

Art and Society

Does a movie express “Zeitgeist”?

... Examining about American movie pictures in 2005...

YOSHIMICHI SOEJIMA

The first premise; Art is a product of a genius.

It is the product of the genius as an individual which is about named art, therefore it is produced from individual technology and the individual way of thinking. Such restrictions are secondary though production of art may receive restrictions of practical use. That is, although the contents which art expresses may reflect the trend of the time, time does not influence the essence of art. The inner language of art is autonomous. Art differs from technology just because it is autonomous.

Proof of the first premise; Piano sonatas are a product of a genius.

For example, I will analyze Beethoven's composition technique by his 32 piano sonatas and 9 symphonies. A request of a patron and change of the social situation serve as an opportunity of composition. Change of a composer's physical conditions is considered to have given change in the style of music.

However, progress of the sonata form which is Beethoven's music language was not influenced by such external factor. There was inner necessity in development of sonata form. That is, once this composition form buds, the direction of the development will be determined inevitably and other elements will not prevent this.

Proof; The continent system and Metternich System.

I will try to explain this point in detail.

The first is a political economic point of view.

The life of Beethoven almost occurs at the same time in the time of a revolution of neighboring country France(the French Revolution). It is to be clear from his biography that he sent great praise to commoner Napoleon. However, an aftermath of the French Revolution is beyond likes and dislikes to Napoleon individual; of then Europe almost affected all life. French capitalism having influenced a continent market, France adopted a protectionism policy to raise occupation expense of a French military and faced each other in the mortal enemy U.K. France abolished a feudal lord system in a winning at the same time. Exercise of national independent unification occurred in each place hereby.

It is “the continent system of Napoleon” that was embodied with this tendency. It is “the continent system of Napoleon” that embodied with this tendency. As a result of the French Revolution and the Industrial Revolution repeated, and having been worse, I shared the countries of the European Continent and blockaded self. The formation of the ground which let protection of a domestic market, revival of domestic industry, the Industrial Revolution go was planned hereby. I shut a British article out of a continent, and an economic alliance of a continent was formed at the same time to give British economy a blow hereby.

Only such a war economy is not direct result. It was “European Union” that aimed before Napoleon formed the continent system. A purpose I unified the European world politically, and to rebuild civilization was advocated. The thing which realized this idea is “Napoleon code”.

As for “Napoleon code”, examination began in 1792, and the text was drafted in 1800, and Article 2,281 was established on March 21, 1804. (It was named “Napoleon code” in 1807)

An important matter exhibited by this code is 2. No. 1 = “Absoluteness of proprietary rights.” No. 2 = “Freedom of contract.”

Instead of feudalism that the French Revolution abolished, absoluteness of proprietary rights was confirmed. (544&545) In other words proprietary rights are the exclusive absolute rights that they do profit with a thing permanently and can dispose of. Individualistic proprietary rights general idea established it here. Capitalism is formed only after absoluteness and freedom of contract of proprietary rights are guaranteed.

However, it was double-edged sword for Napoleon (for France) to realize this idea. I gain control of the country strategically, and cry, and there is not a mule to enforce Napoleon code in the other countries. It is a result of war that a territory of Prussia was done

cession of as for Holy Roman Empire having been ruined in 1806 in 1807 by France.

And Napoleon destroyed ancient regime of the country which I occupied. I let an intermediate group, many special privileges, feudalism become extinct, and a bureaucrat organization of Napoleon was replaced to these. However, these reform was land reforms from "the top", and the enforcement was not a voluntary thing by any means. Here was a limit of reform of Napoleon. Resistance of a farmer and noble repulsion, this were awareness of a citizen raised by Napoleon reform and natural results of resistance of a race.

Contradiction came to the front in the continent system at the same time. However, problems such as dullness of cotton industry by lack of raw materials, the stagnation of manufacturing industry by an export stop, a fall of the wheat market price, a decline of a duty income produced it. French industry did not have market power in response to an economic desire of the continent countries.

