

Piracy and the Jigsaw Puzzle Without a Piece ¹

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In 2013, upon proposing a “piratical view of history,” we received a Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (A).² These proceedings of our international symposium, which was held during the final academic year (2015–2016) of this funded project, present part of our findings. We are also compiling another set of collected papers in Japanese that will serve as the research findings report for the joint research group “Adjusting the Orbit of Japan in the First Decade of the Twenty-First Century.”³ The following, a summary of the major points of discussion from a joint research group meeting held on 21 June 2015, serves as an introduction to these projects.

1. Broadly speaking, our project has two major directions. This opinion was voiced by Mihara Yoshiaki. On the one hand, there is the large-scale task of reconsidering the five hundred years of world history spanning from the so-called “Age of Exploration” to the present. In recent years there has been a flood of books published with titles like *A World History of X*—almost thirty can be easily pointed out. Therein we find *Kaizoku no sekaishi* 海賊の世界史⁴. In fact, books with “pirate” in the title are similarly increasing rapidly. I have also published multiple articles relating to piracy and world history.⁵ With regard to this, I, as the representative of the project, had an opportunity to have discussions with individuals such as Kawakatsu Heita, the governor of Shizuoka prefecture. Incidentally, our “piratical view of history” (*kaizoku shikan* 海賊史観) is a parody of Kawakatsu’s “maritime view of history” (*kaiyō shikan* 海洋史観) that seeks to, under the surface and with Kawakatsu’s permission, complement it. I’ve also been exchanging views with such specialists in the field as Hamashita Takeshi and Irie Akira.

¹ The text was originally written on 22 July 2015 as a guide for members of the research group led by Inaga Shigemi at the International Research Center for Japanese Studies. (Original subtitle: “Towards the Publication of the Pirate Research Grant-in-Aid Project Article Collection”). The publication projects mentioned are part of our joint project supported by a Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research.

² 独立行政法人日本学術振興会科学研究費助成事業（科学研究費補助金）基盤研究（A）（一般）平成25年度～平成27年度「海賊史観から交易を検討する：国際法と密貿易—海賊商品流通の学際的・文化史的研究」課題番号：25244011: The Pirates’ View of Trade: International Law versus Illegal Trade—An Interdisciplinary Study of the Civilizations in Terms of the Piracy of Commodity Goods.

³ Official Japanese Title: “21 seiki 10 nendai Nihon no kidō shūsei” 21世紀10年代日本の軌道修正； Official English Title: “How to Readjust the Orbit? Checking the 20th Century Japanese Culture and Proposing a New Vision for the 10th of the 21st Century.”

⁴ Including the classic *Kaizoku no sekaishi* 海賊の世界史 (*A World History of Piracy*) (Tokyo: Chūō Kōron sha, 2011); translation of *The History of Piracy* by Phillip Gosse.

⁵ <http://www.nichibun.ac.jp/~aurora/pdf/1401aporia.pdf>.

2. On the other hand, there is the reconsideration of the scope of (the act of) piracy as a metaphor. In the first place, in European and American languages, why is the word “pirate” used in this metaphorical sense, instead of, say, “bandit,” which refers to “pirates” who operate on land? This must reflect the history of Europe, which became the ruler of the world through maritime conquest. Relatedly, from the problem of pirated merchandise and electronic communications arises a set of issues that includes the activities of the “Pirate Party” (studied by Eguchi Kumi), which asserts citizenship in a virtual environment, as well as the relationship between piracy and the fraying of intellectual property rights / copyright. There is a need to reconsider piracy and illegal acts in the history of commerce at the intersection between this and the aforementioned modern world history. This is closely connected to the re-formation of the present world order. Several individuals affiliated with the current project raised such issues at the exhibition-symposium “*Utsuwa et utsushi*,” (held at Maison de la Culture du Japon à Paris in January 2015).⁶ At the symposium, I advocated a “geological imagination,” an ecological replacement for Sakai Naoki’s “geographical imagination” which tends to be politically charged and manipulated by the hegemonic power (I will come back to the issue later).⁷

