

Five Conceptions of Neo-liberal in Japanese: 1920s-2020s

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0. Liberal in Question

1. Historical Text Analytics

2. Person's Names

3. Neo-liberal in Early 20th Century Japan

4. Comparison of Liberal in Japanese and English

5. Interpretations & Proposal

0. 'Liberal' in Question

1940s~ Post-war Liberal-Democracy: The Atlantic Charter & Beveridge Report

➔ Rejection of classical laissez-faire liberalism

Emancipation from poverty & Rise of new middle class. Wide diffusion of consumption culture.

Bottom-raising equalization by income redistribution

1970s~ Turning Point of 'Liberal': The Oil Crises (1973, 1979)

➔ The end of economic growth led by heavy chemical industries

Privatization of government assets & Financial deregulation

Large-scale urban redevelopments led by global city governments

Identity politics & Cultural wars (decentralized pursuits of plural values)

1990s~ Negativization of Liberty: Globalism & ICT

- ➔ De-territorialization, & Entrenchment of cultural life
- Uneven distribution of wealth, & Fall of new middle class
- Pluralism fatigue, & Complains of economic disparity

2000s~ Liberty as an Encumbrance: Chain of Extreme Crises (NASDAQ crash 2000, War against terror 2001-, Mortgage loan crash 2008, Euro crises 2010, Japan earthquake & nuclear crisis, Syrian civil war 2011-, Covid 19 pandemic 2020-, Ukraine war 2022-):

- ➔ Hate of aliens. Outrage against the rich & the poor. Vain illusion of isolation
- Higher priority of security than liberty
- Structural reproduction of underclass
- Authoritarian temptation

HOW CAN WE BE LIBERAL TODAY?

1. Historical Textanalytics of the Usages of the Term 'Neo-Liberal': A Sociological Approach to the Question

General Aim of This Research Project

Before putting 'liberal' in the trash can, we may as well investigate the past various usages of the term 'liberal' not just by academic giants, but also lesser-known intellectuals.

Particular Target of Today's My Presentation

I narrow the research focus to the usages of the Japanese term 'Neo-liberal'.

I use text analytics (investigate the object by majoring the quantitative distribution of the letter-string 'Neo-liberal'). (*1)

Today's Most Important Findings

Japanese has scarcely absorbed Friedman's conception of 'Neo-liberal'.

Before 2000, Japanese understood 'Neo-liberal' as German 'Ordo-liberalisms' or Hobson & Hobhouse's 'new liberalisms'. Today Japanese prefers Harvey's and Foucault's conceptions of 'Neo-liberal', and hates Friedman's conception of 'Neo-liberal'.

2. Person's Names Appeared in Neo-liberal Writings (*2)

1961-1979		1980-1989		1990-1994		1995-1999		2000-2004		2005-2009		2010-2014		2015-2019	
Eucken	3	Hobson	5	Eucken	5	Dörken	18	Hobson	47	Koizumi	37	Harvey	44	Foucault	126
Rüstow	2	Keynes	3	Erhard	4	Smith	4	Keynes	42	Keynes	35	Friedman	32	Harvey	85
Erhard	2	Friedman	3	Rüstow	3	Yamazaki	3	Lippmann	14	Nakasone	29	Keynes	29	Hayek	39
Müller	1	Hayek	3	Röpke	3	Fujioka	3	Regan	12	Regan	27	Hayek	28	Friedman	37
Hayek	1	Nakasone	2	Keynes	2	Hobson	2	Eucken	12	Thatcher	26	Koizumi	26	Regan	35
Röpke	1	Regan	2	Friedman	2	Nakasone	1	Bush	10	Hayek	25	Watanabe	26	Keynes	35
		Thatcher	1	Buchanan	2	Friedman	1	Rueff	9	Harvey	24	Thatcher	22	Thatcher	31
		Erhard	1	Marx	2	Buchanan	1	Thatcher	8	Asano	17	Regan	20	Hartwick	27
		Eucken	1	Regan	1	Hashimoto	1	Kim	8	Zeeland	14	Gonjo	16	Rüstow	26
		Hobhouse	1	Thatcher	1			Hayek	8	Friedman	12	Sanuki	15	Watanabe	24
				Müller	1			Hobhouse	8	Abe	11	Yotoriyama	15	Hirai	23

Before 2000, the most frequents were German and Hobson & Hobhouse.

