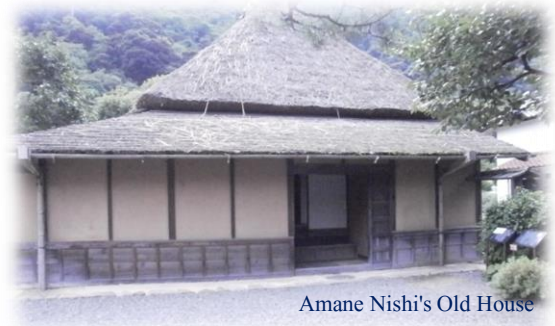


# The meaning of "modernization" and its changes in Japan and China

## On the perspective of global history

日中「近代化」の意味と変遷

The concept of "modernization," translated into Japanese as "*kindaika* (近代化)," is a concept being used by European and American scholars to assess the development, or underdevelopment, of a country. While in Japan, "近代化" is a very commonly used word, in China, the word has a negative connotation. Rather, in the Chinese language, "modernization" is often being translated as "xiandaihua (現代化)."



Amane Nishi's Old House

Although the Japanese and Chinese terms share the same Chinese characters, their concepts are different. A gap is produced between the researchers as well as the common people of the two countries in their understanding of the concept of "modernization," each being influenced by the translated terminology in their own language. This shows to a certain extent the limit of the Eurocentric and American-centric historical view of the world.

◆ **Date** : July 17 (Thu), 17:00-18:00

◆ **Speaker** : ZHANG Houquan (Visiting Fellow, IASA)

Comment by SONODA Shigeto (Professor, The University of Tokyo)

◆ **Venue** : Lobby, Ground floor, Tobunken

◆ **Fee** : Free

\* The presentation will be in Japanese.

### Tobunken/ASNET Seminar

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