

Effects and Role of Relief Measures for Hatamoto Rank Shogun Restraint in the Latter Part of the Early Modern Period

~ An examination of the Financial Administration of the Clan Tsuchiya, a ranking Hatamoto restraint Shogun ~

Introduction

In the early stages of historical research of Edo period, several researchers pointed out that the financial hardships faced by rank Hatamoto (high-ranking) and Gokenin row (junior) for managing the Tokugawa Shogunate are a phenomenon that has been constantly observed since the early Edo Period.

It is commonly known that the Shogunate feared disruptions in its governance system because of the financial failures of the House of Hatamoto-rang and rang Gokenin, which were supposed to be instruments of the Shogunate. As a result, they introduced several measures of financial assistance such as frugality and debt relief at the beginning of the Edo period, in order to provide direct financial assistance for solving this problem.

While considering the relationship between the Finance Hatamoto rank restraint and these guidelines, several doubts arise with regard to the link between relief guidelines and household finances, the effects of directives, and whether the guidelines have achieved their objective of alleviating the financial privations.

In order to analyze this relationship, this study examines how the directives affected the administration of the 1150-koku (1 koku = 150 kgs. of rice) enfeoffment of Hatamoto rang Tsuchiya Clan, which had its administrative headquarters in Ooyaguchi Village, Katsushika County, Shimosa Fief. In addition, it examines the effects of these directives on the finances and activities of Clan Tsuchiya.

The methodology of this study focuses on the financial trends of the Clan Tsuchiya by reading the historical documents maintained by the Ookuma family, which is a famous clan in the Ooyaguchi Village and oversees the administrative headquarters in Ooyaguchi and seven other villages.

This review primarily focuses on the effects of the No-Interest Yearly Installment Payment Directive issued in December 1843, based on an extensive number of acts sent to lenders, both before and after the issuance of this directive.

Doubts concerning why the Shogunate suffered financial hardships can be addressed by reviewing the rationale behind these guidelines and the financial activities of a certain rank Hatamoto retainer clan.