

MIRROR OF THE NATIONS: COMPARATIVE HISTORY OF THE ATLASES IN EARLY MODERN JAPAN AND BRITAIN

Hasegawa, K.

Faculty of Letters, University of Kobe,
Rokkodai-cho, Nada-ku, Kobe, 657-8501 Japan.
Fax: +81 78 803 5534. E-mail: hasegawa@lit.kobe-u.ac.jp

ABSTRACT

After the publication of Abraham Ortelius's *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* in 1570, European countries tried to compile their national atlas. One of the first and typical examples was so called 'Atlas' of England and Wales by Christopher Saxton. He was commissioned by Elizabeth in 1573 to survey the whole country, and draw and publish the maps of each counties for the profit of the nation. In 1579 he published the *Atlas* compiling all the county maps, supplementing the title page with portrait of the Queen, the topographical data of the counties, the list of the arms of nobles and the general map. It is obvious *Theatrum* stimulated Saxton into this work, engraver Remy Hogenberg of *Atlas* was younger brother of Francis who engraved the *Theatrum*.

Thus the national atlas in Britain functioned not only as administrative and economic tool of the ruling class, but as the symbol or mirror of the counties and nation, visualizing the people their own homeland in full view.

The situation of the atlases in early modern Japan was quite different. The foundation of the Japanese county atlas was the official nationwide survey ordered by the Shogunate Government. The primary objective was taxation but the survey would also serve as an instrument of feudal ritual and as a symbol of governmental power.

Each feudal lord was obliged to survey his own territory, to compile from these feudal estate surveys a county map, and to present the final county map to Shogun in Edo (Tokyo). Having collected all the county maps, the government compiled a comprehensive nation map of Japan. Both county maps and the composite national map were deposited in the government's own library, under conditions of strict secrecy.

Because of the secrecy in which the Shogunate maps were shrouded, the county and national maps were not intended to be published. The widespread need at all levels of society for topographical information, however, soon led to the discovery of these secret maps, and in 1666 the first printed county atlas was published. From this year to 1865, no fewer than six national atlases were built up from the manuscript maps of the government's county surveys.

The first atlas, printed from wood blocks and coloured by hand, was the 'Atlas of Japan divided into provinces' (*Nihon Bunkei Zu*). It is thought to have been created not directly from the original county maps but from either the 1605 or the 1633 national map. The publisher compiled sixty-eight county maps into sixteen provincial maps and reduced them into small scale. This atlas of portable size was obviously available for travelers.

The secrecy of governmental maps was revealed in non-governmental atlases and they were rapidly circulated into common people and widely recognized as the mirror of the nation.

1. INTRODUCTION

After the publication of Abraham Ortelius's *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* in 1570, many sorts of world atlases were published in European countries, especially in Belgium, the Netherlands and German. *Speculum Orbis Terrarum* (1578) of G. de Jode and *Atlas* (1595) of G. & R. Mercator were typical examples and they culminated to J. Blaeu's *Atlas Maior* (1662). Thematic atlases also derived from these world atlases, town atlases of G. Braun=F. Hogenberg's *Civitates Orbis Terrarum* (1572-1617) and sea atlases of L. Jz. Waghenar's *Sphieghel der Zeevaert* (1584-85).

Another kind of atlases, county atlases developed particularly in Britain from 1570s, while in early modern Japan many editions of county atlases have been published since 1666. In this paper I try to compare these county atlases of Britain and Japan as a mirror of the nations from the point of view of political, social and cultural context.

2. THE BIRTH OF BRITISH COUNTY ATLAS

In Britain Tudor government tried to compile her own county atlas. The first and typical example was so called '*Atlas*' of England and Wales by Christopher Saxton. He was commissioned by Elizabeth in 1573 to survey the whole country, and draw and publish the maps of each counties for the profit of the nation under the following commission;

Christopher Saxton, born in Wakefield in the county of York, a very expert surveyor, having received letters patent from Queen Elizabeth dated 28 July in the 15th year of her reign, travelled through all England, both towns and villages, for nine years without cease and described it both as a whole and divided into counties, had it engraved in copper, and at length published it, to the perpetual memory of the matter, the praise of his name and the advantage of the state. In the year of salvation 1575

In 1579 he published the *Atlas* compiling all the county maps, supplementing the title page with portrait of the Queen, the topographical data of the counties, the list of the arms of nobles and the general map. It is obvious *Theatrum* stimulated Saxton into this work, engraver Remy Hogenberg of *Atlas* was younger brother of Francis who engraved the *Theatrum*.