The late 20th century Japanese used the label of 'neo-liberal' for indicating the intellectual pursuits of 'liberal better than the classical laissez-faire liberalism'. (Friedman's 'neo-liberal' lays more stress on criticizing Keynesian interventionism.)

1961-1979		1980-1989		1990-1994		1995-1999		2000-2004		2005-2009		2010-2014		2015-2019	
Eucken	3	Hobson	5	Eucken	5	Dörken	18	Hobson	47	Koizumi	37	Harvey	44	Foucault	126
Rüstow	2	Keynes	3	Erhard	4	Smith	4	Keynes	42	Keynes	35	Friedman	32	Harvey	85
Erhard	2	Friedman	3	Rüstow	3	Yamazaki	3	Lippmann	14	Nakasone	29	Keynes	29	Hayek	39
Müller	1	Hayek	3	Röpke	3	Fujioka	3	Regan	12	Regan	27	Hayek	28	Friedman	37
Hayek	1	Nakasone	2	Keynes	2	Hobson	2	Eucken	12	Thatcher	26	Koizumi	26	Regan	35
Röpke	1	Regan	2	Friedman	2	Nakasone	1	Bus	10	Hayek	25	Watanabe	26	Keynes	35
		Thatcher	1	Buchanan	2	Friedman	1	Rueff	9	Harvey	24	Thatcher	22	Thatcher	31
		Erhard	1	Marx	2	Buchanan	1	Thatcher	8	Asano	17	Regan	20	Hartwick	27
		Eucken	1	Regan	1	Hashimoto	1	Kim	8	Zeeland	14	Gonjo	16	Rüstow	26
		Hobhouse	1	Thatcher	1			Hayek	8	Friedman	12	Sanuki	15	Watanabe	24
				Müller	1			Hobhouse	8	Abe	11	Yotoriyama	15	Hirai	23

In 21st century, the most frequents were Harvey & Foucault, and Friedman.

Harvey & Foucault, and Friedman are the two sides of the same coin. Contemporary Japanese tends to refer to Harvey & Foucault, for criticizing Friedman's neo-liberal.

The 20th century Japanese loved neo-liberal as an alternative to the 19th century laissez-faire liberalism.

The 21st century Japanese hates neo-liberal as the Post Keynesian deregulation policy.

3. Japanese Neo-liberal in the Early 20th Century

ID	Title	Author Name	Journal Title & Publication Year
Period001	<新刊紹介>關和知譯「新自由主義」	N/A	經濟學商業學國民經濟雜誌 17(1), 1914-07
Period002	新自由主義の企業者職分論：士族的職分思想家としての上田貞次朗博士	Tatsunosuke UEDA	一橋論叢 7(1) 1941-01-01
Book001	新自由主義のために：立候補にあたり志を述ぶ	Yuusuke TSURUMI	N/A 19--,
Book002	新自由主義：縮刷	N/A	N/A 1918.12
Book003	新自由主義雜考	Teijiro UEDA	N/A 1927
Book004	新自由主義	Yuusuke TSURUMI	N/A 1927
Book005	中道を歩む心：新自由主義論	Teijiro UEDA	N/A 1927
Book006	新自由主義と自由通商	New Japan League	N/A 1928

There are two journal articles and six books that contains the letter string ‘neo-liberal(新自由主義)’ in their titles.