At the point where an economic blockade is performed to keep a French interest of unrest of this system was well-grounded. War continues to maintain the continent system, and it develops into "war of a nation" before long⁽¹⁾.

The resistance to Napoleon rule was used in a direction of counterrevolution to suppress democracy at the same time. It was signed a last protocol in this way on May 13, 1814, and the Napoleonic Wars terminated. European cooperation was done moving spirit of in "the Congress of Vienna" by U.K., Russia, Prussia, Quadruple Alliance of Austria, and "Metternich System" was formed.

There are two bedrocks of Metternich System. The one is Legitimism. Business results itself of the French Revolution was denied, and ancient regime was reproduced, and the nationalism was infringed upon. In addition, the other is power balance. The Great Powers of four country alliances divides a small country and governs it. (France participated in four country alliances later, and became five country alliances)⁽²⁾.

Metternich System thought a prop of order of European countries to be be a monarch and a noble and never forgave the exercise to destroy this order.

The change repeats in the days of a thing of the above in the life as a composer of Beethoven. From ancient regime to the French Revolution period and imperial government France to Metternich System. It was a European center, and Vienna where Beethoven lived in mainly should have changed his living environment into the political event immediately in the 19th century⁽³⁾.

Illness prevents. . .

The second factor is physical abnormality that is the loss of hearing of Beethoven. Because there is a detailed study in a description of his biography about this, I do not record here. However, you should take a description of Romain Rolland into account to know thing, this that the loss of hearing of a musician did not affect the composition^{(4) (5)}.

Music of Beethoven changes. However, it is a work that change, and method itself of composition does not change. When hegemony of Napoleon wrapped up Europe, his music was going to follow this. Or his work welcomed this system when Metternich System was settled. (It is reference with by the third symphony or a war symphony or the ninth of string quartet, the tenth, the eleventh.)⁽⁶⁾.

However, it was a work that changed, and his composition technique was sonata form to the last.

In sonata form, there are two subjects. At first a first motif and a subsidiary theme are shown first (exposition). A subsidiary theme seems to tend a department to be put in progress for a modulation between a first motif and the subsidiary themes that are the genus-like (5 degrees key) or a parallel key of a first motif (a major key/minor key same a key signature). After a subsidiary theme, a part closing the subject is put, and exposition is repeated generally by ditto marks⁽⁷⁾. After this repetition, development form of exposition is presented in free form, and subsequently exposition is transformed and appears (recapitulation), and music is finished (a close part). This is basic, but actually an introduction before exposition and, after recapitulation, put a coda, and abbreviation and repetition are performed, and there is development form in various ways⁽⁸⁾.

The composition technique of Beethoven completed this sonata form. From sonata form (imitation of Haydn) of early stage of imitation to for the completion period and the change period of a latter period style, his composition was change itself of this sonata form. A cause of this change is not a political factor. In addition, a personal event is not a cause of a change. There is a change to follow necessarily when started once.

Nothing stops this change. Nothing changes this direction. Inherent power of sonata form is a cause of a change. As for the Zeitgeist, personal environment is unrelated to here, too^{(9) (10) (11)}.

The second premise; A movie is a product of the times.

I tried to apply the inner necessity of art also to the movie. To be sure, the montage technique within many technology of movie manufacture is the inner language of a movie. In the socialist society of Soviet, montage technique developed autonomously also in U.S. capitalism in the decadence of France. This technique is not influenced by social ism or social regional difference.

Does a movie describe the trend of a time or does a movie reflect the social trend of the time? In order to solve this problem, I introduced two big currents in the treatise in 2005.

One current is the Hayes code. In order to avoid the Christianity-hostility to the movie manufactured by the Judea capital, it is the independence rule which regulated the Hollywood movie morally One another current is American new cinema. The U.S. movie in 1970 and afterwards described actual society, and solution of it was lost at the end of a movie. The spectator has got bored with the "happy end" of the conventional movie.

