

Chapter 4

2nd period
history-2

Under the Rule of China and Japan



■ 琉球国王の王冠 (皮弁冠)
明朝時代に中国皇帝から下賜された王冠です。288 個の金・銀・珊瑚などの玉が、金の糸で留められています。

OVERVIEW

中国との冊封体制を利用した貿易によって琉球王国は次第に大きくなり、奄美諸島から与那国島までの広範な地域を統治するほどになりました。

しかし、16世紀以降、欧州船や海賊の登場によって自由な貿易を邪魔され、また、薩摩藩島津氏の侵攻によって、人々の生活は困窮を極めるようになります。

The Rise of the Kingdom

After Sho-Hashi became the king in 1429, Ryukyu became stronger and ruled more islands. Though some

troubles happened, including a coup, the kingdom controlled the Yaeyama Islands and the Miyako Islands by 1500. The next year, its influence extended to the Amami Islands. In the end, the kingdom became very big: from the Amami Islands of the north to the Yonaguni Island of the south.

NOTES

01. rise 隆盛	14. serve [sərv] 仕える	34. decline [dɪklaɪn] 衰退する
05. coup [ku:] クーデター	16. permission [pə'mɪʃən] 許可	37. the Shimadzu 島津氏
06. Yaeyama Islands 八重山諸島	25. Age of Exploration [ɛksplə'reɪʃən] 大航海時代	37. Satsuma Clan [klæn] 薩摩藩
07. Miyako Islands 宮古諸島	32. pirate [paɪrət] 海賊	41. enemy [enəmi] 敵
09. Amami Islands 奄美諸島		

In those days, the Ryukyu king served the Chinese king. Ryukyu gave many presents to China, and China gave Ryukyu permission to trade. Though the presents cost a lot, the kingdom earned much more money by trading with many countries. So, the kingdom became very rich, very strong and very big. And its culture also became more colorful.

The Fall of the Kingdom

In the 16th century, European countries were in the Age of Exploration. People from countries like Spain and Portugal traveled the seven oceans of the world. These world powers ruled many of the countries and towns with which Ryukyu traded. Also, people on trading ships from Japan and China turned into pirates. The ships of Ryukyu could not trade freely like they used to. Trade declined, and the people in the kingdom



■ 造船船の図 (糸織屋立博物館所蔵)
14世紀ごろから19世紀中期まで、中国との交易や使節を派遣するために用いられた琉球王国の官船です。中国の建造技術でつくられた大型木造船で、船首部の獅子の絵と絃の目玉が特徴です。

became poorer year by year.

In the beginning of the 17th century, the Shimadzu of the Satsuma Clan attacked the Ryukyu Kingdom. They had received permission from the Tokugawa government. The Ryukyu people fought against the enemies, but the Shimadzu were much stronger. After they lost the war, the Shimadzu told the kingdom to pay a lot of money every year. Then, the Ryukyu Kingdom had to serve both China and Japan. The people of the kingdom became the poorest they had ever been.

❖ コラム ❖

冊封

中国皇帝が属国の王に対して、王としての地位を認める文書を与えること。この文書を届ける為に派遣される使者は冊封使と呼ばれました。

明の光武帝は、冊封体制の確立のため、三山統一後の琉球王国に冊封使を派遣していました。琉球は王が代わるたびに、400～500名の冊封使を迎えて6か月以上も歓待しました。琉球に対する冊封は1404年から1866年の最後の琉球王尚泰の時代まで、合計24回おこなわれたと言われていました。