

# Heian, the Era of “Peace and Tranquility” (?)

21H.154, Session 4

# Prince Shōtoku (524-622)

- Regent for Queen Suiko (r. 592-628)
- Related to Soga clan
- Admirer of China
- Founded and resided in Hōryūji temple
- Never reigned



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# “Shōtoku” Reforms

- Merit-based “cap ranks” system
- “Seventeen Articles” of 604
- 3 missions to China (607, 608, 614)
- “The Child of Heaven in the land where the sun rises addresses the Child of Heaven in the land where the sun sets.” (SJT, p.11)

# Taika Coup (645)

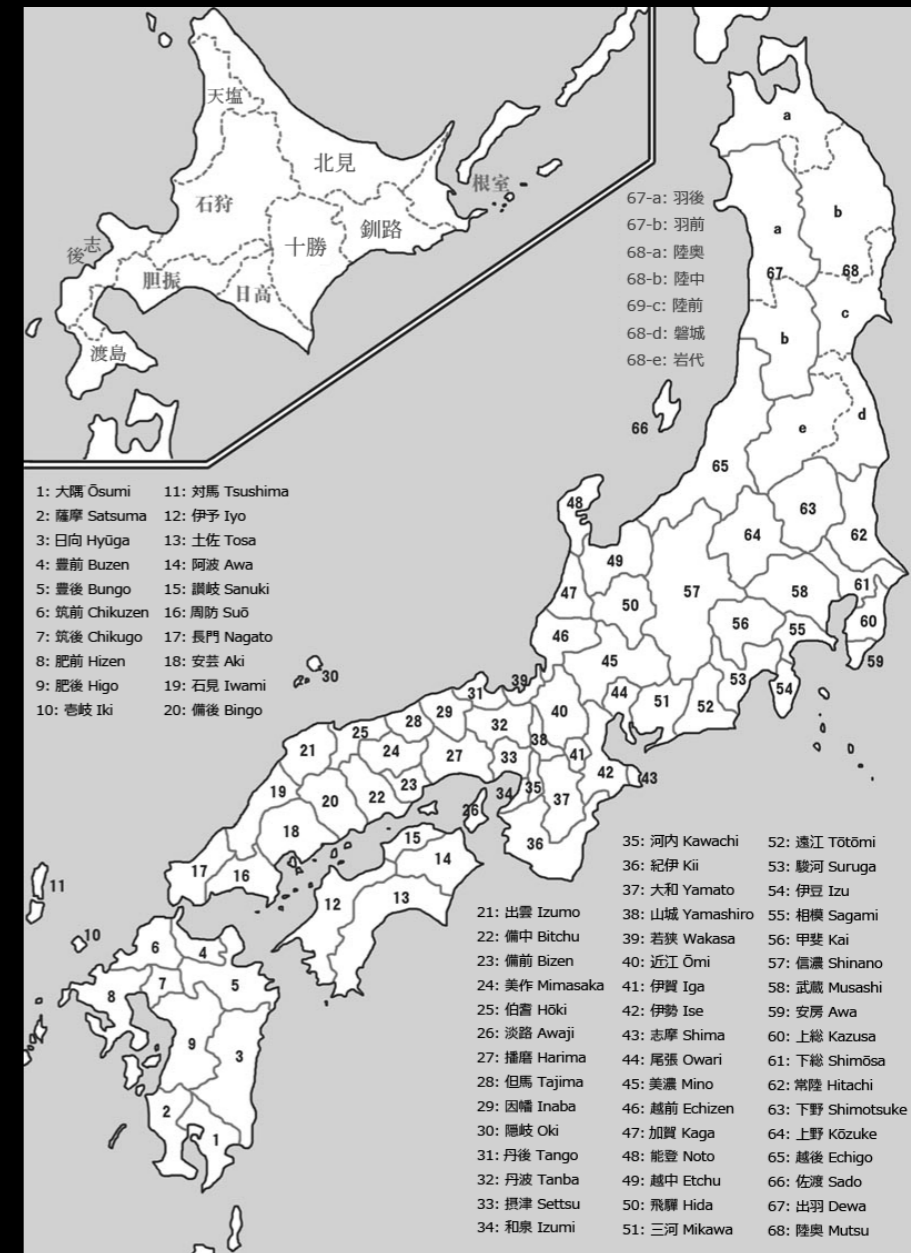
- Prince Naka-no-Ōe (626-671)
- Nakatomi no Kamatari (611-669)
- Kill Soga no Umako's grandson, Iruka, during ceremony



