Naniwa and Chikushi as Hubs of Diplomacy

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Naniwa was a hub of diplomacy, transport, and trade, serving as a second capital, in the history of ancient capital cities. After the downfall of the Soga clan due to the conflict over foreign policy (toward the Korean Peninsula), the Naniwa-no-Nagara-no-Toyosaki-no-Miya Palace (Early Naniwa-no-Miya Palace) was constructed by reforming Ōgōri and its surrounding buildings. The palace had a large block of innovative Chōdō-in (bureaucratic offices). On the other hand, no evidence has been found that similar facilities were constructed in Asuka or Ōmi during the half century after the relocation of the capital to Naniwa in the period of Emperor Kōtoku, which has been called into question. Such buildings had not been placed in Asuka until Chōdō-in was constructed at the Fujiwara-no-Miya Palace. During this period, no foreign missions came to Asuka. In contrast, foreign envoys came to Asuka after the Daigoku-den Hall and Chōdō-in were completed at the Fujiwara-no-Miya Palace. Taking the above into consideration, the author argues that like Chikushi-no-Ōgōri and Chikushi-no-Ōgōri, the facilities in Naniwa were regarded as an important diplomatic center to welcome diplomats from Tang and Silla.

Based on the analysis of the settlement of Prince Furuhito-no-Ōe’s “rebellion” and the review of Kokushi (Provincial Governor) of Azuma-no-kuni, it is assumed that there was a split over foreign policy in the period of Emperor Kōtoku due to the rise of the Sui Dynasty, and it is demonstrated that the split led to conflict between the pro-Paekche faction (Prince Naka-no-Ōe and Empress Saimei) and the pro-Tang/Silla faction (Emperor Kōtoku and Soga-no Ishikawamaro). Provided that the elements of earlier times were sublimated and integrated into the center of a capital city under the Ritsuryō system, it can be regarded as having completed when Daigoku-den Hall and Chōdō-in were constructed in Fujiwara-kyō as integrated facilities for daily administrative affairs, court rituals, enthronement ceremonies, diplomatic affairs, tributary calls, and the like. The large block of Chōdō-in at the Naniwa-no-Miya Palace was not a place for daily administrative affairs and ceremonies as suggested by the most commonly accepted theory. Rather it was a place developed earlier exclusively for diplomatic ceremonies. Seemingly, since it was used complementarily with other facilities such as Ebinoko enclosure and the West Plaza of Asuka-dera Temple, similar facilities were not built at the Ōtsu-no-Miya Palace or the Kiyomihara-no-Miya Palace. This paper concludes that the Daigoku-den
Hall and Chōdō-in of the Fujiwara-no-Miya Palace played a pivotal role by integrating the functions of multiple separate facilities for banquets and tributary, diplomatic, enthronement, and other ceremonies in the seventh century, such as the West Plaza of Asuka-dera Temple, the Chōdō-in of the Naniwa-no-Miya Palace (consisting of Naniwa-no-Ōgōri, Naniwa-no-Ogōri, and Naniwa-no-Murotsumi), Chikushi-no-Ōgōri, Chikushi-no-Ogōri, and Chikushi-no-Murotsumi.

Key words: early Naniwa-no-Miya Palace, Chōdō-in (bureaucratic offices), relocation of the capital to Naniwa, diplomacy, Tang Dynasty