

GROWTH OF TOKYO AS A "HUKOKU-KYŌHEI" TYPE CITY

Hikomichi Ishizuka*

Comprehensive Urban Studies, No. 6, 1979, pp. 3-10.

In the latter middle of the 19th century, Japan became the only independent country in the Far East by promoting Hukoku-Kyōhei (Rich Country and Strong Army Policy) under pressure of colonization by American and European powers.

A settlement of western residents at Tsukiji in Tokyo in the early Meiji era shows that Tokyo also presented a pattern of a semi-colonized city similar to Shanghai at the end of the Shin Dynasty in China.

Moreover, urban problems in Tokyo thereafter included various kinds of social discrimination which was one of the distinctive features of Asian societies.

Under such circumstances, Tokyo's reconstruction was modeled after those of European cities, thus changing to a Hukoku-Kyōhei type city in the beginning of the 20th century.

* Center for Urban Studies, Tokyo Metropolitan University

CAPITALISM AND URBAN PROBLEMS

A Review of Professor Ishizuka's *Socio-Economic History of Tokyo*

Nozomu Kawamura*

Comprehensive Urban Studies, No. 6, 1979, pp. 11-20.

Professor Ishizuka's recent book is a very stimulative one, and insofar as I know, it is the first attempt in analyzing the transitional period of Tokyo as a whole from feudal to modern times.

It is very important to have a total view from the socio-economic perspective. However, as a socio-economic historian, the author is too much concerned with the economic factors. His analysis is directed mainly on the developmental aspects of Japanese capitalism showing a close interrelationship between capitalism and urban problems in Tokyo. Again I think it is also correct per se.

But, in my opinion, Japanese capitalism has created great problems in rural areas, over the period of its development. As far as village communities have existed in rural areas, Japanese cities have not been able to escape these premodern influences, and could not establish a real modern social relationship and citizenship.

So to treat Japanese urban problems is also to deal with miserable peasant life problems which do not vanish with the rapid development of capitalism. It is my opinion that urban

problems can not really be understood without a deep comprehension of rural problems.

It seems to me that Professor Ishizuka's book, despite his effort, does not succeed sufficiently to deal with rural versus urban problems. I hope the author continues this project, and extends this historical study to the post-war period, since his present description is limited to the big Kanto earthquake which took place in 1923.

* Center for Urban Studies, Tokyo Metropolitan University

Book Review

*A STUDY OF THE TOKYO METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT:
THE POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE OF
THE CITY OF TOKYO UNDER THE UNIVERSAL MANHOOD
SUFFRAGE, by SURUKI AKAGI*

Wataru Omori*

Comprehensive Urban Studies, No. 6, 1979, pp. 21-31.

In spite of the 'Post-War Reforms' Japanese local governments have been under the control of central bureaucracies. The author explores the logic and structure of this stubborn bureaucratic control from a historical perspective. The focus is upon the twisted processes of the politics and administration of the City of Tokyo in the pre-war period.

This voluminous book consists of four chapters. The first one, 'Invalidity of City Planning,' scrutinizes how the city governments under the City Planning Act of 1919 were not conferred the power to make their own plans to resolve the 'urban problem.'

The second chapter, 'The Political and Administrative Structure of the City of Tokyo under the Universal Manhood Suffrage,' treats the factors and dynamics of 'participation of city politics and administration.' The third chapter, 'Evolution of the System of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and the Network of National Cells,' the highlight of the book, traces unsuccessful trial movement for a 'Special City System' promoted by six larger cities including Tokyo.

The last chapter, 'Formation of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government System in 1943,' analyzes why and how the City surrendered the Home Ministry's design of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government System.

This book is the most basic and penetrating study on the politics and administration of the City of Tokyo in the pre-war period that no student of Japanese city politics and government will be able to neglect. The compiled raw materials concerning the 'Chonaykai' and 'Tonarigumi' in the pre-war times are also of great value.

* The University of Tokyo

THE BUILDING LINE SYSTEM AS A METHOD OF CONTROLLING URBAN SPRAWL

Yorifusa Ishida* and Takayuki Ikeda**

Comprehensive Urban Studies, No. 6, 1979, pp.

The most simple definition of a "building line" is the boundary line out of which no part of the building is permitted to protrude.

In Japan the building line system was provided for in the 1919 Urban Building Act (Shigaichi-Kenchikubutsu-Ho). Some functions of the system have been inherited in the Building Standard Act (Kenchiku-Kijun-Ho), but one of the most important function, so-called "positively designated building line" was not adopted and the term "building line" itself was eliminated.

Recently the function of the building line has been recognized again as a method of controlling urban sprawl. But the actual application process in the prewar age and the effectiveness of the building line system have not been inspected enough.

In this paper the author intended to inspect the application process of the system in the 23 Wards of Central Tokyo from 1919 to 1945 and to make clear how the system could or could not control urban sprawl and the construction of private roads.

The main conclusions of this paper as follows:

- 1) About two thirds (in length) of positively designated building line were effective in regulating private roads.
- 2) In many land readjustment areas positively designated building lines were effectively used as a supplementary method.

* Center for Urban Studies, Tokyo Metropolitan University

** Graduate School of Engineering, Tokyo Metropolitan University

SUBJECTIVE URBAN-CONCEPT

Manun Ho*

Comprehensive Urban Studies, No. 6, 1979, pp.

"Urbanology" has been advocated in recent years. At the base of its advocacy seems to lie the conceptional conversion—"from city to citizen." This treatise is aimed principally at clarifying what the necessity of its conversion is, and there how the standpoint of the citizen must be immanently deduced from the urban movement itself.

* Center for Urban Studies, Tokyo Metropolitan University

EXPLORING METHODOLOGY FOR URBAN STUDIES

Masaji Chiba*

Comprehensive Urban Studies, No. 6, 1979, pp. 81-93.

The author discusses the task of methodology for urban studies to be performed by the Center for Urban Studies of Tokyo Metropolitan University, among others, its project team on methodology.

The need for the methodology can be viewed as a general trend among Japanese urban scientists. Urged by exploding cities and expanding urban areas, they have tried in vain to create a reliable methodology for the science of cities and urban areas. They are still faced with the requirement to explore methodology which means a concern with midrange techniques and principles. One pressing issue is to define the objectives of the inquiry, transforming in demographic structure, the quantity and quality of city problems involved, and the significance of its citizens vital to the solution of the problem. Next is to devise methods to reach the objectives by improving established methods or discovering new ones.

The methodological task is shared among three groups at the Center. The project teams concerned with city problems contribute by improving established methods. The project team on methodology, though small, is responsible for exploring possibilities of discovering new methods. The Center is in charge of selecting projects for its researchers from an inventory of basic urban problems.

* Center for Urban Studies, Tokyo Metropolitan University