

In Order to Help You to Grasp the Overall Picture of the Long-running Series in Advance III

I . The main parts of “In Lieu of a General Summary”

II . “The Interrelation between the ‘Garden Family’ Vision for a Future Society and the Constitution of Japan”

★III. “The Complete Table of Contents”

III. “The Complete Table of Contents” (Tentative English Translation)

Long-running series

“The Earth of Symbiosis Where All Lives Shine — The Future Society We Aim for —”

(written by Masao ONUKI & Keiko ITO)

—Serialized on the Satoyama Research Cottage Nomad website from September 1, 2024 to March 14, 2025—

Prologue: Looking Back on the Recent Past and Thinking about the Distant “Future”

(No.1)

COVID-19 has taken advantage of human weaknesses as if of its own will

A holistic view of both COVID-19 and climate change

The truth and nature of the socio-economic impact of COVID-19

The vulnerability of the “wage laborer” — a form of human social existence unique to modern times

(No.2)

The misguided measures against COVID-19

The absence of a vision for the future society in the 21st century and the resulting confusion amid climate change and the pandemic

Exploring the “future society theory based on living systems” — the high-level reintegration of humans into the earth

Building a new life-world for the people — overcoming the corrupt and privileged “politics” of our country and the world

The main focus of the long-running series “The Earth of Symbiosis Where All Lives Shine — The Future Society We Aim for —”

PART 1 : The Future Society Theory Based on Living Systems, Its Creation and Achievement

— Based on the universal principle of formation and evolution
that permeate the natural world and human society —

Chapter 1: Issue Consciousness of the “Garden Family” Social Concept as a Way to Realize the Future Society Theory Based on Living Systems

(No.1)

1. Why do we reexamine the modern form of human social existence as a “wage laborer” in the 21st century?

In the midst of an impending global crisis — poverty amid excess

Life-sapping, mentally-suffering, and endless market competition

Thinking from a now-forgotten, extremely horrific incident in modern times

The long-standing contradictions of Japanese society condensed and revealed in the “8050” problem

Is the “wage laborer,” the offspring of modernity, really an eternal and unchanging form of human social existence?

(No.2)

2. Exploring the regeneration of “family” and local “area” based on a life-oriented view of history

Family, where the “two circles” of reproduction of life and reproduction of things overlap, has disappeared

Life in Japan before the high economic growth period — former river basin areas that connected the forest and the sea

Life in transition from forests to plains

The shape of this country that has become distorted and irreparable

The mechanism behind the decline of “family” and local “area” — dried-up cells

The key to regeneration — based on “family” and local “area”

(No.3)

3. Now is the time to transform the modern paradigm

— Positing a “future society theory based on living systems” —

Searching for a way forward in unexplored areas of thought

A new form of human social existence, the “garden family,” will determine the shape of society in the 21st century

Considering human society from the perspective of the principle of “adaptation and adjustment” (= “self-organization”) that permeates the formation and evolution of the natural world

Life as a manifestation of the laws of nature

The universal principle of formation and evolution that permeates the natural world and human society, and the future society of the 21st century

Chapter 2: Humans and “Family”: Approaching the roots of this miraculous history

Historical circumstances surrounding the evaluation of “family”

What exactly are humans and “family”?

The grand drama of biological evolution in the process of human ontogeny

The exquisite “nature” created in the womb

The opportunity for the birth of a “family” unique to humans, not seen in other mammals
“Normalized premature birth” and the choice of a path of protection by the “family”
The fundamental meaning of the “family”
“Family” is what made humans human

Chapter 3: The Self-expansion of Capital and the Insatiable Desires of Humanity Lead to a Degeneration into the World of Beasts

1. The development of tools unique to humans has dramatically rewritten the history of mankind

2. “Family” will continue to play a fundamental role in what makes us human

3. The unique development of the human brain

— Its fate that could be described as a “double-edged sword” —

The development of tools and the explosive growth of productivity — the human brain, an ironic gift from the natural world

The potential of the primordial “ability to empathize” (compassion) unique to humans for the future of mankind

