ieiiitoiles issue

It was in the Edo era, more than 300 years ago, that Chishima came to be known in Japan. The Ainu used to live on the islands. Records of the Matsumae clan in Hokkaido state that "the Ainu living in East Hokkaido dedicated sea otters and others to the said clan in 1615." Since sea otters can be caught only in the sea off Chishima, this indicates that exchanges between the Matsumae clan and Chishima date back to those days. In addition, the said clan prepared the Shoho Okuni Ezu (Shoho Era Islands Picture Map) under

Discovery of Chishima

orders of Hiroyoshi Murakami, a retainer, in 1644. This map was the oldest of Chishima in the world, indicating that the Matsumae clan was aware of the islands. It was in 1697 that Russians learned about Chishima. In that year, a man named Atlasov learned about Chishima from the Kurile people while he was visiting the Kamchatka Peninsula.

note) "Chishima" in this brochure refers to the Kunashiri and Etorofu islands as well as islands up to the Paramustrir and Shumushu islands to the north of the Urupou Island.

Development of Chishima

Russians made inroads in Chishima for the first time in 1711. Russian soldiers landed on the Shumushu Island in the same year and the Paramushir Island two years later. Subsequently, it was learned that a lot of fur animals inhabited Kurile. In 1768, a man named Chernyi traveled southward on the Kurile Islands while conducting research. After he landed on the Etorofu Island, he was the first Russian to spend the winter on the Uruppu Island. In 1795, approximately 40 Russians migrated to the Uruppu Island. At the same time, Japan continued trade with Chishima, centering on Akkeshi. In 1754, however, "Kunashiri trading zone" was opened, causing the center of trade with Chishima to move to the Kunashiri Island. It was around that time that the Japanese became aware that the Russians had made advancements in Chishima. The Edo shogunate then dispatched a

survey team to Chishima in 1785 to reinforce the defense of the islands. Tokunai Mogami, a member of the team, visited the Etorofu and Uruppu islands in the following year, where he learned about activities being carried out by the Russians on Chishima from a Russian on the Etorofu Island. However, when he visited the Etorofu Island again in 1791, the Russian was no longer on the island. Juzo Kondo, an official of the shogunate, erected a landmark that said "Dainihon Etorofu (Etorofu, Great Japan)" on the Etorofu Island in 1800, indicating that the island belonged to Japan. Starting in 1801, Japan sent officials to the Etorofu Island to tell the soldiers from the Tohoku region to defend the island and open up fishing grounds. This was followed by attacks of Japanese villages on the island and by various other problems due to the lack of a formal border between Japan and Russia.

Delimitation of the national boundary

The 1855 Treaty of Commerce, Navigation and Delimitation between Japan and Russia stipulated that the national boundary between Japan and Russia be between the islands of Etorofu and Uruppu. During the negotiations, Russia insisted that the Etorofu Island also belong to Russia. Nonetheless, Japan maintained that the

Etorofu Island was Japan's territory because Japan had developed the island and Japanese people were living there, and this view was accepted by the Russians. The Sakhalin issue was also on the agenda for the treaty negotiations, but it was ultimately decided that national delimitations for the island would remain undecided.

Change in national boundary

The Japanese and Russians constantly had disputes in Sakhalin, prompting both countries to agree to discuss national borders once again. While Russia was emphasizing on the development of Sakhalin, Japan could not afford to develop the island at that time. Instead, Japan decided to focus on developing Hokkaido, rather than Sakhalin, and concluded a treaty whereby Japan would hand over its title to the Sakhalin Island to Russia and, in return, Russia would hand over the islands from Uruppu to Shumushu in Chishima to Japan.

This treaty was concluded in 1875 and was referred to as the Treaty for the Exchange of Sakhalin for the Kurile Islands. After conclusion of the treaty, Japan and Russia found themselves opposed to each other over Korea, resulting in the outbreak of war (Japanese-Russo War) in 1904. The war was over in 1905 and the "Portsmouth Peace Treaty" was concluded between Japan and Russia, by which the southern half of the Sakhalin Island was ceded by Russia to Japan.

World War II

In Russia, the Czar was overthrown in 1917 and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (Soviet Union) was born. It was at this time that Japan dispatched troops to the northern part of Sakhalin, Siberia, etc. to expand its influence. Furthermore, Japan began war with China in 1931 to obtain profits, and with the U.S. and the United Kingdom in 1941. At the outset of the war, Japan had an advantage, but gradually lost ground. In 1943, representatives of China, the U.S. and the United Kingdom announced the "Cairo Declaration" to bring the war to an early end. The Cairo Declaration stipulated that "China, the United States and the United Kingdom have no thought of going into war for territorial expansion" and that "Japan shall return all territories it has taken by violent means." Japan and the Soviet Union concluded the "Japanese-Soviet Neutrality Pact" in 1941 whereby they promised that they would never again directly engage in war. In 1945, however, the United States and the United Kingdom thought it necessary for the Soviet Union to

participate in the war against Japan to make it surrender, and promised the Soviet Union that if it went to war with Japan, the southern half of Sakhalin would be returned and the Kurile Islands would be handed over to the Soviet Union. This promise is referred to as the "Yalta Agreement." In accordance with this promise, the Soviet Union violated the "Japanese-Soviet Neutrality Pact" by entering into war against Japan on August 9, 1945. The drop of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the participation of the Soviet Union in the war forced Japan to accept the "Potsdam Declaration" and unconditionally surrender on August 15, 1945. The "Potsdam Declaration" was announced by the United States, China and the United Kingdom, and the Soviet Union also participated in this declaration when it went to war against Japan. The "Potsdam Declaration" stated that "the terms of the Cairo Declaration shall be carried out and Japanese sovereignty shall be limited to several islands as the Allied Forces determine."

