

PREFACE

The original Japanese edition of this book was published in 1992 (*Kinsei Nōbi chihō no jinkō, keizai, shakai*). Thereafter, I served as director of a research project funded by the Japanese government, “Comparative History of EurAsian Societies in Population and Family,” which was carried out at the International Research Center for Japanese Studies in Kyoto from 1994 to 2000. During the course of this project, I was greatly influenced by members of the research team as well as other scholars at the international meetings where we presented papers, and several corrections have been made. Thus this is not a simple translation of my previous book, but rather an outcome of the research project.

Because of my particular knowledge and abilities, this book is not a “high tech” historical demography employing fully the advantages of advanced statistical techniques. Rather it is an example of “low tech” historical demography in its research stage. Since the author has been engaged in this field of study for more than forty years, as a book founded on historical research, I believe this monograph has *raison d'être* in the field.

In Chapters 7, 8, and 9, I posit new hypotheses regarding the historical significance of mobility, both interclass and geographical. This can be translated as vertical and horizontal mobility in population, which functioned as a mechanism to stabilize society (at least in Nōbi area) when they were combined. The number of documented cases is small, but if we expand researches in this area, we will be able to draw a complete picture of Japan that shows demo-social features with specific regional characteristics. This monograph is an attempt at such kind of syntheses of population and family history.

I am indebted to many persons who worked with me to complete the first draft of this book. The majority of the text was translated into English by Kiko International Co., Ltd. in Kyoto and then polished by Dr. Julie Marfany, fellow at Homerton College, and Professor Richard Smith, Director of the Cambridge Group for the Population and Study of Social Structure, Cambridge University, U.K. I would like to express my profound gratitude to Patricia Fister, Professor at the International Research Center for Japanese Studies, who edited the manuscript prior to publication with the assistance of Dr. Mary Louise Nagata of Francis Marion University and the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales/Centre de Recherches Historiques. Of course all remaining mistakes in the book are my own.

Hayami Akira
October 2009