

Institute for Economic Studies, Keio University

Keio-IES Discussion Paper Series

Basic information about war-damaged cities in Japan

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11 September, 2015

DP2015-009

<http://ies.keio.ac.jp/en/publications/4494>

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JEL classification: N9

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Abstract

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Abstract

During World War II, air raids damaged many cities in Japan. After the war, in 1946, the Japanese government designated 115 cities as war-damaged cities, which would be reconstructed as official war-damage reconstruction projects based on land readjustment projects. War-damage reconstruction became an important challenge for the country's post-war restoration, but its course of events and achievements has not been made sufficiently known to the public. By providing basic information about the designated war-damaged cities, such as area, population, the extent of the wartime destruction and the responsible public body (i.e. prefecture or municipality) for reconstruction projects, this study emphasises the diversified nature of these cities, their damage and the lines of approach in taking responsibility for their reconstruction.

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Introduction

Seventy years have passed since the end of World War II. During the war, air raids destroyed many cities in the world, and their reconstruction became an important challenge for post-war restoration. Over the past few decades, the physical reconstruction of these war-damaged cities has been a prominent topic in a range of academic discourses and works. Many of these have considered cases in European countries, particularly in Britain.¹ According to the responsible Ministry's annual report from 1960, the local authorities in England and Wales, whose proposals for redevelopment of areas of extensive war damage had been approved for grants under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, numbered 44 towards the end of 1960.²

In Japan, the government designated 115 cities as war-damaged cities in 1946, which would be reconstructed as official war-damage reconstruction projects with state subsidies under the 1946 special city planning law. As will be shown, these designated cities were, in the administrative sense, not only cities but also town and village municipalities. The Ministry of Construction edited a ten-volume official record of the war-damage reconstruction, *Sensaifukkoshi* [*Records of War-damage Reconstruction*], in the late 1950s and early 1960s. The information and descriptions in these volumes are not immune to the interminglement of approximate and real numbers, possible errors or obscurity, but they indicate details of the reconstruction programmes of the designated cities.³ Furthermore, the relevant chapters in Yorifusa Ishida's 1987 book on modern Japanese urban planning and Akira Koshizawa's 1991 book on the urban planning of modern Tokyo pioneered the recent rise of academic consideration of the country's war-damage reconstruction. Both emphasised that Tokyo missed an opportunity for drastic reconstruction based on his ideal plan with many thoroughfares and open spaces.⁴

Japan's war-damage reconstruction has also been discussed by recent studies in English. Sorensen, in his seminal general history of Japan's urban planning (2002), overviews the reconstruction of Nagoya and Tokyo.⁵ The studies on reconstruction by Tiratsoo et al. (2002) and by Hein, Ishida and Diefendorf (2003) consider the cases of several Japanese cities. Among them, Hiroshima provided a 100-m wide boulevard and a grandiose Peace Memorial Park. This achievement was made possible because of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Reconstruction Law of 1949, which treated the atomic-bombed city's reconstruction with special favour, as evident from the transference of nationally owned ordinary

properties to the city for free and the provision of subsidies on more generous terms than for other war-damaged cities. In other cases, the damaged cities were tossed about by the central government's directions regarding reconstruction planning. In particular, Tokyo and Osaka, the country's two largest cities, had to curtail their proposals to create wide thoroughfares and parks as a result of the government's deflationary policy against inflation in 1949. Furthermore, in most war-damaged cities, ordinary citizens, who were alienated from the official decision-making process, reacted to the proposals by building unauthorised houses, stalls or illegal markets on the sites scheduled for roads or open spaces, which also prevented their implementation. In some cities, such as Maebashi, citizens organised opposition movements to oppose the reconstruction planning.⁶ Hasegawa's overview (2008) of eight provincial cities that the Ministry of Construction considered to have made remarkable progress in war-damage reconstruction in the late 1940s indicates that these cities in fact suffered from ill will amongst citizens towards war-damage reconstruction and the mushrooming of unauthorised constructions counteractive to official planning.⁷

However, in 2005, Koshizawa lamented that the achievements of certain provincial cities that had realised their reconstruction plans with magnificent boulevards had not been made sufficiently known to the citizens; and that even public officers of local authorities or planning experts were indifferent. This situation, he argues, was an underlying cause of the public antagonism towards reconstruction planning based on land readjustment projects⁸ following the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake that destroyed cities like Kobe in 1995.⁹ In August 2011, *Nihon Keizai Shimbun*, one of the four principal national newspapers in Japan, reviewed the war-damage reconstruction following the East Japan Earthquake in March of that year. This time, Koshizawa argued that the war-damage reconstruction laid the physical and economic foundation for provincial cities, but the newspaper itself stated that 'the history and legacy of war-damage reconstruction has vanished from people's memories'.¹⁰

Obviously, many more individual case studies should be explored to show not only the achievements but also the problems of the reconstruction of Japan's 115 war-damaged cities. However, apart from the dozen cities that have been considered in academic discourses and works, the names of the 115 most damaged cities have rarely been mentioned in historical studies. Particularly in English studies, we should at least know the names of and basic information about these 115 cities. In fact, it is interesting to observe how diversified these damaged cities were, varying from small-sized cities, towns and villages with a pre-war population of 50,000 or less to five of the six largest cities in the country with a pre-war population of (almost) one million or more, the largest being the ward area of Tokyo, of which the population amounted to 6.778 million in 1940. Experience of the damaged cities in modern town planning also varied; however, most of them proposed a drastic urban renovation with wide streets and open spaces.

By consulting such materials as *Kokuseichosa Hokoku* [*Population Census*], *Nihon Toshinenkan* [*Municipal Yearbook of Japan*] and the *Records of War-damage Reconstruction*, this study provides basic information about the designated war-damaged cities, such as area, population, the timing of the first application of the City Planning Law, the extent of wartime destruction and the responsible public body (i.e. prefecture or municipality) for reconstruction projects. This study also provides a list of the 100 cities named in the *Records of War-damage Reconstruction* that were damaged but not officially designated as war-damaged cities. By means of an introductory analysis of the 115 designated war-damaged cities, this study aims to lay the groundwork for detailed and comprehensive research into Japan's war-damage reconstruction.

115 designated war-damaged cities and 100 damaged but not designated cities

In 1889, in Japan, the *Shi* [city], comprising urban areas, and the supposedly less-populated *cho* or *machi* [town] and rural *son* or *mura* [village] municipal organisations started existing, based on relevant legislations in 1888. Towns and villages belonged to counties. As shown in Table 1, Japan's urbanisation proceeded steadily before the outbreak of the Pacific War

against the Allied nations in 1941.

