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ジョン・リルバーンの迫害体験と宗教思想: ピューリタン革命前夜の「多頭のヒュドラ」

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The Persecution Experiences and Religious Thoughts of John Lilburne: A Many Headed Hydra on the Eve of the Puritan Revolution

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This paper aims to consider the persecution experiences and religious thoughts of John Lilburne (1615?-57), to examine the role of a many headed Hydra on the eve of the Puritan Revolution. *The Many Headed Hydra* (2000) is the title of a book of Peter Linebaugh and Marcus Rediker. They say "From the beginning of English colonial expansion in the early seventeenth century through the metropolitan industrialization of the early nineteenth, rulers referred on the Hercules-hydra myth to describe the difficulty of imposing order on increasingly global systems of labor. They variously designated dispossessed commoners, transported felons, indentured servants, religious radicals, pirates, urban laborers, soldiers, sailors, and African slaves as the numerous, ever-changing heads of the monster." (pp. 3-4)

This paper sees John Lilburne as a many headed Hydra on the eve of the Puritan Revolution. He was Leveller leader and author of eighty pamphlets. Born at Sunderland, the second son of Durham gentleman Richard Lilburne in 1615, he was apprenticed in 1630 to a London cloth dealer. An avid reader of Scripture, theology, history, and law, Lilburne embraced Puritanism, opposed Archbishop William Laud's Arminianism, and became acquainted with John Bastwick, Henry Burton and William Prynne. Arrested in 1637 for smuggling a Bastwick pamphlet into England, he refused the ex officio oath in Star Chamber and was flogged, pilloried and imprisoned in the Fleet. In 1638 he began writing pamphlets and by 1639 advocated separation from the Anglican church. This paper uses and analyzes his pamphlet *A Worke of the Beast* (1638) in order to know the persecution experiences and religious thoughts of John Lilburne on the eve of the Puritan Revolution.