (3) The contemporary era has been a period of continual global wars and armed conflicts. Following the colonial wars, the First and Second World Wars, and armed conflicts in Asia, Africa and Central and South America during the Cold War, civil wars and international terrorism continue to occur.
 - (4) At the same time, as modern industrial societies expanded, industrial and agricultural productivity improved significantly, enabling epoch-making achievements in various fields, including medicine, communication methods, and space development.
 - (5) Globalization progressed in this environment, and people's lives and awareness underwent a huge transformation. Below is a review of the important points in Part IV.

2. Era of Nation-States and Nationalism
 - (1) The principle of nation-states was created in the French Revolution.
 - (2) However, there were only a few nation-state countries in the nineteenth century, even in the West, and imperial states consisting of multiple ethnic groups were still dominant.
 - (3) After World War I, newly independent countries were established as nation-states, based on their right to self-determination of peoples.
 - (4) The number of nation-states increased after World War II, and today, there are one hundred and ninety-three member states of the United Nations (2011).
 - (5) However, there are countries that promote exclusive domestic nationalism, persecute ethnic minorities within the country and incite a civil war, in order to strengthen state unity by reinforcing ethnic consciousness, and to stabilize state politics and the economy.
 - (6) As the number of nation-states increases, the United Nations strives to stabilize the international world through mediating conflicts and strife.
 - (7) There is also a tendency to build a system of cooperation by bringing countries together on a regional basis.
 - (8) These attempts are the main currents that drive contemporary international societies.

3. The United States of America and A Society of Mass Production and Mass Consumption
 - (1) In order to reflect on contemporary history, it is essential to understand the trends of the

United States of America, which contributed to the Allied victory in World War I and played a leading role in the world after World War II .

- (2) The United States has also led the way in innovative production methods and industrial technology in modern industries, as well as in the building of contemporary cities.
- (3) It has assumed a role as the financial center of the world, presented the model of a contemporary mass society with mass production and mass consumption, and held a prominent position in contemporary popular culture and academic research.
- (4) With such strong capabilities, the United States has become a military superpower as well.
- (5) The Soviet Union was a critical opponent of the United States, but it collapsed without ever catching up.
- (6) Yet, even as the sole superpower, the United States cannot globalize the world and create standards on its own.
- (7) There are new challenges from emergent economic powers, such as China and India, in addition to traditional competitors including European countries and Japan.

4 . Issues Facing the Global World

- (1) In the latter half of the twentieth century, grave issues concerning the entire Earth and the whole human race, began to appear, which could not be solved by production capacity or military power.
- (2) Examples include: global warming, environmental pollution and deforestation caused by industrialization and development, depletion of energy and mineral resources, development of new energy sources, regional imbalances in demographic changes, and discrepancies in regional inequality regarding living standards and human rights.
- (3) These problems have been created by modern societies, either directly or indirectly, and require cooperation and collaboration of humanity as a whole, in order to be solved.

5 . Research topic suggestions

- (1)
 - ① Create a chronological table of wars, civil wars and armed conflicts that claimed a large number of lives, from the end of the nineteenth century to today.
 - ② Count the years when there was no war, civil war or armed conflict.
 - ③ Then, classify wars into international wars and domestic wars.
 - ④ Observe how the respective numbers change, and think about their causes.
- (2)
 - ① As a result of globalization, English has become not only the official language among English speaking countries but also a common international language.
 - ② Commodities and appliances used in our daily lives are often labelled in English.
 - ③ When did such English labelling replace Japanese labelling on our tools and equipment, and why?

<コメント>

1. 本書は、長年多くの高校で世界史の教科書として採択され、高校生に用いられている「山川・世界史」の完全英語逐語訳版。
2. 本書を用いて英語で世界史の知識を得、身に着けるにはどうしたらよいか。
3. 初めて世界史を学ぶ高校生は学校の授業で学んだところまで、この英語版を読み進めることが一番効果的。
4. ただ、一度、日本語の世界史教科書を学んだ人は、最初の 1 ページから英語版を読み始めると、なかなか前に進まないことは容易に想像されるので、最終章から 1 章ずつチャレンジすることをおすすめしたい。
5. 新しい章に入る前には、今まで読み終えた章を声を出して読んでみることも、世界史英語の「定着」には有効と考える。
6. キーワードは「ノート」に取り続けること。「ノート」は 1 ページずつ「音読練習」と「書き取り練習」を怠らないこと。「新しい世界史英語」の世界は、新しい人生の始まりの 1 つかもしれない。

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