3. At the June joint research group meeting, strangely enough multiple presenters used the metaphor of a jigsaw puzzle (Kurata Takashi, Inaga Shigemi). Say that there is a jigsaw puzzle missing a piece. The shape of this missing piece can be determined based on the shape of the eight pieces that surround it. Fukuoka Shin’ichi argues that a jigsaw puzzle is an effective metaphor for explaining ecological equilibrium:⁸ an individual is not self-determining; rather, it appears as a function of its surrounding natural environment to fill in empty space. Furthermore, during the development of the immune system in children, antigens / antibodies’ reactions treat the self as a “lack” or an “absence.” This is because that which “exists” from the perspective of the immune system is defined as something to be attacked and removed. “For the immune system, the self is that which has been removed from the present you.” Such is the basic perspective of Tada Tomio’s book *Men’eki no imiron* 免疫の意味論 (Semiotics of Immunity). If this is the case, from the perspective of the immune system the self is a negative of that which exists, a piece missing from a jigsaw puzzle.

⁶ Exposition: Réceptacle du passage ou La Vie transitoire des formes et ses empreintes, Colloque international: Berceau du temps, Passage des âmes, Maison de la culture du Japon à Paris, France, 20–24 janvier, 2015, <http://www.nichibun.ac.jp/-aurora/>.

⁷ Inaga Shigemi, “Chirigaku teki sōzōryoku kara chigaku teki sōzōryoku e: Sakai Naoki shi no kōen ‘Hon’ yaku to chizu sakuseijutsu teki sōzōryoku’ o kiite” 地理学的想像力から地学的想像力へ：酒井直樹氏の講演「翻訳と地図作成術の想像力」を聴いて (From Geographical Imagination to Geological Imagination: Upon Hearing Sakai Naoki’s Lecture “Translation and Map-Creating Imagination”), *Tosho shinbun* 図書新聞 2879 (26 July 2008), http://toshoshimbun.jp/books_newspaper/week_description.php?shinbunno=2879&syosekino=851.

⁸ Fukuoka Shin’ichi, “Nakushita pīsu no seikyūhō ni kanshin” 無くしたピースの請求法に感心 (Impressed by the Way to Request a Lost Piece), *Geijutsu to kagaku no aida* 芸術と科学のあいだ (Between Art and Science), *Nihon keizai shinbun* 日本経済新聞, 14 December 2014, Sunday Edition; “Men’ekikei de wa jiko wa kūkyo na ketsuraku” 免疫系では自己は空虚な欠落 (In the Immune System the Self is a Lack), 21 December 2014.

Fukusawa Naoto, the director of The Japan Folk Crafts Museum, also has expressed the view that design is the act of appropriately filling in this final piece. Put in other terms, social design is the functioning of the immune system. However, Fukusawa also raises the issue of what happens when the jigsaw puzzle is warped.⁹ If warping is fostered and accepted as a provided fact, then one might take part in the “crime” of affirming the world’s contradictions.

4. In fact, here we can also probe into the reason for proposing a piratical view of history. Let’s try and reverse this metaphor. Depending on one’s view, a piece missing from a jigsaw puzzle could be seen as an opening that appeared when a piece could no longer fit due to the puzzle becoming warped as a whole. In this vacant space the unreasonableness of the system overall comes together, and contradictions are expressed as a lack. Similar to weeds quickly finding gaps from which to grow, in this opening “illegal acts” that are incompatible with the puzzle’s overall order and rules run rampant, forming a “lawless zone.”¹⁰ Is not a piratical view of history trying to locate the anti-order small-scale rebellions that exist in such vacuums? While this opening is a state of rebellion, it is also actually a safety apparatus that acts to avoid systemic crises that have arisen due to lacks, restore overall equilibrium so as to avoid emergencies, and correct flaws fatal to the system overall. Such piracy also at the same time shows that in this opening the contradictions of the overall system are coming together and appearing. Is this not like the architect’s Tsukamoto Yoshiharu’s views on “niches” in architecture?¹¹

In marketing, such piracy itself is already being worked into commercial strategies and tactics. Companies, in response to piratical business methods that undermine their interests, intentionally preserve and leave alone some pirate products instead of eliminating and removing all of them. This is done because the existence of piracy can be useful for ensuring the quality of genuine products. As Kataoka Mai has pointed out, situations are even arising that mix fact and fiction. Businesses secretly put into the market “fake” pirate merchandise (fabricated by themselves) and then act as if they were responding by imposing penalties on such merchandise in order to keep in check the distribution of “real” pirate merchandise.

