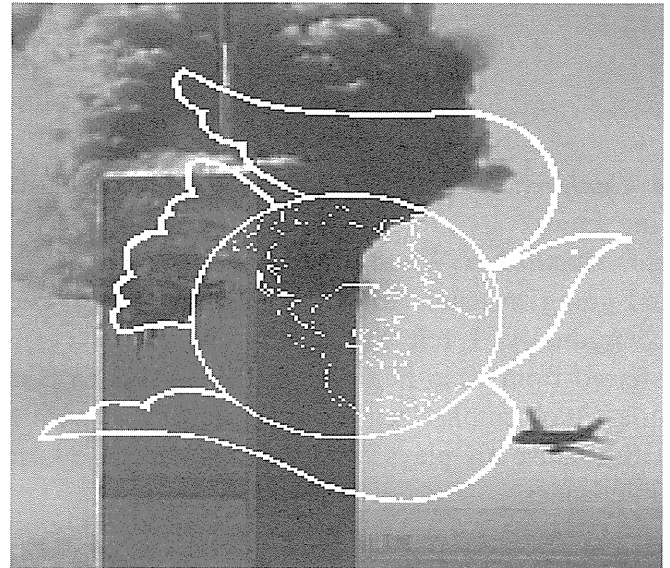


Between Terror and Globalization

by Kenjiro Tsujino

What happens when conflicts of the past, strike back on present society. Well that is what happened on September 11, 2001; Airplanes crashing into buildings, tragedy in NY, towers burning, and leading to bombings in a foreign country. Innocent people die on both sides and soldiers are still fighting. What is wrong with this picture?? After starting a new century, which was meant to be peaceful and full of regret towards the past century of war, we start with another war and modern violence. By today Osama bin Laden, leader of the Muslim extremist group al-Qaida, has become the public enemy number one, not only in the USA but worldwide. And so the USA has decided on bombing towards a country called Afghanistan. This becoming the beginning of a new war, and at the same time giving a spotlight to globalization, that was meant to be the beginning of a new age.

With the end of the cold war the USA has been considered the most powerful country, because of its military and economic advantages. And so with the new steps to take, Globalization started with standards that were basically centered on economics and finances. Competition started and the strong gained their personal interests while the losers became the weak. For some undeveloped countries this change was a new type of colonization, which mostly took capital, businesses and natural resources from the people and the weak. Poverty spreads over the weak and uneducated that are not able to join in the competition. This people become a new minority in the global structure. For many this movement has been seen as a product of USA's selfishness. The USA has become the symbol of capitalism, materialism, and individualism for many countries. And the suffering from poverty have been lead to the inspiration of hatred towards the USA, a country that only thinks of its own national interest.

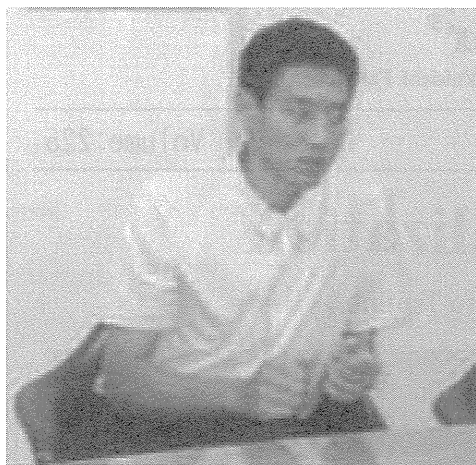


The USA's interest towards the Middle East has been mainly for oil, and by placing its Army it has abuse military power over those who think of the American way as a threat. This has shown the USA as too selfish to be the leading country in the world, because of lacking to create a just and fair global environment. And this has triggered the conflict between the "religious conservative" against the "personal Individualist". Both act for their interests and it is difficult to say who is right. But not listening to the cries of minorities has brought terrorist acts, which have been a way to express believes in a violent way. This is considered to be wrong but when you see both sides of the situation, it may be the only way of expression for some.

And so after all the wars humanity has fought in history what is the lesson we learned... To fight and not to prevent the fighting. Peace is something many people wish for, but again these thoughts are not being answered and treated like the minority. So we must learn why this happens and not ignore the values of others in order to understand.

