

京大過去問 2022年 第1問

次の文章を読み、下の設問(1)~(3)に答えなさい。(50点)

That man should have dominion “over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth,” is a prophecy that has hardened into fact. Choose just about any metric you want and it tells the same story. People have, by now, directly transformed more than half the ice-free land on earth — some twenty-seven million square miles — and indirectly half of what remains. We have dammed or diverted most of the world’s major rivers. Our fertilizer plants and legume crops fix more nitrogen than all terrestrial ecosystems combined, and our planes, cars, and power stations emit about a hundred times more carbon dioxide than volcanoes do. In terms of sheer biomass, the numbers are stark-staring: today people outweigh wild mammals by ratio of more than eight to one. Add in the weight of our domesticated animals — mostly cows and pigs — and that ratio climbs to twenty-two to one. “In fact,” as a recent paper in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences observed, “humans and livestock outweigh all vertebrates combined, with the exception of fish.” We have become the major driver of extinction and also, probably, of creation of species. So pervasive is man’s impact, it is said that we live in a new geological epoch — (a)the Anthropocene. In the age of man, there is nowhere to go, and this includes the deepest trenches of the oceans and the middle of the Antarctic ice sheet, that does not already bear our Friday-like* footprints.

An obvious lesson to draw from this turn of events is: be careful what you wish for. Atmospheric warming, ocean warming, ocean acidification, sea-level rise, deglaciation, desertification, eutrophication — these are just some of the by-products of our species’s success. (b)Such is the pace of what is blandly labeled “global change” that there are only a handful of comparable examples in earth’s history, the most recent being the asteroid impact that ended the reign of the dinosaurs, sixty-six million years ago. Humans are producing no-analog climates, no-analog ecosystems, a whole no-analog future. At this point it might be prudent to scale back our commitments and reduce our impacts. But there are so many of us — as of this writing nearly eight billion — and we are stepped in so far, return seems impracticable.

And so we face a no-analog predicament. (c)If there is to be an answer to the problem of control, it’s going to be more control. Only now what’s got to be managed is not a nature that exists — or is imagined to exist — apart from the human. Instead, the new effort begins with a

planet remade and spirals back on itself — not so much the control of nature as the control of the control of nature.

*Friday-like: Friday is the name of a character in Daniel Defoe's novel Robinson Crusoe (1719)

- (1) 下線部(a)the Anthropoceneについて、本文に即して日本語で説明しなさい。ただし、本文中に列挙された具体的な特徴から4つを選んで解答に含めること。
- (2) 下線部(b)を和訳しなさい。
- (3) 下線部(c)を和訳しなさい。