

1. The Process of Establishing Siwa-district
■ Emishi, Josaku (fortified government office) and Siwa-district as known through old written records

• **General SAKANOUÉ-no-Tamuramaro and Shiwajo-fortress**
 The term "Emishi" is a political notion that began to be used around the 7th century. Emishi refers to the people of the Northeast (Tohoku region) who were not under the rule of an ancient state. In the process of national unification, the regime led by the emperor in the around Kyoto region regarded the Tohoku region as a land inhabited by politically different peoples. The regime regarded the Tohoku region as a frontier to which the emperor's virtue (state rule) should be extended.

In the latter half of the 8th century (770-780), two uprisings occurred: One in 774 by "Kaido Emishi" (Emishi at the northern coastal region of Miyagi Prefecture) against *Mutsu* Province (East of the Northeast region of ancient Japan's administrative divisions) , and the other in 776 by Emishi of the Shiwa village (in the area from southern Morioka City to Shiwa Town, today) against *Dewa* Province (West of the Northeast region of ancient Japan's administrative divisions) occurred. This triggered a war between the state and Emishi groups from various regions. These wars are called the "38 Years War". Barbarian Subduing General SAKANOUÉ-no-Tamuramaro in the third round of conquest by the Kanmu dynasty in the 20th year of Enryaku (801) conquered the entire *Kitakami* basin north of Isawa with a 40,000-strong conquering force.

Isawajo-fortress (built in 802) and Shiwajo-fortress (built in 803) were facilities called "Josaku" that were erected to deal with the aftermath of this prolonged battle. Josaku was a core "administrative + military" facility for implementing the "Ritsuryo" (law and order) system in the unstable region inhabited by Emishi. After the first conquest of the Kanmu dynasty (a defeat of the conquerors at the Battle at *Subuse* in 789), it is recorded that the Emishi of Shiwa village expressed their intention to submit to the state. This is in contrast to the Emishi of Isawa village, where later became the main battlefield. Many recent excavations suggest that the Emishi of Shiwa village accepted the construction of Josaku while preserving their own power.

• **The "Shiwajo-fortress Chinju-fu (Military government)" and the establishment of Siwa-district**

In the 24th year of the Enryaku (805), Emperor Kanmu had FUJIWARA-no-Otsugu and SUGANO-no-Mamichi, who held important government posts, discuss good policies. As a result, Emperor Kanmu adopted FUJIWARA-no-Otsugu's opinion that the "military and capital establishing (barbarian conquest and establishment of the capital HEIANKYO)" should be discontinued. This political dispute was a major change in the management of the state. *Mutsu* province was now to govern Emishi without the support of men and goods from the *Kanto* region and other parts of Japan.

In the first year of Daido (806), a system of local soldiers assigned to the *Chinju-Fu* office pacifying Emishi quarters was established. As a result, all Josaku soldiers under the jurisdiction of the *Chinju-Fu* office became *Mutsu* domestic conscripts. In 808, the *Chinju-Fu* office became an independent administrative structure, with officials appointed separately from the *Mutsu* provincial governor "Kokushi". Its area of control is considered to be the land under the jurisdiction of Isawajo-fortress and Shiwajo-fortress. Traditionally, the *Chinju-Fu* office located in Tagajo-fortress (Josaku where the *Mutsu* Provincial Government was located. Located in Tagajo City, Miyagi Pref.) was thought to have been moved to Isawajo-fortress. However, it has been pointed out that the *Chinju-Fu* office may have been moved to Shiwajo-fortress, which was built as a "Kokufu" (national government) class (although the resulting move was short-lived). This is for the following reasons. (1) Earthenware with the word "Fu" (indicating "Fu" in *Chinju-Fu* office) inked on it has been excavated from the site of Shiwajo. (2) Shiwajo-fortress is one of the largest among the more than 20 Josaku that were built. (3) Shiwajo-fortress has a unique structure not found in other Josaku. (4) In order to make it even more solemn, the largest outer southern gate, a mud wall, and a large ditch were installed, and the "Seicho" (a place to conduct government affairs and ceremonies) and "Kanga" (a place to conduct policies) were renovated.

The "Shiwajo-fortress *Chinju-Fu* office" was responsible for the development of the administrative infrastructure of the entire *Kitakami* basin. A government road leading to Shiwajo-fortress was built, and in Enryaku 23 (804), an "Umaya" (a facility equipped with an inn and horses for transit) was established between Shiwajo-fortress and Isawa-district.