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# Taika (“Great Change”) Reforms

- Administrative reforms
- Grand Council of State; Dept. of Divinities
- *(jingikan)*; Japan divided into provinces (see map)
- Provincial inspectors, census and surveys (tax)
- Redistribution of land (652): state own all land
- later abandoned



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# Taika Reforms

- Capital moved away from Soga base in Naniwa (Osaka)
- Monopoly over warfare > also later abandoned



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# Increasing Confidence

- Imperial family: unquestioned
- Nakatomi no Kamatari = Fujiwara no Kamatari
- Intervention in Korea (660, 663)
- Battle of Baekgang (663): Tang China/Silla vs. Japan/Paekche



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# More Reforms

- Prince Naka-no-Ōe becomes Emperor Tenji
- Clans (*uji*) swear loyalty
- Direct control of worker units (*be*)
- Improved defense: esp. in Kyushu
- Employ refugees from Korea
- “Administrative and Penal Law Codes” (*ritsuryō*)
- Capital moved to Ōtsu in Ōmi province



# Family Feud



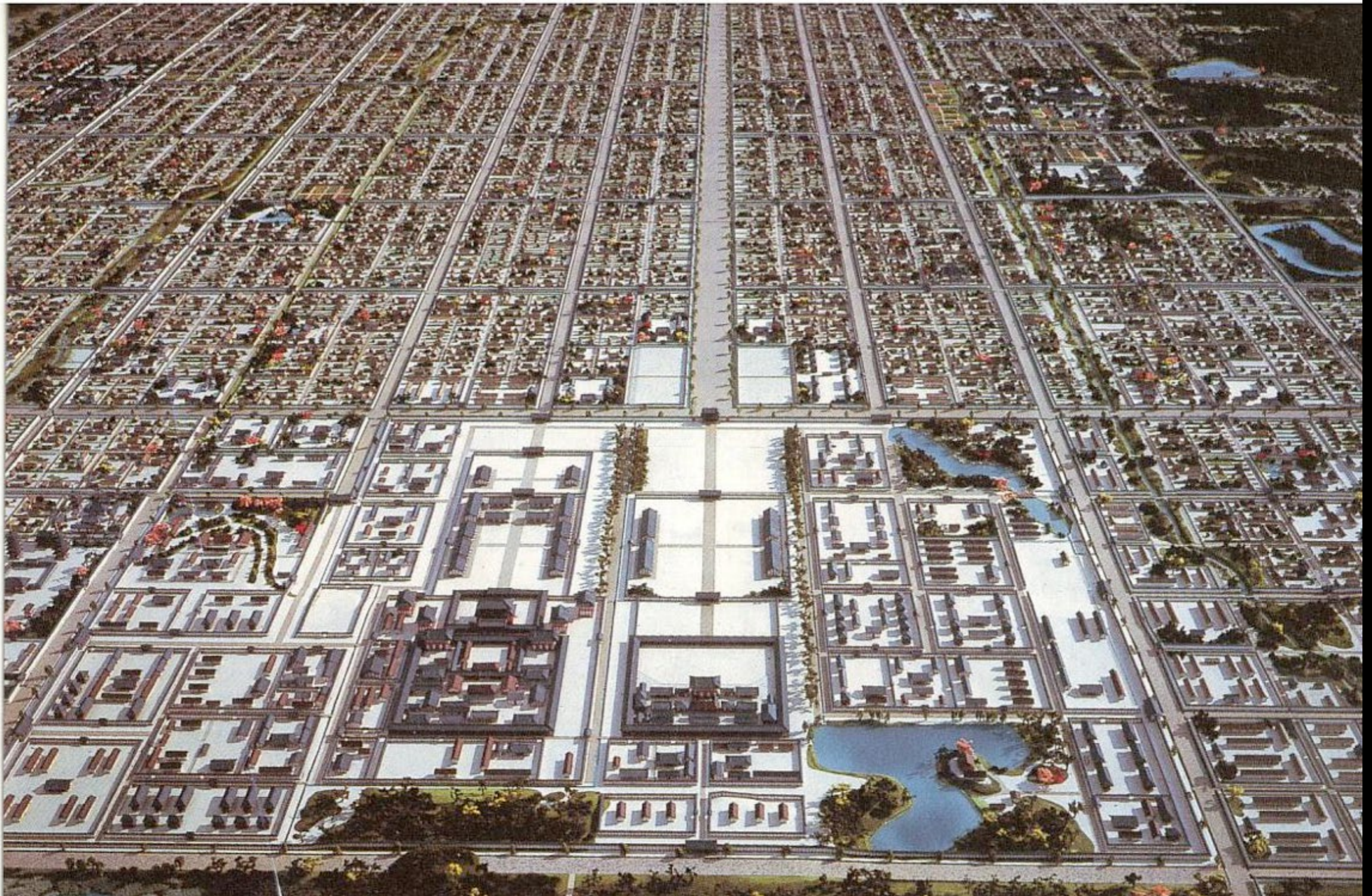
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Prince Ōama (Tenji bro) vs. Prince Ōtomo (Tenji son)

