

Tour to Kyoto—日本の歴史に言及しながら—

(イントロ)

本日は、京都の二条城、金閣寺、平安神宮を訪ねますが、皆様には日本の歴史をご理解いただく、いい機会になると思います。

I think today's trip to Kyoto will give you a good glimpse into Japanese history.

まず、最初に、この紙をご覧ください。これは日本の歴史を年表的に示したものです。文字が小さくて見づらいかもしれませんが、赤い色で示された部分はわかるでしょう。サムライが国を治めていた時代を示します。12世紀後半から19世紀半ばまで、約700年間、サムライが政治的な権力を持っていたのです。サムライのトップが将軍で、将軍が国を治めていました。将軍というのは、天皇からサムライのトップに与えられた称号の名前です。

First of all, please look at this paper. This shows the period classification of Japanese history. The characters and figures may be too small for the people sitting on the back, but you can see the red-colored part. These show the periods the samurai governed the country. From the late-12th to the mid-19th centuries, the samurai had a political power to govern the country in Japan. Such periods lasted about 700

years. Before those periods, the emperor had a political power, even though the practical handlings of things were carried out by the noblemen working in the court.

日本は今から約 160 年前に封建時代を終えて、近代国家の建設をスタートしています。その頃は、天皇が国家の中心にいて、政治的権力も保持していたのです。青い色で書かれた部分です。そんな時代が約 80 年続きました。が、日本は 1945 年に第二次世界大戦に敗れて、憲法の改正を余儀なくされました。1948 年に新しい憲法が制定され、その憲法では、天皇は日本国民統合の象徴とされています。そして、政治的な権能は今も持っていません。

About 160 years ago, to be more exact in 1867, Japan ended its feudal days or the period the samurai was controlling the country. And Japan started its modernization with the emperor at its center. The emperor gained the political power again. The blue colored part shows those periods. Such times lasted for about 80 years until 1945. But as most of you should be aware of it, Japan was defeated in 1945 in the Second World War. As a result, its constitution had to be revised.

And in 1948, the new constitution was established. According to that new constitution, the emperor is stipulated as the symbol of the nation. He had no

political power.

今日皆様が訪ねる京都市内の二条城、金閣寺は、この資料の赤い部分、封建時代、つまりサムライが国を治めていた時代に、建てられたものです。

Nijo Castle and Kinkakuji you're going to visit today are what were built in the period of Japan's feudal days, in these red-colored periods when the samurai governed the country.

(二条城)

まず最初に、お城、二条城の説明から始めたいと思います。17世紀の初めから19世紀の半ばまで、正確に言えば、1600年から1867年までの間、約250年間、安定した武家政権が続きました。徳川家から代々将軍が輩出されて15代続いたのです。拠点は江戸、現在の東京にありました。その徳川家の将軍が京都に来て滞在する際に住む場所として使われていました。当時天皇は京都にいましたから、数は多くないにしても、将軍が天皇に謁見するために京都に来ることがあったのです。

First of all, I'd like to explain about Nijo Castle. In Japan, from the beginning of the 17th century to the mid-19th century, to be more exact, from 1600 to 1867, solid, stable samurai governments lasted for about 250 years. A series of shoguns, the 15

generations of shoguns, came from the Tokugawa Family. Its headquarters was located at Edo, or the present Tokyo. When shoguns came to Kyoto in order to have an audience with the emperor because the emperor were in Kyoto in those days, this castle was used as the place where the shogun stayed. Those kinds of occasions were not so often, some shoguns came to Kyoto.

二条城は、この時代の最初の将軍である家康によって建てられました。1603年のことです。この家康は、将軍を拜命したあと、二条城へ来まして、各地の領主をここに集めて、天皇から将軍職を拜命したことを宣言しています。

This castle was built by the first shogun in this period, Ieyasu, in 1603. He came to this castle after he was given the title of shogun by then emperor, and he announced his taking that position in front of feudal lords who had come there from various areas of the country.

当時の政治体制ですが、将軍が全国を支配しており、全国を数百の地域に分割して、それぞれの各地域にそれぞれの領主が任命されていました。任命された領主は、その地域を領土として、家臣を藩を構成して、その地を治めたのです。将軍はこれら領主の人事権を持っていて、全国を治めていたのです。

In those days, the whole country was controlled by the shogun. To be more specific, the whole country was divided into a lot of areas, a few hundred areas. And to each area a feudal lord was assigned. The assigned or the appointed feudal lord governed its area as his domain. He formed a fief consisting of his retainer samurais, his domain, and the local people living there. Sometimes these feudal lords were ordered to transfer from one area to another. With that powerful personnel management power, the shogun governed the whole country like that way.