Table 1. Development of cities, towns and villages in Japan

year of population census	number of cities	number of towns	number of villages	population in cities (% of the whole population)	population in counties (% of the whole population)
1920	91	1,357	10,748	10,096,758 (18.0)	45,866,295 (82.0)
1925	99	1,528	10,315	12,896,850 (21.6)	46,839,972 (78.4)
1930	107	1,700	9,928	15,444,300 (24.0)	49,005,705 (76.0)
1935	125	1,707	9,636	22,666,307 (32.7)	46,587,841 (67.3)
1940	165	1,759	9,197	27,577,539 (37.7)	45,536,769 (62.3)
1946	205	1,797	8,525	22,204,829 (30.4)	50,909,307 (69.6)
1947	214	1,811	8,480	25,857,739 (33.1)	52,243,734 (66.9)

Source: Tokyo Shiseichosakai [The Tokyo Institute for Municipal Research] (ed.) *Nihon Toshinenkan Showa 24nenyo* [*Municipal Yearbook of Japan for 1949*] (Tokyo, 1948), pp. 8–9.

According to the *Municipal Yearbook of Japan for 1944*, there were 208 cities in Japan in November 1944, as shown in Table 2 (205 plus two in Okinawa Prefecture that were occupied by the USA until 1972 after WWII and one in Karafuto [Sakhalin] that was occupied by Russia after WWII): of which, there were 22 cities with a population of 200,000 or more, including the ‘largest six’ comprising Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya, Kyoto, Kobe and Yokohama, with populations ranging from 968,091 to 6,778,804. Furthermore, there were 26 cities with a population between 100,000 and 200,000; 58 cities with a population between 50,000 and 100,000 (including Naha in Okinawa Prefecture) and 102 cities with a population of less than 50,000 (including Toyohara in Sakhalin and Shuri in Okinawa Prefecture).

Few larger cities escaped war damage. Of the largest 22 cities with a population of 200,000 or more, 19 became designated war-damaged cities after the war. Of the 48 largest cities with a population of 100,000 or more, 39 became designated war-damaged cities. Kyoto, from amongst the six largest, Yokosuka and Sapporo, from the next category and Kokura, Kanazawa, Otaru, Niigata, Takaoka and Muroran, from the third group, were not designated. Furthermore, 32 of 58 cities with a population between 50,000 and 100,000 became designated war-damaged cities and 16 of the 102 cities with a population of less than 50,000 became designated war-damaged cities. Overall, 87 of 205 cities became designated war-damaged cities after the war.

Table 2. Administrative cities in order of population based on the 1940 Population Census

name of city	prefecture	area (m ²)*	population**	the year becoming the city as municipality	the year first covered by the city planning law	designated war-damaged city	damaged but not designated
Tokyo	Tokyo	572.81	6,778,804	1889	1920	✓	
Osaka	Osaka	185.12	3,252,340	1889	1920	✓	
Nagoya	Aichi	158.79	1,328,084	1889	1920	✓	

Kyoto	Kyoto	288.65	1,089,726	1889	1920		
Kobe	Hyogo	115.05	990,374	1889	1920	✓	
Yokohama	Kanagawa	403.25	968,091	1889	1920	✓	
Hiroshima	Hiroshima	69.88	343,968	1889	1923	✓	
Fukuoka	Fukuoka	128.82	332,549	1889	1923	✓	
Kawasaki	Kanagawa	123.43	300,777	1924	1928	✓	
Kure	Hiroshima	91.35	276,085	1902	1923	✓	
Yokosuka	Kanagawa	41.8	263,639	1907	1928		✓
Yahata	Fukuoka	54.79	261,309	1917	1923	✓	
Amagasaki	Hyogo	36.8	257,966	1916	1923	✓	
Sendai	Miyagi	169.16	255,363	1889	1923	✓	
Nagasaki	Nagasaki	90.54	252,630	1889	1923	✓	
Sasebo	Nagasaki	138.01	233,984	1902	1925	✓	
Sakai	Osaka	51.5	223,819	1889	1923	✓	
Sapporo	Hokkaido	71.15	222,827	1899	1923		
Shizuoka	Shizuoka	147.76	212,198	1889	1923	✓	
Kumamoto	Kumamoto	80.94	210,038	1889	1923	✓	
Wakayama	Wakayama	73.73	206,883	1889	1925	✓	
Hakodate	Hokkaido	226.01	203,862	1899	1923	✓	
Shimonoseki	Yamaguchi	154.14	196,022	1889	1923	✓	
Kokura	Fukuoka	179.86	190,939	1900	1923	✓	
Kagoshima	Kagoshima	76.07	190,257	1889	1923	✓	
Kanazawa	Ishikawa	89.72	220,145	1889	1923		
Omuta	Fukuoka	82.89	177,034	1917	1923	✓	
Gifu	Gifu	70.68	172,340	1889	1923	✓	
Hamamatsu	Shizuoka	47.27	166,346	1911	1923	✓	
Otaru	Hokkaido	180.88	164,282	1899	1923		
Okayama	Okayama	47.49	163,552	1889	1923	✓	
Niigata	Niigata	20.24	171,987	1889	1923		✓
Moji	Fukuoka	65.77	146,693	1899	1923	✓	
Toyama	Toyama	103.67	145,382	1889	1924	✓	
Toyohashi	Aichi	115.89	142,716	1906	1923	✓	
Kochi	Kochi	119.55	139,754	1889	1925	✓	
Fuse	Osaka	20.5	134,724	1937	1933	✓	
Nishinomiya	Hyogo	40.07	129,282	1925	1926	✓	
Tokushima	Tokushima	47.53	119,581	1889	1927	✓	
Matsuyama	Ehime	66.64	117,534	1889	1928	✓	
Takaoka	Toyama	74	112,239	1889	1925		
Ube	Yamaguchi	59.47	120,122	1921	1928	✓	
Takamatsu	Kagawa	53.02	111,207	1890	1925	✓	
Muroran	Hokkaido	75.9	107,628	1918	1928		✓
Kofu	Yamanashi	49.3	106,579	1889	1927	✓	
Fukui	Fukui	32.87	104,614	1889	1927	✓	

