

The social influence following the 1707 Hiei earthquake in the Atsumi Peninsula, central Japan

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The Hiei earthquake was a huge earthquake that occurred on a subducting plate boundary along the Southwestern Japan Arc on October 28, 1707, in the Edo era.

There are many studies on the damage of the 1707 Hiei earthquake, but it is not so much considered about the long-term influence after the earthquake.

The author uses the hazard and damage descriptions recorded in local historical materials and a book on the village history. Various influences of the 1707 earthquake on the people and society were examined to know what had occurred.

After the 1707 earthquake, coastal erosion was activated in Hatake-mura along the Mikawa Bay side and accompanied the collapse of the cliff slope at the edge of the coastal terrace. Therefore, the villagers erected the Akiba Shrine, which is the tutelary deity of the region, to quell the disastrous coastal erosion.

Akabanenaka-mura on the Enshu-nada open sea side had been affected by the coastal erosion even before the 1707 earthquake. The huge 1707 Hiei earthquake accelerated the collapse of the terrace cliff, and resulted in the decrease of cultivated acreage on the terrace. Akabanenaka-mura also erected the Akiba Shrine to get the village out of its difficult situation. The author found that there was a common belief in this region to ask the help of God to quell the coastal erosion.

The author also found that the huge earthquake had a long-term influence on the region and people. For example, the change in location of the coastal shoreline caused by the crustal movement of the 1707 earthquake affected the loss of farmland in the Atsumi Peninsula.

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