In 811 (the 2nd year of Kounin), three new administrative districts were established, *Waga* district, *Hienuki* district, and *Siwa* district.

As a result, each districts had its own "*Fusyu*-army" (a preserved Emishi military force, organized by local Emishi leaders who



Imaginary drawing of Emishi bringing a tribute to Shiwajo (Illustration by HAYAKAWA Kazuko)



Measured map of earthenware excavated from the trace of SI441 pit dwelling at the Shiwajo
 Sueki ware lid with a letter "Fu(府)" written in ink (Sueki ware is a type of earthenware fired at high temperatures in a kiln)



3DCG of the reconstruction of the main hall of the Seicho (the area of Politics and Ceremony) at the site of Shiwajo

belonged to the state.) as an army on the side of the state.

To stabilize the more northerly Emishi groups and relieve them of the burdens of the government and military system, "Azechi" (non-designated secretary who supervises local administration) FUNYA-no-Watamaro planned the suppression of *Nisattai* and *Hei* region (Northern and Eastern Iwate). This included plans to mobilize *Fushyu* armies.

In October of the 2nd year of Konin (811), FUNYA-no-Watamaro, who had been appointed barbarian general, led soldiers from *Mutsu* and *Dewa* to successfully conquer the two villages of *Nisattai* and *Hei*. The newly organized *Fushyu* armies also achieved success. In December of the same year, FUNYA-no-Watamaro declared the end of the "38 Years War". He abolished *Shiwajo*-fortress, which had been the *Chinju-Fu* office, relocated the function of *Josaku* to *Tokutanjo*-fortress, relocated the *Chinju-Fu* office to *Isawajo*-fortress. He also reduced the size of the government system (abolished the position of *vice-Chinju-Fu shogun*), and reduced the number of corps soldiers and *Chinju-Fu* soldiers. In the 6th year of the Konin (815), a new system of soldiers was established. This was to make *Fushyu* armies permanent. Thereafter, the armed forces of the Emishi were actively promoted by the state.

2. Heian Period Settlements in Northern Shiwa-district

■ Heian period settlement at the Ooshima site

• Outline of the Site

The ancient area of Shiwa-district as seen in the ancient records can be thought of as follows. The northern border is the Shizukuishi River, and the southern part extends from the southern half of present-day Morioka City to the towns of Yahaba and Shiwa. *Shiwajo*-fortress" was built as a "Josaku" in the 22nd year of Enryaku (803) in the Ota district of present-day Morioka City, at the northern end of the ancient Shiwa-district.

The Ooshima site is in the Haba district in Morioka, approximately 4 km to the southeast of *Shiwajo*. The Morioka-Minami Interchange on the Tohoku Expressway is adjacent to the northwest of the Ooshima site, and a new baseball field, Iwate Morioka Ball Park, is located to the southeast.

The Ooshima Site is located on a slight elevation in the flood plain when the Shizukuishi River, a tributary of the Kitakami River, flows most southerly. The elevation of the Ooshima Site is around 119m. Morioka City Board of Education conducted an excavation survey from 1997 to 1999 in conjunction with "the Morioka City Central Wholesale Market development project". The total area surveyed was 27,300 km^2 . 127 traces of ancient pit dwellings, 16 traces of embeded pillar buildings, and 10 traces of field ridges were found. But in the winter of 1999, a fire destroyed the Morioka City Board of Education's facility for organizing excavated materials from archaeological sites. The fire destroyed some of the drawings, photographs, and excavated materials of the valuable research



Aerial view around the Ooshima site (Source: GSI website, processed and added)

records of the Ooshima site. The investigators of the site overcame the hardship of restoring the materials damaged by the fire and published a report on the excavation in 2021, more than 20 years after the excavation was completed.

The Heian period settlements at the Ooshima site were concentrated on a slight elevation sandwiched between swamp-like lowlands extending from north to south. From the appearance of the clustering of pit dwelling sites, it can be inferred that the site was divided into five small hamlets.