PART 2 : Premise of the Future Society Theory Based on Living Systems

— To innovate the methodology —

Chapter 4: Capitalism in Its Final Stages and Modern Economics in a State of Dysfunction

— To further deepen theories of the 21st century future society —

Going beyond modernity to new horizons

Keynesian theory breaking away from neoclassical theory

Financialization of the economy and neoliberalism, the emergence of monetarism

Runaway money economy and exhausted real economy, especially local “areas”

Envisioning 21st century future society theory based on the ideas and methods of “area ecology” beyond modern economics

Chapter 5: The Future Society We Aim for in the 21st Century

— Innovation in ideas and methodologies —

1. The achievements and limitations of 19th century future society theory

The pioneering thoughts of the people’s natural rights communism that emerged prior to modern times

Human history is a dialectic of the endless “negation of negation” of the natural rights trend of thought rooted in the hearts of the people

Marx’s future society theory that arrived at in the 19th century

Now is the time for our own grassroots 21st century future society theory to replace the 19th century future society theory

2. The theory of future society in the 21st century, and innovation in its paradigm and methodology

The search for a new historical perspective appropriate to the present day of the 21st century

Firmly placing the ideas and methods of “area ecology” at the core of the 21st century future society theory

It is precisely in this process of search that we find the deep-rooted contradictions and conflicts in society, as well as the struggles and light of problem-solving

PART 3 : The Path to Realize the Future Society Theory Based on Living Systems

— The process towards the ultimate higher natural society —

Chapter 6: The Basis of the “Garden Family” Social Concept

— Based on the ideas and methods of innovative “area ecology” —

(No.1)

1. The 21st century “Garden Family” social concept

— Based on the ideas and methods of “area ecology” —

From the separation of the means of production to the path of “re-combination” — the historical thought of “return to nature and aufhebung” (revolution)

2. The idea of the “Garden Family” social concept and its historical significance

The position of the CFP complex society and its historical significance

3. “Garden family”-style work-sharing system with a (2+ α) day off per week (where $1 \leq \alpha \leq 4$)

Recovering the free time that is innate to humans

Realizing gender equality and a life rich in individuality

“Garden family”-style work-sharing is a prerequisite for creating a groundbreaking social security system for the next generation

4. The CFP complex society unlike any other in the world — the first attempt in history —

Characteristics of the CFP complex society

(No.2)

5. River basin areas that connect the forest and the sea

— A cradle for nurturing “garden families” —

Now is the time for a national land plan based on regional decentralization and nature’s cycles

6. The soil for the maturation of grassroots democracy, the process of forming the local cooperative organization “Nariwaitomo” — An innovative “area ecology” approach —

“Nariwaitomo” (associations) that appear at each level of the aggregate structure of local community

The characteristics of “village Nariwaitomo” and the joy of cooperation

The development and maturation of a multi-layered aggregate structure of local community from 1st level to 6th level

Chapter 7: “The World of the Garden Family”

— From the memories of the original scenery to the future —

Reviving memories of Mother Earth

Filling our hearts with a feeling of the future

1. Country home — The smell of soil, the warmth of people —

2. The spirit and skill of craftsmanship revived in families

3. What soil nurtures — A simple, strong, yet delicate spirit —

4. The history and vitality of small family operations

— Sector F, the key to the development of the CFP complex society, and its future —

Historical and social factors impeding the development of small family operations, and new conditions and possibilities for reversal

“Garden families” that integrate and fuse the personalities of “labor” and “farmer” and the restoration of the primordial “ability to empathize” (compassion) of humans

Chapter 8: The Formation of “Artisan Merchant Families” and Regional Core Cities

— The co-evolution of cities and rural areas —

1. Small family operations based on non-agricultural bases — “Artisan merchant families” —

Examples of small family operations based on non-agricultural bases

“Artisan merchant families” and small and medium-sized enterprises that have been pushed into the shadows

The government's "regional development" policy prioritizes large corporations

"Garden families" and "artisan merchant families" are the two wheels of a cart for social change that aims for nature's cycles-based symbiosis

2. "Artisan merchant families" and their local cooperative organization "Nariwaitomo" (association)

What is a city to a local "area" in the first place?