当時の日本は鎖国政策をとっていました。オランダ、中国以外の国とは交易がありませんでした。しかし、18世紀の後半から、外国からの使節がたびたび日本を訪れて、開国を迫っていました。日本の港に寄港して、水や食べ物を補給したい、又交易をしたいという申し出だったのです。時の政権はそれを認めようとしましたが、国に大きな政策にかかわることだったので、天皇からの了承を得たいと模索しました。これが国内に混乱を呼び起こしたのです。反対する勢力もありましたから。最終的には、天皇からの許可を得ることもなく、開国を決定しました。こうした混乱下で、将軍の政治的な力も次第に衰えて、最終的には、19世紀の半ば、正確には、1867年に、時の将軍、15代目の将軍、慶喜が、政権を天皇にお返しすると決断したのです。その決断をしたのが、今日皆様が訪ねる二条城だったので

す。最後の将軍慶喜がこの城に、全国の主だった藩の重臣を集めて、政権を天皇にお返ししたいという意思を伝えたのでした。その意向はすぐさま天皇に伝えられました。この時をもって、実質、日本の封建体制は終了しました。そして、天皇を国家の中心に据えて近代国家の建設がスタートしたのでした。今から 160 年前の出来事です。日本の近代の歴史の中で、最も重要な意味を持つ出来事です。

Around that time, Japan had a diplomatic policy of isolation. Except with China and the Netherlands Japan had no relationship with any other country. However, since around the late-18th century, overseas delegation had come to visit Japan. They asked Japan to allow their ships to call at some ports in Japan on their voyage to get fresh water or some food. Some asked Japan to open the country to make a business trade. Finally, the government decided to open the country. But its decision was about the basic policy of Japan. So, then shogun sought to get the approval by the emperor. But this movement brought about confusion in Japan. There were a lot of people who were against the opening. At the end, the government decided to open the country without getting any agreement from the emperor. The confusion in the country intensified further. Given such conditions, the shogun power declined. And finally, in the mid-19th century, to be more exact, in 1867, then shogun, the 15th

generation shogun from the Tokugawa Family, Yoshinobu, decided to return his political power to the emperor. It was at the castle in Kyoto you are going to visit today that Yoshinobu made that decision. Yoshinobu expressed his intension of returning his political power to the emperor in front of about 50 high ranking officials from major fiefs who had been called there. And the shogun's intension was immediately delivered to the emperor. This decision marked the end of Japan's feudal days. From that time on, Japan started its modernization with the emperor at its center again. It was about 160 years ago. That event was the most important one in Japan's modern history.

今日訪れる二条城で、その時の模様が、人形を配置して再現されていますので、ご覧ください。

At the Nijo Castle you will visit today, there is a room where that historically big event is reproduced. A lot of samurai dolls in the room could be seen. You can get some understanding of that past event.

この二条城では、皆様、面白いことを体験されると思いますので、そのことに触れておきます。ここの廊下を歩いていると、小鳥が鳴くような音がします。“鶯張

りの廊下”と呼ばれている現象です。(写真と絵を見せて) 実は廊下の下に、このような金具があります。廊下の板と、廊下を支える梁の板とを、このような「かすがい」と呼ばれる金具でつないでいます。二つの穴があり、ここに釘を打ち込むのですが、その釘が、時間の経過とともに、ゆるみ、やがて、釘と金具がこすれて、音を生ずるとというのが、その現象の原理です。廊下を歩きながら、そのかわいらしい音を楽しんでください。

By the way, at the castle, I think you can experience a very unique thing. So, I'd like to refer to it. When you walk on the corridor, you can hear a lot of pretty sounds. As if small birds were chirping under the corridor. That is a phenomenon which is called "A Nightingale Floor."

Please look at this photo. As a matter of fact, floor board and supporting beams are fixed with these metal devices which are called Kasugai in Japanese, or clamps.

There are two holes here. And the nails are hit into the holes. But as time passes, these parts become loose. And the nail and metal hit against each other, which creates an interesting sound. Today please enjoy that intriguing, pretty sound.