5. Here, geological imagination becomes an issue. For products that circulate in a certain area to become part of the world market, they must undergo a geological metamorphosis. Folds and faults appearing in cross-sections of geological strata are traces of physical powers that acted upon the earth crust, which also led to chemical metamorphosis. Underground magma becomes exposed only after going through such a process. If we were to use a psychoanalytical metaphor, we could say that it is similar to the process in which psychological force dynamics experience

⁹ Fukusawa Naoto 深澤直人, “Shin kanchō to katari au kai” 新館長と語り合う会 (Speaking with the New Museum President), at Nihon Mingeikan 日本民藝館 (Japan Folk Crafts Museum), 19 January 2013 (From Kurata’s presentation).

¹⁰ Dennitza Gabrakova, *Zassō no yume: Kindai nihon ni okeru “kokyō” to “kibō”* 雑草の夢：近代日本における「故郷」と「希望」(Dreams of Weeds: “Hometown” and “Hope” in Modern Japan) (Yokohama: Seori Shobō, 2012).

¹¹ “Niche | Tsukamoto Yoshiharu,” *10+1* 30, Special issue: Toshi purojekuto sutadi 都市プロジェクト・スタディ (City Project Study): 13–18.

ensorship and correction and are sublimated.

Our jigsaw puzzle is a two-dimensional model. While it is effective as a metaphor for surface layer power relations, in actually the earth's crust is riding on top of the earth's flows that support it from below (according to plate tectonics). This movement that is hidden below the surface shapes surface expression. In economics terms, this is the track through which raw materials are processed and become a product. Whether UNESCO World Heritage Sites or intangible cultural heritage, when being "listed as a stock," that is, registered as heritage, changes are sought in the original forms that have been preserved in a community so that they meet the necessary requirements. Those which cannot withstand such demands are crossed off the list right away. Put conversely, when a new product appears in a spot in the traditional market, it sometimes is received as epoch-making merchandise, and, in contrast, at other times pushed away as a pirate product and/or something that damages the market.

This can also be applied to the work of censorship and editing that takes place when translating local languages to major or world languages (observation by Nimura Junko).¹² Censorship in the process of editing and translation could be described as a kind of antigen/antibody response. Quarantine deters the spread of endemic diseases before they are transmitted. Similarly, cultural phenomena and products acquire the right to circulate on the global market only after they have been controlled and detoxified, transforming into something safe via a similar kind of cultural quarantine. The unofficial merchandise that is described as "pirate" attacks the blind spots in the quarantine system and skillfully takes advantage of its deficiencies.¹³

6. The above provides us with a new perspective on the "Galápagos syndrome" that received attention around the year 2000. While it was an expression used to ridicule the development of products specific to regions that do not meet international standards, it was also a term that

¹² Boaventura de Sousa Santos, in his *Epistemologies of the South: Justice against Epistemicide* (London & New York: Routledge, 2016), paraphrases the issue as follows by referring to Richard Jacquemond, and summarizes "four hypotheses on "the problems of translating across power differentials": "a dominant culture will invariably translate far more of the hegemonic culture than the latter will of the former; when the hegemonic culture does translate works produced by dominated culture, those works will be perceived and presented as difficult, mysterious, inscrutable, esoteric, and in need of a small cadre of intellectuals to interpret them, while a dominated culture will translate a hegemonic culture's works by trying to make them accessible to the masses; a hegemonic culture will only translate works by authors in a dominated culture that fit the former's preconceived notions of the latter; authors in a dominated culture who dream of reaching a larger audience will tend to write while having in mind their translation into a hegemonic language, and this will require some degree of compliance with stereotypes." (p. 230). I have also made similar observation elsewhere, see "Philosophy, Ethics and Aesthetics in the Far-Eastern Cultural Sphere: Receptions of the Western Ideas and Reactions to the Western Cultural Hegemony," in *The 38th International Research Symposium: Questioning Oriental Aesthetics and Thinking: Conflicting Visions of "Asia" under the Colonial Empires* (東洋美学と東洋的思惟を問う：植民地帝国下の葛藤するアジア像), ed. Shigemi Inaga (Kyoto: International Research Center for Japanese Studies, 2011), 31–45.