The formation of "artisan merchant family's Nariwaitomo" is a historical inevitability

The formation of "Nariwaitomo" and the core city in a river basin area that connects the forest and the sea

The creation of community banks and its significance

The establishment of local production for local consumption and the development of a new logistics and transportation system

3. The historical character and significance of "Nariwaitomo"

Building a new "thought of cooperation" on the foundations of pre-modern times

PART 4 : Concrete People-Led Policies

— Aiming for the "Earth of Symbiosis Where All Lives Shine" —

Chapter 9: A Concrete Approach to Realize the "Garden Family" Social Concept in the Real World — Exploring the feasibility —

1. The ultimate key to revitalizing local "areas"

First, face the reality of rural areas and agriculture

Revitalizing Japanese-style agriculture through "garden family communities" — the path to higher-level collaboration between "labor" and "farmer"

Integrated sharing of farmland and work — the role of public "farmland banks"

The role of local governments and true resident autonomy

2. Building grassroots reformers in the 21st century

The shocking decline of the labor union movement and what it reveals

The 21st century labor movement and our own lifestyles — bringing a new wind of the "garden family" that integrates and fuses the personalities of "labor" and "farmer"

"Garden family"-style work-sharing system and innovation in the 21st century labor movement

"Preparing soil" for diverse and free human activities — the power that supports a national movement from the foundations of society

The gathering of grassroots wisdom and mutual improvement will pave the way for a new era

Chapter 10: Living in an Era of Climate Change and Pandemics

— A fundamental transformation of our social systems is inevitable —

—— Proposal for a CSSK social mechanism; through which the effort to reduce CO₂ emissions is automatically linked to the creation and nurturing of new buds (“garden families”) of the next generation within the womb of the old society (capitalism) itself ——

(No.1)

1. Could climate change, the pandemic, and the Ukrainian War really be a test of human society’s evolution?

A breath of fresh youth around the world in contrast to our country

Confronting the perverse and false “democracy” and enhancing our own grassroots ability to think and act

The establishment of the 21st century future society theory is the breakthrough to today’s confusion and stagnation

2. From the global scientific knowledge on climate change that has been reached to date

Why is it impossible to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 if things continue as they are?

3. The limits of today’s global warming countermeasures and the inevitable fundamental transformation of our social systems

The dilemma between “economic growth” and “eco-friendliness”

The pitfalls of GX (Green Transformation)

4. Concrete proposals for achieving the international goal of carbon neutrality by 2050

— Unifying both the reduction of CO₂ emissions and fundamental reform of social systems —

The creation of a “garden family,” a form of social existence with excellent anti-market immunity that integrates and fuses the personalities of “labor” and “farmer” is the ultimate key to stopping global warming

The ultimate CSSK mechanism that leads to a nuclear-free, carbon-free, nature’s cycles-based symbiotic society (FP complex society)

Promoting the transition and progress to the CFP complex society through the CSSK mechanism.

(No.2)

5. Reconstructing a colorful land and a life-world for the people through CSSK-specific financial resources

New people-oriented public works and revitalization of local “areas” through CSSK-specific financial resources

Decentralized, locally autonomous land use and encouraging people’s creativity

6. The unexpected high potential hidden in the CSSK mechanism to overcome modernity

The only remaining way to break through today's confusion and deadlock

7. The structural contradictions of our society exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic

The truth and nature of the socio-economic shock caused by COVID-19

The vulnerability and inhumanity of wage laborers unique to the modern era highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic

8. Smooth and steady operation of the CSSK mechanism will create a new era in the 21st century

9. The “Garden Family” Jinen (naturalness) Network will be the new foundation for a broad national movement in the 21st century

There is no dark night that will not end

Chapter 11: The Rise of “Garden Families” and the Retrograde Dispersion Process of Capital into Nature — The possibility of the creation and evolution of new science and technology systems —

1. The self-expansion of capital and the desensitized primordial “ability to empathize” (compassion) — The limitless expansion of human desires and the runaway scientific and technological development —

The self-expansion of capital and science and technology

What science and technology have brought about by being subordinate to capital — the degeneration of human “ability to empathize” (compassion)