Himeji	Hyogo	51.57	104,259	1889	1927	✓	
Yokkaichi	Mie	65.04	111,026	1897	1927	✓	
Aomori	Aomori	17.12	99,065	1898	1929	✓	
Kawaguchi	Saitama	48.61	97,115	1933	1933		✓
Akita	Akita	132.09	96,068	1889	1927		✓
Chiba	Chiba	68.3	92,061	1921	1930	✓	
Morioka	Iwate	219.8	90,051	1889	1928	✓	
Kurume	Fukuoka	24.49	92,734	1889	1927	✓	
Wakamatsu	Fukuoka	56.06	88,901	1914	1923	✓	
Utsunomiya	Tochigi	19.34	87,868	1896	1927	✓	
Asahikawa	Hokkaido	21.97	87,514	1914	1927		✓
Maebashi	Gunma	11.88	86,997	1892	1928	✓	
Kiryu	Gunma	26.73	86,086	1921	1933		✓
Maizuru	Kyoto	232.37	86,057	1938	1933		
Tobata	Fukuoka	9.66	84,260	1924	1926		✓
Okazaki	Aichi	47.37	84,073	1916	1925	✓	
Hitachi	Ibaraki	37.34	82,885	1939	1933	✓	
Kishiwada	Osaka	52.79	81,475	1922	1928		✓
Nobeoka	Miyazaki	173.97	79,426	1933	1933	✓	
Yamagata	Yamagata	20.84	79,043	1889	1928		
Hachinohe	Aomori	83.14	77,374	1929	1931		✓
Miyazaki	Miyazaki	61.69	77,127	1924	1927	✓	
Oita	Oita	56.17	79,419	1911	1925	✓	
Nagano	Nagano	31.06	76,861	1897	1925		✓
Hachioji	Tokyo	19.88	75,186	1917	1927	✓	
Matsumoto	Nagano	18.8	72,795	1907	1925		
Takasaki	Gunma	35.58	71,002	1900	1927	✓	
Ichinomiya	Aichi	27.69	70,792	1921	1925	✓	
Tsu	Mie	23.81	75,966	1889	1925	✓	
Shimizu	Shizuoka	24.8	68,617	1924	1925	✓	
Urawa	Saitama	37.59	67,555	1934	1933		✓
Otsu	Shiga	62.37	67,532	1898	1928		✓
Nagaoka	Niigata	15.9	66,987	1906	1925	✓	
Mito	Ibaraki	12.79	66,293	1889	1928	✓	
Suita	Osaka	37.41	65,812	1940	1926		
Naha	Okinawa	5.11	65,765	1896	---		
Yubari	Hokkaido	761.75	64,998	1943	1939		
Beppu	Oita	101.01	64,724	1924	1927		
Kushiro	Hokkaido	46.49	63,180	1920	1930	✓	
Nara	Nara	43.12	61,465	1898	1928		
Choshi	Chiba	38.71	61,198	1933	1933	✓	
Akashi	Hyogo	16.06	59,786	1919	1927	✓	
Omiya	Saitama	37.96	59,740	1940	1933		✓

Fukuyama	Hiroshima	41.27	59,381	1916	1928	✓	
Bofu	Yamaguchi	72.59	58,890	1936	1935		✓
Miyakonojo	Miyazaki	73	58,819	1924	1928	✓	
Ichikawa	Chiba	22.95	58,060	1934	1934		✓
Koriyama	Fukushima	19.85	57,402	1924	1927	✓	
Ogaki	Gifu	27.98	56,117	1918	1925	✓	
Imabari	Ehime	18.28	55,557	1920	1927	✓	
Matsue	Shimane	39.95	55,506	1889	1928		
Ujiyamada	Mie	64.1	65,204	1906	1927	✓	
Numazu	Shizuoka	12.51	53,165	1923	1927	✓	
Uwajima	Ehime	54.17	52,101	1921	1932	✓	
Odawara	Kanagawa	38.04	51,838	1940	1936	✓	
Komatsu	Ishikawa	91.07	51,537	1940	1933		
Hirosaki	Aomori	9.15	51,498	1889	1931		
Iwakuni	Yamaguchi	59.48	51,045	1940	1935	✓	
Funabashi	Chiba	40.29	50,907	1937	1934		✓
Saga	Saga	9.09	50,406	1889	1928		✓
Tottori	Tottori	45.12	49,261	1889	1928		
Handa	Aichi	40.48	49,153	1937	1935		✓
Kumagaya	Saitama	40.29	48,899	1933	1933	✓	
Yonezawa	Yamagata	18.48	48,816	1889	1933		
Onomichi	Hiroshima	22.46	48,726	1898	1927		
Ashikaga	Tochigi	9.13	48,310	1921	1927		✓
Fukushima	Fukushima	8.63	48,287	1907	1927		
Wakamatsu	Fukushima	11.78	48,091	1899	1928		
Yonago	Tottori	30.48	47,051	1927	1928		✓
Nogata	Fukuoka	56.5	47,026	1931	1933		
Kanoya	Kagoshima	162	46,841	1941	1934		✓
Iizuka	Fukuoka	16.16	46,685	1932	1933		
Onoda	Yamaguchi	39.68	46,484	1940	1935		✓
Suzuka	Mie	102.95	46,127	1942	1942		✓
Seto	Aichi	24.25	45,755	1929	1940		✓
Toyonaka	Osaka	17.49	45,013	1936	1933		✓
Tokuyama	Yamaguchi	67.91	44,882	1935	1935	✓	
Isahaya	Nagasaki	149.32	44,418	1940	1934		✓
Fujisawa	Kanagawa	45.91	43,775	1940	1934		✓
Sano	Tochigi	54.4	43,264	1943	1934		
Hiratsuka	Kanagawa	10.87	43,148	1932	1932	✓	
Kaizuka	Osaka	35.38	42,797	1943	1943		
Niihama	Ehime	18.39	42,392	1937	1933		✓
Kamaishi	Iwate	46.3	42,167	1937	1933	✓	
Kuwana	Mie	18.9	41,848	1937	1934	✓	
Kamakura	Kanagawa	18.75	40,151	1939	1933		

Okaya	Nagano	38.41	40,033	1936	1935		
Isesaki	Gunma	21.61	40,004	1940	1935	✓	
Nagahama	Shiga	47.03	39,974	1943	1934		
Hikone	Shiga	32.04	39,572	1937	1935		✓
Tsuyama	Okayama	61.55	39,297	1929	1929		
Ashiya	Hyogo	15.78	39,137	1940	1940	✓	
Mihara	Hiroshima	70.54	39,072	1936	1934		
Arao	Kumamoto	59.05	39,068	1942	1935	✓	
Noshiro	Akita	70.24	38,911	1940	1936		
Kawagoe	Saitama	17.17	38,047	1936	1933		✓
Yamaguchi	Yamaguchi	86.67	38,326	1929	1931		✓
Karatsu	Saga	47.35	38,047	1932	1932		
Izumo	Shimane	57.56	37,155	1941	1934		
Yatsushiro	Kumamoto	48.57	36,943	1940	1935		
Toyohara	Karafuto	647.79	36,640	1937	---		
Obihiro	Hokkaido	50.71	36,555	1933	1933		✓
Sanjo	Niigata	12.58	36,541	1934	1934		
Ishinomaki	Miyagi	23.89	36,442	1933	1933		✓
Hita	Oita	119.94	36,293	1940	1937		✓
Tsuchiura	Ibaraki	43.97	36,251	1940	1933		✓
Tsuruoka	Yamagata	16.97	35,986	1924	1928		
Shiogama	Miyagi	12.45	35,890	1941	1933	✓	
Ikeda	Osaka	21.99	35,494	1939	1933		
Tamano	Okayama	33.36	35,467	1940	1937		
Matsusaka	Mie	17.49	35,391	1933	1933		✓
Ueda	Nagano	20.73	35,069	1919	1927		✓
Shikama	Hyogo	18.34	35,061	1940	---		✓
Sendai	Kagoshima	77.1	34,289	1940	1934	✓	
Takayama	Gifu	42.88	34,145	1936	1934		
Tachikawa	Tokyo	8.9	33,849	1940	1937		✓
Saijo	Ehime	62.69	33,667	1941	1933		✓
Itami	Hyogo	17.03	33,579	1940	1935		✓
Iwamizawa	Hokkaido	167.41	33,519	1943	1943		
Omura	Nagasaki	122.81	33,390	1942	1934		✓
Kudamatsu	Yamaguchi	62.87	33,212	1939	1936		✓
Mishima	Shizuoka	52.85	32,992	1941	1933		
Hitoyoshi	Kumamoto	211.9	32,890	1942	1936		
Miyako	Iwate	127.89	32,879	1941	1935	✓	
Matsudo	Chiba	52.45	32,867	1943	1934		✓
Kitami	Hokkaido	300.11	32,849	1942	1934		
Saeki	Oita	79.83	32,505	1941	1934		✓
Ueno	Mie	52.62	32,503	1941	1936		✓
Shingu	Wakayama	23.2	32,403	1933	1933	✓	