• Heian period sites and artifacts

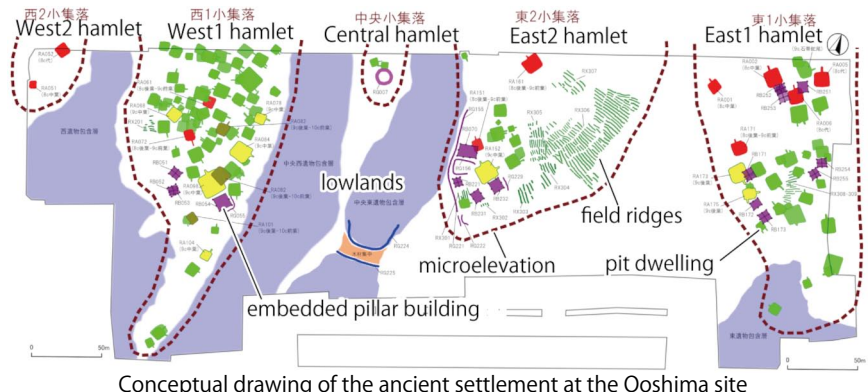
[Traces of pit dwellings]

Excavations at the Ooshima site revealed 107 pit dwelling traces dating from the 9th century to the early 10th century. The distribution of these dwellings was as follows: 28 dwellings in the East 1 hamlet, 12 dwellings in the East 2 hamlet, 2 dwellings in the Central hamlet, and 65 dwellings in the West 1 hamlet. Many of the pit dwelling traces were found to have been reconstructed, the *Kamado* (kitchen stove) renovated, or the plan scale enlarged. Regarding the size of the pit dwelling traces, the majority (68%) were medium-sized dwellings, 15% were large or extra-large dwellings, and 17% were small dwellings. The direction of the flue of the *Kamado* was most often eastward. The majority of the traces, 78, were found to have *Kamado* facing northeast to southeast.

The RA152 Pit dwelling trace found in the East 2 hamlet is a large one. It had been remodeled four times, including expansion of the floor area and renovation of the *Kamado*. Based on excavated pottery, this dwelling is thought to date to the mid-9th century. The main pillar hole was found to have been constructed using a wooden hoe as a foundation board for the pillars, and the material was confirmed to be rectangular in cross section (called "*Gohira-bashira*" Pillar.).

The RA098 pit dwelling trace found in the West 1 hamlet dates to the mid-9th century. It was 7.9m x 8.1m in plan. It is the largest one found at the Ooshima site. Some of the timbers erected against the wall remained.

Earthenware *Hagama* (flanged broad-brimmed cooking pot) were excavated from the RA078 pit dwelling trace and the RA084 pit dwelling traces. The *Hagama* has a brim to hang it over the *Kamado*, and the *Hagama* of this period was characteristic of the *Kanto* region. From the floor of the RA004 pit dwelling trace (9th century) in East 1 hamlet, a stone ornament for a decorative leather belt worn by state officials according to their rank called "*Dabi*" was excavated. (The *Dabi* was destroyed in a fire accident.) Three "*Marutomo*", stone ornament for a belt, were also excavated from the surface of the East 2 hamlet and the topsoil of the West 1 and 2 hamlet. All of these are valuable materials with limited examples excavated in Iwate Prefecture.



[Embedded-pillar building traces]

16 ancient embedded pillar building traces were found. They were distributed as follows: 8 in East 1 hamlet, 4 in East 2 hamlet, and 4 in West 1 hamlet.

9 of these buildings are warehouses on stilts.

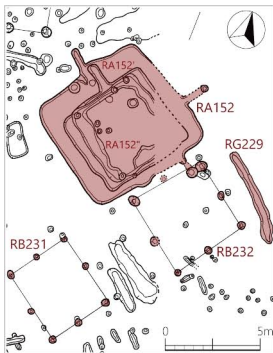
The RB070 embedded pillar building trace in the East 2 hamlet is an east-west side pillar building. The pillars are all 2.1 m equidistant from each other. Many large jars, pots, and long-necked bottles of Sueki-ware were found discarded in the holes where the pillars had been removed. On the bottom of the pillar excavation, a piece of wood that had been used as a foundation board remained.

[field ridges]

The traces of field ridges were made up of a group of small parallel ditches. These traces were found in two locations in East 1 hamlet (RX308 and 309), seven locations in East 2 hamlet (RX301-307), and one location in West 1 hamlet (RX201). In particular, RX306, which occupies most of the eastern half of East 2 hamlet, is a large 37.5 x 27.0 m. there wear more than 30 small ditches, four or five of which were connected in a group. The presence of grayish-white "Towada-A volcanic pumice" (915 fall) in the upper layer of soil buried in the ditch traces suggests that these were fields dating from the late 9th to early 10th centuries. Upland rice and cereals were cultivated adjacent to the settlement.