UEDA & TSURUMI were Japanese political thinkers who criticized both old clannism and right-hunting sects among the modern elites. Also, they criticized both classical laissez-fare liberalism and brand-new collectivisms.

UEDA & TSURUMI dreamed a fair and humanitarian regime that would be established by true persons of virtue. They named their political belief ‘neo-liberal(新自由主義)’.

4. Comparison of Japanese and Anglophone Neo-liberal (*3)

Japanese Particularity, Compared to English

	-1969	1970s	1980s	1990s	2000-2004	2005-2009	2010-2014	2015-2019
reform	N/A	N/A	8.70	14.75	39.66	21.78	11.62	11.81
education	N/A	N/A	2.17	5.74	21.65	14.63	14.26	11.81
issue	N/A	20.00	4.55	9.84	10.95	19.25	11.47	8.68
society	16.67	10.00	15.22	6.56	12.17	13.97	9.56	13.89
today	N/A	5.00	2.17	6.56	9.00	17.49	8.53	8.68
history	N/A	N/A	2.17	4.10	6.57	15.07	10.88	11.81
era	11.11	5.00	2.17	0.82	2.92	13.86	13.09	11.81
policy	16.67	10.00	23.91	14.75	18.25	8.91	5.74	9.38
economy	61.11	40.00	13.04	12.30	8.52	8.69	8.68	7.64
Japan	16.67	5.00	4.55	6.56	8.52	8.03	8.53	8.68
labor	N/A	N/A	N/A	4.10	3.41	10.67	6.47	11.81
state	N/A	5.00	2.17	4.10	15.33	5.39	6.62	3.13
world	N/A	N/A	N/A	9.84	4.14	6.38	8.53	6.25
politics	N/A	5.00	13.04	12.30	3.41	6.93	7.21	4.86
law	N/A	N/A	N/A	3.28	11.19	8.47	1.32	5.56
movement	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.82	2.19	8.47	6.76	6.25
opposite	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.82	6.33	6.60	6.91	4.17
structure	N/A	N/A	N/A	4.92	15.82	0.95	2.94	2.08
critique	N/A	N/A	6.52	9.02	5.11	5.83	6.18	2.08
struggle	N/A	N/A	N/A	4.92	2.68	5.83	5.15	6.94

Anglophone Particularity, Compared to Japanese

	-1979	1980s	1990s	2000-2004	2005-2009	2010-2014	2015-2019
politics	N/A	5.00	8.41	8.75	8.65	9.34	9.16
society	N/A	N/A	5.92	7.14	9.19	8.02	8.25
world	N/A	N/A	4.67	15.00	10.97	6.48	3.21
policy	N/A	25.00	12.77	8.21	7.80	6.15	6.87
education	N/A	5.00	4.36	3.57	5.10	5.77	9.16
state	N/A	5.00	8.10	6.25	4.48	4.73	3.32
reform	N/A	N/A	9.35	6.79	5.87	3.52	1.95
economic	33.33	15.00	9.66	7.50	4.32	2.75	2.29
crisis	N/A	N/A	2.18	3.57	3.86	4.89	3.55
development	N/A	N/A	4.17	4.46	3.63	4.45	2.29
new	16.67	5.00	4.49	3.39	5.33	3.68	3.21
democracy	N/A	N/A	6.23	4.11	3.32	2.47	2.86
public	N/A	N/A	0.62	2.50	3.32	3.19	3.55
latin america	16.67	5.00	8.41	4.82	3.09	1.87	1.26
post	N/A	N/A	2.18	1.96	2.08	2.97	4.47
economy	N/A	5.00	4.05	3.75	2.86	2.42	2.29
urban	N/A	N/A	0.31	2.32	3.32	3.30	2.18
governance	N/A	N/A	0.93	2.50	3.94	2.75	1.49
culture	N/A	5.00	1.25	3.04	2.78	2.80	2.06

By 1980s, Japanese major interest in 'Neo-liberal' was how to rehabilitate and grow the post war Japanese economy.