Hagi	Yamaguchi	79.34	32,270	1932	1933		
Hamada	Shimane	104.83	32,230	1940	1934		✓
Kurashiki	Okayama	18.2	32,228	1928	1928		
Sakata	Yamagata	13.77	31,958	1933	1933		✓
Fukuchiyama	Kyoto	61.71	31,848	1937	1933		
Yawatahama	Ehime	38.7	31,728	1935	1933		✓
Fujinomiya	Shizuoka	36.92	31,523	1942	1933		
Tsuruga	Fukui	52.25	31,346	1937	1934	✓	
Tanabe	Wakayama	14.58	31,260	1942	1933	✓	
Tochigi	Tochigi	15.07	31,195	1937	1934		
Sakaide	Kagawa	22.82	31,030	1942	1933		
Takatsuki	Osaka	61.92	31,011	1943	1933		✓
Toyokawa	Aichi	59.01	30,455	1943	1937		✓
Shimabara	Nagasaki	39.49	30,411	1940	1934		✓
Suwa	Nagano	62.42	30,346	1941	1935		
Takada	Niigata	7.91	30,152	1911	1933		
Taira	Fukushima	18.74	30,126	1937	1933	✓	
Nanao	Ishikawa	69.36	29,987	1939	1933		
Kashiwazaki	Niigata	30.83	29,567	1940	1939		
Sumoto	Hyogo	58.21	29,461	1940	1934		
Nakatsu	Oita	15.44	29,414	1929	1931		✓
Kainan	Wakayama	13.77	29,091	1934	1934	✓	
Tateyama	Chiba	26.73	28,591	1939	1934		✓
Kasugai	Aichi	47.73	28,587	1943	1943		✓
Iida	Nagano	96.06	28,494	1937	1934		
Izumiotu	Osaka	9.04	27,800	1942	1933		✓
Marugame	Kagawa	11.07	26,928	1899	1925		
Tajimi	Gifu	27.27	26,820	1940	1933		
Kisarazu	Chiba	53.75	26,452	1942	1934		✓
Atami	Shizuoka	60.09	24,477	1937	1934		
Aioi	Hyogo	31.8	24,110	1942	1935		✓
Hikari	Yamaguchi	48.51	21,786	1943	1939		✓
Shuri	Okinawa	2.45	17,537	1896	---		

Source: Tokyo Shiseichosakai (ed.) *Nihon Toshinenkan Showa 19nenban* [*Municipal Yearbook of Japan for 1944*] (Tokyo, 1945), pp. 9–12, Kensetsusho [Ministry of Construction] (ed.), *Sensaifukkoshi* [*Records of War-damage Reconstruction*], vol. 1 (Tokyo, 1959), pp. 20–22 and the entries on the policy of war-damage reconstruction land readjustment projects and on the executing organisation of the reconstruction projects for each designated city in Kensetsusho (ed.), *Sensaifukkoshi*, vol. 4–10 (Tokyo, 1957–1961).

* As of October 1942.

** Based on the 1940 Population Census.

The names of the 115 designated war-damaged cities are listed by prefecture in Table 3 and those of 100 damaged (but not designated cities) are listed by prefecture in Table 4.

Table 3. The 115 designated war-damaged cities in Japan

name of prefecture	name of city (or town or village) at the end of WWII	responsible body for reconstruction projects (prefecture or municipality) in most of the 1940s and the 1950s	area affected in <i>tsubo</i> (1 <i>tsubo</i> = 3.3m ²)	area affected (m ²)	% of total area affected	population affected	% of total population affected	dwellings affected	% of total dwellings affected
Hokkaido	Nemuro (town)	prefecture	181,000	597,300	0.09	11,000	0.11	2,357	0.10
	Kushiro	prefecture	75,076	247,751	0.04	6,211	0.06	1,396	0.00
	Hakodate	prefecture	11,000	36,300	0.01	2,350	0.02	408	0.02
	Honbetsu (town)	prefecture	43,000	141,900	0.02	1,915	0.02	392	0.02
Aomori	Aomori	prefecture partly the city	1,600,000	5,280,000	0.84	74,258	0.77	15,930	0.69
Iwate	Kamaishi	city then the prefecture from May 1946	8,179,000	26,990,700	4.28	20,707	0.21	4,421	0.19
	Miyako	city	62,100	204,930	0.03	2,350	0.02	452	0.02
	Hanamaki (town)	prefecture	70,000	231,000	0.04	3,067	0.03	673	0.03
	Morioka	city	10,300	33,990	0.01	662	0.01	164	0.01
Miyagi	Sendai	prefecture then the city from January 1946	1,500,000	4,950,000	0.79	57,321	0.59	11,642	0.50
	Shiogama	city	23,900	78,870	0.01	2,242	0.02	486	0.02
Fukushima	Koriyama	prefecture partly the city	1,510,000	4,983,000	0.79	12,853	0.13	2,351	0.10
	Taira	prefecture	35,000	115,500	0.02	8,500	0.09	2,290	0.10
Tokyo	ward area	prefecture (Tokyo Metropole)	48,700,000	160,710,000	25.49	2,940,000	30.31	711,940	30.74
	Hachioji	city	990,000	3,267,000	0.52	84,950	0.88	16,543	0.71
Kanagawa	Yokohama	city	6,940,000	22,902,000	3.63	399,187	4.12	98,361	4.25
	Kawasaki	city	3,500,000	11,550,000	1.83	154,426	1.59	38,514	1.66
	Hiratsuka	prefecture	950,000	3,135,000	0.50	31,000	0.32	7,200	0.31
	Odawara	city	26,600	87,780	0.01	1,844	0.02	402	0.02
Chiba	Chiba	prefecture	700,000	2,310,000	0.37	38,062	0.39	8,904	0.38
	Choshi	prefecture partly the city	380,000	1,254,000	0.20	28,421	0.29	5,142	0.22
Saitama	Kumagaya	prefecture	352,718	1,163,969	0.18	15,390	0.16	3,630	0.16