ところで、ここの廊下を歩いていてよく聞かれるのは、将軍と天皇とどちらが偉いのかという質問です。今までの説明でほぼお分かりかと思いますが、答えは、天皇

が偉い、です。日本人の間ではいわば常識的な感覚ですが、外国から来られた方には一寸わかりづらいかもしれません。先ほどから説明しています通り、将軍とは、サムライのトップに天皇から与えられる称号の名称です。元々は臨時的なものでしたが、12世紀の後半から永続的なものになっていきました。天皇には精神的な権威があったのです。

By the way, when walking through the corridor of that castle, I have often got the question from my guests. That question is “Which is greater, shogun or emperor?”

My answer is “The emperor is greater than the shogun.” I think it’s a kind of common sense among Japanese people. But it may be a bit hard for the foreign people to understand it. As I said, the shogun is the title given by the emperor to the top of the samurai. Its original full name is Sei-i-tai-shogun. It was originally a temporary post, but from the late-12th century, it became a permanent post. Even during the period when the shogun controlled the country in politics, if there was an occasion that a shogun and an emperor met, the shogun would kneel down before the emperor. The emperor had a spiritual authority even though he had no military forces. All right?

(金閣寺)

次は金閣寺のお話になりますが、14世紀から16世紀の半ばまで、また別のサムライの政権が続いていました。足利家から将軍が出ていました。その政権の三代目の将軍がこの人です。足利義満。政治的に権勢をふるいましたが、同時に多趣味な人でした。37歳で将軍職を降り、その後、14世紀の後半、1397年に、京都の北の地に、別荘の建設を開始しました。51歳で亡くなりましたが、遺言に沿って、彼の死後、寺院になっています。

Next is about Kinkakuji, or Golden Pavilion. From the 14th century to the mid-16th century there were other samurai governments reigning in the country. And the shoguns came from the Ashikaga Family. The third shogun in that period was this person...Yoshimitsu. He was a powerful shogun, exerting a great influence in politics in those days. But at the same time, he had a lot of talents in many fields including art and cultural stages. He retired from the post of shogun at the age of 37. After that, he began constructing the villa in the late-14th century, in 1397. He lived his remaining days in that place. He died at the age of 51. After his death, based on his will, the place was changed to a Buddhist temple.

建物はその後何度も修理がなされてきましたが、1950年に放火で焼け落ちました。1955年に再建されています。

The buildings had been repaired many times over a long period of time. But the main building Golden Pavilion was burnt down by arson in 1950. Its restoration work to the original style was completed in 1955.

三層の建物で、二階と三階は内外ともに金箔が貼られています。池の水に影をうつしながら、四季を通じて、美しい姿を私たちに見せてくれています。

The Golden Pavilion is a three-story structure. And the second and the third floors are covered with gold leaf both inside and outside. It stands beside a pond and so, it is reflected on the water. It impresses us with its beauty throughout the year.

(平安神宮)

平安神宮についての説明ですが、京都は1000年以上にわたって天皇が住まわれたところです。794年に時の天皇が奈良から京都へ都を移しました。以来、ずっと、ここに代々の天皇が住んでおられたのでした。先ほど説明しましたように、1867年にサムライの時代が終わり、天皇を中心にした近代国家の建設がスタートしたのです。それを機会に、天皇が東京へ移ったのです。1869年のことでした。

Next destination is Heian Jingu Shrine. So, I'd like to explain about it. Kyoto is the place where the emperors resided more than 1,000 years in the past. In 794, then emperor moved the capital to Kyoto from Nara. Since then, successive emperors had

lived in Kyoto. As I said, in 1867 Japan ended its feudal days , and started its modernization with the emperor at its center. And the emperor moved to Tokyo in 1869.

天皇が東京へ移られたことは、京都の人々にとっては残念な事だったのでしょう。意気消沈する人々の気持ちを鼓舞しようとして、市民の間に京都の最初の天皇を祀りたいという運動が起こって、1895年にこの神社が創建されました。桓武天皇が祀られてのです。その後、京都での最後の天皇である孝明天皇も祀られるようになりました。

It must have been a kind of shock to the people living in Kyoto. After that, there was a movement among the people to enshrine the emperor who moved the capital to Kyoto from Nara in order to encourage distressed people's spirits. And in 1895, the shrine was established, and the first emperor in Kyoto, Emperor Kanmu was enshrined here. Later the last emperor in Kyoto, Emperor Komei was added to its deity.

