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How to Describe the History of Geoscience: MIYASHIRO Akiho's Essays in the 1960s

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The distinguished Japanese geologist MIYASHIRO Akiho (1920-2008) wrote a series of essays on the history and philosophy of earth sciences in 1965-1966 (SHIZEN [Nature], Vol. 20, No. 9 - Vol. 21, No.11), which was posthumously published in 2009. In these critical reviews, Miyashiro expressed his insightful opinions about the characteristics of the science and the usage of the history. I would summarize and reorganize them from the point of historiographical ideas as follows:

- (1) physical aspect of geoscience
 - disciplinary history of geophysics
 - 'intrusion history' of physics into geology and geochemistry
- (2) historical aspect of geoscience
 - German school of historicism
 - Lyellian uniformitarianism
 - Marxism background and 'historicist movement'
- (3) geographical aspect of geoscience
 - geographical character of geoscientific objects
 - criticism to 'provincialism' or regionalism of geoscientific researches
 - geopolitical dimension of the history of science in developing countries.

We should especially pay attention to the third aspect, which have been underestimated or neglected, and to its role for historiography of geoscience.

We also acknowledge Miyashiro's recognition of the necessity of learning from scientific classics and reviewing scientific conceptions, which would imply humanistic literacy in science education.

Keywords: science study, contemporary history, physical science, historical science, geographical science, Miyashiro Akiho