Ibaraki	Mito	prefecture	1,400,000	4,620,000	0.73	41,000	0.42	11,600	0.50
	Hitachi	city	1,180,000	3,894,000	0.62	73,000	0.75	14,750	0.64
	Takahagi (town)	prefecture	63,230	208,659	0.03	2,372	0.02	572	0.02
	Taga (town)	prefecture	37,000	122,100	0.02	2,600	0.03	527	0.02
	Toyoura (town)	prefecture	30,000	99,000	0.02	2,170	0.02	420	0.02
Tochigi	Utsunomiya	prefecture then the city from 1950	1,000,000	3,300,000	0.52	47,976	0.49	9,173	0.40
	Kanuma (town)	prefecture	18,500	61,050	0.01	2,490	0.03	257	0.01
Gunma	Maebashi	prefecture	3,592,173	11,854,171	1.88	93,131	0.96	20,871	0.90
	Takasaki	city	24,000	79,200	0.01	3,140	0.03	668	0.03
	Isesaki	withdrawn from reconstruction projects	90,000	297,000	0.05	8,512	0.09	1,949	0.08
Yamanashi	Koufu	city	1,260,000	4,158,000	0.66	86,913	0.90	18,094	0.78
Niigata	Nagaoka	prefecture	1,420,000	4,686,000	0.74	63,160	0.65	12,719	0.55
Aichi	Nagoya	city	11,675,172	38,528,068	6.11	521,187	5.37	135,203	5.84
	Toyohashi	city	1,300,000	4,290,000	0.68	75,000	0.77	17,392	0.75
	Okazaki	prefecture partly commissioned to the city	600,000	1,980,000	0.31	32,068	0.33	7,542	0.33
	Ichinomiya	prefecture partly commissioned to the city	1,230,000	4,059,000	0.64	41,027	0.42	10,468	0.45
Shizuoka	Shizuoka	city	2,304,400	7,604,520	1.21	114,000	1.18	24,644	1.06
	Hamamatsu	city	2,300,000	7,590,000	1.20	120,000	1.24	31,201	1.35
	Shimizu	city	1,100,000	3,630,000	0.58	36,418	0.38	8,720	0.38
	Numazu	city	2,568,600	8,476,380	1.34	44,387	0.46	9,466	0.41
Gifu	Gifu	city	1,700,000	5,610,000	0.89	86,197	0.89	20,427	0.88
	Ogaki	prefecture then the city from October 1949	540,000	1,782,000	0.28	17,303	0.18	4,822	0.21
Mie	Tsu	prefecture	1,020,000	3,366,000	0.53	40,431	0.42	10,294	0.44
	Yokkaichi	prefecture	1,100,000	3,630,000	0.58	53,028	0.55	10,854	0.47
	Kuwana	prefecture	697,000	2,300,100	0.36	28,754	0.30	9,849	0.43
	Ujijamada	prefecture	421,330	1,390,389	0.22	22,600	0.23	4,859	0.21
Toyama	Toyama	prefecture partly commissioned to the city	4,172,700	13,769,910	2.18	109,592	1.13	24,914	1.08

Fukui	Fukui	prefecture partly commissioned to the city	1,800,000	5,940,000	0.94	92,300	0.95	22,847	0.99
	Tsuruga	prefecture	215,000	709,500	0.11	21,208	0.22	4,277	0.18
Osaka	Osaka	city	15,300,000	50,490,000	8.01	1,135,140	11.70	310,955	13.43
	Sakai	prefecture	1,500,000	4,950,000	0.79	72,441	0.75	19,106	0.82
	Fuse	city	54,180	178,794	0.03	4,529	0.05	1,084	0.05
Hyogo	Kobe	city	5,900,000	19,470,000	3.09	470,000	4.85	128,000	5.53
	Amagasaki	city	1,600,000	5,280,000	0.84	43,282	0.45	12,798	0.55
	Nishinomiya	city	2,253,000	7,434,900	1.18	56,831	0.59	13,013	0.56
	Naruo (village)	prefecture	623,100	2,056,230	0.33	19,929	0.21	4,158	0.18
	Mikage (town)	town until 1950 on its merger with Kobe city	567,000	1,871,100	0.30	15,740	0.16	4,765	0.21
	Ashiya	city	364,000	1,201,200	0.19	18,171	0.19	3,054	0.13
	Akashi	city	1,214,537	4,007,972	0.64	49,356	0.51	10,968	0.47
	Himeji	city	1,980,000	6,534,000	1.04	55,402	0.57	11,638	0.50
	Motoyama (village)	village until October 1950 on its merger with Kobe city	272,000	897,600	0.14	6,714	0.07	3,505	0.15
	Uozaki (town)	town until 1950 on its merger with Kobe city	148,000	488,400	0.08	6,625	0.07	1,325	0.06
	Sumiyoshi (village)	village until 1950 on its merger with Kobe city	301,000	993,300	0.16	570	0.01	2,695	0.12
	Honjo (village)	village until October 1950 on its merger with Kobe city	280,000	924,000	0.15	15,656	0.16	2,396	0.10
Wakayama	Wakayama	prefecture partly commissioned to the city	2,000,000	6,600,000	1.05	223,789	2.31	27,853	1.20
	Kainan	prefecture	27,800	91,740	0.01	779	0.01	194	0.01
	Tanabe	withdrawn from reconstruction projects	6,200	20,460	0.00	525	0.01	124	0.01
	Shingu	prefecture	97,000	320,100	0.05	24,731	0.25	4,583	0.20
	Katsuura (town)	prefecture	8,000	26,400	0.00	2,771	0.03	730	0.03
Hiroshima	Hiroshima	divided by the city and the prefecture	3,630,000	11,979,000	1.90	306,545	3.16	67,860	2.93
	Kure	city	1,543,495	5,093,534	0.81	133,986	1.38	23,598	1.02

	Fukuyama	city	950,000	3,135,000	0.50	47,326	0.49	10,179	0.44
Okayama	Okayama	prefecture then the city from November 1945	2,300,000	7,590,000	1.20	93,566	0.96	25,032	1.08
Yamaguchi	Shimonoseki	prefecture	477,000	1,574,100	0.25	49,923	0.51	10,917	0.47
	Ube	prefecture then the city from 1948	600,000	1,980,000	0.31	25,424	0.26	6,233	0.27
	Tokuyama	prefecture then the city from 1949	1,080,000	3,564,000	0.57	16,512	0.17	4,622	0.20
	Iwakuni	prefecture	1,500,000	4,950,000	0.79	5,650	0.06	1,183	0.05
Tottori	Sakai (town)	prefecture	35,163	116,038	0.02	1,790	0.02	431	0.02
Kagawa	Takamatsu	city	1,167,000	3,851,100	0.61	86,040	0.89	18,913	0.82
Tokushima	Tokushima	city	2,200,000	7,260,000	1.15	72,748	0.75	16,899	0.73
Ehime	Matsuyama	city	1,073,000	3,540,900	0.56	62,200	0.64	14,300	0.62
	Uwajima	city	398,000	1,313,400	0.21	28,140	0.29	7,252	0.31
	Imabari	city	1,811,500	5,977,950	0.95	33,336	0.34	8,212	0.35
Kochi	Kochi	city	1,266,400	4,179,120	0.66	40,937	0.42	11,912	0.51
Fukuoka	Fukuoka	prefecture then the city from January 1946	1,140,000	3,762,000	0.60	60,600	0.62	12,693	0.55
	Moji	prefecture then the city from 1946	349,000	1,151,700	0.18	18,902	0.19	4,436	0.19
	Yahata	prefecture then the city from September 1946	922,000	3,042,600	0.48	54,362	0.56	14,380	0.62
	Wakamatsu	prefecture then the city from 1946?	236,000	778,800	0.12	4,692	0.05	1,050	0.05
	Omuta	prefecture then the city from April 1946	1,004,300	3,314,190	0.53	55,410	0.57	11,082	0.48
	Kurume	prefecture then the city from 1946?	474,930	1,567,269	0.25	20,023	0.21	4,506	0.19
Nagasaki	Nagasaki	prefecture (partly the city) then the city from January 1947 (but effectively committed to	2,031,000	6,702,300	1.06	120,820	1.25	18,640	0.80