¹³ Inaga Shigemi, "Hon'yaku no seijigaku to zenkyūka e no teikō" 翻訳の政治学と全球化への抵抗 (The Politics of Translation and Resistance to Globalization), in *Kaiga no rinkai* 絵画の臨界 (Images on the Edge) (Nagoya: Nagoya Daigaku Shuppankai, 2013, 1–20).

defended the characteristics of area cultures that lacked commensurability with world standards. It is not an issue of which is good or which is bad. When products are being distributed from regions to the world as a whole, along the way there are impediments, and on the upward aspiration that seeks to pass through them is put the belt of world standards. If one resents these restrictions, there is the option of Galápagosization. This phenomenon can be applied to translation in general as well. While translation is the work of transforming a product from one to another clearly different language through linguistic mediation, it is carried out based on the (paradoxical) premise that the product is no different in nature before and after translation. If one thinks somewhat calmly about this quality guarantee, it is clear that it is a logical contradiction and deceptive. The border-transgressing act of translation is by definition a piratical business method. In some cases this is approved of after the fact (The Nobel Prize in Literature from the “third world”), and, conversely, in other cases sternly rejected. In the case of the likes of concluding treaties, the piratical business method of mediation via translation is given the approval of legality, and especially when interests are harmonized using lawful translation-based “straddling,” the treaty can be ratified.¹⁴

7. The metaphor of a bridge between cultures is often used. However, as Jacques Derrida incisively argues, this expression is deceptive as an *analogie*. A bridge connects two shores that are set apart by a deep crevice. Since the worlds of the two shores are markedly different, the bridge that connects them is, in fact, “a scar” that separates them. It is nothing other than a symbol that depicts the space between them as a gulf; this mediating bridge shows that between the shores there is a “semantic depth”: something like “an analogy” —i.e. similarity—between the two shores cannot come into existence.¹⁵ Yonaha Jun’s doctoral dissertation analyzes the process of diplomacy in Okinawa’s Ryukyu Kingdom, examining the politics of translation therein.¹⁶ In its diplomatic negotiations that were sandwiched between massive and opposing governments (i.e., Qing dynasties and the Satsuma Domain), having two sides (being double-tongued or engaging in double dealing) was indispensable. Put in Derridean terms, this ambiguity is *pharmakon*: medicine that also acts as poison. While the text of treaties are agreed upon by two parties after reaching a mutual understanding, when information regarding negotiations is released after a set period of time has passed (due to extinctive prescription), one often finds that they had very different views of the text upon which they agreed. However, the real joy of diplomatic negotiations lies in skillfully building bridges—especially in a situation in which compromise is impossible—via the full use of polysemic translation. In other words, the truth of diplomacy lies in the two-sided margin or interval of the legalization of mistranslations and the illegalization of accurate translations.

¹⁴ Inaga Shigemi, “Hibogo to iu gijie ni wa nani ga kakaru ka” 非母語という疑似餌には何が掛かるか (What is Caught on the Lure of a Non-Native Language?), in *Bairingaruna Nihongo bungaku: Tagengo bungaku no aida* バイリンガルな日本語文学：多言語文学あいだ (Between Bilingual Japanese Literature and Multi-Language Literature), ed. Guo Nanyan 郭南燕 (Tokyo: Sangensha, 2013), 22–46.

¹⁵ Jacques Derrida, *La Vérité dans la peinture* (Paris: Flammarion, 1978), 43.

¹⁶ Yonaha Jun 与那覇潤, *Hon'yaku no seijigaku* 翻訳の政治学 (The Politics of Translation) (Tokyo: Iwanami Shoten, 2009).

8. There is no way that a pirate ship would fly high its flag of statelessness and illegality. In some cases it approaches another boat after deceptively hoisting the flag of a friend, and then suddenly raises its pirate flag to begin plunder, and at other times might pretend to be a powerful enemy to avoid confrontation. In such flexibility lies the truth of pirates. A pirate is a pirate due to their ability to assume the role of another, in other words, their lack of a fixed identity. It is the destiny of pirate ships to freely transform themselves and navigate while appearing out of nowhere and vanishing into thin air, as if poison and medicine are two sides of a Mobius strip.

