

Baekje's Relationship with Japan in the 6th Century

*PARK, Hyun-Sook**

Introduction

The goal of the present study is to elucidate the nature of foreign relations between Baekje (百濟) and Japan's Yamato regime in the 6th century. The relations between Korea and Japan in the 6th century is recorded extensively in 『Nihon Shoki (日本書紀)』. Although Japan had relations with several countries in Korea, the focus of the book is heavily placed on Baekje. Therefore, unveiling the nature of foreign relations between Baekje and the Yamato regime of Japan in the 6th century is important to determine the actual situation of Korea-Japan relations in ancient times.

One major theme in research trends¹ concerning the relations between 6th century Baekje and Japan's Yamato regime is the continuity found between the 'Imna-Ilbon Bu (任那日本府)' of the "Wai (倭)" after the 4th century and the tributary foreign relation policy of Baekje. Conversely, in Korea, a mutually beneficial relationship existed between Baekje and Japan Baekje provided advanced cultural resources and Japan provided military power. Thus, the mutual understanding based on tactical foreign relation policy² defined the relations between these two countries. In this

* Professor, Department of History Education, Korea University.

light, studies of Korean and Japan relations were not able to clarify reality due to the understanding of others through their own perspectives. Basically, the standpoint of Japanese historians has centered on the Yamato regime and on its dynamical relations with the Three Kingdoms of the Korean peninsula. However, in Korea, relations in the 6th century focus on the need for the Yamato regime to forge ties with Baekje which at that time was a nation with advanced culture. Therefore, historical discrepancies still abound after the 4th century to the 6th century regarding the origin of relations between Korea and Japan. Up till the present, research regarding Korea-Japan's ancient history primarily focused on Imna-Ilbon Bu (任那日本府), This trend has, thus, influenced studies of the relations between Baekje and Japan.³

The nation of Baekje actively engaged in foreign relations with China and Japan in order to promote peace and development amidst rivalry with other countries in the Korean peninsula such as Goguryeo(高句麗), Silla(新羅), and Daegaya(大伽倻). Factors that contributed to the decision-making of foreign relations policies among the Korean peninsula's various countries included solidifying each individual nation's existence, pursuing pragmatic interests, and maintaining a balance in power within the peninsula.

In this light, the present study attempts to examine relations between 6th century Baekje and the Yamato regime of Japan by dividing the era into early and late phases based on the historical events of the conquering of the Han River region by Silla in 553 and the Silla invasion of Daegaya in 562. This conjecture is based on the fact that the expansion of Silla which gained power over the Korean peninsula was the main driving force that transformed traditional relations between Baekje and the Yamato regime. Thus, this study aims to investigate international relations in East Asia, especially among Korea, China, and Japan in the 6th century through the transformation of foreign relations between Baekje and Japan, which were influenced by the expansion of Silla.

The Korean peninsula in the 6th century

6th century Baekje relations with other countries in the Korean peninsula can be divided into those foreign relations with Goguryeo, Silla and Daegaya. However, in the first half of the 6th century the center of Baekje's foreign relations was Goguryeo. Starting from after the war with China's Later Yan Dynasty (後燕 384-407 or 409) in 406 and until the war with Sui Dynasty(隋) of China in 598, Goguryeo did not engage in war with any of the northern Chinese regions.⁴ Therefore, Goguryeo's interests were concentrated on the Korean peninsula, and the first focal point was inevitably Baekje. Baekje recovered its national power to a certain extent after the surrender of Hansung (漢城) initiated by Goguryeo in 475 and continued to engage in war with Goguryeo.