		the prefecture)							
	Sasebo	prefecture	540,000	1,782,000	0.28	60,834	0.63	12,114	0.52
Kumamoto	Kumamoto	city partly the prefecture	1,103,370	3,641,121	0.58	47,598	0.49	11,906	0.51
	Arao	city	90,000	297,000	0.05	4,360	0.04	878	0.04
	Minamata (town)	city	190,300	627,990	0.10	845	0.01	144	0.01
	Uto (town)	town	45,000	148,500	0.02	1,431	0.01	301	0.01
Oita	Oita	city	409,000	1,349,700	0.21	13,851	0.14	3,366	0.15
Miyazaki	Miyazaki	prefecture	620,000	2,046,000	0.32	20,860	0.22	4,527	0.20
	Nobeoka	prefecture	628,300	2,073,390	0.33	15,233	0.16	3,649	0.16
	Miyakonojo	prefecture	440,000	1,452,000	0.23	17,284	0.18	1,945	0.08
	Takanabe (town)	town then the prefecture from August 1946	40,000	132,000	0.02	1,273	0.01	268	0.01
	Aburatsu (town)	prefecture	57,000	188,100	0.03	2,500	0.03	800	0.03
	Tomishima (town)	town	45,400	149,820	0.02	3,383	0.03	689	0.03
Kagoshima	Kagoshima	city	3,270,000	10,791,000	1.71	115,386	1.19	21,961	0.95
	Sendai	city?	245,000	808,500	0.13	9,431	0.10	2,042	0.09
	Akune (town)	prefecture	57,300	189,090	0.03	4,670	0.05	850	0.04
	Kushikino (town)	prefecture	530,000	1,749,000	0.28	11,333	0.12	2,328	0.10
	Kajiki (town)	prefecture	247,000	815,100	0.13	3,046	0.03	778	0.03
	Makurazaki (town)	prefecture	757,000	2,498,100	0.40	11,084	0.11	5,732	0.25
	Yamakawa (town)	prefecture	112,000	369,600	0.06	2,600	0.03	570	0.02
	Tarumizu (town)	prefecture	223,710	738,243	0.12	9,308	0.10	1,785	0.08
	Nishinoomote (town)	prefecture	27,000	89,100	0.01	1,198	0.01	238	0.01
	Higashiichiki (town)	withdrawn from reconstruction projects	16,000	52,800	0.01	1,125	0.01	203	0.01

total		191,076,784	630,553,387		9,699,226		2,315,930
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Source: Based on Kensetsusho (ed.), *Sensaifukkoshi*, vol. 1 (Tokyo, 1959), pp. 16–17 and the entries on the policy of war-damage reconstruction land-readjustment projects and on the executing organisation of the reconstruction projects for each designated city in Kensetsusho (ed.), *Sensaifukkoshi*, vol. 4–10 (Tokyo, 1957–1961).

Percentage is shown as rounded off to two decimal places.

Table 4. Cities war-damaged but not designated by the government

name of prefecture	name of city, town or village at the end of WWII (status as municipality)	area affected in tsubo (1 tsubo = 3.3 m ²)	area affected (m ²)	population affected	dwellings affected
Hokkaido	Muroran (city)	300,000	990,000	5,300	1,143
	Asahikawa (city)	-	-	22	1
	Obihiro (city)	3,900	12,870	36	7
Aomori	Hachinohe (city)	30,000	99,000	2,500	500
Miyagi	Ishinomaki (city)	-	-	2	1
Akita	Akita (city)	110,000	363,000	336	140
Yamagata	Sakata (city)	89,590	295,647	20	7
Tokyo	Tachikawa (city)	30,000	99,000	4,396	490
	Kanagawa	Yokosuka (city)	-	-	707
	Fujisawa (city)	-	-	144	20
Chiba	Ichikawa (city)	2,000	6,600	497	84
	Funabashi (city)	1,000	3,300	177	33
	Matsudo (city)	10,000	33,000	40	7
	Kisarazu (city)	1,000	3,300	52	7
	Tateyama (city)	14,000	46,200	217	34
Saitama	Urawa (city)	19,500	64,350	400	80
	Kawaguchi (city)	300	990	1,183	191
	Omiya (city)	14,000	46,200	1,158	230
	Kawagoe (city)	100	330	62	9
	Warabi (town)	20,000	66,000	1,600	400
Ibaraki	Tsuchiura (city)	23,000	75,900	20	-
Tochigi	Moka (town)	4,500	14,850	-	34
	Kiyohara (village)	500	1,650	-	2
	Ota (of Ninomiya town?)	500	1,650	-	-
	Kataoka (village)	1,500	4,950	-	-
	Kitsuregawa (town)	500	1,650	-	-

	Miyori (village)	380	1,254	-	-
	Kaneda (village)	60	198	-	-
	Iono (village)	1,200	3,960	-	-
	Miyoshi (village)	1,000	3,300	-	-
	Nogami (village)	1,000	3,300	-	-
	Ashikaga (city)	-	-	45	6
Gunma	Kiryu (city)	-	-	1	-
	Ota (town)	125,500	414,150	1,298	217
	Shibukawa (town)	150,000	495,000	111	16
	Omama (town)	6,000	19,800	261	63
	Oizumi (town)	17,000	56,100	384	147
	Nitta (town)	1,500	4,950	30	5
Nagano	Nagano (city)	-	-	216	76
	Ueda (city)	1,000	3,300	30	2
Niigata	Niigata (city)	-	-	10	2
Aichi	Handa (city)	607,500	2,004,750	1,553	200
	Toyokaw (city) ^a	900,000	2,970,000	750	151
	Seto (city)	1,500	4,950	50	15
	Kasugai (city)	7,400	24,420	465	83
Mie	Matsusaka (city)	11,340	37,422	1,060	231
	Suzuka (city)	-	-	108	42
	Ueno (city)	-	-	1	2
Shiga	Hikone (city)	2,815	9,290	18	3
	Otsu (city)	-	-	-	-
Osaka	Kishiwada (city)	78,600	259,380	6,961	1,544
	Toyonaka (city)	240,000	792,000	12,951	3,540
	Takatsuki (city)	-	-	10	10
	Izumiotu (city)	-	-	31	3
Hyogo	Shikama (city)	11,641	38,415	2,066	389
	Itami (city)	150	495	2,461	472
	Aioi (city)	2,000	6,600	-	-
Wakayama	Gobo (town)	39,100	129,030	1,494	557
	Kushimoto (town)	13,730	45,309	871	329
	Osaki (village)	69,000	227,700	835	311
	Shimotsu (town)	30,000	99,000	1,850	116
	Hajikami (village)	195,000	643,500	1,926	383
	Shionomizaki (village)	63,259	208,755	270	63

