
Jito-ukesho Policy of the Kamakura Shogunate and the Manor System

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In this paper, I examine the development of the Kamakura Shogunate's policy of Jito-ukesho in relation to the manor system from a diachronic perspective. Jito-ukesho was a form of land control and nengu (land tax) payment system in which a Jito (land steward) appointed by the Kamakura Shogunate undertook payment of a certain amount of nengu and was entrusted with local control by a superior lord.

The Shogunate's policy of Jito-ukesho in the early Kamakura period was developed as part of the regional reconstruction from the Jisho-Juei Civil War (as well as the political strife in the same period) and the reconstruction of the manor system. Here I made it clear that in eastern Japan, where the Kamakura Shogunate had special control, land development (and redevelopment) by Jito was implemented as a Shogunate's policy, and as part of this, many Jito-ukesho were established in these areas. In addition, I argued that urban lords also sensed that Jito-ukesho would lead to the reconstruction of the manor system and made private ukesho contracts (contracts of delegation) with Jito.

The next phase of the Kamakura Shogunate's Jito-ukesho policy developed in the 1230s, when the Kangi Famine affected Japan.

During this period, the Shogunate's policy of restoring regions and nengu system from the great disaster of the Kangi Famine by making Jito and Jito-dai (deputy Jito) responsible for the payment of nengu appeared in the form of development of Jito-ukesho in the direct control territories and the Hojo clan's territories. Furthermore, in the latter half of the 13th century, the Shogunate took a policy of broadly protecting Jito-ukesho by the Shogunate law, which protected the Jito-ukesho controlled by a lord for 20 years (Under the Chigyo Nenkiho, the legal principle for the statute of limitations on land in possession, if a territory had been effectively controlled for 20 years, the control was considered legitimate regardless of the circumstances.) and the Jito-ukesho established "since Kangi era". After clarifying these facts, I argued that the series of policies of the Shogunate aimed to maintain the whole manor system by extending the policy of saving the people and maintaining the nengu system in the direct control territories and the Hojo clan's territories through the establishment of Jito-ukesho to the territories of other urban lords.

After the end of the 13th century, the Kamakura Shogunate backed away from the protection

policy of Jito-ukesho other than Kanto-kunyu-ukesho (a kind of Jito-ukesho which was established as a result of Kamakura Shogunate's request to the superior lords of manors and public lands to establish ukesho), but it did not mean that it backed away from the protection policy of private ukesho without any premise. In the Kanto-goryo (Kamakura Shogunate's private lands), the establishment of Jito-ukesho with the policy of saving the people was continued. The Kamakura Shogunate consistently positioned Jito-ukesho as an intermediary to maintain the manor system.

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