In 6th century Baekje began with the accession of King Muryeong (武寧王 501-523) to the throne in 501. King Muryeong, in the midst of early confusion and the crises of Woongjin-Chundo (熊津遷都), pursued a close alliance with Silla and was able to impede further advancement into the south by Goguryeo. A letter sent to the Liang Dynasty(梁) of China in the 21st year of the reign of King Muryeong stated, "Baekje defeated Goguryeo several times but re-established friendly relations to become a strong nation once more." From this letter, it can be speculated that Baekje's policies regarding Goguryeo seemed somewhat fruitful.⁵

In addition, King Muryeong began to accept Chinese culture in earnest by establishing firm and friendly ties with the Liang Dynasty of China by sending two diplomatic envoys.

Furthermore, King Seong (聖王 523-554) of Baekje strengthened existing ties with China's Liang Dynasty⁶ and maintained governing structures. In the 16th year of King Seong's rule, he renamed the nation as South Booyeo(南扶餘).⁷

The wars and conflicts between Baekje and Goguryeo served as an opportunity for Silla to achieve domestic peace and also as an impetus for the potential to develop. Silla, with national development as its goal,

forced the Kumkwanguk(金管國) region of Daegaya to surrender in 19th year (532) of King Beuphung(法興王).⁸ In addition, in the 12th year of King Jinheung(眞興王 540-576)'s rule, the Han River region formerly possessed by Baekje was lost as a result of the destruction of the alliance with Baekje.⁹

As Silla, which overtook the Han River region, increased its military advancement into the Daegaya region, Baekje joined forces with Daegaya to take decisive action against Silla. However, in this battle, the unified power of Baekje and Daegaya suffered a great defeat against Silla resulting in Baekje losing the Han River region and King Seong being killed in battle. Silla conquered the Han River region, Baekje's influence in the Daegaya region declined and Daegaya's military force, itself was devastated. Ultimately, Daegaya was destroyed by King Jinheung of Silla in 23rd (562)¹⁰ and Silla obtained rule over the entire Kyungsang Northern Province (慶尙北道). After forming an alliance with Silla, called the Baekje and Silla alliance (羅濟同盟), Baekje made every effort to defeat Goguryeo. However Silla renounced the alliance and in turn attacked Baekje. Conversely, Silla. Meanwhile, Silla increased its military power in the wake of the conflict between Baekje and Goguryeo and secured the Han River and Daegaya region. As a result, Silla gained an advantage over Baekje. King Wideok (威德王 554-598) of Baekje was attacked twice by Goguryeo¹¹ and retaliated against Silla twice¹² during his 44-year reign, but failed in all attempts

In 570, 12th year Reign of King Pyeongwon(平原王 559-590), a diplomatic envoy was sent to Japan.¹³ The time when Goguryeo sent an envoy to Japan coincided with the expansion period of King Jinheung of Silla and was also a time when relations were waning between Japan and Baekje after the fall of Daegaya. Subsequently, the situation of the Korean peninsula began to change due to the continuous friendly relations between Baekje and Goguryeo and the pressure from Silla. Baekje, in a period defined by aggression from Silla and the fall of Daegaya, actively pursued foreign relations with Japan and China in order to recover its tarnished reputation in the Korean peninsula and to prepare for invasion

from Goguryeo and Silla.

As mentioned up to now, the period of the first half of the 6th century—the conquering of the Han River region by Silla and the Silla's invasion of Daegaya in 562—can be defined as a period of recovery of military power by Baekje and of conflict with Goguryeo. However, with Silla growing amidst the conflict between Baekje and Goguryeo, the later half of the 6th century witnessed major changes in power relations between the countries in the Korean peninsula. 6th century Baekje, under continuous aggression from Goguryeo, coupled with the destruction of its alliance with Silla, was belittled both within and outside of the country. Up until the first half of the 6th century, the unilateral dominance of Goguryeo was overthrown due to the alliance among Baekje, Daegaya, and Silla. Goguryeo's status was predictive of the individual nation power struggles among three Kingdoms. Therefore, foreign relations were a vitally important issue to the Korean peninsula.