We send our condolences to all the victims of terrorist acts, and also to all those who have lost their lives in this war.

Matsuoka Advises Students to Search and Decide by Themselves



Shuzo Matsuoka
Birth: 1967
Former Pro-Tennis
Player
Record: Wimbledon
Best 8 (1995)
Retired on 1998.
Now instructing
children and trying
to develop world of
the tennis.

Mita Campus: Would you tell us why you started playing tennis?

Shuzo Matsuoka: When I was in second grade, I started going to tennis lessons just because my sister was. Gradually, I felt like re-training myself, so I transferred from Keio High School to Yanagawa High School, which emphasizes tennis. After that, I went to the US because my plays were good and because I met lots of coaches.

Mita Campus: How did you recover yourself when you were about to give up or become frustrated?

Shuzo.M: I reminded myself of the excitement of ranking higher and of playing tennis at a place where I can demonstrate myself to so many people. My goal of playing at Wimbledon's Center Court was also big, but I guess the biggest was that I loved playing tennis.

Mita Campus: So your desire to play was stronger than most other players who have quit?

Shuzo.M: Yes. After all, tennis tours are ten months long, and they change places all the time. It's no wonder that so many players get tired of that.

Mita Campus: Are you the kind of person who's adhesive that never give up?

Shuzo.M: Not necessarily, but those who give up easily wouldn't be able to rank above 100. People paid attention to me because I was the only Japanese player, but I'm not mentally very strong. That's why it's easy for me to talk with people at lectures because I know I am mentally weak. If I had the talent and history, it would be hard for me to communicate with people. I'm one of those people who get really nervous and often get so sick of standing on the court. But I guess I have the talent for continually training myself whereas most people would give up right away.

Mita Campus: Since you've played as a leading player, does that mean you had the talent for working hard and doing things that most people would hate doing?

Shuzo.M: Yes. Another thing is that I was able to meet many people. You would have no good encounters if you just wait. I had the greatest encounters but that's because I yearned for them.

Mita Campus: Can you give some words of advice to students who are having trouble choosing between dream and stability?

Shuzo.M: I myself have and will always have trouble choosing between dream and stability too, and there's no one other than yourself who can decide. But advice is important. It's just that advice make people be at loss. I'm often asked of advice from children, but I never give them answers. I tell them to choose the best by yourself, or else it would be as if I'm doing the job, and then they'll surely be in trouble. Afterwards, they'll come up to me again for advice, and lose confidence in themselves.

Mita Campus: There are many students who can't find anything they like to do; what should they do?

Shuzo.M: No worries. I haven't found one either. After retiring, I've joined an organization to help spread tennis in Japan and to help send good players abroad, but nothing has gone well. My biggest worry now is, "What should I do?" There's no one in this world who doesn't worry. Also, I want to add that money doesn't necessarily bring happiness.

Mita Campus: Finally, please give a message to us students.

Shuzo.M: You should always have something you can have confidence in. You can find this confidence by possessing something that other people don't have. In my case, I fortunately had tennis. You must have the heart to seek it. No one can one day suddenly give it to you. As long as you search for it, you'll be able to find it, so search! Sports players have the hardest time after they quit because there's nothing greater than the situation of having the greatest feeling being in the greatest position and being spotted by everyone.

SPIRITED AWAY: Sen to Chihiro no Kamikakushi

By Eriko Atarashi

The year 2001 has been a remarkable one for the Japanese film industry. Despite its tendency to be intimidated by Hollywood blockbusters, a sleeper hit called "Sen to Chihiro no Kamikakushi (Spirited Away)" released in July beat 1997's "Titanic" to become the single most successful movie in Japan. According to Nikkei Net, it took only 10 weeks to reach the Japanese record of 16.8 million viewers or 26 billion yen in sales, which for "Titanic" it took 62 weeks. Keeping it's #1 box office seat for 16 weeks and obtaining more than 20 million viewers, it is only last month that it lost its position to yet another Japanese film: "Reisei to Jyou-netsu no Aida".

Not that there weren't any Hollywood blockbusters this year. It seems that this summer, Japanese moviegoers didn't have to depend on foreign imports like the disappointing "A.I." history-glorifying "Pearl Harbor", the surreal remake "Planet of the Apes" or the irritating sequel "Jurassic Park III" for entertainment. They found it right at home, in the form of what the Japanese do best: animation.

