

Japanese Castle Towns

1. Motivation behind Research Paper

I had the feeling that I wanted to examine the culture that Japan has been building for a long time, because I am living in Nara prefecture that has a lot of cultural properties such as Todaiji Temple, Horyuji and Daibutsu. I also decided that if I was going to do research, I would do research on Japanese castles, which I was a bit interested in, so I decided to do some research on castles. The final target of this article is knowing what I should do to keep Japanese castles for future generations, and I will do that. I often went to Osaka Castle when I was younger, and I got inspiration from the castle every time. It made history more interesting to study in junior high school, so I want children to have the same experience.

2. Introduction

According to the official website of the Japan Tourism Agency, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, the number of tourists to Japan from abroad has increased from 2011 to 2019. Because of COVID-19, it has decreased in 2020 and 2021. Meanwhile, there has been an increase in foreigners who are interested in Japanese Bushi and Ninja due to the influence of Anime and Manga, so the number of tourists to Japanese castles has also increased year by year. However, it has also created a number of problems at castles all over Japan. For

example, how do we preserve existing remains? How do we maintain the spots that many people come to? I researched methods of preservation and management. I will compare it with Osaka Castle and Nagoya Castle, to solve the problems and keep culture and tradition for future generations.

3. Results and Analysis

There are lots of problems in Nagoya Castle, especially how to save existing remains. The Nagoya City created the special Historic Site Nagoya Castle Preservation and Management Plan, but it has not had a significant effect. They have yet to decide preservation and management methods in this plan, so if the castle gets major damage, they will not be able to support Nagoya Castle quickly. In addition, the number of tourists is increasing year by year, but the landscape is not well maintained. Also since no handling policy has been established, it has been difficult to promote preservation and utilization projects.

On the other hand, Osaka Castle has established appropriate preservation and maintenance policies and standards for handling changes to the existing conditions, reflecting the results of surveys and research on Osaka Castle, by Osaka City Board of Education, Cultural Properties Protection Division .They created a special Historic Site Osaka Castle Ruins Preservation and Management Plan as with Nagoya Castle. From this, Osaka Castle land is being developed as an urban park and is used as a place for citizens to relax and enjoy the abundant water and greenery.

The second problem is how to use the castle. In Nagoya Castle, the lack of maintenance makes it difficult to recognize the whole picture, also I think that the interior and exterior of the castle itself has been made too much for visitors, and more and more people are visiting it as a tourist attraction rather than a castle. At Osaka Castle, based on the plan mentioned earlier, the scope of special historic sites has been divided into 10 districts, and policies for conservation, management, and utilization have been established and organized for each district. By doing so, we have been able to plan the maintenance and utilization policies for each district in a very detailed manner, taking into account the characteristics of each district.

4. Conclusion and Future Problems

We have to make more specific and realistic plans for preservation, management, maintenance and utilization of castles. I think we should keep the castle for future generations, so we need to reconfirm the intrinsic value of each castle and its historical value since modern times, and we need to make sure castles are in a condition that facilitates the creation of new value that the castle has to offer. In Nagoya Castle, they have a plan about preservation, but they do not use that plan effectively.

The above is already what they think and have discussed. However, it does not have a solution yet. The importance of the castle is a Japanese traditional cultural property, but we have to work towards a solution quickly. The townspeople also understand the importance of it, and they work together to make a solution.

5. Reflection

Until now, I just looked at the castles that are sightseeing spots, but I knew lots of people acted to keep the castle for us, and they had distress, thinking and effort. I want to learn about things I have never tried to know before, and to have a chance to think about how I myself can contribute to society.

6. Work Cited

Nagoya City."Special Historic Site Nagoya Site Preservation and Utilization Plan"Nagoya City Official.May.2018.web.21.Oct.2022

Osaka City."Special Historic Site Osaka Castle Ruins Conservation and Management Plan" Osaka City Official.June.2018.web.21.Oct.2022