Relations with Japan in the early 6th century

Relations with the Korean peninsula in the 6th century are described in detail in 『Nihon Shoki』. Here, it has been recorded that Baekje played a central role in foreign diplomacy.¹⁴ At that time, with the discontinuation of Japan's relations with the Chinese Song Dynasty in 478, foreign relations were severed. Then in year 8th (600) of Emperor Suiko's(推古天皇) rule, the first envoy was sent to Sui Dynasty and it was inevitable for the Korean peninsula to serve as the supplier of advanced cultural resources until foreign relations with China were restored. For Baekje to escape from the pressure of Goguryeo and Silla there was no alternative but to actively pursue friendly relations with Japan. The following is a table which shows what kinds of human resources and goods were exchanged by the diplomatic envoys¹⁵ of Baekje and Japan in the 6th century.¹⁶

<Table 1> The exchange of resources by Baekje and Japan in the 6th century

Baekje ⇒ Japan		Japan ⇒ Baekje	
Year	Exchange of Resources	Year	Exchange of Resources
King Seong, 20 th yr.	Sent riches(財物) and two servants to Vietnam	Emperor Kimmei, 4 th yr.(543)	
King Seong, 21st yr.	Sent scholars to Japan	Emperor Kimmei, 6 th yr.; King Seong, 22 nd yr.	Sent group of diplomatic envoys to Baekje
King Seong, 23 rd yr.	Sent grain to Japan	7 th Reign of Emperor Kimmei	70 horses 10 ships
King Seong, 24 th yr.	Sent scholars to Japan	Emperor Kimmei, 9 th yr.	370 workers
King Seong 27 th year	Prisoners of War (POW)back to Goguryo	Emperor Kimmei, 11 th yr.	30 bow and arrow sets
	Sent back 6 POWs to Bak-Guk (狛國)	Emperor Kimmei, 12 th yr.	Barley seeds
King Wideok, Emperor Kimmei 13 th yr. (552)	A gold Buddha statue	Emperor Kimmei, 14 th yr.	Two horses, two rolls of Silk, Two ships 50 bow and arrow set
King Wideok (554, Year of his Enthronement)	Sent specialists of the Five Classics of Confucianism(五經博士)	Emperor Kimmei, 15 th yr.	1000 soldiers for military aid 100 horses 40 ships
	Two rolls of silk	Emperor Kimmei, 17 th yr.	Arms and horses 1000 convoy soldiers
23 rd year (577) Reign of King Wideok, 23 rd yr; Emperor Bidatsu, 6 th yr.	The Classics of Confucianism (經書), Law counselor (律師), Zen priest (禪師), monk, incantation specialist, architects for building a Buddhist temple	Emperor Bidatsu, 12 th yr. (583)	Called Ill-na (日羅) back to Japan
King Wideok, 30 th yr (585)	A statue of granite Mireuk		
King Wideok, 33 th year (588)	Diplomatic envoy, monks, relics of Buddha (佛舍利)		
King Wideok, 42 nd yr. (597)	Sent the Prince of Baekje		
King Wideok, 44 th yr. (599)	Camels, donkeys, sheep, white pheasants		
Reign of King Mu, 3 rd yr. (602)	History, astronomy, and transforming books and a monk		

As seen in <Table 1>, the resources that were sent by Baekje to Japan consisted of scholars, specialists, Buddhist figures, and other cultural resources. On the other hand, the resources sent to Baekje by Japan

consisted of horses, ships, worker, bows and arrows, solders, and other military goods so that soldiers were the majority. Japan chose Baekje as their means for exposure to advanced culture. It appears, since Baekje influenced the Daegaya region, Japan relied on Baekje for supplies of high quality steel and advanced culture.

