

Urban Laws and Sites of Cities During the Reign of Oda and Toyotomi

KOJIMA Michihiro

The process of how medieval cities developed is presented through both an analysis both of the form of urban laws (*tokkyōjō*) that were enacted during the time of Oda Nobunaga and Toyotomi Hideyoshi, and of the remains of the cities.

First, at Azuchi, there was a dual structure characteristic of wartime, and an attempt was made to separate warriors and merchants. However, there was a harbor originally constructed in medieval times and residential areas of warriors and merchants were not completely separated. These characteristics are reflected in the items of the urban laws. Afterwards, changes took place, such as the transference of *hachiman* and the reformation of the residential area for merchants, resulting in the homogeneity of the area. Furthermore, warriors left the residential area of the merchants and as a result offers of situation disappeared from urban laws. As the functions of the central area of the city developed, the city reached the stage of a medieval *jōkamachi* (castle town).

The same applies to Matsugashima and Matsusaka at Ise. The castle town at Matsugashima was constructed adjacent to a town facing a harbor that was also noted as a post station town (*shukuba machi*). After the town was transferred to Matsusaka, the area was formed into a castle town and the structure of the region was reorganized. Moreover, a specific area was allocated to merchants which discriminated that class from warriors and peasants. In this way, the status of the three classes was fixed.

Next, regional differences are considered. At Date, buildings were placed in a square, and the town was not naturally formed. Meanwhile, at the castle towns in Kinai, towns were developed first of all as a result of the division of labour and afterwards a castle was built. Hachiman and Matsuzaka are similar examples. In other words, the formation of castle towns in these districts was due to the fact that the interests of feudal lords and merchants harmonized at the point of construction, and was not due to the onesided policies of feudal lords.

Later on, the interests of the feudal lords and those of the merchants clashed and urban laws that were intended to be laws pertaining to the construction of cities did not function as a contract between feudal lords. Merchants based defence of their rights on imaginary urban laws (*tokkyōjō*).