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AI 支配で人間社会はどうか 「誤り得ることの価値」を問い直す

河野 龍太郎

トランプ政権に翻弄される日々が続いています。前回もお伝えした通り、私自身は、もはやポスト・トランプにおいても、米国が自由貿易に回帰する可能性は高くはなく、「グローバル公共財」としての世界経済を安定させるための覇権国の機能も上手く働かないのではと、悲観気味です。特にドルの信認問題に関しては、ステイブ・ミランのハドソン講演などについて、もう一步深掘りする必要があると思います。

今回は、少し頭を冷やして、100 年単位の超長期の思考でもって、AI に統治を委ねた後の人間社会の行方について考えてみましょう。ユヴァル・ノア・ハラリの新著です。眼前のトランプ問題の帰結やドルシステムの行方についても、ヒントが得られるように思います。以下は、2025 年 4 月 26 日-5 月 3 日合併号の週刊東洋経済への寄稿を修正・加筆したものです。

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『NEXUS（ネクサス） 情報の人類史 （上）人間のネットワーク・（下）AI 革命』ユヴァル・ノア・ハラリ著 柴田裕之訳 河出書房新社

『サピエンス全史』で知られる歴史学者の新著は、情報が人類社会をいかに形作ってきたかを再定義する壮大な試みだ。

一種の虚構（物語）である宗教や国家、法制や貨幣は、いずれも情報ネットワークとして機能し、大規模な人々の協力を可能にしてきたと喝破する。そして現在、情報ネットワークの中枢に AI が入り込むことで、わたしたち人類はどこに向かうのか。

AI は、単なる計算や記憶のためだけの装置ではない。言語を操り、物語を生み、意思決定を補助し、今やそれらを代行する行為主体でもある。「物語」と共に人類社会を動かしてきたのは「官僚制」だが、AI はその両方を一気に引き受ける。「物語性」と「合理性」という人間社会の 2 大原理を、かつてない規模と速度で AI が担いつつあるのだ。



著者の警鐘は明快だ。AI の言語生成能力は情報伝達だけでなく、人間の感情や判断、行動にも大きく作用する。「爆弾ではなく物語によって社会を破壊する」ことも可能であり、AI が民主社会を内側から掘り崩す恐れがあるという。

ここで重要な概念が、人間は誤り得るという「可謬性」だ。人類の発展は、誤りと修正の連続だった。宗教や全体主義が持つ危うさは、自らを誤りうる主体として設計しない「無謬性」にあり、民主主義はその対極にある。

AI が社会統治の一部を担い始める時、われわれは再び「可謬性」の喪失に直面する。しかも今回はその「質」が桁違いに異なる。AI は間違ふかもしれないが、どこでなぜ間違ったのか、私たちには把握できない。ブラックボックスの中で導き出される「正解」は、人類にとって批判も修正も困難な対象となる。民主社会が持つはずのプロセスの可視性や柔軟性が失われていく。

ハラリは、AI が民主主義を進化させる可能性と、全体主義の回路を再び開く可能性の両方を指摘する。いずれの場合も、AI が「物語」を担うなら、社会の自己理解そのものが大きく揺らぐ。「官僚制」の代替になるのなら、制度の透明性や修正可能性の設計が 21 世紀の最大の課題となるだろう。

これらの問題は、現在の国際政治の混乱にも通底する。世界経済を危機にさらす米トランプ大統領は、既存の統治制度や多国間交渉制度を飛び越え、SNS を用いた民意と敵意の直接的な操作に乗り出しているように見える。国際秩序が揺らぐ中、AI は全体主義的なリーダーシップを補強する装置となりかねない。

興味深いのは、かつてハラリが社会制度を「共同主観的な虚構」として位置付けていた点との関係だ。民主主義でさえ究極的には神話の一形態だとするハラリの言説は、ある種の虚無を孕んでいた。

しかし本書では、「可謬性」を前提とする民主主義に、期待と希望を滲ませる。「人間とは異質な知能（エイリアン・インテリジェンス）」である AI に囲まれた新時代こそ、自己修正可能な仕組みである民主主義に賭けよ、というメッセージを汲み取れる。

デジタル植民地制や米中のデジタル 2 大帝国の下での世界分断など、本書は人類への警鐘に溢れる。ただ、ハラリが希望の光を民主主義に見いだす点には、大きな救いもある。過去から現在、そして来るべき新時代における「誤り得ることの価値」を問い直す、静かだが深い人間的な思想の書だ。



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