The fate of capitalism, which cannot stand without the continuous cycle of supply and demand like a spinning top

The collapse of economic growth supremacy — questioning the true nature of GDP

The ultimate outcome of the degeneration of social “ability to empathize” (compassion)

2. The restoration of humans’ primordial “ability to empathize” (compassion) and the possibilities of a new era — An anti-market immunity lifestyle built in the local “area” —

The creation of “garden families” and the retrograde dispersion process of capital into nature

The development process of interactions between the C, F, and P sectors and the possibility of creating a different dimension of science and technology systems

The creation and evolution of a new different dimension of science and technology systems and the future society — a nature's cycles-based symbiotic society

The restoration of humans’ “ability to empathize” (compassion) and new solidarity among the people in the 21st century

Chapter 12: An Advanced Welfare Nation That Overcomes Modernity Built on a Foundation of “Garden Families” — Exploring a new, advanced social security system —

(No.1)

- 1. “Self-help, mutual assistance, and public support” considered from a fundamental level**
- 2. The loss of functions inherent to the “family” and the root cause of our nation’s collapse**
- 3. Restoring the “welfare functions” inherent to the “family” and building an advanced social security system based on the “garden families”**

(No.2)

- 4. The possibility to become a mature, advanced welfare nation that overcomes modernity**
- 5. The basis for the formation of a new people-led national movement aiming for a mature, advanced welfare nation**

Is the revival of “family” and local “area” really impossible?

Understanding the revival of “family” and local “area” in the context of gradual change — from resignation to hope

- 6. Reject “leave it to others democracy” and above all, establish our own initiative**

— That is where the true joy of living lies —

The “future of the 21st century” becomes clear through “checking, research, and planning” for one’s own home area

Chapter 13: Building “Garden Family Pacifism”

— Bringing the thought of life into the real world —

(No.1)

“We Will Never Allow Another Atom Bomb to Fall”

— A song that continues to give people in Japan and around the world the courage to think and act —

- 1. Concerned about the rampant “war vulgarism” that disregards and insults life**

— A repeat of the despicable “match pump” * scheme —

The world has become a crucible of hatred and violence — a rebellion against the structural absurdity of the world

The ruling class in our country cling to a course of dependency on the United States and continue to plot to prolong their own existence

The pacifism of the Constitution of Japan, seeking a sure way to realize it — building “Garden Family Pacifism”

* to get credit for putting out a fire a person started himself.

2. What should be condemned now is the long-standing accumulation of fait accomplis caused by the underhanded reinterpretation of the Constitution by those in power

The historic outrage of the forced reinterpretation of the Constitution led by Abenomics

We need to read the Constitution of Japan once again with an open mind

What is the true nature of the deceptive Abenomics “Proactive Contribution to Peace”?

What was the outcome of the Battle of Okinawa, fought in the name of “self-defense”?

(No.2)

3. Building a peaceful nation and a non-aligned, neutral, nature’s cycles-based symbiotic lifestyle

A new proposal to make use of the spirit of Article 9 of the Constitution of Japan — constructive dissolution of the Self-Defense Forces into a non-military “disaster prevention unit” (tentative name)

Traditional volunteer fire corps in rural areas facing the threat of extinction

The journey of a thousand miles toward non-war and peace building begins with a single step

Bringing a fresh wind rooted in the earth to the non-war and peace movement

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4. The true nature of war is bloodshed among the people by state power

— No matter what the reason, war is the ultimate sin of blasphemy against humanity —

The chaotic world of the 21st century

“Ivan the Fool”; Tolstoy’s profound thoughts embedded in “chokkou” (= to cultivate oneself)

Now is the time for a 21st century future society based on the ingenuity and solidarity of the people
Japan stands at the crossroads of a massive tax hike to fund military expansion — the rotten politics of our country

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5. The epicenter of the global crisis that is destined to be concentrated in the East Asian world

Thinking amid a flood of overly biased information — the situation on the Korean Peninsula

The entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and solidarity among the people of the world

Cast off the illusion of “diplomacy” between powerful rulers, resist the current, and establish the people’s own initiative

80 years after the war, let’s return to our roots and appeal to the people of the world

