The Growth of Many Shugoshos (守護所) in the Kinai (畿内) and its environs

IMATANI Akira

It has been mentioned that only one Shugoshō (守護所), the office of a military governor, was built in one province in middle ages. But when we reconstruct an administrative system ruled by Shugo daimyo, we find that several Shugodais (守護代), local governors of Shugo, were laid in one province occasionally.

In addition, we find there many kinds of executive officials as Koshugodai (小守護代): messenger sent by a Shugodai, Gunbugyō (郡奉行)) and Gundai (郡代): a district governor, and Gunshi (郡使): a messenger sent by a Gundai.

They had some of military strength as subordinate officers of Shugo to confront against the resistance of Kokujin (国人): local land proprietors or Dogō (土豪): powerful clans, and settled their abodes in a strong fortress built for governing body.

This fortress that resembles Gunga (郡衙): office of a district in Nara Period, was located at crucial center for communication and traffic, and played important role for establishing and promoting the system of governing the provinces by military governor. Since the subordinate officers of Shugo collected land tax and demanded military service from people, a great deal of rice, money and labor power were gathered and accumulated from various places to the office of district.

As the result, consumer economy, development of cities and towns, and gravitation of population were pushed forward.

On the other hand many factories for producing weapons and daily commodities were established in these offices of district and its surrounding towns, which urged shugodaiyō to monopolize the production of weapons and machines.

In this article I attempted to identify positively and philologically the places of the district-offices located in the Kinai area, and tried to make clear the real situation of local-political cities in our middle ages.