Directed by Hayao Miyazaki, the master of humane animated dramas who have brought classics like "My Neighbor Totoro", "Kiki's Delivery Service", and most recently "Princess Mononoke", all of which were successfully shown overseas, "Sen to Chihiro no Kamikakushi" is no exception. Looks like Miyazaki has done it again, or perhaps it is his best one yet.

Story: Life has nothing to look forward to for 10-year-old Chihiro. She is leaving her cherished old school and friends for a new town in the country. Her expression in the first scene says it all: bored, apathetic, unenthusiastic. Her father's reckless driving leads them to a forbidden, mystical world in an Alice in Wonderland-like situation. Here, her parents are turned into pigs for their greed, and Chihiro is deprived of her name. Given the abbreviation Sen, she must work in the public bath Yu-ya to save her parents and return to the real world.

What is amazing is the originality of the characters and set. There's the evil old woman Yu-baaba and her selfish giant baby, the severed-head trio who jump around on their necks. There's Kaonashi, a shy mute who seems to hold key to the story. Then there are the many gods who come to the spa to ease their stress.



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The wonderland in which Chihiro gets stranded into is fantastical, exotic, and yet very oriental, and foreign watchers are sure to be impressed.

Compared to Miyazaki's past works in which beautifully strong-willed young women were depicted, Chihiro is no match. She lacks radiance; she is a child-ish, selfish crybaby, a typical only-child. However, the audience gets to follow her growth into a strong, lively girl who rebuilds her identity and name.

There is adventure, suspense, and bittersweet first love. The high quality and content of Miyazaki's animation makes the film too good to be categorized a cartoon. Sen to Chihiro, being released overseas beginning with the U.S. this month, is sure to become a hit abroad as well. It's what movie fans have been waiting for all along: originality, a break from Hollywood big-budget predictability, and at last a sense of morality, warmth, and hope. If you're not one in four people in Japan who have seen the movie, do yourself a favor. Or if you're our foreign reader wondering what Japanese animation can do, then don't hesitate but treat yourself. You're sure to go home with bliss.

It's nice to be a loser

~ Introduction to the alternative life ~

by Daisuke Hirose

We have introduced you to a lot of articles about successful celebrities in the our past newspapers. However as you know life is not that easy. Those people who have made their dreams come true are just the tip of iceberg. Most of us will compromise at some point in our lives but we are still part of society. On the other side of the successful people, there are those who have dropped out from the competitive world. In the competitive world, there is always pressure of dropping out. Once you drop out, you are not looked as an independent adult and you cannot even rent a house. Being outside of society alone is usually depressing. The depression sometimes leads to religious cult, suicide and all sorts of negative acts. It needs to be recognized that there are always people who drop out. Then Dame-Ren (loser's associates) is a good place to be.

Dame-Ren, as the name shows, is a bunch of people who have no job, not married or have no girlfriends or boyfriends. It may not appropriate to say that unmarried people are losers, some do not have one because they do not want one. But since occupation is one of the largest yardsticks to measure a person, it cannot be helped that society regards a person in the 40's who have never worked before as a drop out.

However most of the members take the word "Dame" (loser) positively. It does not sound positive at all but they



take the meaning of "dropping out of society" as "entrance to the alternative life". They mean alternative life as not living in the competitive society. By doing so they are freed from the pressure and stress. Even though they have to make a living without the support of the government, they choose stressless life.

The members of Dame-Ren think they have difficulties working together in society. They cannot tolerate the situation where work does not finish until late at night everyday (most of which are not paid) or being forced to sing the company song of every morning. They cannot stand the silent pressure of the company making them obey the system. Moreover, they doubt if their job is really valuable enough to devote most of

their lives. They question people that if you are doing it because everybody else is doing it or do not want be drop outs, then you must think again because they are the most important things in your life. From the viewpoint of society, people on the side of Dame-Ren are losers. Although it looks like they are wasting their time, they are taking their lives very seriously. In fact they are silently asking, "Is the society really right?" and "Why do people work so hard to produce nothing under all sorts of stress and pressure?" By dropping out of society and calling themselves losers, they question what is really valuable.

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