If this was the case, then why was it inevitable that in the early 6th century, Baekje had to request military aid from Japan? As recorded in 『Nihon Shoki』, the motivation behind early 6th century Baekje's request for military aid from Japan can be divided into the following three stages.¹⁷

<Table 2> The relations between Baekje, part of Silla's expansion into the Imna region, and Japan in the 6th century

Year	Baekje ⇒ Japan Exchange of Resources	Japan ⇒ Baekje Exchange of Resources
Reign of Emperor Kimmei, 6 th yr. (545)		Diplomatic envoy delivered Japan's response of the three schemes
Reign of Emperor Kimmei, 6 th yr. (Sept.)	Sent diplomatic envoys to request military aid	
Reign of Emperor Kimmei, 6 th yr. (Nov.)	The diplomatic envoy who arrived in Baekje in June, 545 returned to Japan	
Kimmei, 7 th yr. (Jan.)		Baekje's envoy sent in May, 6 th year returned with 70 horses and 10 ships
Reign of Emperor Kimmei, 7 th yr. (Jun.)	Sent grain as a token of good relations during Emperor Kimmei, 7 th yr.	

The first motivation is the military aid provided for Baekje in retaliation against Silla's expansion of power into the Imna region. At that time, Baekje focused on derailing Silla's aggression into Daegaya. In particular, Baekje which was in a defensive situation with Goguryeo could not help but request military aid from the Yamato regime when Silla exposed its intentions to expand into the Daegaya region where Baekje had influence. Therefore, it appears that from Baekje's military aid request to Japan, dated during March of year 6th (545) of Emperor Kimmei(欽明天皇)'s rule to early June

of year 7th (546), was made to counteract Silla's aggression into the Imna region.

Secondly, according to the records of April of year 8(547) of Emperor Kimmei's rule to March of year 12(551), Baekje requested military aid from Yamato to prepare for war against Goguryeo.

<Table 3> 6th century Baekje-Japan relations in counteraction against Goguryeo

Year	Baekje ⇒ Japan Exchange of Resources	Japan ⇒ Baekje Exchange of Resources
(547) At 8 th year on April Reign of Emperor Kimmei	Requested military aid from Japan	
(548) At 9 th year on January Reign of Emperor Kimmei		Treaty of military aid
At 9 th year on April Reign of Emperor Kimmei	Sent envoys to postpone military aid	
At 9 th year on June Reign of Emperor Kimmei		Sent an envoy
At 9 th year on July Reign of Emperor Kimmei		Envoy returned to Baekje
At 9 th year on October Reign of Emperor Kimmei		Sent 370 workers to support construction of castle
At 10 th year Reign of Emperor Kimmei		Postponed military aid
At 11 th year on February Reign of Emperor Kimmei		Instead of military aid, sent 30 bow and arrow sets
At 11 th year on April Reign of Emperor Kimmei	When Japanese envoys returned to Japan on February, sent 7 Goguryeo POWs	
At 11 th year on April Reign of Emperor Kimmei	Sent envoy to Maek-Kuk (貊國) with 10 POWs	
At 12 th year Reign of Emperor Kimmei		Sent barely seeds

Thirdly, it can be determined from Jeungwol records that Baekje requested military aid from Japan in preparation for war with Silla. Baekje requested military aid by sending five consecutive envoys¹⁸ to Japan in order to reclaim the Han River region and to concentrate resources in preparation for war with Silla.