Yamaguchi	Kudamatsu (city)	24,200	79,860	1,280	172
	Hikari (city)	63,000	207,900	2,033	45
	Onoda (city)	-	-	70	16
	Bofu (city)	-	-	19	3
	Yamaguchi (city)	-	-	-	-
Tottori	Yonago (city)	-	-	23	11
Shimane	Hamada (city)	-	-	12	3
Ehime	Niihama (city)	-	-	500	54
	Saijo (city)	-	-	7	-
	Yawatahama (city)	-	-	32	73
Fukuoka	Kokura (city)	1,000	3,300	162	76
	Tobata (city)	55,500	183,150	3,178	674
Nagasaki	Omura (city)	93,000	306,900	530	120
	Isahaya (city)	-	-	125	28
	Shimabara (city)	-	-	-	4
Saga	Saga (city)	2,140	7,062	580	107
Oita	Beppu (city)	-	-	12	-
	Saeki (city)	4,800	15,840	350	105
	Nakatsu (city)	-	-	2	1
	Hita (city)	-	-	4	-
Kagoshima	Kanoya (city)	201,000	663,300	5,471	1,069
	Taniyama (town)	136,500	450,450	1,151	296
	Ibusuki (town)	103,780	342,474	2,892	574
	Kiire (village)	22,240	73,392	950	201
	Ei (town)	12,100	39,930	284	97
	Nishiminamikata (village)	36,300	119,790	671	147
	Chiran (town)	151	498	370	100
	Ichiki (town)	3,186	10,514	442	210
	Shinjo (village)	33,275	109,808	486	110
	Kamitogo (village)	4,010	13,233	684	172
	Takae (village)	1,510	4,983	244	65
	Shigetomi (village)	15,000	49,500	510	120
	Chosa (town)	63,000	207,900	850	161
	Higashikokubu (village)	6,455	21,302	735	222
	Kasasa (town)	5,320	17,556	298	53
	Izumi (town)	42,804	141,253	1,200	162
	Kokubu (town)	2,100	6,930	612	70
total		4,185,936	13,813,589	83,755	17,764

Source: Based on Kensetsusho (ed.), *Sensaifukkoshi*, vol. 1 (Tokyo, 1959), pp. 20–22.

Blank parts for each damaged city mean no date available.

Amongst the 100 cities in Table 4, Yokosuka had a population of more than 200,000 and Kokura, Niigata and Muroran had a population between 100,000 and 200,000, leaving two cities categorised as undamaged among 22 cities with a population of 200,000 or more and five cities categorised as undamaged among 48 cities with a population of 100,000 or more; of 58 cities (including Naha in Okinawa) with a population between 50,000 and 100,000, 15 were damaged but not designated, leaving ten cities categorised as undamaged in this group. Of 102 cities (including Toyohara in Sakhalin and Shuri in Okinawa) with a population of less than 50,000, 42 were damaged but not designated, leaving 42 cities in this group and a total of 57 of 205 cities categorised as undamaged.

Table 5 shows the 28 towns and villages (24 towns and 4 villages) that became designated war-damaged cities. The four villages were Naruo, Motoyama, Sumiyoshi and Honjo, all in Hyogo Prefecture. The four towns, Toyoura (Ibaraki Prefecture), Katsuura (Wakayama Prefecture), Sakai (Tottori Prefecture) and Uto (Kumamoto Prefecture) had a small population well below 10,000 and the other 13 towns and villages had a population between 10,000 and 20,000. However, the aggregate population of these 28 towns and villages in the 1940 population census amounted to 488,839, with an average of 17, 459.

Table 5. Towns and villages amongst the designated war-damaged cities in Japan

name of prefecture	name of town or village	population at the 1940 Population Census
Hokkaido	Nemuro	22,010
	Honbetsu	10,956
Iwate	Hanamaki	16,953
Ibaraki	Takahagi	13,305
	Taga	20,010
	Toyouura	3,810
Tochigi	Kanuma	23,781
Hyogo	Naruo	34,261
	Mikage	22,711
	Motoyama	19,260
	Uozaki	13,360
	Sumiyoshi	18,121
	Honjo	13,739
Wakayama	Katsuura	5,498
Tottori	Sakai	7,044
Kumamoto	Minamata	28,330
	Uto	5,388
Miyazaki	Takanabe	14,434
	Aburatsu	10,475
	Tomishima	19,260
Kagoshima	Akune	24,725
	Kushikino	27,143
	Kajiki	14,862
	Makurazaki	29,057

	Yamakawa	12,926
	Tarumizu	20,805
	Nishinoomote	21,804
	Higashiichiki	14,811

Source: Sorifutokeikyoku [Bureau of Statistics Office of the Prime Minister] (ed.) *Showa 15nen Kokuseichosa Hokoku Dai Ikan* [1940 Population Census of Japan. Volume 1] (Tokyo, 1961), pp. 27, 28, 35, 69, 76, 193, 211, 214, 281, 285, 294, 295, 297, 298 and 299, available at ‘e-Stat’, a portal site of official statistics of Japan, developed by the Statistics Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (accessed on 30 August 2015):

https://www.e-stat.go.jp/SG1/estat/GL08020103.do?_toGL08020103_&tclassID=000001026559&cycleCode=0&requestSender=search

As shown in Table 3, the relative extent of damage caused during WWII varied greatly. Twenty cities had a damaged area constituting more than one percent of the total damaged area of the 115 designated war-damaged cities, while 32 cities constituted less than 0.1 percent. Fourteen cities showed more than one percent of the total number of persons affected of the 115 cities, while 35 cities showed less than 0.1 percent. As for the number of dwellings affected, 13 cities showed more than one percent, while 35 cities showed less than 0.1 percent.

Larger cities had more extensive damage. The damaged areas of the five largest designated cities represented 46.33 percent of the total of damaged areas of the designated 115 cities; the figure for the 19 largest cities with a population of 200,000 or more amounted to 58.56 percent. The corresponding figures for the population affected were 56.35 per cent and 71.33 percent; and the figures for the dwellings affected were 59.79 percent and 72.55 percent.

Responsibility for reconstruction projects

Isesaki (Gunma Prefecture), Tanabe (Wakayama Prefecture) and Higashiichiki (Kagoshima Prefecture) decided not to proceed with official war-damage reconstruction projects. There were 59 cases among the remaining 112 designated cities in which the municipality (cities, towns or villages) bore the main responsibility for reconstruction projects based on land readjustment projects. These included cities such as Sendai (Miyagi Prefecture), Utsunomiya (Tochigi Prefecture), Ogaki (Gifu Prefecture), Okayama (Okayama Prefecture), Ube, Tokuyama (Yamaguchi Prefecture), Fukuoka, Moji, Yahata, Omuta, Kurume and (probably) Wakamatsu (Fukuoka Prefecture), in which the municipality took over the responsibility from the prefecture; so did five of the towns and villages in Hyogo Prefecture, namely, Mikage, Motoyama, Uozaki, Sumiyoshi and Honjo, all of which were incorporated into Kobe, the prefectural capital, in 1950. In the case of Hiroshima (Hiroshima Prefecture), as will be seen, the city unwillingly shared the responsibility with the prefecture. In the remaining 53 cases, the prefecture took the main responsibility for reconstruction projects.