In the same period, English major concern about Neo-liberal was the Chicago Boys experiments in Latin America.

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education	N/A	5.00	4.36	3.57	5.10	5.77	9.16
state	N/A	5.00	8.10	6.25	4.48	4.73	3.32
reform	N/A	N/A	9.35	6.79	5.87	3.52	1.95
economic	33.33	15.00	9.66	7.50	4.32	2.75	2.29
crisis	N/A	N/A	2.18	3.57	3.86	4.89	3.55
development	N/A	N/A	7.17	4.46	3.63	4.45	2.29
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post	N/A	N/A	2.18	1.96	2.08	2.97	4.47
economy	N/A	5.00	4.05	3.75	2.86	2.42	2.29
urban	N/A	N/A	0.31	2.32	3.32	3.30	2.18
governance	N/A	N/A	0.93	2.50	3.94	2.75	1.49
culture	N/A	5.00	1.25	3.04	2.78	2.80	2.06

In 2000s and 2010s, Japanese major interest in Neo-liberal was shifted from economy to education. In this period, it was said that the uniformity in public education and higher education caused the Japanese long depression. And it is also said that the diversification and deregulation of educational curriculums must make Japan great again. Apparently it was a buck passing. Most of the educators fought back. They labelled this political maneuver 'neo-liberal', and offered Harveyan and Foucauldian counterarguments.

In the same period in English, 1970s Latin American experiment seems globalized.

5. Interpretations & Proposal: How to Rehabilitate 'Liberal (and Neo-liberal)' Today?

- 1) All through 20th century, the Japanese word 'neo-liberal' was used for refusing both laissez-faire liberalism and authoritarian collectivism. 'Liberal (and Neo-liberal)' has been hyper-polysemantic, because 'Liberal (and Neo-liberal)' has been a label for the point of moderation between both extremes in each phase.
- 2) The 21st century Japanese hate of 'Liberal (and Neo-liberal)' is not a denial of moderation. It may be a warped reminiscence about their great success of liberal democracy (and Keynesian welfare state) in the late 20th century.

WE CAN REHABILITATE 'LIBERAL' IN ENPLORATION OF THE MODERATION.

- 3) The contemporary opposite poles might be as follows.

Pole A: cultural consumption + belief in chance equality + indifference to disputes in general.

Pole B: cultural xenophobia + ambiguous sense of inequality + violence to settle dispute.

That's all for today. Thank you for your attention.

Notes

*1) I collected the data from Japanese National Diet Library's online bibliographical catalogue, and British Library's catalogue. I analyzed the data by using IBM/SPSS Textanalytics 4.0 and KH Coder.

<<https://ndlonline.ndl.go.jp/#!/>>

<<https://www.bl.uk/>>

<<https://www.ibm.com/>>

<<https://kncoder.net/en/>>

If you want to read my similar text analytics on 'society' and 'civil society' in English, please visit the following web page and type “teruhito sako”.

<<https://tokyo-metro-u.repo.nii.ac.jp/>>

*2) Method of calculation and tabulation of this table are as follows.

Firstly, I collected 513 (out of 2559) electronic bodies of Japanese periodical articles of which titles contain the letter string ‘neo-liberal(新自由主義)’.

Second, I counted person’s names by paragraph. (In cases of appearing a same person’s name twice in a single paragraph, I counted it as ‘one’.)

Finally, I tabulated the appearance frequency of person’s names in each decade.

*3) Method of calculation and tabulation of these tables are as follows.

Firstly, I collected Japanese book titles (156) and article titles (2559) that contains the letter string ‘neo-liberal(新自由主義)’.

Second, I did the same in English book titles (639) and articles (4899).

Third, I counted major co-occurrent words with 'neo-liberal'.

Finally, I compared the co-occurrence rates of each word between Japanese and English in each period, and tabulated the major outcomes.