Thus the national atlas in Britain functioned not only as administrative and economic tool of the ruling class, but as the symbol or mirror of the counties and nation, visualizing the people their own homeland in full view.

3. THE DEVELOPMENT OF JAPANESE COUNTY ATLASES

The situation of the atlases in early modern Japan was quite different. The foundation of the Japanese county atlas was the official nationwide survey ordered by the Shogunate Government. The primary objective of these projects was taxation but the survey would also serve as an instrument of feudal ritual and as a symbol of governmental power.

Each feudal lord was obliged to survey his own territory, to compile from these feudal estate surveys a county map, and to present the final county map to Shogun in Edo (Tokyo). Having collected all the county maps, the government compiled a comprehensive national map of Japan. Both county maps and the composite national map were deposited in the government library, under conditions of strict secrecy.

Because of the secrecy in which the Shogunate maps were shrouded, the county and national maps were not intended to be published. The widespread need at all levels of society for topographical information, however, soon led to the discovery of these secret maps, and in 1666 the first printed county atlas was published. From this year to 1865, no fewer than six national atlases were built up from the manuscript maps of the government's county surveys.

The first atlas, printed from wood blocks and coloured by hand, was the '*Atlas of Japan divided into provinces*' (*Nihon Bunkei Zu*). It is thought to have been created not directly from the original county maps but from either the 1605 or the 1633 national map. The publisher compiled sixty-eight county maps into sixteen provincial maps and reduced them into small scale. This atlas of portable size was obviously available for travelers.

In *Nihon Bunkei Zu*, the two counties of eastern Japan which form the province of Tozan are the first sheet. From this we can see that the Japanese cartographer was following similar principles to those underlying the English mapmaker Saxton's series of county maps, for example, the orientation of each map is consistent with west at the top, though north at top in Saxton's atlas. The county maps followed in the atlas by a general description of the whole of Japan, the sea route and distance from Nagasaki, land route from County Kii, now Wakayama, and topographical information of each county.

As mentioned above the official county and general maps gradually flowed out into civil society, and many of the printed county maps were published and circulated separately. The early eighteenth century saw the appearance of another printed county atlas, this time in two volumes. Called the '*Description on People and Counties*' (*Jinkoku Ki*), this was edited by the mapmaker and geographer Soko Seki in 1701. A simple title-page is followed by an introduction, contents page listing the county maps, a description of the climate and nature of the people of each county with simple map.

By the nineteenth century the tradition of a printed atlas showing the individual counties of Japan was well established and four atlases were produced before the end of the century. In 1828, '*Maps of All Counties and Hundreds*' (*Koku-Gun Zenzu*) was compiled by pharmacist and Confucianist Tokei Aoo and imitated in 1834 by Yoshihuru Yamazaki, another Confucianist, with his '*Handbook for the Earth of Great Japan*' (*Dainihon Yochi Binran*). According to Aoo, his county maps were all derived from a general map of Japan printed by Sekisui Nagakubo in 1779. For his general map, Aoo reversed the orientation Sekisui's map, putting south at the top, but preserved Sekisui's outlines, which are identical in Yamazaki's Handbook, in which we find also a world map borrowed from a translated map of Dutch origin.

The county maps in Aoo's and Yamazaki's atlases also resemble each other closely.

Finally, two large county atlases were printed at the end of Tokugawa era, just before the opening of Japan to outside, modernizing, influences. The 'Compilation of Maps of Great Japan with Boundaries' (*Dainihon Bunkyou Zusei*) was published in Edo in 1855. Like the first printed county atlases, this contains only a relatively small number of provincial maps (43 in total) on which all the counties are identified. But the 'Detailed Maps of Great Japan on Copperplates' (*Dainihon-koku Saizu*) of 1865 was, as its title implies, not only a substantial volume of 86 maps but also the first with county maps printed from copper plate. Unlike the woodcuts of the older atlases, these finely engraved maps carry a good deal more information. The maps of Yamato and Echizen, for instance, are filled with mountains and village names. There appears the other improvements in this atlas. The arrangement in each atlas now follows a consistent pattern, according to which the contents of the atlas is described in an introduction, after which the general map of Japan is followed by the county maps. Individual maps are improved. Each has a key, and national boundaries are now shown. The last aspect reflects the growing influence of Russian power to the north of Japan, and of British, French and American power in the south. Thus, the northernmost island groups of Hokkaido and Karafuto (Shahalín) are represented, as are the southern island groups of Ryukyu (Okinawa) and Ogasawara (Bonin). A final innovation to note is the inclusion, in the *Dainihon-koku Saizu*, of features relation to tourism, such as the route to the summit of Mt. Fuji and a comment on the landscape of Lake Biwa, the largest lake in Japan.

