

**Reforms for Immigration Policy and Labor Market  
in the Arab Gulf Countries: a Case of Bahrain**

**MATSUO Masaki\***

The Arab Gulf States house a significantly large number of migrants, although, they have been suffering from abuses of migrant workers rights. In this circumstance, Bahrain carried out very unique migrant and labor market reform that abolished kafala system, the source of oppressions against migrants. This enhanced the mobility of migrant workers and enabled to decrease price competitiveness gap between national and migrant workers. Bahrain could implement this reform by paying huge cost, i.e. democratization. This paper analyses this reform in Bahrain as a case study of a process how a rentier state that is losing its rent revenue introduce a reform parallels to democratization.

\*Associate Professor, Faculty of International Studies, Utsunomiya University

# The Function of “National Coexistence” Discourse of the Labor Zionism before the Establishment of the State of Israel

KINJO Miyuki\*

With the Middle East region facing new upheaval in the aftermath of the Arab Spring, the Middle East states system that was created in accordance with the interests of the European imperialist powers is once again being called into question. The Zionist Movement, on which this study places a special focus, was born in the age of European imperialist expansion as well as the rise of Anti-Semitism in Europe.

Seeking redress for the dispossession of Palestinians as a result of the establishment of the State of Israel has long served as the Arab cause. It has sustained the Arab nationalist discourse and later the discourse of Islamists all over the world. However, even in the post-colonial era, colonialist perception can be discerned among the narratives on the Palestinian question. In the European discourses, the Palestinian case is understood as the one that tells the history of Islamic “intolerance.” Israel, a self-proclaimed “European” entity in the Middle East, has been at the center of disseminating such a narrative. One of the salient claims within the official Zionist narrative was that the Zionist movement is far from an exclusive movement because it is the agency of the modernizing power that promises economic development to the Arabs in Palestine. According to this narrative, despite the Zionists willing to coexist with the Arabs, the Arabs rejected this sort of Zionist offer entirely. Such discourse on national coexistence repeatedly appeared in Israeli historical research.

In the aforementioned Israeli historical research, two types of models have been used to consider Zionist attitudes towards the Arabs. The first model is oriented towards peaceful national coexistence and was reportedly applied by the Labor Zionists. The second model is oriented towards implementation of the force, meaning the construction of the solid Jewish community even by means of the military power, with the Revisionist movement on top of that. This paper attempts to reexamine the problems underlying the concept of national coexistence by deconstructing the notion of the nation that was transmitted by both imperial and Zionist powers into the Middle East region. It then discusses a dialectical relationship between national coexistence and the implementation of the force in attaining the Zionist goal.

\* RPD Research Fellow of Japan Society for the Promotion of Science

# Social Security and the “Social Contract” in Egypt: Food Subsidies and Public Employment in the Mubarak Era

KAWAMURA Yusuke\*

This research aims to answer the following question: “Why did the Mubarak government not successfully manage to alleviate poverty in Egypt, despite having spent so much on social security?” It argues that the ‘social contract’ between rulers and the ruled, which was established in the Nasser era and reinforced in the Sadat era, restricted Mubarak’s choice. Although the Mubarak government needed to implement drastic social security reform to correct the inefficiencies of the social security system, it was found that drastic reform might damage the population by altering the levels of income distribution. The government were therefore reluctant to implement drastic social security reform in order to avoid violating the ‘social contract’. To scrutinise changes in the Egyptian social security system, the research focuses on two cases: firstly, the food subsidy programme and secondly, the public employment programme — both during the Mubarak era. As the food subsidy programme was established to provide inexpensive foodstuffs to citizens, especially urban workers, in the Nasser era, nearly everyone could access subsidised wholemeal pitta bread (*baladi* bread). This made it difficult for the Mubarak government to implement radical changes despite the fact that the World Bank and the IMF argue for the inefficiency of food subsidies as a way to alleviate poverty. The public employment programme included the job guarantee scheme, established in the Nasser era. This scheme guaranteed public sector jobs to university graduates, which automatically increased the number of employees in the public sector. The Mubarak government had to maintain an inefficient public sector that was expanded in the Sadat era because it failed to create new jobs in the private sector. Despite the fact that the government gradually implemented the privatisation plan, it still ended up increasing the number of employees in the government sector.

\*PhD Candidate, School of Government and International Affairs, Durham University

# Influences Leading to Human Trafficking of Women in the Post-Hussein Iraq: Conflict Triggered Factors and Historical-Cultural Factors

ENJO Yumiko\*

This paper aims to explain the mechanism of human trafficking of women in the post-Hussein Iraq. After the collapse of the Saddam Hussein government, the number of women in human trafficking was reported to have increased significantly in Iraq with the social confusion and civil war. An increase in human trafficking is a common phenomenon particularly in a post-war situation; however, the mechanism in which human trafficking emerges and expands involves several factors that are unique to each country or area. At the same time, because human trafficking takes place post-conflict or even in the middle of a conflict situation, and the act it is illegal, the mechanism reflecting the local factors is not well known.

While recognizing the situation described above, including the difficulties to reach complete understanding of the local mechanism, this paper tries to find the current mechanism of the human trafficking in the post-Hussein Iraq. It first discusses the economic aspects. They includes the expansion of the sex industry due to the stationing of many foreign soldiers and contractors, and the international crime network flowing into Iraq after the liberation of the national border. It then focuses on the local traditions as a part of this phenomenon. It analyzes reports on the local traditions such as honor killing along with women's status and women-related government policies during and after the Hussein administration. The paper then discusses how local tradition and social status of the women interconnect to the other conflict related factors and ultimately led to the rapid increase of human trafficking of women in Iraq.

\*Part-time lecturer, Osaka Jogakuin University