

PREFACE

This book is based on my doctoral thesis, submitted to Newcastle University UK in 2006. In publishing this work as a book, I have made revisions in some parts. More than a decade has already passed since my thesis was written. However, I believe that the reality of contemporary multicultural societies, their problems and the solutions that I deal with in this book remain significant in current times. I argue that the absence of sympathy as a social sentiment as thoroughly formulated by Adam Smith in the 18th century is a cause of problems in contemporary multicultural society.

A question that confronts all multicultural societies, whether or not they pursue multicultural policies, is how all members can achieve a sense of belonging to a society as a whole. My fundamental claim is as follows: if legal norms and the ascription of rights are really to achieve their purposes, they must receive public support. The need for sympathy, or fellow-feeling, is gaining in importance as an effective mode to connect various cultural groups in a culturally diverse society. In other words, the concept of sympathy can be argued as a relevant perspective in understanding problems and solutions when dealing with recent issues arising from the cultural diversity of societies that are composed of ethnic minorities, immigrants or refugees, as seen in Europe, North America or Asia.

In order to understand the nature of essential conditions for a stable society, it is meaningful to reexamine the ideas of Adam Smith and other philosophers of the Scottish Enlightenment because their ideas can contribute to develop-

ment of the arguments in this field even today. It is obvious that contemporary culturally diverse situations must not have been considered in the times of Adam Smith and his fellow thinkers. However, the theoretical perspectives of past masters still provide significant assistance for us to understand the core of the multicultural problem because of their profound insights into human nature.

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During my student life, I was blessed with opportunities to study as an international student in several countries in Europe, which led me to both experience and seriously consider the issues liable to need resolution in a multicultural society. I owe Universities UK, Canon Foundation and the governments of Denmark and Lithuania a deep debt of gratitude for their generous support during my research. My family supported my research both practically and spiritually, and therefore, I would like to extend my thanks to them as well. In regard to this opportunity for publication, I owe gratitude to Dr. Tommaso Codignola and other staff of Edizioni di Storia e Letteratura. Professor Jane Terashima spared her precious time to review and proofread my manuscript for publication. Therefore, I need to confess here that I am completing this process with her diligent support. Finally, it is evident that whilst

expressing my gratitude to the above, needless to say, I accept all responsibility for the contents of this book.

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