<Table 4> 6th century Baekje-Japan relations in preparation for war with Silla

Year	Baekje ⇒ Japan Exchange of Resources	Japan ⇒ Baekje Exchange of Resources
At 13 th year Reign of Emperor Kimmei (552)	For preparing war against Silla, sent the first Cheongbyeongsa (請兵使)	
At 14 th year Reign of Emperor Kimmei	For preparing war against Silla, sent the second Cheongbyeongsa	
At 14 th year Reign of Emperor Kimmei		In May, 13 th year Reign of Emperor Kimmei, a group of envoys returned to Baekje
At 14 th year on June Reign of Emperor Kimmei		Sent two horses, 50 bows and arrow sets and requested scholars and books
At 14 th year on August Reign of Emperor Kimmei	For preparing war against Silla, sent the third Cheongbyeongsa	
At 15 th year on January Reign of Emperor Kimmei	For preparing war against Silla, sent the fourth Cheongbyeongsa	Sent 1000 soldiers for military aid, 100 horses, 40 ships
At 15 th year on February Reign of Emperor Kimmei	Requested military aid and specialists of the Five Classics of Confucianism	
At 15 th year on March Reign of Emperor Kimmei		The envoy sent in Emperor Kimmei, 15 th yr. (Jan.) returned to Baekje
At 15 th year on May Reign of Emperor Kimmei		The envoy sent in Emperor Kimmei, 15 th yr. (Feb.) returned to Baekje
At 15 th year on February Reign of Emperor Kimmei	Informed Kwansan Castle	
At 16 th year Reign of Emperor Kimmei	Sent Prince to announce King Seoug's death	
At 17 th year Reign of Emperor Kimmei		Prince of Baekje who went in 16 th year February Reign of Emperor Kimmei, 16 th yr. (Feb.) returned to Baekje. Arms, horses, and 1000 soldiers of convoys were sent

Baekje explored establishing a relationship with Daegaya and requesting military aid from Japan in order to concentrate military force on the Kwansan Castle conflict in 554. As historical materials show, it is not because Japan controlled the southern part of the Korean peninsula that Japan sent military related equipment and goods such as horses, ships, bows and arrows, etc. but because Baekje explicitly requested them.

As a reciprocal gesture for Japan's military aid, Baekje sent scholarly specialists, Buddhist goods, various books and medicines. Therefore, the military aid sent by Japan to Baekje can be considered compensation for

exchange of advanced cultural and human resources.

As aforementioned, in the midst of the Kwansan Castle war in 554, it can be determined that the relations between Baekje and Japan was reciprocal in terms of an exchange of military aid and advanced cultural and human resources. The reason why active relations were pursued mutually by Baekje and Japan in the 6th century was because military aid was needed within the countries of Samguk(三國) in the Korean peninsula.

Multi-faceted foreign relations with Japan and the Expansion of Silla in the late 6th century

After the Silla invasion of Daegaya in 562, changes occurred regarding Japan's foreign relations policies toward the Korean peninsula. 『Nihon Shoki』 shows that during the period from year 21(560) of Reign of Emperor Kimmei to the Reign of Emperor Bidatsu(572~585), of the Samguk countries, it was not Baekje but Silla, which actively sent diplomatic envoys to Japan.

It is seen that in this period described in 『Nihon Shoki』, Silla sent envoys to Japan 11 times, 4 envoys were sent by the Yamato regime for a total of 15 diplomatic exchanges.¹⁹ From 507 to the fall of Imna in 562, for Japan there were only 2 reciprocal exchanges with Goguryeo, 4 exchanges with Silla, and 38 exchanges with Baekje. This is a very different picture than from the early half of the 6th century. From Silla's perspective, it appears that Silla attempted to improve relations with Japan in order to alienate Baekje. In addition, after the invasion of the Han River region, Silla was placed in the middle of tensions between Goguryeo and Baekje. As a result, Silla moved towards pursuing friendly relations with Japan to obtain support. Silla actively maintained contact with Japan since 570. According to 『Nihon Shoki』, Silla sent an envoy to convey condolences for the death of Emperor Kimmei in August, 571. This is the only historical event recorded in this book.

In order to prevent Baekje from cooperating with Japan for a counterattack, Silla actively pursued diplomatic relations with Japan after conquering Daegaya. It appears that Silla needed to maintain friendly relations with Japan in order to keep Baekje at bay, which was located beneath Silla and traditionally had stable relations with Japan. Therefore, in year 8(579) of Emperor Bidatsu(敏達天皇), Silla sent Japan a Buddhist statue. Before the collapse of Daegaya in 562, it was Baekje which sent advanced cultural resources and in particular spread Buddhism to Japan.²⁰ Therefore, the very sending of a Buddhist statue by Silla to Japan showed evidence that the traditional role of Baekje as provider of advanced cultural resources to Japan had been transformed.

