

Urban/Rural Japan and its Forests



Wood Job!
Kamusari naa naa nichijō
2014
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Outline

- ◉ Urbanization of Japan
- ◉ History of Forests in Japan
- ◉ Japanese Forests Today
- ◉ Forests and the Japanese

- ◉ 2 points to explain
 - rōnin
 - festival

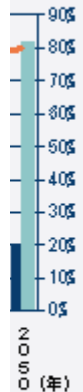
Urbanization of Japan

Table Land Usege (1992)

Type of land usage	Area(1,000km ²)	Percentage
Agricultural	52.6	13.9
Forested	252.1	66.7
Wilderness	2.6	0.7
Water Surface	13.2	3.5
Roads	11.7	3.1
Residential	16.5	4.4
Others	29.1	7.7
Total	377.8	100.0

Compiled by the National Land Agency in 1994.

割合



7

Uターン / Jターン / Rターン

～まだまだある！日々生まれていく新たな移住のカタチ～



- 7%
- 3%
- de
- populati
- attempt
- the coun
- campaign



reserve

History of Japanese forests

• until 16th century

- exploitative use of forests, deforestation for arable land
 - construction (eg. Nara and Heian period booms)
 - fuel
 - heavy use in 16th century wars
- important for agriculture (water, leaf litter as fertilizer..)

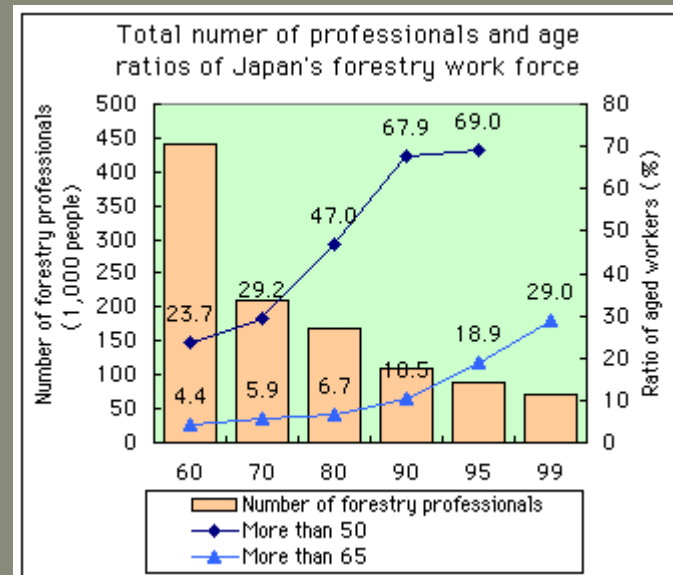
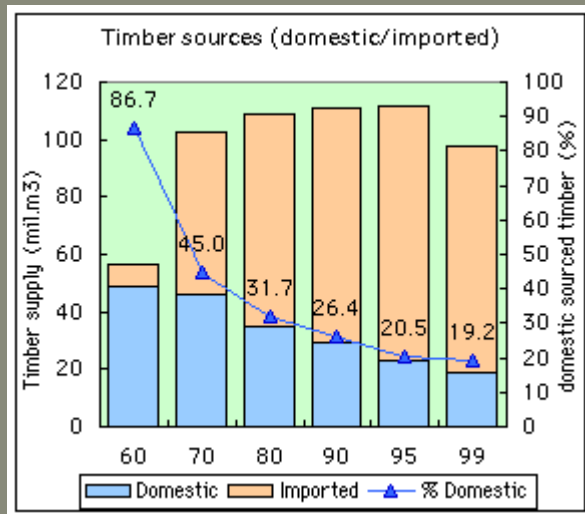
• 17th century > Tokugawa regime prosperity

- exploitation unsustainable > silviculture
 - villages start to manage forests (made responsible by gvt)
 - plantation techniques (hinoki, sugi)



Japanese forests today

- about 1/2 plantations, 1/2 natural
- high timber imports, number of forestry workers decreasing (with urbanization)
- neglected but important in preventing landslides





2 points to explain

● rōnin

- masterless samurai > student belonging nowhere

● matsuri

- Suwa festival (onbashira)
 - Nagano prefecture, once in 6/7 years
- playful child-like state closest to kami
- sense of belonging: to the earth, to the community