# Temmu/Jitō Reforms

- Tenji dies (671); Temmu (“Heavenly Warrior,” r. 672-686) takes over after killing Tenji’s son
- Promotion of Amaterasu worship
  - Imperial princess at Ise Shrine
- Active use of Buddhism
- Yet another capital in Yamato
- Reformers continued by wife, Empress Jitō (686-697)
  - Begin using *tennō* (天皇 “heavenly sovereign”)

# Nara Period (710-784)



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## Heijōkyō (“Capital of Peaceful Palace”) <sup>11</sup>

# Nara Developments

- Confucian university
- Compilation of *Kojiki* (Records of Ancient Matters; 712) and *Nihongi* (Chronicles of Japan; 720)
- Even heavier use of Buddhism

# State Buddhism

- Emperor Shōmu (r. 729-749)
- Network of monasteries and nunneries (*kokubunji*=“provincial temples”)
- “State-protecting sutras”
- Construction of Tōdaiji temple in Nara
  - “State Protecting Temple through the four Guardians and the Golden Light”

# Tōdaiji



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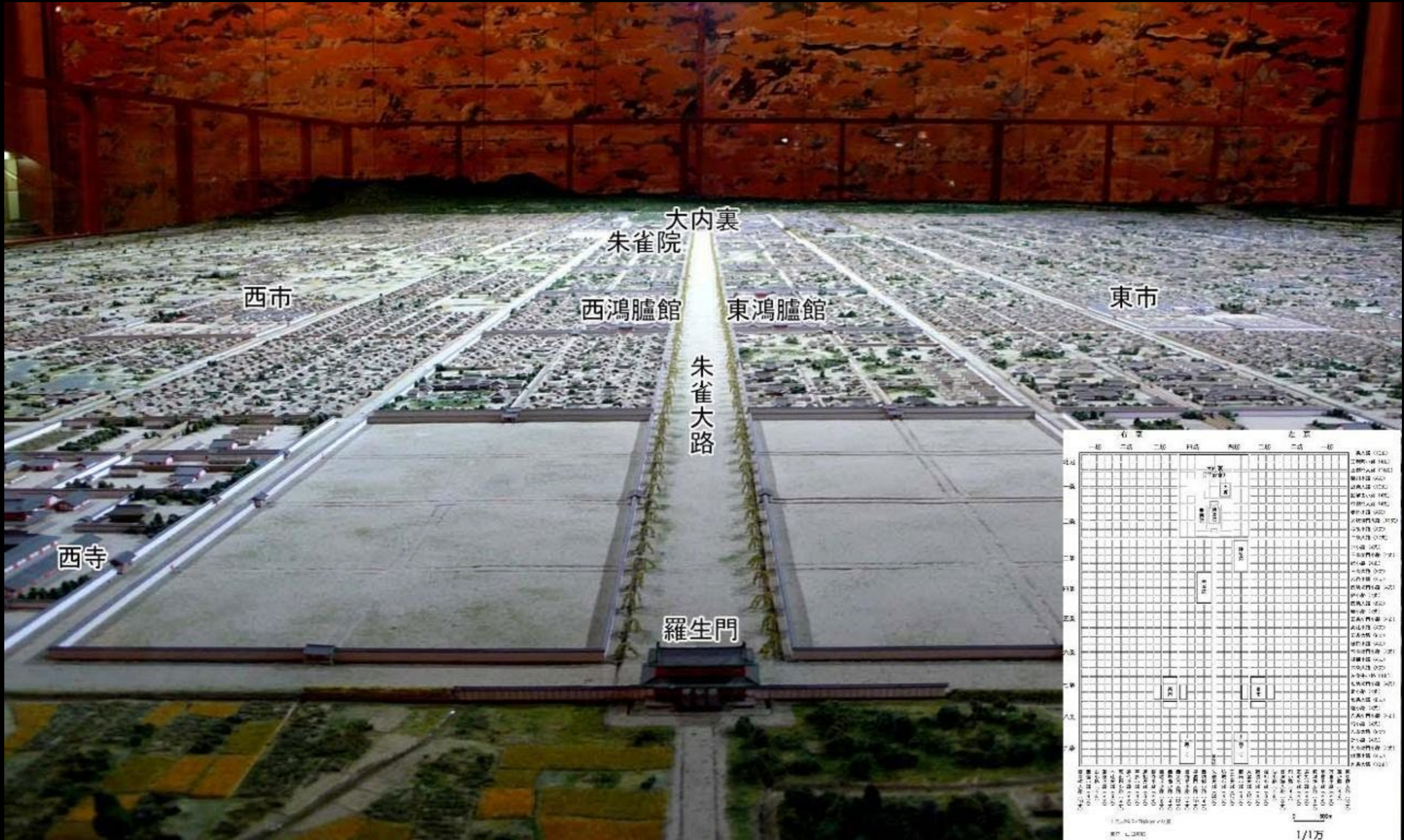
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# Shōsōin



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# Heiankyō (“Capital of Peace and Tranquility”)



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## View from Rashōmon (south gate)