Regarding Silla's actions, Goguryeo also strived to improve relations with Japan. In year 12(570) of King Pyeungwon, Goguryeo sent an envoy to Japan and began full-fledged exchanges.²¹ The period in which Goguryeo sent envoys was the very time of expansion for Silla, and a time when relations between Japan and Baekje were on the decline. Therefore, in retaliation to Silla's expansion, Goguryeo realized a need to improve relations with Japan, which could serve as a supporting ally. It appears that Goguryeo wished to maintain stable relations with Japan across the ocean in order to promote peace amidst the growing tensions in the north and as a compensatory measure against China's Sui Dynasty. In addition, it seems that Goguryeo took into consideration the fact that it had to concentrate on relations with China's Sui Dynasty. Therefore maintaining good relations with Japan was consequentially effective for restraining Silla.

However, after 562, relations between Baekje and Japan started to decline. In 『Nihon Shoki』, it is stated that Baekje continued relations with Japan for 20 years from year 2(555) of King Wideok(威德王) when soldiers were sent to Japan until year 3(574) of Emperor Bidatsu. During 557-578, military tensions between Baekje and Silla began to increase again.²² In order to face Silla, it was imperative for Baekje to strengthen its relations with the Yamato regime.

However, there are no records of exchanges with Japan after this period.

In addition, in retaliation to Silla establishing a shipping attachment (i.e., a maritime organization) to strengthen control over the oceans in 583,²³ Baekje attempted to construct a new country in the city of Tsuzku but as this did not materialize the relations between Baekje and Japan deteriorated.²⁴ Although this seems to be a consequence of the power struggle between Soga clan and Mononobe Clan of Japan, in the late 6th century Japan appears to have forfeited unilateral foreign relations with Baekje in favor of multi-faceted foreign relations with Silla and Goguryeo. This was a departure from solely receiving advanced cultural resources from Baekje up till 562. This can indeed be seen as a major departure and change in foreign policy. With the fall of Daegaya serving as an impetus, the alliance among Baekje—Daegaya—Japan collapsed and Japan started multi-faceted foreign relations with Silla and Goguryeo at the expense of its relations with Baekje.

It can be inferred from 『Nihon Shoki』 that in response to Japan's approach to Silla and Goguryeo, Baekje more actively sent to Japan Buddhist priests and Buddhism related resources such as books, statues, and technicians. In the latter half of the 6th century, multi-faceted relations became more dynamic after the manipulation of Baekje by Japan. The focus of foreign relations shifted from exclusivity with Baekje to pragmatic motivations which could serve Japan's interests better.

Although Japan was a firm supporter of Baekje for a long time, the reason for Japan's change in attitude towards Baekje seems to lie in the decline of Baekje's status and influence in the Korean peninsula following the loss of the Han River and Daegaya regions. Subsequently Japan became wary about Baekje's ability to continuously supply advanced cultural resources. In the first half of the 6th century, in order to prepare for war against Goguryeo and Silla, Baekje actively pursued relations with Japan while rendering relations with China as a formality. However, toward the mid and late 6th century, in retaliation to Japan's multi-faceted foreign relation policy, Baekje actively pursued relations with China's Southern Dynasties (南朝) and Northern Dynasties (北朝). In order to expand the relations with China which were heavily concentrated on the

Southern Dynasties region, King Wideok established relations with Northern Dynasties and towards the end of the Southern and Northern Dynasties period, attempted to actively confront changes in the political atmosphere.²⁵ In addition, as the Sui Dynasty unified China, he strengthened relations with Sui Dynasty and attempted to put pressure on Goguryeo and Silla.²⁶

Conclusion

The present study attempts to examine relations between 6th century Baekje and the Yamato regime of Japan by dividing the era into early and late phases based on the historical events of the conquering of the Han River region by Silla in 553 and the Silla invasion of Daegaya in 562. This conjecture is based on the fact that the expansion of Silla which gained power over the Korean peninsula was the main driving force that transformed traditional relations between Baekje and the Yamato regime.

