

Development of Human Civilization and Marine Transportation

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I. The Ocean : The Greatest Highway the God Gave to Mankind

I-1. Transportation is Civilization

Matthew Arnold, an English poet and critic in the 19th century, told that "transportation is civilization." This simple three words is an expression to represent the relation between development of human civilization and transportation most properly. Civilization is that all human cultural legacy has been accumulated from the ancient till today, and something that has been formed through mutual communication among human beings. When there was no communication between the West and the East, the Western Christian Culture had no effect on the eastern culture. But as the communication between the West and the East had begun, the East has resembled the western civilization inevitably. In this viewpoint, that enables communication among mankind is to be said transportation, that is, civilization.

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It is often said that today is the age of global village. This means that the earth has been developed toward one community through development of communication and transportation. As you see the example of North Korea, we all know well that restraining interchange outside markets in the name of self-supporting economy became so difficult.

When the mankind just began to create culture, transportation was restricted. Therefore civilization developed independently in the limits of the interchangeable region. At first they lived with family alone and formed family-town, then family-town developed into family-alliance through development of transportation, finally family-alliance transformed into state. At the stage of modernization state had made up international community through interchange among nations. It has just begun to enter new phase to form a global village to overcome artificial barrier just like state and national boundary.

It is needed for man to try to get over obstacles obstructing transportation. Lots of devices to facilitate transportation has been invented in the course of time. There were lots of obstacle to transport many things when he started to live in civilized world. The most typical things like this obstacles are mountain, waters and desert.

Water was the greatest barrier to human beings. Lakes, rivers and the oceans were also obstacles too difficult for primitive men to overcome. Mountains were dangerous to climb, but if try hard, man could climb. And man was able to cross desert, if he had water and foods. But before man began to use ship, the ocean was the greatest

obstacle to mankind.

On the other hand, water is also essential for man to survive. Therefore man began to live near shore, and try to overcome barriers, waters. Ultimately, man created ship as a means of transportation.

1-2. The Oceans ; Highway and Obstacle

As the technique of shipbuilding and sailing has improved, human civilization has been developed rapidly from the ancient till today. Water transportation has been the most pertinent means to carry goods long distance and large amount. Take a this side view, the great rivers and near-seas were natural highways given to mankind by the God.

But the number of the water man could use was limited before the scientific technique developed. Especially the ocean was too dangerous for man to cross. The ocean, the greatest highway in this world, had been an obstacle to interrupt human communication.

As civilization had developed, man got to know how to cross the ocean. The Europeans discovered New World, circumnavigated the Cape of Good Hope and opened Indian-route. The cultural-interchange between the West and the East has continued for 500 years since Columbus discovered New World. That Columbus, an european, crossed the ocean was a determinative basis for the European to dominate this world. From this time on, this world has begun to be integrated to one community by the European. As a result, the White seized the hegemony of world, the others fell to be the dominated.

But as the international community evolved more, the White did not

monopoly right of using the oceans any more. Freedom of the sea enabled for everyone to use the natural highway. Now mankind over the world is going toward forming the global community. This is said to be globalization.

New forming global village is developing near seaside where it has a good advantage to use this natural highway. Maritime nation like Japan, Republic of Korea, Taiwan, and Singapore has begun to take part in this new emerging global society. China has also hurried to develop its economy. The hegemony in the 21st century may be seem to take over to the hands of the Asians from the White.

II. Interchange of Civilization and Globalization

II-1. Epoch-Division of Maritime History

Development of human civilization is said to be the interchange of heterogeneous civilizations. The Westerner tend to understand process of development of civilization on the basis of using the ocean. They normally has called the period from the ancient to the end of 15th century as the age of the Meditterane, the period from the time of discovery of Columbus to the middle of 20th century as the age of the Atlantic, and the period from second half of this century on as the age of the Pacific. Generally I had agreed with this epoch-division.

But this epoch-division was based on the western history. Before 15th century the oriental civilizations just like Hindu and Chinese Civilization moved toward the West. The route used for this

communication was so-called Silk-Road. From 8-9 century new route called Sea-Route appeared as communication route between the West and the East. Taken into this consideration, The period from the ancient to the 15th century has a good reason to be called the Age of the Indian Ocean rather than the Age of the Atlantic. The Indian Ocean had been a trunk-line, the Atlantic had been a feeder-route on the concept of modern shipping. Therefore it is false to call the period till the 15th century as the Age of Atlantic.

The essence of the Chinese civilization transmitted to the West through Sea-Route. As the Chinese civilization handed down to the West continuously, the medieval Europe, often called Dark Age, began to awake from the deep sleep, and finally the West attained the period of the Renaissance. It is not difficult to guess that Silk-Road had been the source of the Renaissance.

The West got three marvelous things, compass, cannon and typography. As they got to use these things ocean navigation developed so rapidly, and by making use of gun they could bring the natives under their control. The knowledge gained in the course of exploration was circulated to all parts of the West through presswork. It is very interesting that above three things were came down from China.

II-2. Development of the Atlantic Civilization

As European advanced into the Atlantic with these three above things, the world faced new phase. The Age of Exploration began. European has seized the hegemony of the world from this time on.

Arts of navigation provided European with the means of conquest. European took a deep root in New World. As a result primitive indian who had lived there for thousands years had been expelled, and new white men's world has been constructed.

At the beginning of the Age of Exploration major ports in Portugal, Spain, Netherlands were in the highlighted, but in the middle of 17th century the center of the world moved to London as England made a conspicuous figure in maritime activity. The routes and merchant ships of the world operated centering around London. English yelled in a loud voice that English empire never fall. In this period the expression that 'every road reach Rome' was changed to 'every route reach London'.