The Vietnam War caused conversion. The young man belonging to the class (class below a middle class) of the American society which enjoys a movie as an amusement participated in the Vietnam War, and actually experienced war, and after the homecoming returned. There is no dreamlike world described in a movie anywhere. Realities are "sex, violence, and a drug", and the movie regained vitality by making these into a stimulant.

I built such a hypothesis from these two currents in which the contents of a movie reflect the time, and it was verified on the U.S. movie in the 2005 fiscal year. Consequently, "MILLION DOLLAR BABY" which won Best Picture among the works which won the Academy Award, the other fine work "BEYOND THE SEA", etc. were found by that attention gathered for the work with nostalgia for the good old days. It is the feeling of exhaustion by anti-Arab-religion war which was assumed as the cause.

Supposing this hypothesis has validity, the same tendency also as the continuing Academy Award in the 2006 fiscal year will surely be accepted. Since it was changeless for a U.S. policy for Arab in this year. Hereafter, four works of Best Picture, Best Director, Best Actor, and Best Actress are introduced, and it is the inner similarity of the contents.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences is a professional honorary organization comprised of over 6,000 motion picture artists and craftsmen. Though most famous for its yearly awards, the Academy's general goal is the advancement of the arts and

sciences of motion pictures. Within that, the Academy fosters cultural, educational and technological cooperation among its members; it provides a forum for various branches of the industry; it represents the viewpoint of its members; and it encourages educational activities between the professional community and the public.

Each prizewinner of 2005 was as follows.

Actor in a leading role, is Philip Seymour Hoffman in "CAPOTE".

Actress in a leading role, is Reese Witherspoon in "WALK THE LINE".

Directing, is Ang Lee in "BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN".

Best Picture, is "CRASH" directed by Paul Haggis.

Plot Summary for "CAPOTE"; In 1959, Truman Capote, a popular writer for The New Yorker, learns about the horrific and senseless murder of a family of four in Holcomb, Kansas. Inspired by the story material, Capote and his partner, Harper Lee, travel to the town to research for an article. However, as Capote digs deeper into the story, he is inspired to expand the project into what would be his greatest work, In Cold Blood. To that end, he arranges extensive interviews with the prisoners, especially with Perry Smith, a quiet and articulate man with a troubled history. As he works on his book, Capote feels some compassion for Perry which in part prompts him to help the prisoners to some degree. However, that feeling deeply conflicts with his need for closure for his book which only an execution can provide. That conflict and the mixed motives for both interviewer and subject make for a troubling experience that would produce an literary account that would redefine modern non-fiction⁽¹²⁾.

Plot Summary for "WALK THE LINE"; J.R. Cash takes an early interest in music while growing up on an Arkansas cotton farm Johnny in the Great Depression. He is very close to his elder brother Jack, who dies in an accident involving a table saw in 1944 when J.R. is out fishing. His guilt about this event is not helped when his father blames him as well, so it comes as a welcome escape when he is old enough to enlist in the air force and is sent to Germany. Inspired by a film he sees there, Inside the Walls of Folsom Prison (1951) he composes a song, "Folsom Prison Blues." Leaving the air force Cash marries and attempts to succeed as a door-to-door salesman in Memphis, Tenn. but his heart is in music and he succeeds in an audition with Sam Phillips at Sun Records. Soon Johnny is touring and meets June Carter, who has been a country star since childhood. Although they are drawn to each other, they are married to others. Touring takes a toll on Johnny's

marriage, and in the 1960's he becomes addicted to amphetamines. His marriage ends and June helps him beat the drug dependency. Reading fan letters from prisoners inspires Cash to perform a concert at Folsom Prison, which leads to a very successful album. June finally accepts Johnny's proposal of marriage given as they perform together on stage in Ontario in February, 1968⁽¹³⁾.

