

TOMIOKA SILK MILL  
AND  
SERICULTURE

富岡製糸場と養蚕

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- Called “Land of Silk”
- A group of objects and technological equipment related to the production of silk is being in state of preparation for inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List





# World Heritage in Japan

- Currently 16 sites (12 cultural and 4 natural)
- Further 12 sites on the Tentative list
- Tomioka Silk Mill and Related Industrial Heritage is one of them
- Japanese government plans to request the inscription in 2014

# The Tomioka Silk Mill and Related Industrial Heritage

(富岡製糸場と絹産業遺産群)



- Group of sites that relate to the industrialization in the Meiji period (1868 – 1912)
- Part of the Industrial Heritage in Japan
- Tomioka Silk Mill was constructed in 1872 (continued operating until 1987)
- 10 locations with functional objects and related sites, presenting every part of the production

# Historical Context

- Japan in the 18th and early 19th century was a country without natural resources and not engaged in international trade
- **Opportunity** at the time when world silk powers struck in increasing silkworm epidemic called „pébrine“
- The onset of **pébrine** coincided with the opening of Japan to western trade
- Problem - lack of quality control
- Necessary to improve the quality to ensure the increase in production.

# Sericulture

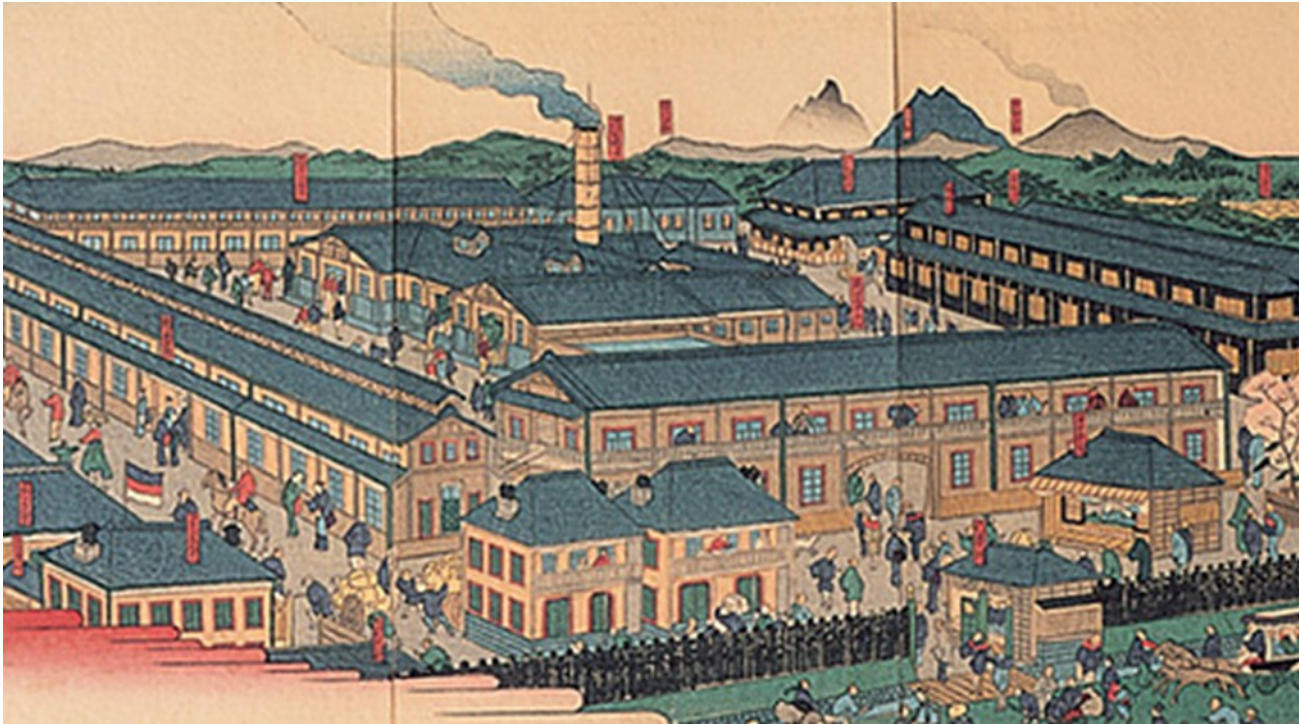
- Sericulture was a major industry in Japan from the eighth century
- It spread all over the country from Nara, which as the nation's ancient capital was the end of the Silk Road from mainland Asia, the Middle East and Europe.
- Beginning of Meiji Period - raw silk was Japan's No. 1 export product
- At the beginning of the 20th century Japanese export made from silk luxury goods, goods of mass production and use
- Japan dominated the export of raw silk until 1950

# Tomiooka Silk Mill, Industrial Heritage & Sericulture in Japan

- The most important industrial heritage of Japanese sericulture is the Tomiooka Silk Mill which became leading centre for sericulture, the rearing of silkworms and production of raw silk.
- Combines patterns of French technology and Japanese way of constructionbuilding - Wooden supportive structure with brick walls and ceramic roof tiles.



# Tomioka Silk Mill



- Universal Value – contribution to mass production and development of world`s silk industry
- The Tomioka Silk Mill and Related Industrial Heritage are also symbols of Japan`s industrial revolution