

China

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In this article, study trends and their characteristics from fiscal 2012 are stated on research in Japan or by Japanese citizens on China, mainly from theses, academic societies and symposiums. Frankly speaking, one main study trend was the diversity of studied periods and studied regions. Study used to concentrate on before the Qin/Han dynasties or on the Central Plain region. For example, the origin and formation of Chinese civilization was the major theme in Chinese archaeology. However, in recent years, a movement to understand the history of nomads in western regions of China, grasslands, and Northeast Asia is conspicuous. In these regions, there are many studies on analyzing bronze tools, and it may represent that northern bronze culture, i.e. nomads, played quite a large historical role. Joint research with natural scientific fields is quite active especially for bronze tools, and studies are progressing on manufacturing techniques, and production/consumption. Studied periods are also expanding from Yin/Zhou dynasties (northern bronze culture/early nomads) to medieval (Song, Liao and Jurchen). NAKAZAWA Hiromasa, *Study of Medieval Archaeology in the Northeast Asia: Mohe, Bohai and Jurchen* is a good work which systematically discussed archaeology of northern tribe nations in the medieval. Another meaningful work is MIYAMOTO Kazuo and GAO Dalun ed., *Prehistoric Society in Eastern Tibet* that handled another so-called peripheral region, the Sichuan-East Tibet region, and it verified another cultural offset that goes from grassland to the Sichuan region. They both contribute to the construction of Asian history that is not tied to a Central Plain centered historical view.

Also, diversity of studied regions caused a movement to reconsider Central Plain monism. Studies on technology and social formation of early farming, the structure of Tudun tomb from the Qin/Han dynasties, roof tiles of the Central Plain and peripheral regions, and tomb structure and tomb systems of the Southern dynasty in Southern and Northern Dynasties period, clarifies various historical formations in China. It indicates that dynamism of Chinese regions is also varied, leading to an intriguing reconsideration of diffusion theory to Japan and negotiation history with Japan.

On the other hand, excavation research of important sites related to the Central Plain

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dynasties were conducted steadily such as IJIMA Taketugu ed. *Western Zhou Sites in Weihe River Basin, China II*, and Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties Preliminary Report of the Excavation at Baihe Kilns in Gongyi City, Henan Province. This indicates that while Chinese archaeology in Japan is expanding its research region outside the Central Plain, the Central Plain is held fast. Methodological approaches were outstanding. OKAMURA Hidenori introduced methodologies of art history into his Han mirror study, and he even brought out thoughts and lifestyles of mirror artisans in the social situation of the time. He drastically transformed traditional archaeology that depended on stereotypical classification methods.

Thus, the author expects that pluralism of Asia will be grasped rather than diversity of China, by expanding studied regions and periods. However, study on environmental history seems weak, although it is a popular field in Japanese history. TSURUMA Kazuyuki and GE Jianxiong ed. *History and Environment of Civilization in the East Asian Ocean* may become a trigger. Joint research between ichthyology and archaeology by NAKAJIMA Tsuneo and others urges fusion of science and literature. This is a new trial.

In the end, the author would like to point out that Japanese researchers are positively performing at various international conventions in any language. At international academic conferences in China or in western academic conference such as SEAA, Japanese researchers are holding sessions and leading discussions. Increase of such activities are expected in the future.