Pillaged Islands

On August 18, three days after Japan surrendered, the Soviet Union suddenly began attacking the Shumushu Island, resulting in the landing on one island after another in Chishima. By September 5, all the islands in Chishima, Habomai Islands and Shikotan Island were occupied. Although approximately 17,000 Japanese

people were living on the Habomai, Shikotan, Kunashiri and Etorofu islands at the time, the Soviet Union forced them to return to Japan by 1948. In Japan, these former Japanese residents took the initiative of launching a campaign demanding the return of these islands to Japan immediately after the war.

San Francisco Peace Treaty

In 1951, a conference aimed at restoring peace between Japan and the Allied Powers that fought in World War II was held, and it was at this conference that the "San Francisco Peace Treaty" was concluded between Japan and 48 other countries. In this treaty, Japan promised to "renounce all rights, titles and claims to the Kurile conference, the Soviet Union insisted on changing the text to read: "the Kurile Islands shall belong to the Soviet Union," but this effort ended in vain. As a result, the Soviet Union refused to sign the treaty with Japan. On the same day when this treaty was concluded, the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty was signed whereby the presence of U.S. forces in Japan

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Japan-Soviet Joint Declaration

Japan then began making efforts to sign a peace treaty with the Soviet Union. In 1956, Japan and the Soviet Union announced the "Japan-Soviet Joint Declaration," which led to the resumption of diplomatic relations. The declaration stipulated that the "Soviet Union shall hand over the Habomai and Shikotan islands to Japan after the conclusion of a peace treaty." When Japan revised the

Japan-U.S. Security Treaty in 1960, however, the Soviet Union changed its attitude, maintaining that "unless U.S. forces left Japan, it would not return the Habomai and Shikotan islands to Japan." Even after the fall of the Soviet Union, Japan has continued negotiations aimed at the signing of a peace treaty. It has not yet been concluded, however, because the territorial dispute has become a major stumbling block.

The Northern Territories Issue

Japan refers to the Habomai, Shikotan, Kunashiri and Etorofu islands as the "Northern Territories" by clearly differentiating them from other Chishima islands. Although Japan has consistently demanded that Russia return these islands, Russia has not complied with these demands. Russia has unilaterally claimed the sovereignty of the territories for reasons including the following: Russians discovered and developed the Kurile Islands first; the Yalta Agreement stipulated that these islands shall be handed over to Russia; the Kurile Islands, which Japan renounced in the San Francisco Peace Treaty, naturally include the Kunashiri and Etorofu islands. The Japanese Government, however, has continued negotiating with Russia taking the

following into consideration: the Northern Territories have always belonged to Japan since the national boundary was determined by the 1855 Treaty of Commerce, Navigation and Delimitation between Japan and Russia; Russia has occupied Chishima in violation of the Cairo Declaration to the effect that Russia has no intention of going to war for territorial expansion; the Kurile Islands, which were renounced by Japan in the San Francisco Peace Treaty, do not include the Northern Territories, which were formerly Japanese territories. The return of the Northern Territories is a difficult issue that must be addressed by both countries. It is vital for each and every citizen of Japan to have an accurate understanding of the issue and tenaciously maintain Japan's position.

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と交易をしてきましたが、1754年に「国後場所(交易地)」が開かれ、 千島との交易の中心がそちらに移るようになりました。このころから、 日本はロシア人が千島に進出してきていることを知るようになりました。

地方の兵士に択捉島の守備を命じたり、漁場を開いたりしました。その 後、日本とロシアの間に正式に国境が決まっていなかったために、択捉 島にあった日本人の村々が襲われるなどいろいろな問題がおきました。

3 国境が決まる

日本とロシアの国境は、1855年に結ばれた「日露通好条約」 で択捉島とウルップ島の間と決められました。話し合いの中でロシアは「択捉島もロシアのものだ」と言いましたが、日本は「択捉島は日本

が開拓して、日本人が住んでいるので日本のものだ」と主張して、日本の意見が認められました。この条約では樺太についても話し合われ、けっきょく樺太は国境を決めないでおくこととなりました。

国境の変更

しかし、樺太での日本人とロシア人の争いがたえなかったので、あらためて国境について話し合うこととなりました。そのころ、ロシアは樺太の開発にたいへん力を入れていたのですが、日本は樺太を開発するよゆうはあまりありませんでした。そのため、樺太の開発をするよりは北海道の開発に力を入れることにして、樺太をロシアの領土とするかわりに、千島のウルップ島からシュムシュ島までを日本の領土とす