9. Having reached this point, we can see how the “poison” of piracy is in the ambiguous position of possibly being an antidote: it may expose the vast evil latent in what is commonly held to be justice, or “a blessing” that performs such a revealing function. This is a phenomenon that appears at the critical point where order and anti-order swap places, that is, the slender center part of an hourglass or the point at which an inverted pyramid rests upon the tip of another. What from one perspective appears to be reduction, a decreasing movement, from another perspective is expansion and amplification. From one angle it is disadvantageous, and from another advantageous. At this point of mixture appears the phenomenon of piracy. Here, right and wrong are easily reversed. This closely resembles being fork-tongued or a double agent: it is an ambiguous modality.

10. It probably goes without saying that whether piracy is recognized as good or condemned as evil depends on the power structures that surround it. Corsairs were actually warships approved by the Queen of England. “Pirates” was a derogatory term for condemning groups whose livelihood consisted of the same actions carried out without government approval. Minor thefts were considered crimes while major ones were state affairs publicly approved by royalty and the aristocracy. Legality and illegality just depends on the (non-)existence of the backing of authority and legitimacy (Dennitza Gabrakova). Crisis management tends to want to clearly distinguish between black and white. However, this differentiating posture is nothing more than a manifestation of established authority, it is an exercise of power that ensures its own safety by condemning enemies as heretical and criminal. Political power cannot maintain its own “righteousness” without producing evil for condemnation.

11. In this way, we are again confronted with the question of the nature of a piece missing from a jigsaw puzzle. A hole formed on a puzzle surface is despised by authority as a den of anarchism (“ana-aki-shugi” 穴空き主義, if I may), and crushing this underground headquarters or niche becomes the venerable work of the police authorities that serve to maintain order. The immune system of the state annihilates as enemies foreign elements because by definition such is its function. If these holes are still a minority that is scattered about it is no problem. However, if they gradually increase and become connected to each other, somewhere a critical point will be reached. Insofar as the order is the order, it must be the majority. If holes become the majority, we can longer expect that the order will continue to exist. A “revolution” would thus refer to the stage at which the anti-order of a jigsaw puzzle hole becomes more dominant than the order and the unity of the puzzle can no longer be maintained. If more and more holes continue to appear

and the puzzle's design becomes imperceptible, the ecosystem's dynamic balance (called "dynamic equilibrium" in biology)—ensuring metabolism by filling in vacancies—is also undermined. However, in a revolutionary situation in which this criticality has been surpassed, holes can no longer be called piracy. In other words, piracy is a parasite that lives at the split seams of order. If it comes to threaten the life of the host, it has changed in nature into something that goes beyond piracy.

12. Here, I want to consider the apparent design (order) and the normally invisible area that exists in its background (hidden-anti order). As a metaphor, let us think about puppeteers in *ningyō-jōruri* 人形浄瑠璃. While the dolls performing in pieces on the stage appear to be autonomous, in reality they are being manipulated by puppeteers, who, in the context of Japanese puppet theater, are called *kuroko* (literally, manipulators who hide their faces under black cloth). While we are apt to assume that we are subjects that autonomously move based on our own volition, Uchida Tatsuru argues while referring to Noh dance that this is just an illusion. Just like a jigsaw puzzle missing a piece, actors sense the right location and timing of dance, as if filling out the hole in front of him or her. So long as they act so that no holes are left, then and only then the show turns out to be successful. This is neither a passive accommodation with the whole nor jumping to action based on one's whims. Mutual reliance—indispensable for a performance to work—is not necessarily the dissolving of parts by painting over the whole.¹⁷

Furthermore, there is a troublesome issue: in Japanese puppet theater today the primary manipulator (called the *omozukai* 主遣い) is left exposed to the audience. French intellectuals who loved theater didn't hide their puzzlement regarding this. Roland Barthes, perhaps in reaction against the pioneer Paul Claudel, put forth the complicated argument that the face of the *omozukai* exists to show the abolition of meaning, and that no meaning should be read into them. He famously did so in his work *Empire of Signs*.¹⁸ Actually, it is said in the past the *omozukai* also covered their face with a black cloth, though it is also known that from the eighteenth century, the bare-faced main manipulators were idolized by female spectators.