• Changes in Ancient Emish's Society and the Ooshima Site

The Ooshima site was a regional base settlement from the mid-9th century to the early 10th century. Located between Shiwajo-fortress and Tokutanjo-fortress, the Ooshima site was probably an important point connecting the northern and southern parts of ancient Shiwa-district. From the 7th and 8th centuries, including the southern area of Morioka City (discussed below), Emishi leaders in ancient Shiwa-district maintained their own settlements even after the establishment of Josaku, a state office, in the early 9th century. They were converted to local Emishi influential figures under the rule of the state and became the governing power. The officials of Isawajo-fortress, the Chinju-Fu office after the mid-9th century, when Tokutanjo was abolished, continued the system of indirect rule over a wide area through Emishi leaders in various regions. The stone ornaments and green-glazed pottery excavated at the Ooshima site are probably symbolic items given by Chinju-Fu office. A leader subjugated to the state who was given the surname "Mononobe-no-Shiwa-no-muraji" in 835 is thought to have been one of these local Emishi leaders. However, during the Jowa to Jogan (834-877) period in the mid-9th century, famine, epidemics, abnormal weather, and major earthquakes were recorded throughout the country, causing flight of common people and riots in the northern part of Mutsu Province. In Dewa Province, a large-scale rebellion by the Emishi people occurred in the 2nd year of Gangyo (878) ("Gangyo Rebellion"). Under these circumstances, the society of the Emishi people was transformed by the influence of Buddhism and other cultures introduced from the national sphere, and the Emishi leaders and "Fusyu Army" in collusion with the Chinju-Fu office became a major force in the region.



RA152 pit dwelling trace (the mid-9th century) (Large sized dwelling)



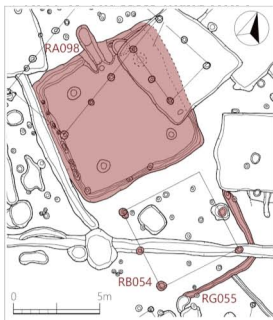
Gohira-bashira Pillar (Excavated from RA152)



Wooden hoe (Excavated from RA152)



Timbers erected against the wall (Excavated from RA098)



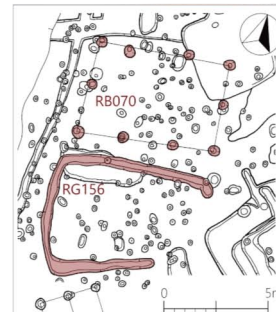
RA098 pit dwelling trace (the mid-9th century) (Extra large sized dwelling)



Earthenware "Hagama" (Excavated from RA084)



Earthenware excavated from RA173 pit dwelling trace (the Late 9th century)



RB070 embedded pillar building (the mid-9th century)



Large jar of sueki ware (the mid-9th century) (Excavated from RB070)



"Marutomo"



"Dabi" (destroyed in a fire accident)

Stone ornaments on ornamental leather belts worn by state officials according to rank.

Stone ornaments for a belt

■ Ancient settlement sites around Motomiya and Mukonakano in Morioka City (The Seinan-area)

• Local Emishi settlements [9th-11th centuries]

These are settlements of local Emishi groups dating back to the late 8th century, when "Shiwa-village" first appeared in ancient records. These settlements consisted of pit dwellings. In some settlements, embedded pillar buildings also existed from the mid-9th century onward. The Motomiya-kumado-B site, Nokko-A and Iioka-Sawada site, Hosoyachi and Mukonakanodate(South) site, Daitaro site, Futamata site, etc. The Iioka-Saikawa and Mukonakanodate(North) and Ooshima site grew into a regional hub settlement after the mid-9th century.

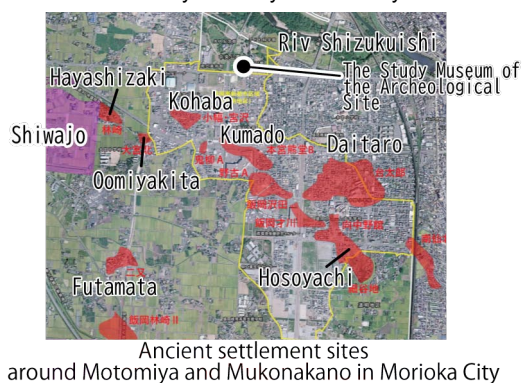
• Settlements systematically planned by the state [early 9th century]

Settlements thought to have been planned by the state following the construction of Shiwajo-fortress at the beginning of the 9th century. The number of them were limited. Embedded pillar buildings, which was not present in the 8th century, existed. Sueki-ware bowls made by separating the bottom part from the potter's wheel with a spatula, many iron arrowheads used as weapons, were also excavated at Kohaba, Miyazawa, Iioka-Hayashizaki-II site, etc. After the mid-9th century, the location of the settlement changed within the site and it was converted into a settlement of local Emishi.