Reject hegemonism and pursue the path of small-nationism rooted in the ideals of the Constitution of Japan

Epilogue: The Path to a Higher Natural Society

— The aufhebung of 19th century future society theory;
the mechanism of its development and its significance in world history —

(No.1)

1. From the CFP complex society to a nature's cycles-based symbiotic society (FP complex society) and then to a higher natural society

1) The development process and characteristics of the CFP complex society

Eliminating the separation of physical labor and mental labor, and elevating labor to the level of art

2) The “development process of mutual conflict and dependency between sectors C, F, and P” that brings the future society closer

3) The current state of democracy that has become a formality and “re-combination with the means of production”

4) Regarding the ownership form of the means of production in the higher-level FP complex society
Weaknesses in the research approach that need to be overcome

2. The dialectic of “negation of negation” that runs through human history

Firmly establishing the principle of “adaptation and adjustment” (= “self-organization”) that governs the formation and evolution of the natural world as the basis of 21st century future society theory
“Return to nature and aufhebung” (revolution); this is the original historical thought of the people
Eliminating the separation of views of nature and society, and placing the idea of the unification of the two as the basis for all social change

3. A vision for the future society that must not be lost sight of in these turbulent times

— Inevitable liberation from the shackles of modernity (the age of capitalism) —

The core of the 21st century future society theory — the reintegration into nature and the restoration of the primordial “ability to empathize” (compassion)

(No.2)

4. The dawn of tradition and innovation in the “East Asian world”

—— The establishment of one's own independence has now become an unavoidable common imperative for the people of not only Japan but also the whole of East Asia ——

The questions raised by the works of contemporary Chinese female writer Liang Hong

1) A common issue that cannot be avoided by the people of East Asia

The limitations of our people who are unable to make a fundamental shift in their thinking, and the progression of “political” corruption as its reflection

The people of the world suffering under the “expansionary economies” of advanced industrial nations and superpowers

The true solidarity of the people of East Asia and their life-world in the face of a pluralistic struggle for hegemony based on naked desire

2) Small-nationism as an “untapped potential” will be revived for the first time under the Constitution of Japan

What should we start with and what should we accomplish now?

3) The ideals of the world-renowned Constitution of Japan are the keystone of solidarity among the peoples of East Asia

5. Song of Dawn

In Lieu of a General Summary of the Long-running Series “The Earth of Symbiosis Where All Lives Shine — The Future Society We Aim for —”

◆The core foundation of the long-running series◆

— “In Lieu of a General Summary” of the long-running series —

Towards a Fundamental Shift to a Higher National Movement That Transcends Modernity (the age of capitalism)

(1) Building a life-world for the people from the ground up

— Overcoming the rotten “politics” of our country —

(2) The 21st century is the time to build grassroots reformers

— Restoring true democracy and revitalizing local “areas” and “labor” —

Rethinking “leave it to others democracy” from the very roots of society

Fresh imagination for the future overflow from casual conversation

(3) The shocking decline of the labor union movement and what it reveals

(4) The 21st century labor movement and our own lifestyles

— Bringing a new wind of the “garden family” —

(5) “Garden family”-style work-sharing system and the innovation in the 21st century labor movement

(6) “Preparing soil” for diverse and free human activities

— Toward a fundamental shift to a national movement with a long-term vision for the next generation —

(7) Reject “leave it to others democracy” and above all, establish our own initiative

— That is where the true joy of living as a human being lies —

(8) The “future of the 21st century” becomes clear through the continuous spiral movement of “checking, research, and planning” for one’s own home area

End of **“The Complete Table of Contents”**

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With Assistance from
LIFE-ON Co., Ltd. (Representative: Satoshi KUSAKA)

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☆Over the last three installments, we have attempted to translate **“In Order to Help You to Grasp the Overall Picture of the Long-running Series in Advance” I - III** into English, and have included them along with the original Japanese texts.

Going forward, we plan to work on translating the entire series into English, and start posting each chapter in turn according to **“The Complete Table of Contents”** from early spring 2026.

During the gap until then, we plan to post the column **“Garden Family Dialogue”** from time to time.

We look forward to receiving any feedback from our readers.

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