Plot Summary for "BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN"; In 1963, two young men hire on as ranch hands in the Wyoming mountains. During the long months of isolation, an unusual bond starts to develop between them, one which they are only vaguely aware of—until one night when it rises to the surface in a passionate encounter. When the season ends, they part ways, only to realize the true depth of their feelings. Thus begins a decades-long affair that the two of them desperately try to hide from those around them—one which will prove simultaneously beautiful and devastating⁽¹⁴⁾.

Plot Summary for "CRASH"; For two days in Los Angeles, a racially and economically diverse group of people ... a police detective with a drugged out mother and a thieving younger brother, two car thieves who are constantly theorizing on society and race, the white district attorney and his irritated and pampered wife, a racist white veteran cop (caring for a sick father at home) who disgusts his more idealistic younger partner, a successful Hollywood director and his wife who must deal with the racist cop, a Persian-immigrant father who buys a gun to protect his shop, a Hispanic locksmith and his young daughter who is afraid of bullets, and more..., pursue lives that collide with one another in unexpected ways. These interactions are always interesting, and sometimes quite unsettling. The film explores and challenges your ability to judge books by their covers.

Some of an American film of 2005 have a style of nostalgia for the good old days in the same way as 2004. Here cannot make a prompt decision whether the cause is anti-Arabian religious war. However, it is certain that a tendency of 2004 continues. Then, unlike a musical work, a movie is affected by a trend of the times.

I am not going to discuss a musical work and a difference with a movie article in this article. Or I do not treat a difference with a work of art and a commercial work. Since a movie is an article, it is natural that a trend of the times is reflected. This is essence of a movie as art.

There may be the greatest reason why a movie is distinguished from other art in this

point. Art is autonomous. It develops by own power and grows up and changes. However, about the expression contents which are indispensable for a movie, a movie has character of heteronomy. A movie reacts in the society and the times to gather spectators in a theater every day. It must not be got tired of a movie so that a spectator comes over every day. This character explains a movie and social connection. Society and connection with the times explain artistic character of a movie. It is evidence of artistry of a movie to express a "Zeitgeist".

注

- (1) The Metternich controversy/edited by Enno E. Kraehe New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston c1971
- (2) Metternich and the fall of Napoleon Traitor to France/Louis Madelin.
- (3) The Rise of Modern Police and the European State System from Metternich to the Second World War; Cambridge Univ Pr (Txp) (2002/04) Hsi-Huey Liang.
- (4) LA VIE DE BEETHOVEN.PIERRE ET LUCE.JEAN-CHRISTOPHE: L'oncle Gottfried, Antoinette et Olivier, La mort de Louisa. Romain Rolland.
- (5) Beethoven and the Construction of Genius: Musical Politics in Vienna, 1792-1803 Tia Denora; Univ. of California Pr; Reprint (1997/10)
- (6) Beethoven: Complete Piano Concertos in Full Score (Music Series) Ludwig van Beethoven Dover Pubns (1983/12)
- (7) Beethoven (Life and Times), Martin Geck, Peter Sheppard Skaerved Haus Pub (2003/02)
- (8) The Beethoven Compendium: A Guide to Beethoven's Life and Music; Anne-Louise Coldicott, Nicholas Marston, William Drabkin, Thames & Hudson (1996/08)
- (9) Vorlesungen über die Philosophie der Weltgeschichte, 1837; Georg Friedrich Hegel.
- (10) Hegel's Epistemology: A Philosophical Introduction to the Phenomenology of Spirit; Kenneth R. Westphal; Hackett Pub Co. Inc.
- (11) Philosophie und Zeitgeist im Nationalsozialismus. Zur Sache des Denkens. Koenigshausen + Neumann G.
- (12) The Complete Stories of Truman Capote (Modern Library) ;Truman Capote, Reynolds Price.
- (13) Walk the Line: Music from the Motion Picture Soundtrack; Johnny Cash, June Carter Cash Hal Leonard Corp.
- (14) De-Centering Sexualities: Politics and Representations Beyond the Metropolis Richard Phillips, Diane Watt, David Shuttleton, Routledge.