The period of the first half of the 6th century-the conquering of the Han River region by Silla and the Silla's invasion of Daegaya in 562-can be defined as a period of recovery of military power by Baekje and of conflict with Goguryeo. However, with Silla growing amidst the conflict between Baekje and Goguryeo, the later half of the 6th century witnessed major changes in power relations between the countries in the Korean peninsula. 6th century Baekje, under continuous aggression from Goguryeo, coupled with the destruction of its alliance with Silla, was belittled both within and outside of the country. Up until the first half of the 6th century, the unilateral dominance of Goguryeo was overthrown due to the alliance among Baekje, Daegaya, and Silla. Goguryeo's status was predictive of the individual nation power struggles among the countries. Therefore, foreign relations were a vitally important issue to the Korean peninsula.

As historical materials show, it is not because Japan controlled the southern part of the Korean peninsula that Japan sent military related

equipment and goods such as horses, ships, bows and arrows, etc. but because Baekje explicitly requested them. As a reciprocal gesture for Japan's military aid, Baekje sent groups of or scholarly specialists, Buddhist goods, various books and medicines. Therefore, the military aid sent by Japan to Baekje can be considered compensation for exchange of advanced cultural and human resources. The reason why active relations were pursued mutually by Baekje and Japan in the 6th century was because military aid was needed within the countries in the Korean peninsula.

Although Japan was a firm supporter of Baekje for a long time, the reason for Japan's change in attitude towards Baekje seems to lie in the decline of Baekje's status and influence in the Korean peninsula following the loss of the Han River and Daegaya regions. During the later half of the 6th century, Baekje actively pursued foreign relations with China and through these friendly relations exerted pressure on Goguryeo. Thus it appears that Baekje did not completely lose its influential status as being the supplier of advanced cultural resources to Japan. Thus, while maintaining its position of being the supplier of advanced cultural resources to Japan, Baekje restored its status in the Korean peninsula and overcame alienation. In this light, 6th century foreign relations between Baekje and Japan, which were characterized by the interest's of individual nations the international realm of East Asia, were complex and diverse.

Key Word: 6th Century, Baekje and Japan, Foreign relations, Exchange of resources, Goguryeo, Silla, Daegaya

Notes :

- 1 This is the study of the relations between Baekje and Japan in the 6th century. The reference books for this paper are as follows:
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- 2 Kim, Hyun-Ku 『Royal Diplomacy Between Baekje and Japan: focusing on 5th century』 『Culture of Baekje』 volume 3, 2002. From the page 31~40, unique system of foreign mercenaries between Baekje and Japan was able to operate because of Royal diplomacy's active interchange.
 - 3 Kim, Hyun-Ku, 『The relations between Korea and Japan in the 6th century – focusing on trading system』 『History of Korea-Japan Joint Research paper』 volume 1, 2005.
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 - 5 『Samguk Sagi』 volume 26, Baekje Bongi 4, At 21st year November Reign of Mooryung .
 - 6 『Samguk Sagi』 volume 26, Baekje Bongi 4, At 2nd year, 12th year March, and 19th year Reign of King Seong.