# Heiankyō

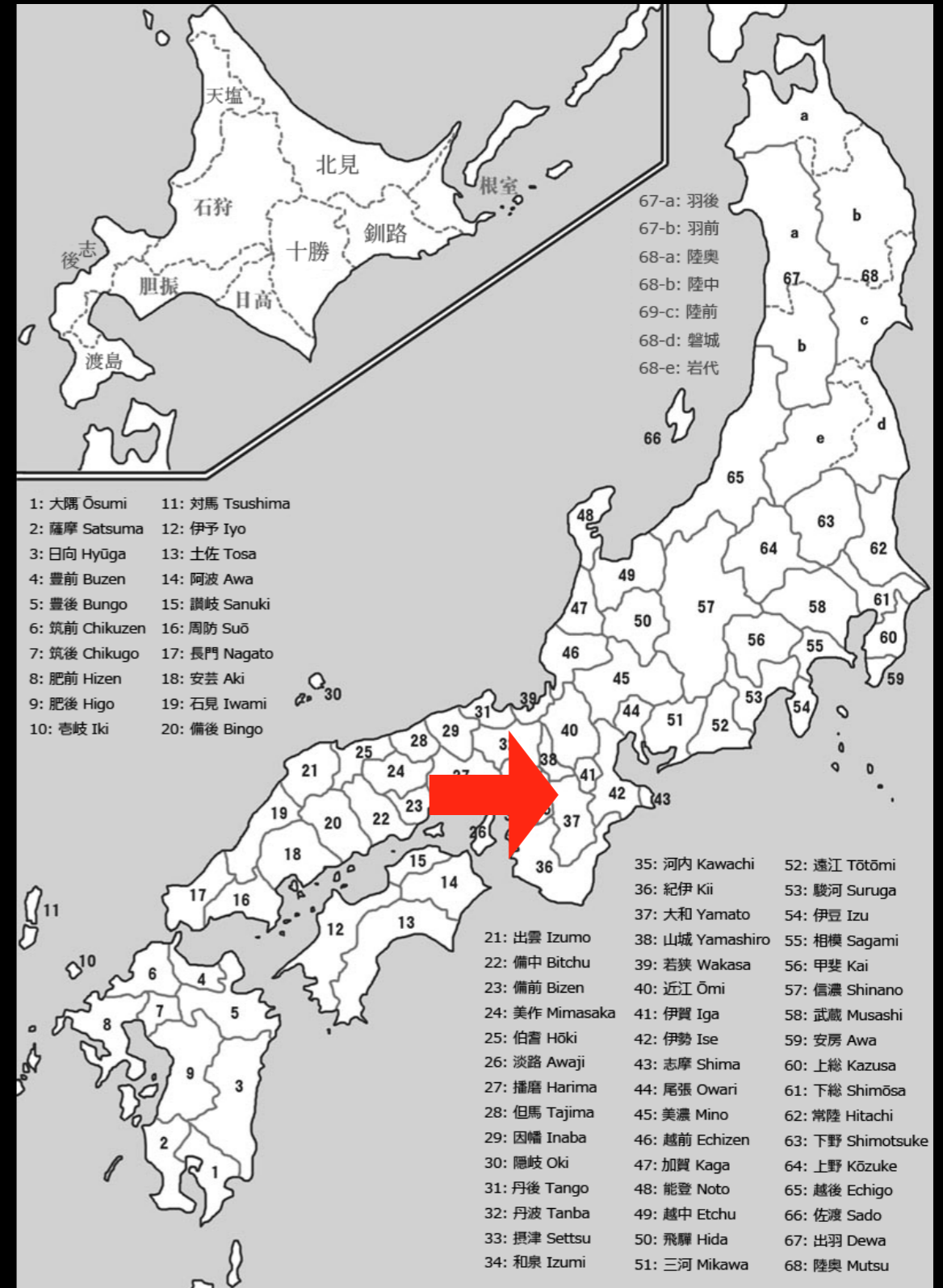


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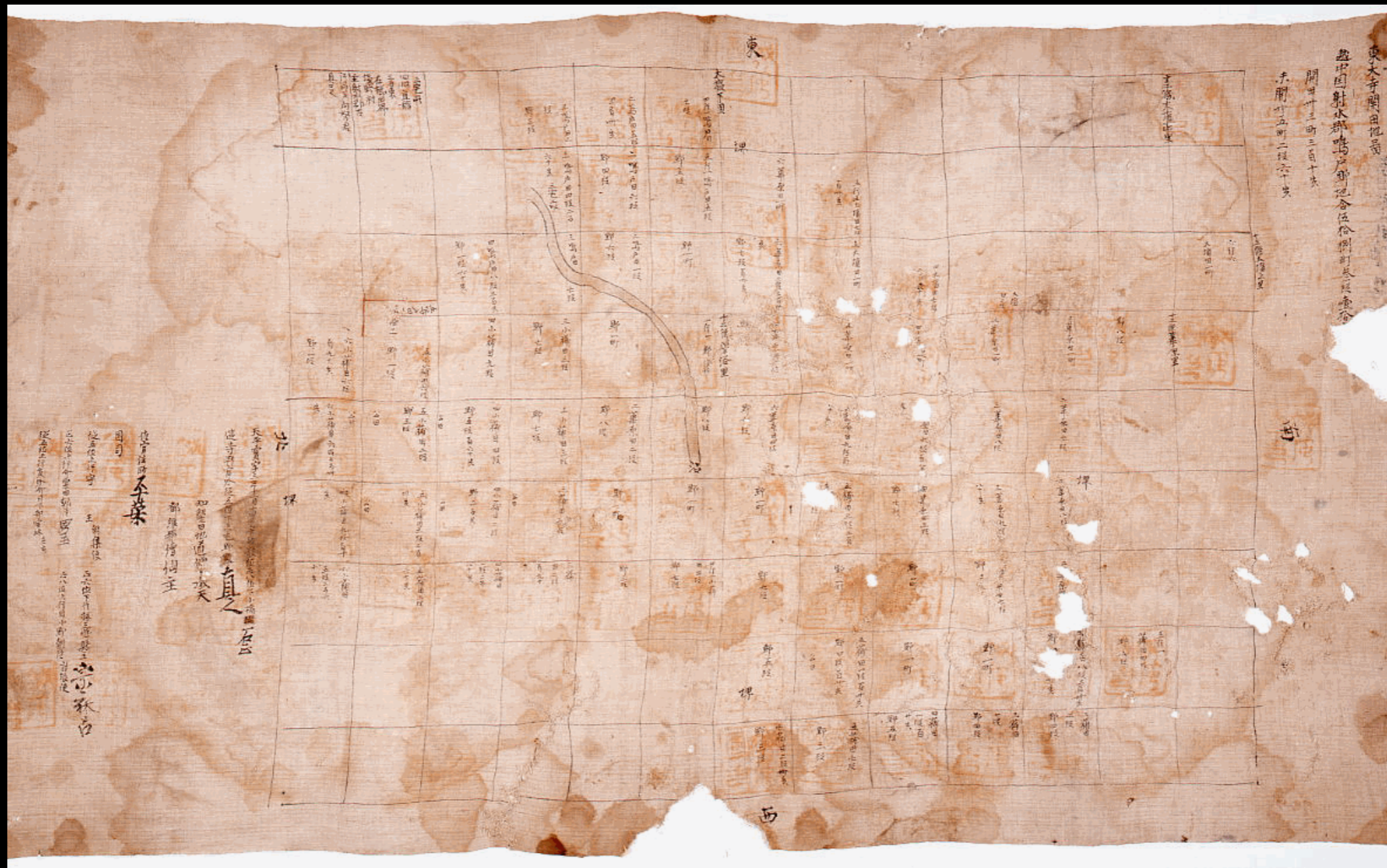
View of *Daidairi* (imperial palace)

# Imperial Rule

- Strengthening of state
  - police (*kebiishi*)
  - circuit inspectors
  - extending frontier
    - 794: Sakanoue no Tamuramaro's victory over Ainu
    - *sei-i-taishōgun* (barbarian-subduing-generalissimo)



# A Map of a Todaiji, Shōen (759)



# Key Shōen Dynamics

JE, Ch. 16, “The Shōen System,” pp. 167-177.

“three-way competition for control of lands and the profits that could be derived from them among wealthy peasants and the other elite provincial residents, provincial governors, and the great houses and religious institutions (kenmon)” (173)

“...seesawing game of shifting alliances, interests, and balances of power that transformed both public and private landholding” (174), e.g. provincial governors as competitors AND allies to *shōen* people

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