Ancient Imperial Capital and Koriyama Site/Tagajo: Introduction to the Theory of Local Government Offices seen from the Ancient Imperial Capital

HAYASHIBE Hitoshi

Koriyama Site, which is located in Sendai City, Miyagi Prefecture, is the site of a local government office that existed from the middle of the Asuka period to the first half of the Nara period. Tagajo, which is located in Tagajo City, Miyagi Prefecture, is the site of a local government office that existed from the Nara period to the Heian period. Both were neighboring the area of Ezo, which did not surrender to the control of Yamato sovereignty or the Ritsuryo State, and were, so to speak, local government offices placed in the forefront of the nation.

This article compares excavated remains to examine how the ancient Imperial capital (royal palace/castle town) related to the formation and the transformation of such local government offices.

The Koriyama Site/Tagajo was transformed from the government office of Koriyama Site Period I after the middle of the 7th century to the government office of Period II from the end of the 7th century to the first half of the 8th century, and then to Tagajo after the first half of the Nara period. The government office of Koriyama Site Period I is a castle barrier, and the government office of Koriyama Site Period II and Tagajo are Matsu Kokufu. This article confirms that the influence of the ancient Imperial capital, especially the Fujiwara Palace, is shown clearly in the building direction, the outline form, and the open land and the moat around the government office in Koriyama Site Period II. It also points out that few aspects are inherited from the government office of Koriyama Site Period II to Tagajo even though they are the same Matsu Kokufu.

The stronger influence of the ancient Imperial capital in the government office of Koriyama Site Period II indicates how the Ritsuryo State placed importance on the control of this region, and the reason why few aspects are inherited from the government office of Koriyama Site Period II to Tagajo is because there was a major change in the regional control of the Ritsuryo State.

This article confirms that it is very effective to redefine local government offices from the viewpoint of the ancient Imperial capital. If other regions are analyzed from a similar viewpoint, the regional control of the Ritsuryo State would be clarified more specifically.

Keywords: Ancient Imperial capital, Koriyama Site, Tagajo, castle barrier, theory of local government office