Japan as a Capitalist Country

Japanese is a capitalist society since the Meiji restoration because at that time there was a zaibatsu or a monopoly that had an influence to the Japanese economy. From 1925 to 1975, Japan established the Industrial Policy and a rational economy idea (Johnson, C., 2001). It led people to work for a personal advantage. The current Japanese society is more capitalist than socialist because of the high competition among businesses, poverty cycle, and inequality between workers and business owners.

First of all, Japanese has high competition among businesses. Companies always need to find new opportunities to grow. Better resources and advanced technology, together with an excellent marketing and management skill to make an increase of product circulation, which improve the brand popularity, to compete with other bigger companies (Dawar, N., Frost, T., 1999). Big companies or a monopoly in Japan such as Mitsui, Mitsubishi, Sumitomo, Fuyo, Sanwa, and DKB (Watkins, T., n.d.) can control and take over the weak business to increase their power in Japanese market (Hiroyuki, T., 1997). So, in this kind of economy, people need to fight to survive rather than help each other for a whole country profits.

Moreover, Japanese business has a poverty cycle. Economic status is depends on a family background. 90% of Japanese companies pass from parents to a child which is an outstanding amount compare to other countries (Wiwattanakantang, Y., 2008). Furthermore, 30,000 of them continue this cycle for more than 100 years (Oi, M., 2012). This cause a rich to be richer, and a person that doesn’t have any support can’t improve his economic status. In 1985, one in six of Japanese children were poor from an effect of a poverty cycle (Hagiwara, Y., Reynolds I., 2015). A poverty cycle limited an economic chance that leads to an inequality between classes.

In addition, Japanese business has a problem about an inequality between workers and business owners. While socialism idea is to share a money and benefits to everyone equally, in Japan, each worker need to makes profits as much as they can to get a higher position. This leads to a conflict between classes. Business owner or a person in a powerful position can rules or treats other person in a lower position unequally (Nedeljkovich, Brashich, Kuharich, 1911). If workers do a sloppy work, they can be punish by cut wages for several months. While the business owners can make a work improperly and no one can cut their wages. They can also use a Pawa-hara that means to bully employees by use a power of a higher position (Hays, J., 2012).

To conclude, the current Japanese society is more capitalist than socialist because of the high competition between businesses for a power and profits, a long time poverty cycle, and inequality between workers and business owners such as a Pawa-hara. According to Karl Marx, to solve these problem is to make a revolution. Actually, a worker class should makes a nonviolent protest for an equality between classes.

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