Table 1. The order and direction of the county maps in the six printed county atlases.

	County	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
				Japan	Japan	Japan	World Japan
1	Yamashiro	6 W	1 N	1 E	1 E	6 N	1(2) NW
2	Yamato	6 W	2 N	2 E	2 E	4 N	2 E
3	Kawachi	7 W	3 N	3 E	3 E	-	3 E
4	Izumi	7 W	4 N	4 E	4 E	-	4 E
5	Settsu	7 W	5 E	5 S	5 S	7 W	5 N
6	Iga	6 W	6 E	6 S	6 W	4 N	6 N
7	Ise	6 W	7 E	7 E	7 W	4 N	7(3) W
8	Shima	6 W	8 N	8 S	9 E	4 N	8 N
9	Owari	6 W	9 N	9 E	8 E	6 N	9 E
10	Mikawa	4 W	10 S	10 E	10 S	3 W	10 E
11	Tohtoumi	4 W	11 S	11 E	11 E	3 W	11(2) N
12	Suruga	4 W	12 N	12 S	12 E	3 W	12 N
13	Kai	4 W	13 E	14 S	13 S	3 W	13(2) E
14	Izu	2 W	14 N	13 E	14 E	2 W	14(2) E
15	Sagami	2 W	15 W	15 S	15 S	2 W	15 N
16	Musashi	2 W	16 N	16 SW	16 SW	2 W	16(2) W
17	Awa	2 W	17 E	17 E	17 E	2 W	17 N
18	Kazusa	2 W	18 E	18 E	18 E	2 W	18 E
19	Shimousa	2 W	19 E	19 S	19 S	2 W	19 S
20	Hitachi	2 W	20 E	20 E	20 E	2 W	20 W
21	Ohmi	6 W	21 N	21 W	21 W	6 N	21 W
22	Mino	5 W	22 N	22 SE	22 SE	6 N	22 NW
23	Hisa	5 W	23 N	23 E	23 E	3 W	23 E
24	Shinano	4 W	24 E	24 E	24 E	3 W	24(2) S
25	Kohzuke	2 W	25 N	25 S	25 S	2 W	25 S
26	Shimotuke	2 W	26 NE	26 E	26 SE	2 W	26 E
27	Mutu	1 W	27(5) E	27(4) E	27(4) E	1 W	27(4) E
28	Dewa	1 W	28 E	28(2) E	28(2) E	1 W	28(2) E

Table 1. continued

29	Wakasa	6 W	29(2) NE	29 S	29 S	6 N	29 S
30	Echizen	5 W	30 NE	30 SE	30 SE	19 W	30 SE
31	Kaga	5 W	31 S	31 E	31 E	19 W	31 E
	County	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
32	Noto	5 W	32 S	32 E	32 E	19 W	32 E
33	Ettyu	4 W	33 E	33 E	33 E	3&20 W/N	33 E
34	Echigo	3 W	34(2) S	34(2) SE	34(2) SE	21 SE	34(2) SE
35	Sado	3 W	35 N	35 E	35 E	22 W	35 E
						Satsunan Ryukyu	S.Ezo Hachijo Ogasawra
36	Tanba	7 W	36 E	36 S	44 S	7 W	36 S
37	Tango	7 W	37 S	37 S	45 S	7 W	37 S
38	Tajima	7 W	38 S	38 S	46 S	7 W	38 S
39	Inaba	7 W	39 S	39 S	47 S	7 W	39 S
40	Hohki	9 W	40 SW	40 S	48 S	□	40 S
41	Izumo	9 W	41 SW	41 S	49 S	8 W	41 S
42	Iwami	12 W	42 S	42 S	50 S	10 W	42 S
43	Oki	11 W	43 N	43 E	51 E	18 W	43 E
44	Harima	7 W	44 E	44 S	36 S	7 W	44 N
45	Mimasaka	9 W	45 E	45 S	37 S	8 W	45 S
46	Bizen	9 W	46 N	46 S	38 S	8 W	46 S
47	Bittyu	9 W	47 N	47 E	39 E	8 W	47 E
48	Bingo	9 W	48 N	48 NE	40 NE	8 W	48 NE
49	Aki	12 W	49 N	49 S	41 S	10 W	49 N
50	Suoh	13 W	50 E	50 S	42 S	11 W	50 N
51	Nagato	13 W	51 NE	51 SE	43 SE	11 W	51 SE
52	Kii	8 W	52 N	52 S	52 S	5 W	52 N
53	Awaji	8 W	53 N	53 E	53 E	5 W	53 E
54	Awa	10 W	54 N	54 S	54 S	9 W	54 S
55	Sanuki	10 W	55 N	55 S	55 S	9 W	55 S
56	Iyo	12 W	56 NW	56 SE	56 SE	10 W	56 SE
57	Tosa	10 W	57 NW	57 SE	57 SE	10 W	57 NW
58	Chikuzen	13 W	58 N	58 S	58 S	12 W	58 S
59	Chikugo	13 W	59 N	59 S	59 S	12 W	59 N
60	Buzen	13 W	60 N	60 S	60 S	11 W	60 S
61	Bungo	13 W	61 W	61 S	61 S	11 W	61 W
62	Hizen	14 W	62(2) W	62 S	62 S	13 W	62 S
63	Higo	15 W	63(2) W	63 S	63 SE	12/17 W	63 S
64	Hyuhga	15 W	64 W	64 E	64 E	16 W	64 W
65	Oosumi	15 W	65(2) N	65 E	65 E	16 W	65 NE
66	Satsuma	15 W	66(3) W	66(2) E	66(2) E	17 W	66 E
67	Iki	14 W	67 N	67 E	67 E	14 N	67 E
68	Tsushima	16 W	68 N	68 W	68 W	15 W	68 W
					World	Itsukushima Izu Is. Mt.Fuji L.Biwa Enoshima	Ryukyu