る条約を結びました。この条約は1875年に結ばれ、「権太干島交換条約」 を言います。その後、1904年に日本とロシアがともに朝鮮を自分のも のとしようとしたことから対立して、戦争(日露戦争)が起こりました。 1905年、戦争は終わり、日本とロシアの間で「ポーツマス条約」が結ば れました。この条約によって、日本はロシアから、樺太の南半分をゆずり うけました。

第二次世界大戦

ロシアでは1917年にロシア皇帝が倒され、ソビエト連邦(ノ連)が誕生しました。日本は勢力を広げるため、サハリン北部やシベリアなどに出兵しました。さらに、日本は中国において利益を得るために、1931年には中国と、1941年にはアメリカ、イギリスなどと戦争を始めました。初めのうちは、日本が有利に戦いを進めましたが、しだいに不利になってきました。1943年、日本との戦争を早く終わらせるために、中国・アメリカ・イギリスの代表が「カイロ宣言」を発表しました。その中には、「中国・アメリカ・イギリスは自分の国の領土を広げるために戦争をするのではない」ということと、「日本は暴力によってうばった地域を返さなければならない」ということが書かれていました。日本とソ連は、1941年に「日ソ中立条約」を結び、日本とソ連が直接戦争をしないという約束を

していました。しかし、1945年にアメリカとイギリスは、日本を降伏させるには、ソ連が日本との戦争に参加することが必要と考え、ソ連が日本と戦争を始めたら、樺太の南半分が返還されること、千島列島が引き渡されることをソ連に約束しました。この約束を「ヤルタ協定」といいます。そして、ソ連はこの約束にしたがって、「日ソ中立条約」をやぶり1945年8月9日に日本と戦争を始めました。原爆の投下とソ連の参戦により、日本は、1945年8月15日、「ボッダム宣言」を受け入れ無条件降伏しました。「ボッダム宣言」というのは、アメリカ・中国・イギリスが発表したもので、ソ連も日本と戦争を始めたときに、この宣言に参加しています。この「ボッダム宣言」には、「カイロ宣言で発表したことは守られること」「日本の領土は連合国の決めるいくつかの島々に限られること」などが書かれています。

日本が降伏してから3日後の8月18日、ソ連はとつぜんシュムシュ島
 への攻撃を開始し、次々と千島の島々に上陸しました。そして、9月5日までに
 千島の島々と崩襲諸島、色丹島はすべてソ連に占拠されました。その当時、

歯舞諸島、色丹島、国後島、択捉島には約1万7千人の日本人が住んでいましたが、 ソ連の命令で1948年までに日本へ強制的に引きあげさせられてしまいました。 日本ではこれらの元島民を中心に、戦後すぐに返還要求運動が始まりました。

7 サンフランシスコ平和条約

1951年、日本と第二次世界大戦で戦った国々との平和を 回復するため会議が開かれ、「サンフランシスコ平和条約」が日本と 48カ国の間で結ばれました。日本はこの条約で「千島列島と樺太の南 サ分に対するすべての権利、権原、請求権を放棄する」ことを認めました。 この会議の中でソ連は「干島列島はソ連のものとする」というふうに変えるべきだと言いましたが認められず、結局日本と条約を結びませんでした。 また、この条約を締結した同じ日に、日本の安全保障のためアメリカ軍の 54/145 日本駐留を定めた日米安全保障条約が調印されました。

8 日ソ共同宣言 日本はその後、ソ連と平和条約を結ぶため努力してきました。 1956年に日本とソ連は「日ソ共同宣言」を発表し、国交を再開しました。 その中で「平和条約を結んだあとで歯舞諸島と色丹島を日本に引き渡す。」

という約束がされました。しかし、1960年に日本が日米安全保障条約

を改定するとソ連は「日本からアメリカ軍が出ていかなければ歯舞諸島 と色丹島は返さない。」と態度を変えました。その後、ソ連がロシアになっ てからも日本は平和条約を結ぶために話し合いを続けていますが、領土 の問題が大きな障害になって、今も結ばれていません。

■北方領土の問題

日本は歯舞諸島、色丹島、国後島、択捉島をほかの千島とはっきり区別して「北方領土」と呼び、ロシアに対して返還を求めていますが、ロシアはそれを拒否してきました。ロシアは「ロシア人が最初に千島を発見し開拓した。」「これらの島々はヤルタ協定でロシアに引き渡されることになっている。」「日本がサンフランシスコ平和条約で放棄した千島列島には国後島と択捉島も当然含まれている。」などといって、一方的に自分の領土としてきました。しかし、日本の政府は「北方領土は1855年に日露通

好条約で国境が決められてからずっと日本の領土である。」「ロシアは自分の国の領土を広げるために戦争をするのではないというカイロ宣言に違反して千島を占拠している。」「サンフランシスコ平和条約で放棄した千島列島にはもともと日本の領土である北方領土は含まれない。」と考えて、ロシアとの話し合いを続けています。北方領土を返還してもらうということは、国と国とのむずかしい問題です。国民ひとりひとりがこの問題について、正しく理解し、日本の立場をねばり強く主張していくことが非常に大切です。