• Particular settlement of the local Emishi lineage [10th-11th centuries].

These settlements were a stronghold of the newly emerged local Emishi leaders beginning in the 10th century. There were large embedded pillar buildings. Religious artifacts (such as lantern dishes, multi-spouted jars, and earthenware bowls with writing in ink) have also been excavated at Hayashizaki Site, Oomiya-kita Site, etc.

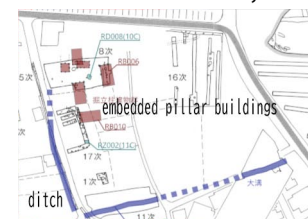
At the Hayashizaki site, a large embedded pillar buildings were constructed in the early to mid-10th century, and religious (Buddhist) ceremonies were held. This settlement is thought to have been a new base set by local Emishi leader to increase their authority. The Oomiya-kita site, with its group of embedded pillar buildings and a large ditch that divides the settlement, is thought to have been a political center of the local Emishi leader who expanded their power to that of the Chinju-Fu office government official class by the early 11th century.



Ancient settlement sites around Motomiya and Mukonakano in Morioka City



Hayashizaki Site (Early to mid-10th century)



Oomiya-kita Site (Mid-10th to early 11th century)

3. To the Age of the Abe Clan

■ The End of Josaku and the Okuroku Districts

• The End of Josaku

There is no written record of the demise of Isawajo-fortress, which was a Chinju-Fu office that ruled over a wide area in the entire Kitakami basin. However, excavations of the site of Isawa Castle have not unearthed any earthenware dating from the mid-10th century or later. This is the same situation as other Josaku of the same period. This suggests that by the mid-10th century, Josaku had lost their reason for ruling Emishi, leaving only a pragmatic role for them.

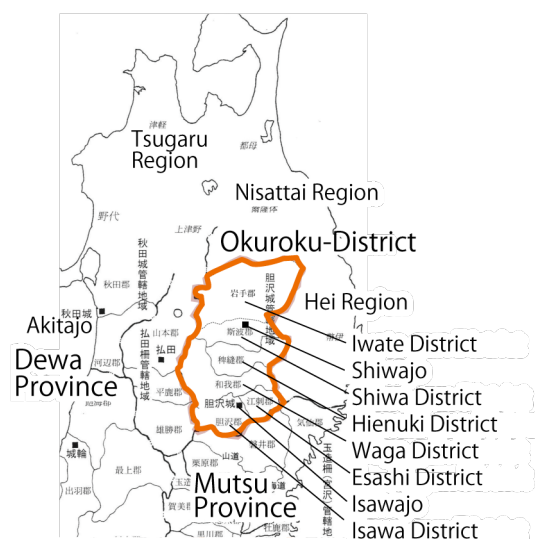
Nationwide, the decline or cessation of the Kokufu (provincial capital) can be seen around the mid-10th century. The national governing system was disintegrating, as the Kokushi (provincial governor under the Ritsuryo (laws and ordinances) system) were transferred powerful authority and acquired enormous wealth in the area they were assigned to. Furthermore, in Mutsu and Dewa (Tohoku region), there were changes in the military system. It seems to have changed to the private armies of the provincial governors and government officials in charge (Fusyu-Army) became the main force, and the regular army was reduced or suspended, thus eliminating the need to continue the institution of Josaku.

• Okuroku District and the Abe clan

The area under the jurisdiction of Chinju-Fu office was called "Okuroku-gun" (this means "the Six distant districts". Isawa, Esashi, Waga, Hienuki, Shiwa, and Iwate) in the late 10th century. Later, ABE Yoriyoshi (Yoritoki), who fought in the Former Nine Years' War (Zenkunen-Kassen), became a representative official of Chinju-Fu office, and resided in the "Tonomino-saku" as the successor to his father, who was anointed governor of Mutsu. He established regional centers of governance and monopolized trade with the more northerly Emishi by placing his family members and chief vassals in various parts of the area he ruled. Eventually, the Abe clan came into conflict with the Minamoto clan forces in the Kanto region. Society in the Tohoku region underwent a major transition from the "Age of Josaku" (ancient times) to the "Age of the Samurai" (medieval times).

(written by TSUSHIMA Tomohiro / translated by KONNO Tadaaki · ITO Satoko)

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Location of Mutsu, Dewa and Okuroku-District (Additions taken from "Ancient Josaku and Regional Rule" by YAGI Mitsunori, 2022)