The possibility cannot be eliminated that the method of showing manipulator's face during performances was intensified and institutionalized amidst Westernization / modernization. If this is the case, that would mean that Barthes found "Japan's sign" in something that became an established rule under the influence of the West, and that he was forced to provide an excessive interpretation or rationalization of it. This is the Chikamatsu Monzaemon theory of the inter-space of skin membranes between unreal and real beings (*kyojitsu himaku ron* 虚実皮膜論) in cultural translation. If so, can we not find in the gap between the *kuroko* and the face-revealing *omozukai*, in this revealing and hiding or coming and going, a pirate-like being, that is, a clue for reconsidering the ambiguity of legitimacy?

¹⁷ Uchida Tatsuru 内田樹, "Dentō bunka ni yadoru mono" 伝統文化に宿るもの (That which Dwells in Traditional Culture), A Conversation with Kobayashi Masahiro 小林昌廣, in *Tsugu koto, tsutaeru koto* 継ぐこと・伝えること (Inheriting and Transmitting) (Kyoto: Kyoto Geijutsu Center, 2014), 88–90.

¹⁸ Roland Barthes, *L'Empire des signes* (Geneva: Skira, 1970), 81.

13. Let us consider English as an academic language. Many people whose native language is not English write academic articles in it. This involves the translation of a regional non-English language, and, on the surface, writing of English terms in accordance with its grammar and vocabulary. However in reality, under this surface are stuck like sediment the words and ideas from the non-English starting language. Connotations different than those that arise in understanding English terms are found preserved in the native language interpretations. Using the example of colonial India, Homi Bhabha has called colonized upper classes imitating colonizers' culture "mimicry," using a term that originally referred to plants or insects imitating other species to survive.¹⁹

The use of English is a good example of learning based on this mimicry. Slogans like "democracy" have various meanings based on the person doing interpreting them, and at times even incompatible ones are entangled together (Chiba Kei). However, the effectiveness of political discourse lies in ignoring such below the surface differences and, calling for democracy to be thoroughly carried out, acquiring the electorate's solidarity. English as a world language also is equipped with a similar function. Therein a somewhat ironic situation emerges. The word "democracy" is probably an excellent example. Under this same term what are actually different realities are seen as the same, and the various and contradictory wishes of the electorate are integrated together. However, the content of this word hypertrophies, giving rise to inflation, which makes it have a diminished value. On the other hand, foreign words are incorporated into English. Words from Japanese such as *tsunami*, *sushi*, *bento*, and *kawaii* are found in English dictionaries. However, we can see by the example of the California roll that their nature changes when they enter the English language. When it gets to this point of hybridity, the real thing and mimicry are almost indistinguishable. In short, a single term becoming part of the common world currency is itself a piratical mimicry; it is estranged and inconsistent from its signification in its original language. There is surely much to be learned from how Homi Bhabha, the advocate of this mimicry theory, has now become the object of mimicry as a behavior model for the Anglophone academic world.

14. The likes of a discursive analysis of orthodoxy and mimicry is no longer an issue. This was Gayatri Spivak's concise assessment of my analysis of cultural translation based on a piratical view of history.²⁰ The *kuroko* removes their hood and exposes their face. Did this have the same meaning as third-world intellectuals who had been anonymous making a living with their real name by shedding their skin to become a star in Western society? However, are those who exposed their faces mimicking colonizers, or have they usurped the colonizer's culture? Alternatively, does it epitomise the cultural situation of the so-called post-colonial present—or at the very least that of the imperial capital cities of the past: the puppet of theater (that is

¹⁹ Homi Bhabha, *The Location of Culture* (London: Routledge, 1996), 82. "To be Anglicized is *emphatically* not to be English," he remarks (87).

²⁰ Shigemi Inaga, "A 'Pirates' View' of Art History," *Review of Japanese Culture and Society* 26 (December 2014 [sic]): 65–79. Paper originally presented in the following symposium: "What Words Can Tell Us Through Translation: The Future of the Humanities" (The 2012 Kyoto Prize Workshop in Arts and Philosophy), http://www.nichibun.ac.jp/~aurora/pdf/121112kyoto_prize.pdf.

supposedly being performed in a Western style) is transformed (via *kuroko* from foreign cultural spheres) into something of an alien and alienated nature (before people realize it)?

