Tochigyo and Shiki in the Togoku Shoen

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Ota-sho, the old Konoe-ke-ryo shoen in Kamiminochi-gun in the province of Shinano, that had lasted continuously from the Heian period to the Warring States period, had Kanazawa Shomyoji, which held the post of jito, and Shimazu as rivals for the control for independent development and shoryo management. With the Kammu government’s decision that Shomyoji should forfeit its role as jito, there arose an estrangement over shiki control between the Shimazu Hon-souke, which took over the jito rights, and Shinano-Shimazu, who held control locally. From the viewpoint of the Shimazu Hon-souke, the tochigyo by Shinano Shimazu was a situation akin to a forced takeover. As the rebellion of the Nambokucho period progressed, major changes in the shoen control structure became unavoidable, and while the security of the status of residents in the shoen came under pressure, this also represented an opportunity for finding a way to control territory that did not depend on shiki. At the same time as the tochigyo by the buke played out as a short-term occurrence, control by jika dispatching a daikanzo, was also stepping outside the scope of the nation-wide shiki system that was the legal basis for chigyo. However, at Ota-sho, the jito-shiki control by Shomyoji, which was maintained by a wide-ranging federation of temples, eventually ended, eroded away by the tochigyo of Shinano-Shimazu.

Among the discussion concerning the jito-shiki in the Nambokucho period, Shinano-Shimazu had formed a federation with kokujin ryoshu having their infrastructure in Kita-Shinano, also taking over the sphere of influence of Takanashi, and worked to secure the tochigyo rights and benefits. The system of tochigyo of the kokujin ryoshu stratum that accompanied the end of the Nambokucho rebellion was strengthened as there was an acceleration of the formation of kokujin-level federations like that of Shinano-Shimazu. Another aspect of this situation was that in the process of establishing the bakufu-shugo-kokujin system, the kokujin ikki daito battle against Shinano Ogawara that occurred in Oei 6 (1399) became a touchstone for the territory decision rights of the bakufu and shugo.

This paper examines “buke no tochigyo”, thought to have been the choice of the shoen residents amid the conflict between “buke no tochigyo” and “jike no shihai (control by jike)” within the shoen system in the Nambokucho rebellion period.