

Communication between Intellectuals and the Public in the 1950s:

A Case Study of the Idea of a "National Culture"

NAGASHIMA Yuki

In this study, the comprehension of the notion of national culture in the National Congress of Culture was analyzed. Furthermore, the function of communication and authority between intellectuals and people involved in Japanese social movements during the late 1950s was described.

Progressive Japanese intellectuals' activities in postwar social movements were included in Postwar Enlightenment. These intellectuals with liberal arts backgrounds enlightened people because they possessed rich cultural capital. In contrast, historical studies have argued that intellectuals reflected their enlightenment in movements. However, one may question how the intellectuals' reflections and enlightenment were connected.

In theories of communication, Habermas argued that people can develop their personality and agree rationally through interactive communication while Bourdieu argued that enlightenment inevitably occurs when cultural capital and authority work together through a social space in which a group is passive, for example, a classroom with a teacher and students. Analyzing communication between intellectuals and people with these theories proves the communication and authority of postwar social movements.

The National Meeting of Culture, which was hosted by the National Congress of Culture annually during the late 1950s and 1960s and allowed people of various social classes to interact, was examined in this study.