View of “任那” in the “Nihon Shoki Chronicles”:
A Public Office, “任那” Immigration, and the Payment of Tributes

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任那(Mimana) described in the Nihon Shoki Chronicles (Chronicles of Japan), and particularly, the following key words were examined: miyake (public office), Japanese government, payment of tributes, and restoration of tributes, all of which appeared at different times. Examination was conducted by giving consideration to the realities of the state structure consisting of many races with pluralistic interactions. (1) The term miyake indicates a relation in which the governor of a province who was allocated responsibility for an area of land and its citizens by the Ruler of Wa would offer tributes, by which their independent rule was permitted as a type of “protectorate.” (2) It was confirmed that as a prior condition of the Mimana Japanese government, independent powers existed, such as the Ki clan (northern Gaya) and the Kibi clan (southern Gaya), who disagreed with the pro-Baekje, and anti-Koguryo and Silla policy adopted by the Great King Yuryaku in and after the Yuryaku period; and in alliance with the local forces in Gaya, these clans were against the aggressive Baekje and supported an anti-Baekje, and pro-Koguryo and Silla policy. (3) The structure of the so-called Mimana Japanese government was diverse and made up of mainly three groups: i) Yamato retainers, who were dispatched envoys and described by the terms kyo (lord) or omi (minister), for example, Ikuha no Omi; ii) “Yamato retainers in Alla” or “stewards” described since the Yuryaku period, for example, Kibi no Omi; and iii) local people in Gingwan or Gaya Provinces, for example, Ake Enashi and Saro Matsu. The reason why these groups were collectively described as the “Mimana (Alla) Japanese government” was as follows: groups that allied themselves with King Alla under a pro-Silla and Koguryo policy, and opposed the invasion of Gaya, were collectively described by historical sources sympathetic to the Baekje side from a contrasting view. (4) “Restoration of Mimana” started after the invasion and fall of Gingwan Province by Silla in 532 and refers to the restoration of a relationship in which tributes were offered by Mimana confirming indirect rule by King Mimana. As a political measure, the Restoration of Mimana did not cover the whole area of Mimana; it was limited to only the Gingwan Province that was unlawfully occupied by Silla, and it was not applied throughout Mimana. It is hard to understand this issue unless it is assumed that Mimana belonged to Baekje. According to the view of the Nihon Shoki Chronicles, it can be considered that originally Mimana belonged to Baekje including Gingwan Province, and tributes from Mimana were supposed to be made only by Baekje; however, since Silla unlawfully occupied the
province, tributes from Silla were demanded but limited to just four prefectures in Gingwan Province.

Key words: Mimana, miyake, payment of tributes, Japanese government, Nihon Shoki Chronicles