

Comparative Regional Analysis of Governance Resource Management for Porcelain Production in Japan

Tokyo Metropolitan University

Ariko Ota

I. Overview

This presentation illuminates regional variations of governance through comparative analysis of arrangements for porcelain industry in Japan. It describes how and in what context arrangements were formulated that designated the ways of managing resources for porcelain production and distribution. With comparative analysis of arrangements of porcelain manufacturing in three regions, the presenter reports how the relationships of political authorities and those who were engaged in the industry shaped the distinctive ways of governing resources for porcelain manufacturing in each of these regions.

II. Methods of Analysis

The researcher made analyses of documents on major sites of porcelain production, Arita (Saga), Seto (Aichi), and Mino (Gifu). The documents for analysis included public documents, statistic records, and other secondary sources. This research specifically focused on the regulations and rules set by the political authorities as well as those made by occupational associations of producers and merchants.

III. Analysis of Results

There were regional variations of managing resources for porcelains conditioned by different manners and degrees of involvement by regional political authorities and those who were engaged in porcelain production and distribution. When the regional authority made a strong claim over resources for porcelain production and distribution, producers and merchants were more likely to follow the guidelines set by the political authorities and made a modest claim over resources. In contrast, in the region where the political authorities did not make a strong claim over resources, producers and merchants actively worked for legitimating their claims and interests in order to control resources on their own. A series of negotiations and contentions emerged in the process of making and revising arrangements for managing resources for porcelain production and distribution. The ways and degrees of involvement by the political authorities over resources shaped the patterns of political process as well as arrangements for managing resources in each region.

IV. Conclusion

Comparative analysis illuminates multiple forms of governance for resource management that shaped the variant paths of industrialization. In the region where the political authority made arrangements for porcelain production, the local government further guided the porcelain industry for a further development. In the other regions, in contrast, where producers and merchants made agreements and regulations for managing resources on their own, porcelain manufacturing developed without public support. While the presentation illustrates political and social contexts of industrialization through comparative regional analysis of governance in Japan, it invites a further discussion with other experiences across the boundaries.