- 7 『Samguk Sagi』 volume 26, Baekje Bongi 4, At 2nd and 16th year Reign of King Seong.
- 8 『Samguk Sagi』 volume 4, Silla Bongi 4, At 19th year Reign of King Beopheung.
- 9 Jung, Un-Yong, 「Silla's Annexation Daegaya and its significance in the 6th century」 『Sa-chong』 volume 52, 2000, page 21.
- 10 『Samguk Sagi』 volume 4, Silla Bongi volume 4, At 23rd year September Reign of King Jinheung.
- 11 『Samguk Sagi』 volume 26, Baekje Bongi volume 4, At first year October, and 45th year Reign of King Wideok.
- 12 『Samguk Sagi』 volume 26, 『Baekje Bongi』 volume 4, At 8th year July and 24th year Winter Reign of King Wideok.
- 13 『Nihon Shoki』 volume 19, At 31st April, May, July and 32nd March Reign of Emperor Kimmei.
- 14 Kim, Hyun-Ku, Park, Hyun-Sook, Woo, Jae-Byung, Lee, Jae-Seok, 『Nihon Shoki, Study of Korea-related article II』 , Iljisa 2003.
- 15 Besides sending envoys, scholars, generals to Japan, Baekje sent Managuen and Sahaguen in Period of King Mooryeng. Also Baekje dispatched Royal family members such as Prince Hye(惠), in 555 and Prince Ajoa(阿佐) in 597 to Japan.
- 16 Tables in this present study refers to the reference of the book, 『Nihon Shoki, Study of Korea-related article II』 .
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〈국문초록〉

6세기 백제와 일본의 관계

박현숙(고려대학교)

본 논문에서는 백제와 일본 관계의 변화 양상과 그 의미를 6세기를 중심으로, 교류사의 입장에서 살펴보았다. 고대 한국과 일본 관계사는 주로 自國의 관점에서 他者를 이해함으로써 그 실상을 선명히 밝히지 못한 부분이 있다. 기본적으로 일본에서는 야마토 정권을 중심으로 한반도 삼국과의 역학관계를 설정하고 있으며, 한국에서는 문화선진국으로서의 백제의 필요에 의한 야마토 정권과의 연합으로 6세기를 설명하고 있다. 한·일관계사의 始原을 바라보는 역사상의 차이가 4세기 이래 6세기에도 그대로 투영되어 있다고 할 수 있다.

백제사에 있어서 6세기는 475년 고구려에 의한 한성 함락 이후, 웅진 천도를 계기로 5세기 중엽의 위축기에서 벗어나 대내적인 체제 정비와 적극적인 외교관계를 통해 다시금 부흥의 발판을 마련하던 시기였다. 백제 국가는 한강 유역과 가야 지역을 둘러싸고 고구려와 신라의 팽창에 맞서면서 일본과의 외교를 전개해 나갔다.

그러나 한반도에서 주도권을 쥐게 된 신라의 팽창과 이로 인한 562년 대가야의 멸망은 백제의 대외관계에 큰 변화를 야기했다. 대가야 멸망 이전에는 백제가 가야와 일본으로 이어지는 협력라인을 구축하며, 때로는 신라와 연합하여 고구려의 南下에 대처하기도 했다. 그리고 이러한 한반도의 상황과 맞물려 일본이 선진문물을 수입하던 한반도의 창구는 백제였다. 따라서 백제는 일본에게 선진문물을 제공하면서 고구려 전과 신라전을 위한 군원을 제공받을 수 있었던 것이다.

그러나 대가야 멸망을 계기로 백제-가야-일본으로 이어지는 협력라인이 붕괴되면서 일본이 백제 뿐 아니라, 신라·고구려에 대한 多面外

찾을 진행하는 모습을 보이게 된다. 따라서 백제는 일본에 지속적으로 선진문물을 제공하면서 기존의 일본 관계를 유지하고, 한반도에서의 자국의 위상 제고와 독립화를 타개하려고 했다. 그리고 중국의 南·北朝 국가들과도 외교를 확대했다. 이와 같이 6세기 백제와 일본의 대외관계는 영원한 동맹관계가 아니었다. 동아시아의 각국들은 자국의 이익을 위해 협력과 경쟁의 국제 관계를 전개해 나갔던 것이다.

주제어: 백제와 일본의 관계, 6세기 백제의 대외관계, 6세기 일본의 대외 관계, 대가야의 멸망, 신라의 한강 점령, 백제-가야-일본의 협력, 일본의 다면외교, 삼국사기, 일본서기.