The Formation Process of the Subject System in the Second Half of the Seventh Century

NITO Atsushi

The subject of this paper is a study of the maintenance processes of subject systems in the second half of the seventh century. This corresponds to the period of transition from the ancient regional administration system to the province-district system established at the start of the eighth century.

The gojikko system that established bemin groups as parent organizations was not necessarily named as such. Rather, the miyake system of the unnamed gojikko system was organized on the premise of human groups such as regional administrators and people from overseas. There is no simple argument to the effect that the unnamed gojikko system was intrinsically regional. Also, the gojikko system had strong characteristics in terms of its taxation units, an understanding of the entire population as under the Ritsuryo system was as yet unnecessary, and the multi-layered administrative properties of the council and gojikko system were weak.

Policy in the Taika Period declared the idea of having a nation comprising the “koshiro” and “shinaide” positions mixed in with the “kakibe” position in relation to free use of the onogatami (kakibe position) by powerful families and their awareness of the present conditions. However, specific policy only covered “nationalization” by presenting civil servants from the koshiro position, and bringing the “kakibe” powerful families under the Emperor's rule was delayed until the establishment of kakibe/yakabe in the Tenji Period, the content of which was limited to a quantitative understanding, going as far as taxes imposed on each type of civil servant and each house (men), enabling transition to a subject system with abolition of the kakibe position from the Tenmu Period without drastic changes to royalty, powerful families and controlled interests.

By means of the kashihinosen reform, the central family “Kashinon genealogy” was established, and the kakibe/yakabe of the Daishi/Shoushi and Tomo no miyatsuko, etc. equating to the kakibe position were compiled by family and dealt with together in the kougonenjaku census. By excluding central/regional composition by family, there was a dual composition of the gojikko system as a taxation unit, and this was an insufficient stage for regional houses.

In the kougonenjaku census, exceptions of the gojikko system for the nationalized former bemin/miyake system people were not only central/regional families, but also covered the Ouji Palace, temples and shrines, etc. that had been imposed with the same kind of obligatory burdens in the construction of a wartime regime after the Battle of Hakusukinoe.

Key words: gojikko system, subject system, kashihinosen reform, kougonenjaku census, kakibe position