

*Bunmei — Bunka*

文明-文化

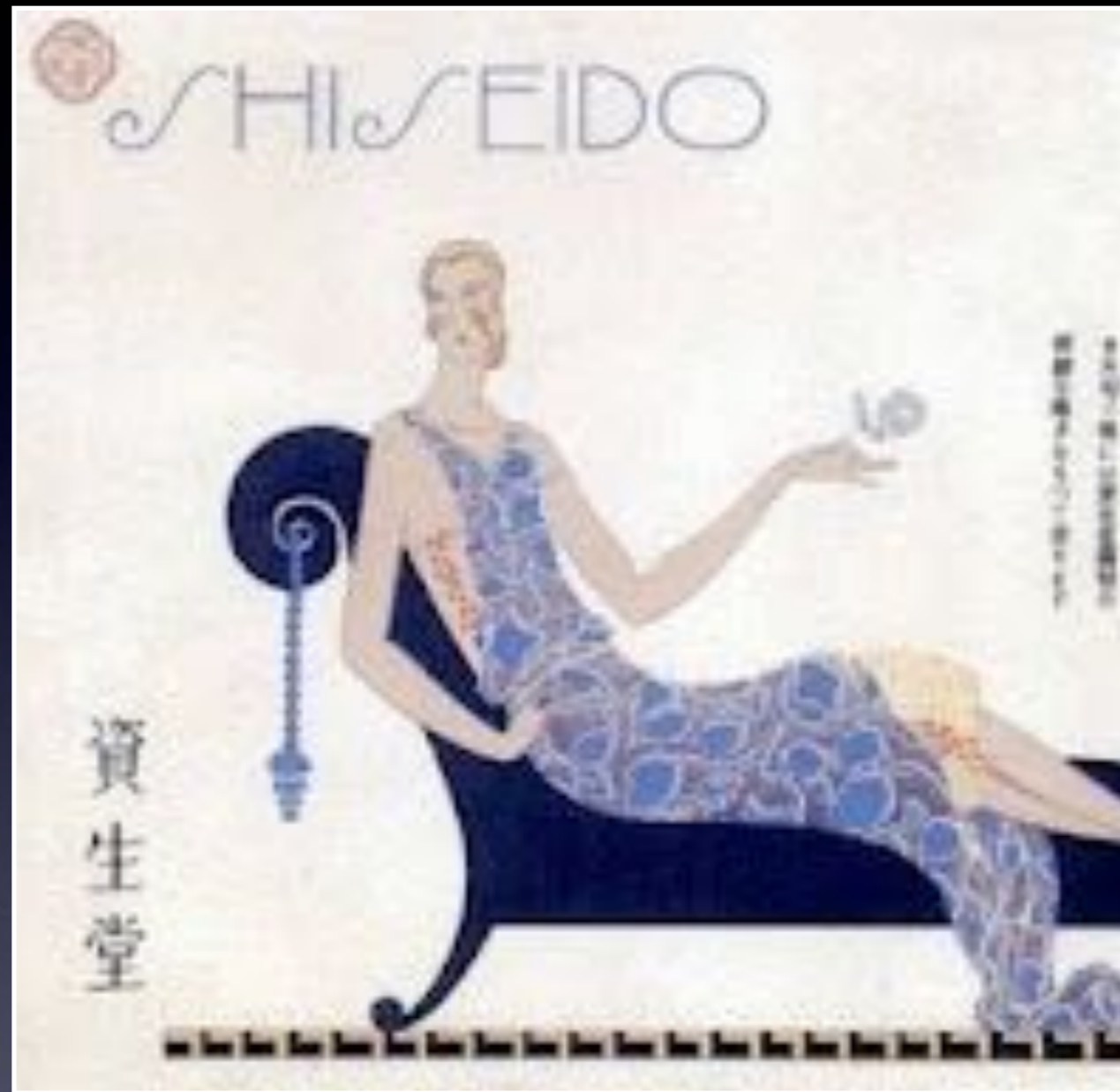
# Taisho Culture

- Cosmopolitanism
- Consumerism
- *ero-guro-nansensu*
- Particularism

# Taisho Consumer Society

- New, fluid relationships
- Space of the city, Tokyo
- Cosmopolitanism
- Fashion
- Shopping





*“Taisho Chic”*



*Mobo-Moga*



*Marubo-Enga*

# Marubo-Enga

- Out of *shakai-mondai*
- Japan Socialist Party  
1906-banned same day
- Russian Revolution 1917
- Rice Riots 1918
- Japan Communist Party  
1922



# Taisho Cosmopolitanism

- The “I”-novel (私小説)
- language of the psyche (言文一致)
- Universal, World Civilization
- Self-consciousness (内面性)





Kaneko Fumiko

Q: Why did you embrace nihilism?

A: Because of the circumstances of my family and the ensuing social oppressions.

Q: How did you come to associate with socialists and eventually arrive at nihilism?

A: Three intellectual groups influenced me while I was peddling newspapers...One was a Buddhist salvation group, the second was the Christian Salvation Army group who beat their tambourines, and the third, the long-haired socialists who cried out in desperate voices....I first approached the Salvation Army group

Q: What is your opinion concerning the Japanese state and social system?

A: I divide the Japanese state-social system into three levels....I regard the first class, the royal clan, as pitiful victims who live like prison inmates whose comings and goings are strictly regulated, just as they are for the imperial regent. I think they are pitiful puppets and wooden dolls who are being manipulated by the second class [government ministers and political power holders]. The third class, the masses, as I mentioned earlier, are ignorant beyond all salvation.

# Kaneko Fumiko

## Interrogation

“Even before I met [co-conspirator and Korean Nationalist] Pak Yeol I believed that the emperor was a useless entity. We joined hands as comrades to overthrow the emperor system. By nature human beings should be equal. And yet human beings who are equal by nature have been made unequal because of the presence of an entity called the emperor....We have in our midst someone who is supposed to be a living god....Yet his children are crying because of hunger, suffocating to death in the coal mines, and being crushed to death by factory machines. Why is this so? Because, in truth, the emperor is a mere human being. We [Pak and I] wanted to show the people that the emperor is an ordinary being just like us. So we thought of throwing a bomb at him to show that he too will die like any other human being.”