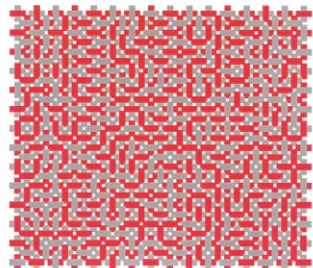


## 絶望の国の 幸福な若者たち

Furuichi Noritoshi  
古市憲寿



講談社

## Zetsubō no kuni no kōfuku na wakamonotachi

[The Blessed Young People of a Despairing Country]

By Furuichi Noritoshi

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Following the collapse of the economic bubble in Japan in the early 1990s, the recession dragged on for a long time and social inequalities, like an increasingly stratified society and the phenomenon of the “working poor,” who are employed but cannot maintain healthy finances, began to attract attention. Many feel that the prolonged economic sluggishness has disadvantaged the younger generation first in addition to impacting the lifestyle of those in middle or old age. The truth is that as new recruitment continues to fall, young people face difficulty in finding jobs and many are forced into the unstable existence of irregular employment. Also, the intergenerational disparity of burdens borne and benefits received is widening as the population ages. Despite this, however, there seem to be no signs of rebellion among these young people. Why should this be?

This book maintains that there is a huge gap between the generally held image of young people and their reality, and a popular image even further removed from the perceptions of young people themselves. These youths are not as unhappy as one might think. They value their relations with those around them and are satisfied with small blessings. Of course they acknowledge that they have been put at a disadvantage. However, they are well aware that as Japan becomes a mature society, they cannot hope for things to be better tomorrow than they are today.

The author himself is a young person, currently enrolled in a doctoral course at the University of Tokyo. Making full use of this strength, he has cleverly drawn out the real opinions of those of his own generation through interviews. With his steady fieldwork and meticulous examination of the data, Furuichi has managed to develop theories of young people quite unlike anything else to date. (CK)

## Furuichi Noritoshi

Born in 1985. Currently a doctoral student at the University of Tokyo's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and a senior researcher at the Keiō Research Institute at SFC. His research focuses on the themes of youth and community. Published works include *Kibō nanmin goikkō-sama: Pisu Bōto to 'shōnin no kyōdōtai' gensō* [The Delegation of Refugees of Hope: The Peace Boat “Community of Approval”], *Dare mo sensō o oshierarenai* [Nobody Is Able to Teach Us About the War], and *Hoikuen gimu kyōikuka* [Making Nursery Education Compulsory].



## 古市 憲寿 (フルイチ ノリトシ)

1985年生まれ。東京大学大学院総合文化研究科博士課程在籍。慶応義塾大学SFC研究所上席所員。若者とコミュニティについて研究。著書に『希望難民ご一行様-ピースボートと「承認の共同体」幻想』、『誰も戦争を教えられない』、『保育園義務教育化』他。

日本ではバブル崩壊後、不況が長く続き、格差社会、ワーキングプアなど、社会的な不平等が目立つようになった。長期間の経済低迷は、中高年の生活を痛めつけただけではなく、まさきに不利益を被ったのはむしろ若者世代だ、とする意見が多い。実際、新規採用が減り続ける中で、若者は就職難にあえぎ、その多くは非正規雇用者として不安定な生活を強いられている。また、高齢化が進むにつれ、世代間の負担と給付の格差も拡大しつつある。にもかかわらず、当の若者たちからは反発する動きは見られない。その理由は何か。

本書によると、世の中で語られている若者のイメージと若者の実像とのあいだに大きなズレがあり、ましてや本人たちの認識とまったく違うという。若者たちは思われるほど不幸ではない。本人たちは身近な人たちとの関係を大事にし、小さな幸せに満足している。もちろん、彼らは若者が不利な状況におかれていることをよく承知している。しかし、日本は成熟した社会になり、明日は今日よりよくなることはもはや望めないのもよく心得ている。

著者自身も若者で、東京大学の大学院博士課程に在学している。この強みを生かし、インタビューを通して同世代から本音を巧みに引き出した。地道なフィールドワークと周到な資料調査のおかげで、これまでとまったく違った若者論を展開することができた。(CK)

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