European forces in American continent developed centering around East coast. West coast of American continent, therefore, developed later than East coast of that. But all must be changed as time pass. The European began to face the end of their golden era. 13 colonies in America, the center of the English abroad colony, declared their independence. As America became one of world powers, the center of the world crossed the Atlantic. The age of eastern Atlantic gradually began to finish, the age of western Atlantic came to near. It was through World Wars that America held its firm position as World Power. New York became a central city in the age of western Atlantic.

It is worthwhile to think what 'movement and exchange of civilization' specifically means. It can mean exchange of goods, people and information. Generally transportation is easily meant to be movement of goods and people. However, in considering exchange and

movement, one of the important and easily missing things is exchange and movement of information. The greatest reason why transportation becomes the driving force for the development of civilization is the fact that information is exchanged through the exchange of people and goods. In the beginning information is moved correspondingly along the goods and people. However the need for information to move on its own took place for many reasons. Thus postal institution was invented. Information became independent from people and goods. It had to be accomplished by the movement of people initially. So called correspondence by person is a good example of it. But, as society develops, information delivery services became independent industries through the postal system.

In the old days, these goods, people and information had been moved mainly on a camel back or a cart. As a result the quantity of movement capacity and range of movement was extremely limited. But as the Sea-Route was used, the capacity of transportation became huge. Exchange became more active and the speed of development of civilization became faster for that size. On the whole by the middle of 19th century the exchange between world civilization was moved primarily by ship. Industrial revolution can be said as revolution of transportation. The development of train and steam ship using a steam engine enabled large scaled transportation further and the speed was up. For that faster speed, the speed and frequency of exchange of civilization became higher and along with it the speed of development of civilization became higher. At the beginning of 20th century, as a

result of the development of an internal combustion engine, automobiles and airplanes were developed as fast and convenient transportation means. As a result, transportation system which used to be centered on a steam was shifted. First of all those who wanted faster and more convenient movement avoided a train and a steam ship using a steam engine, and began to use automobiles and airplanes.

In the late 19th century revolution in the movement of information also took place. For that much the movement of information became faster. Today's world is called as the Age of Informationized.

It means the phenomenon that information is moved on a wave freely. Likewise the Age of Informationized means the fact that people can use different transportation system according as transportation is divided functionally. By the mid 19th century goods, people and information was carried on by the same transportation means, that is, ship. But now new age has come that people were carried by automobile or airplane; information by a wave; only goods are moved by ship. In this new age, new adequate system is needed. As 20th century starts goods, people and information took different transportation means. Therefore the age that once the port was well equipped it automatically guaranteed the center of the world, has passed.

From the late of 20th century when New York became the new center of world civilization, an airport for the departure and arrival of airplane are needed rather than a seaport; and a teleport for the entrance and move out of information is also needed. After that till

now one of the most important requirement to be a big city as a center of the world is 3 ports which consist of Sea Port, Air Port and Tele Port. If a city lacks just one of these, it can be a big city, but cannot be a city of the center of the world civilization.

In the late of 20th century airplanes and telephone system have developed and transportation enter the express age as the information process becomes computerized; and as transportation became express, the transition speed of civilization became faster for that amount. Once New York became the center of the world, a little bit later America entered the Age of West Coast, and a new word, Age of the Pacific Rim has showed up around this time. New central cities at the beginning of the Age of the new Pacific Rim were L.A. and San Francisco. But that lasts for a short period and the center of civilization has moved to the Far East across the Pacific Ocean. In the so called the Period of the Pacific Rim the Far East became the world center, and Tokyo became the central city of the world. Not only Japan, but also Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore have developed together.

III. No Transportation, No Civilization

So far discussed, one of the character in the development of transportation and movement of the civilization is that civilization moved form East to West. If the Silk Road which was developed before Christ was the process that Chinese Civilization had moved

toward the Europe. The opening of the Age of the Atlantic along with Renaissance which bloomed in the Mediterranean means another westward movement of civilization.

But the center of the world civilization which moved to Tokyo could not move further West. Up to now the tendency should be that the center of civilization located in Tokyo should move westward naturally through Seoul and to Beijing. But there obstacles called ideology which was invented for human beings. In the 1980's, Eastern Asia was blocked by iron-webs called communism except South Korea and Hong Kong. The wave, which was the main means of information movement, was blocked as well. It took almost 2000 years for the civilization to come back to the origin around around the Earth. But it cannot go further due to iron-webs. The blockade called ideology was that hard to change the main stream of world history.

Civilization which lost the way to go couldn't help turning the direction and it was open to the South. The Main axis which should go to Beijing through Seoul from Tokyo has one foot step on Seoul, the other on Hong Kong, Taiwan and Singapore. The Age of Asia has started like this.

In the 1980's, communism collapsed at a very fast rate. The Soviet Union which was the originator of communist country collapsed by itself during the process of the great reform Perestroika, and disappeared from the Earth. China was slowly introduced to opening policy. Once China opened the door, the front of movement of world civilization moved again northward to the open door. And it landed in

China which is a huge continent through Hong Kong. Naturally the South Chinese Economy Network which is centered on Hong Kong became active. Once it happened, Hong Kong goes to the front overtaking Singapore. As China experiences the effect of the opening policy, she widens the width of the door. The western civilization which landed through Hong Kong is now making the base for steady growth centering on Shanghai and Beijing. It is called as Pan Yellow Sea Economy Network. Until now it is a prospective period, but the next expecting area for economical development is Pan East Sea Network which is expected to be activated consisting of three province of northern east coast of China; Russia, Mongolia, Japan and North Korea centering on the Eastern Sea of Korea; and South Korea.