15. With a quarter century having past since the 1989 collapse of the Cold War, the post-World War II worldwide “Yalta Order” is now becoming a thing of the past. The legitimacy of world standards is on the verge of being lost. While it is probably mistaken to translate hegemony as *haken* 覇権, the competition over linguistic hegemony between English and Chinese—such as “empire” being compared to *tianxia* 天下—straightforwardly shows how deceptive “globalization” is.²¹ Along with the loss of the world’s sheriff, a replacement hegemony or supremacy has not been established. This world of ours is overflowing with mimics of righteousness, and could be ridiculed as a situation in which piracy is temporarily running rampant. The field of finance, which is almost completely unrelated to the real economy, rules the world, and the spread of the internet has, at the very least in the exchange of information in virtual spaces, practically speaking defeated the tariff barriers in traditional financial transactions and product distribution as well as the quarantine apparatuses of cultural national borders.

16. Facing this multi-sided advancement of this worldwide piratical situation—which could also be described in psychiatric terms as a *tsutsunuke jōtai* 筒抜け状態 or “a state of uncontrollable leakage” (Nagai Mari)²²—what kind of measures can be groped for? As is already clear, a jigsaw puzzle which began to show signs of collapse can no longer be repaired with the ossified allopathic or symptomatic treatment alone: A unilateral crack-down on piracy as something illegal, and just punishing perpetrators would not suffice. Traditional geographical imagination (Naoki Sakai) or a sense of governing based on the unit of the nation-state is no longer tenable. Rather, at present we need to focus on the visually recognizable “missing piece,” and steadily inspect the kinds of conflict gathering at such missing points that can become hotbeds of piracy. Complicated entanglement of the overall dynamics of distortion can be found in such nodes of contradiction. We can identify them via an autopsy, so to speak. Such a task is not one for which we can easily offer a miracle-drug prescription. Rather, is not such a worldview—that hastily seeks solutions like all-powerful wonder drugs and hopes for the safe restoration of the High Seas ruled by Order—, the very cause of the current hole-filled situation we find ourselves in?

A world map that is like a jigsaw puzzle filled with holes and the missing pieces that

²¹ Regarding the difference between “hegemony” (a basically affirmative centripetal power structure) and the Chinese / Japanese term *baquan* / *haken* 覇権 (wicked exercise of force that stands in contrast to royal authority *wangquan* / *ōken* 王権) that is frequently used as its translation, see Shiraishi Takashi 白石隆, *Umi no teikoku: Ajia o dō kangaeru ka* 海の帝国：アジアをどう考えるか (Ocean Empire: How Should we Think About Asia?) (Tokyo: Chūō Kōron Shinsha, 2000); and Zhao Tingyang 趙汀阳, “Rethinking Empire from a Chinese Concept ‘All-under-Heaven’ (Tian-xia, 天下),” *Social Identities* 12, no. 1 (January 2006): 29–41. See also Shiraishi Takashi, *Kaiyō Ajia vs. tairiku Ajia* 海洋アジア vs. 大陸アジア (Oceanic Asia vs. Continental Asia) (Kyoto: Minerva Shobō, 2016), ch. 2.

²² Nagai Mari 長井真理, *Naisei no kōzō* 内省の構造 (The Structure of Self-Reflexiveness) (Tokyo: Iwanami Shoten, 1991).

expose holes: the likes of piracy in Somalia, or the Islamic State world-wide terrorism are typical examples of such holes, missing pieces, that opened wide in today's world. Research that while risking the danger of falling into this subsidential hole draws close to the dynamics within it is the indispensable starting point for a piratical view of history. While speaking of a hole arising from a missing piece might give readers a static impression, if we actually go into such holes, we might actually find a swirl of meeting currents, like the great maelström depicted by Edgar Allen Poe. Has the time not come for us to change the habitual course of following the established order, and decide on a new course for the pirate ship for a pursuit into the whirlpool, the raging abysse or the *mise-en-abyme*, an eternally recessive nested coats of arms which leads us *in profundus*?