

東京へのアイデンティティー

1603年に徳川家康は江戸に幕府を開府した。当時の江戸は悲惨な土地であった。西には水がない武蔵野台が広がり、東には海水が逆流する干潟が展開していた。江戸の街づくりが始まった。人々は神田の山を削り湿地を埋立てた。水を貯める虎ノ門にダムを造った。江戸を水害から守る日本堤を造った。日本橋を建設し、江戸に向かう街道を整備した。市内には運河を張り巡らせ、水道も敷設した。これら江戸の街づくりは、全て全国の大名たちによる普請であった。

全国の大名の建設したという事は、全国の日本人たちが造ったのであった。江戸は全国の日本人が造った街であった。明治になり全国から若者は一斉に躊躇なく東京に集まった。江戸は自分たちの爺様、曾爺様が造った街であった。東京は全国の日本人のアイデンティティーの街であったからだ。

今の東京人のアイデンティティーは一体どこにあるのか。アイデンティティーとは住む土地への愛着だ。東京駅？次々建設されるビル群？新宿の雑踏？卒業した学校？鉄道沿線の路地街？

このシンポジウムは、東京人のアイデンティティー探しの一里塚なのかもしれない。

Identity to Tokyo

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In 1603, Tokugawa Ieyasu established a shogunate in Edo. Edo at that time was a miserable place. To the west was barren Musashino — dai, which had no water, and to the east was a tidal flat where seawater flowed backwards. The construction of the city of Edo has begun.

2. People carved out the mountains of Kanda and reclaimed the wetlands. A dam was built at Toranomon to store water. They built the Nippon Embankment to protect Edo from flood damage. They built Nippon Bridge and maintained the major ways leading to Edo. Canals were laid throughout the city, and waterworks were also constructed.

3. All of the construction of the city of Edo was undertaken by feudal lords from all over the country. The fact that it was built by daimyo

from all over the country meant that it was built by Japanese people from all over the country. Edo was a city built by Japanese people from all over the country.

4. In the Meiji era, young people from all over the country flocked to Tokyo without hesitation. Edo was a city built by their grandfather, their great grandfather. This is because Tokyo was the city of identity for Japanese people across the country.

5. Where exactly is the identity of the people of Tokyo today? Identity is love for the city we live in. Tokyo Tower? A group of buildings being constructed one after another? Crowds in Shinjuku? The school they graduated from? An alley bar behind the train station?

This symposium may be a milestone in the search for identity for the people of Tokyo.