

A Comparative Study on City Reconstruction Plans and their Heritages between Japan and U.K. —A Proposal of City Planning System in Mature Society

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[SYNOPSIS]

This is a comparative study on reconstruction plans and their heritage between Japan and UK. In UK we would like to instantiate cities suffered war damage during the World War II. In Japan we will mainly discuss on Kobe, a city devastated by an earthquake in 1995. The reconstruction plans of war-damaged cities in UK were produced in the 1940s, when city planning system was established. Their reconstruction plans, therefore, involved an aspect of the plan of reform and improvement for a city with an overconcentration of population. Even cities without war damage formulated their reconstruction plans. The number of reconstruction plans came to about 200. The contents of the plans had a character as the master plans. According to their plans, they discussed their city image and attached importance to plans for land use and transport systems.

On one hand, Kobe, an earthquake-damaged city had reconstruction plan, in which they compartmentalized areas to be designed depending on the extent of the damage and carried out the project of the emphasized areas. It was similar in nature to the reconstruction plans and projects for war-damaged cities after World War II. Apart from urban redevelopment plan, departmental reconstruction plans such as industrial recovery plan and community plan were formulated. This approach was considered to correspond to the way to lay down a comprehensive plan under the Local Autonomy Law. The definite approach was to accumulate mainly the existing individual projects such as a land readjustment project and an urban redevelopment project. Time difference between British reconstruction plans and Japanese reconstruction plans is about 50 years. The degree of damage between the two is also different. Both sides, however, were reflected in planning culture in the society and had an influence on the formation of planning culture afterwards.

We would like to propose a image of city planning system in mature society.