(8世紀の公的文書、歴史書 (古事記、日本書記))

日本の天尾制度は約 2700 年の歴史があります。これについてのお話をしたいと思います。

As I said, Japan's emperor system has a long history of about 2,700 years. Next is its explanation.

8世紀に時の政府が二つの公的な文書、歴史書を纏めて発行しています。古事記と日本書紀と呼ばれている文書です。一つは対内的で一つは対外的です。内容はほぼ同じです。これらの文書によれば、日本という国は神々によって造られたものであり、最初の天皇は神の子である、となっています。公的文書と言いながら、神話のようなものであります。天皇の正当性を訴えるのが主な目的だったと思われまます。

In the 8th century the two official documents of Japan's history was compiled and issued by then government. One is Records of Ancient Matters, and the other is Chronicles of Japan. It is said that Records of Matters is mainly for domestic purpose and Chronicles of Japan is for overseas. These two documents have almost the same contents although there are some differences in their expressions.

According to these documents, Japan was created by Gods, and the first emperor was a son of a god. They are said to be official documents, but they are a kind of mythology, I think. I think the purpose of issuing these documents is to prove the authenticity or legitimacy of the line of the emperors. There is no historical evidence on this story, of course.

最初の天皇が神武天皇で、紀元前 711 年に即位しました。現在の天皇はそれから数えて第 126 代目の天皇です。約 2700 年の歴史があり、世界で最も長い歴史の王室ではないかと思います。

The first emperor is Jinmu. He is said to have ascended the throne in 711 BC. Since then, about 2,700 years have passed. And the present emperor is the 126th one. I think it is the oldest royal family in the world.

(現在の皇室について (帰り道))

皇室カレンダーの写真を使って説明。天皇の名前は殆どの国民が知らない、現行法制下では男子でないと天皇になれない、現在新制度に向けて、検討中等を語る。

I think there is some time before arriving at the pier, so I'd like to give you some information about the present Imperial Families of Japan. As I said in the morning along the way to Kyoto, the first emperor ascended the throne in 711 BC, and the present emperor is the 126th one. This is the present emperor. His real name is Naruhito. But strange enough, most Japanese people don't know his real name because he is always called as "His Majesty the Emperor. " Anybody never use his real name like "The Emperor Naruhito." But in case of the Empress, she is usually

called as “ the Empress Msako-sama.” Sama is an honorific word for a person.

Masako is her real name. If you have a friend in Japan, please ask them “ What is your country’s emperor’s name?” Probably they don’t know of it.

The status of the emperor is stipulated in the Constitution as it is a symbol of Japan, and he has no political power. This is what I explained in the morning. The succession of the throne is stipulated in other special law. And according to that law, new emperor can succeed the throne after an emperor dies. And it should be a male. It is not like the situation in Britain.

This couple has one daughter. She is Princess Aiko. She graduated from a college this spring and joined Red Cross Hospital from this April. She has a lot of fans among Japanese people. But under the present legislation, she could not be able to an emperor of Japan in the future. This is a photo of the Crown Prince’s family.

He is the Crown Prince, a younger brother of the emperor. If the present emperor dies this man will succeed the throne. There is a young boy here. He is still a senior high school boy. But he will get married with a woman and have children in the future. But if his children are all daughters, there will be no person who could succeed the throne. So, the experts have been gathered and started discussing how

they should do. I'm not sure about its development, but a female emperor might be one option.

Look at this photo. This is a photo of an ex-emperor and ex-empress. According to my explanation so far, this person, ex-emperor, at least, should be dead now. But, actually, he is alive now. As a matter of fact, he had had a lot of illnesses when he was on the post of the emperor, so he expressed his candid intention of retiring from the post. And many Japanese people understood his feelings and a special temporary law was enacted. Then he retired while he was alive, and his son succeeded the post. It was 6 years ago.

By the way, this photo shows the emperor is planting rice seedlings in the paddy field in his Residence in Tokyo. And this photo shows the empress is taking care of cocoons. Silk is from this cocoon. These means the rice cultivation and the silk industries have been very important ones in Japan.

Thank you very much for your keen attention. From now on, please continue to pay your attention to Japan's emperor system.