- A. Anonymous (1666): *Nihon Bunkei Zu* (Japanese Maps divided into Provinces), Kyoto, 16maps, woodcut & hand-colour, 195x138mm.
- B. SEKI, Sokoh (1701): *Jinkoku Ki* (Description on People and Counties), 2vols., Edo, 68maps, woodcut, 326x160mm.
- C. AOO, Tokei (1828): *Koku-Gun Zenzu* (Maps of All Counties and Hundreds), 2vols., Nagoya, 75maps, 4 colour-woodcut, 270x190mm.
- D. YAMAZAKI, Yoshihuru(1834): *Dainihon Yochi Binran* (Handbook for the Earth of Great Japan), 2vols., Kyoto, 76maps, colour-woodcut, 256x182mm.
- E. HASHIMOTO, Gyokuran(1855): *Dainihon Bunkyo Zusei* (Compilation of Maps of Great Japan with Boundaries), 2vols, Edo, 43maps, woodcut, 212x133mm.
- F. MATSUDA, Ryokuzan(1865):*Dainihon-koku Saizu* (Detailed Maps of Great Japan on Copperplates), 2vols, Kyoto, Edo, Osaka & Nagoya, 86maps, copperplate, 167x107mm.

4. CONCLUSION

Although the strong military government of Shogunate tried to monopolise and control all the map production, county and national maps found their own way into society at large through high officials and scholars who were permitted to consult the maps in the government library. As a result, even ordinary people could enjoy different types of printed county maps and printed pocket atlases, whether for intellectual curiosity or for business trips. The power of maps in early modern Japan was not confined to the intellectual class but reached down to ordinary people. Thus the secrecy of governmental maps was revealed in non-governmental atlases and they were rapidly circulated into common people and widely recognized as the mirror of the nation.

5. REFERENCES

- [1] H.Kawamura, Kuni-ezu(Provincial maps) compiled by the Tokugawa Shogunate in Japan, *Imago Mundi* 41, pp.70-75(1989)
- [2] K.Unno, Government cartography in sixteenth century Japan, *Imago Mundi* 43, pp.86-91(1991).

MIRROR OF THE NATIONS: COMPARATIVE HISTORY OF THE ATLASES IN EARLY MODERN JAPAN AND BRITAIN

Hasegawa, K.

Faculty of Letters, University of Kobe,
Rokkodai-cho, Nada-ku, Kobe, 657-8501 Japan.
Fax: +81 78 803 5534. E-mail. hasegawa@lit.kobe-u.ac.jp

Biography

Koji Hasegawa was born in 1947 in Osaka, Japan. He graduated from University of Kyoto in geography. Started as lecturer of geography, Kobe City University of Foreign Studies in 1978. Since 1995, Professor of geography, Faculty of Letters, University of Kobe.

Research interests:

British history of cartography in the 16th and 17th centuries. Comparative history of atlases in early modern Europe and Japan. Japanese military maps during the second World War.

Recent publications:

Atorasu no Shisoh (The Ideology of Atlases), Kobe, 2000. *Chiri no shisoh shi* (History of geographic thought), Tokyo, 2001 • *Shin-Toshin to chizu* (New urban centre and maps), Tokyo, 2001.