

“The times are leveling times”: *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*における民主主義と暴力

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〈概要〉第二次選挙法改正の三年後に書かれた『エドウィン・ドルードの謎』には、オリエントの暴力に対する不安とともに労働者階級の暴力に対する不安も描かれている。小説を歴史的なコンテキストのなかでとらえ、ネヴィル、ジャスパー、デピュティという三人の登場人物の暴力を分析することにより、民主主義と帝国主義の時代における階級と人種の複雑な関係を検証していきたい。

〈発表の構成〉

- ①はじめに
- ②ジャマイカ論争と第二次選挙法改正
- ③〈オリエント〉と労働者階級の暴力
- ④教育と暴力の制御
- ⑤結び

〈第二次選挙法改正までの経緯〉

1832 年の第一次選挙法改正は、選挙権を与えられなかった労働者階級の不満を残すことになり、彼らの政治参加を求める動きはチャーティズム運動へと発展した。政府は彼らの選挙権の要求を繰

り返し跳ね返していたが、1850 年以降社会的経済的状況の変化に伴い、参政権の拡大が必要だとする考え方が徐々に広まっていった。1865 年までには、少なくとも熟練工を中心とする労働者階級の上層部に選挙権を与えるのは避けられないという意見がリベラル、保守ともに大勢となったが、ロバート・ロウら一部の保守的な議員の激しい反対にあって、選挙法改正の法案は幾度となく否決された。1866 年、ラッセル内閣が提出した法案が僅差で否決されたことに対して、労働者が抗議のための集会を Hyde Park で行ったが、その一部が暴徒化し、暴動へと発展する事態となった。ラッセル内閣の後を引き継いだ、保守のダービー、ディズレイリ内閣が法案を提出し、1867 年 6 月に成立した。



1866 年 7 月 23 日の Hyde Park の暴動。ラッセル内閣が提出した法案が否決されたことに怒った民衆が Hyde Park で集会を行ったところ、一部が暴徒化して、柵を壊した。
(*The Illustrated London News*, Aug. 4, 1866)

〈ジャマイカ騒動について〉

1865 年バプティストの政治家ジョージ・ウィリアム・ゴードンに率いられた解放奴隷の反乱が勃発した。当時のジャマイカ総督エアは直ちにこれを鎮圧、400 人以上が処刑され、さらに多くを鞭打ちの刑に処した。イギリスではこの行き過ぎた鎮圧に対する批判が高まり、ジョン・ステュアート・ミルを議長とするジャマイカ委員会が組織された。そのメンバーとして、ラディカル政治家ジョン・ブライト、チャールズ・ダーウィン、トマス・ハクスリー、ハーバート・スペンサー、トマス・ヒューズなどが名を連ねた。しかし、一方でエアの取った措置は正当だとして擁護する動きも高まり、エア弁護援助委員会が結成され、カーライル、テニソン、ディケンズ、ラスキン、チャールズ・キングズリーらがメンバーとなった。

〈発表中の引用—下線はすべて発表者による〉

引用① [Jasper's] travelling baggage is easily carried in his hand, and he repairs with it, on foot, to a hybrid hotel in a little square behind Aldersgate Street, near the General Post Office. It is hotel, boarding-house, or lodging-house, at its visitor's option. It announces itself as a novel enterprise in the new Railway Advertisers timidly beginning to spring up. It bashfully, almost apologetically, gives the traveller to understand that it does not expect him, on the good old constitutional hotel plan, to order a pint of sweet blacking for his drinking, and throw it away; but insinuates that he may have his boots blacked instead of his stomach, and maybe also have bed, breakfast, attendance, and a porter up all night, for a certain fixed charge. From these and similar premises, many true Britons in the lowest spirits deduce that the times are levelling times, except in the article of high roads, of which there will shortly be not one in England. (266-67)

引用② . . . “the equality of men,” any man [is] equal to any other; Quashee Nigger to Socrates or Shakespeare; Judas Iscariot to Jesus Christ.” (Carlyle, “Shooting Niagara: And After?”; 4)

引用③ “Monster meetings belong to a bygone state of society, when an ignorant populace followed some fanatical or designing leader; they are totally unsuited to the habits of our own time.” (*The Times*, 21 July 1866; 9)

引用④ Only the other day, here was a meeting of jawbones of asses at Manchester, to censure the Jamaica Governor for his manner of putting down the insurrection. So we are badgered about New Zealanders and Hottentots, as if they were identical with men in clean shirts at Camberwell, and were to be bound by pen and ink accordingly. (Letters XI; 115-16)

引用⑤ There is no limit to the variety of nationalities patronising the wretched hovel we are about to visit. From every quarter of the globe, and more immediately from every district in London, men come to old Yahee: the sole bond between them being a love of opium and a partiality for Yahee's brand. Sailors, stewards, shopmen, mountebanks, beggars, outcasts, and thieves, meet on perfect equality in New-court, and there smoke themselves into dreamy pleasant stupefaction. (“Lazarus, Lotus-Eating,” *All The Year Round*, 12 May 1866; 422-23)

引用⑥ [Durdles and Jasper] are also addressed by some half-dozen other hideous small boys . . . who, as if attracted by some carrion-scent of Deputy in the air, start into moonlight, as vultures might gather in the desert, and instantly fall to stoning him and one another” (76).

引用⑦ “Mr Jasper was that, Tope?”

“Yes, Mr Dean.”

“He has stayed late.”

“Yes, Mr Dean. I have stayed for him, your Reverence. He has been took a little poorly.”

“Say ‘taken,’ Tope—to the Dean,” the younger rook interposes in a low tone with this touch of correction, as who should say: “You may offer bad grammar to the laity, or the humbler clergy, not to the Dean.” (40-41)

引用⑧ . . . as skillfully as a Police Expert, and with an apparent repose quite unattainable by Novices, Mr Crisparkle conducts his pupil to the pleasant and orderly old room prepared for him. (104)

引用⑨ “I took him in hand and gave him an object. What was he before? A destroyer. What work did he do? Nothing but destruction. What did he earn by it? Short terms in Cloisterham Jail. Not a person, not a piece of property, not a winder, not a horse, nor a dog, nor a cat, nor a bird, nor a fowl, nor a pig, but what he stoned, for want of an enlightened object. I put that enlightened object before him. . . . I don’t know what you may precisely call it. It ain’t sort of a—scheme of a—National Education?” (73-74)

引用⑩ [Ignorance and Want] were a boy and girl. Yellow, meagre, ragged, scowling, wolfish; but prostrate, too, in their humility. . . . Where angels might have sat enthroned, devils lurked, and glared out menacing. No change, no degradation, no perversion of humanity, in any grade, through all the mysteries of wonderful creation, has monsters half so horrible and dread. (*A Christmas Carol* 67)

引用⑪ Within so many yards of this Covent-garden lodging of mine . . . I can find—must find, whether I will or no—in the open streets, shameful instances of neglect of children, intolerable toleration of the engenderment of paupers, idlers, thieves, racés of wretched and destructive cripples both in body and mind, a misery to themselves, a misery to the community, a disgrace to civilisation, and an outrage on Christianity. (“The Short-Timers,” *All The Year Round*, 20 June 1863; 239)

引用⑫ [I]f the State would begin its work and duty at the beginning, and would with the strong hand take those children out of the streets, while they are yet children, and wisely train them, it would make them a part of England’s glory, not its shame—of England’s strength, not its weakness—would raise good soldiers and sailors, and good citizens, and many great men, out of the seeds of its criminal population. (“The Short-Timers”; 239)

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