There were 13 cases among the 19 designated cities with a population of 200,000 or more in which the main responsibility for reconstruction projects lay with the municipality (including Hiroshima) and six cases in which it lay with the prefecture; there were 29 cases among the 39 designated cities with a population of 100,000 or more in which the main responsibility for reconstruction projects lay with the municipality and ten cases in which it lay with the prefecture; therefore, there were 30 cases among the remaining 73 designated cities with a population of less than 100,000 in which the main responsibility for reconstruction projects lay with the municipality and 43 cases in which it lay with the prefecture.

In some cases, even towns and villages took the main responsibility for reconstruction projects, as seen in Hyogo Prefecture. Tomishima town in Miyazaki Prefecture also emphasised in its entry in the volume of *Records of War-damage Reconstruction* that, despite the drained financial resources and lack of personnel, the town decided to bear the main responsibility for reconstruction projects supported by the zeal of the local people.¹¹ In Utsunomiya in Tochigi Prefecture, following the City Assembly's request that the work that concerned the city directly should be executed by the municipality, the prefecture and the city decided that the latter should take over the main responsibility for reconstruction projects from the former from 1950 onwards.¹² A similar demand among the citizens resulted in the city of Ogaki's takeover of the responsibility for reconstruction projects from Gifu Prefecture in 1949. Likewise, the city authority's executives of Hitachi in Ibaraki Prefecture ventured to bear the main responsibility for reconstruction projects despite all difficulties and the fact that the responsibility lay with the prefecture in the other four designated cities in Ibaraki.¹³

However, many designated cities indicated in their entries in the volumes of the *Records of War-damage Reconstruction* that the difficulty working on land readjustment projects due to lack of technical staff and financial resources was the reason for the prefecture to assume the main responsibility for reconstruction projects. As shown in the entry for Miyazaki city in Miyazaki Prefecture, it was decided that the reconstruction projects of the prefecture's six designated cities should be executed under the prefectural government's control so that the work should proceed swiftly despite the difficulties of financial and human resources.¹⁴ In some cases it was stated that the prefecture was asked or even entreated to bear the main responsibility for the projects. For instance, as stated in the entry for Kuwana in Mie Prefecture, the four designated cities' mayors together successfully petitioned the prefecture to execute the reconstruction projects.¹⁵ In Hiratsuka (Kanagawa Prefecture), the City Assembly unanimously decided to ask the prefecture to execute the projects, which should commence from the fiscal year of 1946.¹⁶ Furthermore, in Nagaoka (Niigata Prefecture), the City Assembly decided to ask the prefecture to execute the projects soon after the damage was inflicted, but in this case by just one vote.¹⁷ In Hiroshima (Hiroshima Prefecture), the city asked the prefecture for subsidies, which the prefecture turned down. Consequently, it was decided to divide the projects between the city and the prefecture.¹⁸ In Nagasaki (Nagasaki Prefecture), the mayor at first asked the prefectural governor to execute the projects, and therefore, the city commissioned the work to the prefecture even after it already assumed the main responsibility in January 1947.¹⁹

Provisional concluding remarks

The overview of the war-damaged cities in Japan has shown the great variety of the size of the damaged municipalities and the extent of damage incurred during WWII. Furthermore, it has revealed a contrast in the cities' approaches to whether the municipality or the prefecture should bear the main responsibility for reconstruction projects. The reconstruction's impact on the urban structure and reaction of ordinary citizens to proposed and actual reconstructions are other important research topics of war-damage reconstruction.²⁰ The volumes of *Sensaifukkoshi* have been said to lack graphic accounts of the course of events, as is the case with official records,²¹ but they can be a useful source for examining these topics according to the volumes' descriptions of plans and planned projects and of movements in some cities to oppose or promote reconstruction. Hopefully, further research will enrich our knowledge and understanding of war-damage reconstruction in Japan.

Acknowledgement

The research for this paper is financially supported by Keio Gijuku Academic Development Funds (2013).

Notes

1 See, for instance, on European countries: J. M. Diefendorf (ed.) *Rebuilding Europe's bombed cities* (Basingstoke, 1990); P. J. Larkham (ed.), 'Virtual Special Issue - Replanning and rebuilding the blitzed city', *Planning Perspectives*, (2013), <http://explore.tandfonline.com/page/pgas/rppe-vsi>, containing eleven articles on blitz reconstruction in European countries

that appeared in that journal between 1993 and 2008, and M. Clapson and P. J. Larkham (eds), *The Blitz and Its Legacy: wartime destruction to post-war reconstruction* (Surrey and Burlington, 2013), chs 10–13; on Germany: J. M. Diefendorf, *In the wake of war: the reconstruction of German cities after World War II* (Oxford, 1993); on Britain: N. Tiratsoo, *Reconstruction, affluence and Labour politics: Coventry 1945-60* (London, 1990); J. Hasegawa, *Replanning the blitzed city centre: a comparative study of Bristol, Coventry and Southampton 1941-1950* (Buckingham and Philadelphia, 1992); P. J. Larkham and K. D. Lilley *Planning the 'City of Tomorrow': British reconstruction planning, 1939-1952: an annotated bibliography* (Pickering, 2001) and N. Tiratsoo, T. Matsumura, T. Mason and J. Hasegawa, *Urban reconstruction in Britain and Japan, 1945-1955: dreams, plans and realities* (Luton, 2002), chs 2–5.

2 *Report of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government 1960* (London, HMSO, Cmnd. 1435, 1961), p. 174.

3 Kensetsusho [Ministry of Construction] (ed.), *Sensaifukkoshi [Records of War-damage Reconstruction]*, vol. 1–vol. 10 (Tokyo, 1957–1963). The following volumes, each around 700–800 pages, are devoted to the description of individual designated cities: vol. 4 (Tokyo, 1957), vol. 5 (Tokyo, 1957), vol. 6 (Tokyo, 1958), vol. 7 (Tokyo, 1959), vol. 8 (Tokyo, 1960), vol. 9 (Tokyo, 1960) and vol. 10 (Tokyo, 1961).

4 Y. Ishida, *Nihonkindaitoshikeikaku no Hyakunen* [One hundred years of Japanese Town Planning] (Tokyo, 1987), ch. 7; Y. Ishida, *Nihonkindaitoshikeikakushikenkyu (shinsoban)* [Study on the history of modern town planning in Japan (new edition)] (Tokyo, 1987), chs 10 and 11; A. Koshizawa, *Tokyo no Toshikeikaku* [Town Planning of Tokyo] (Tokyo, 1991), ch. 6.

5 A. Sorensen, *The Making of Urban Japan: Cities and planning from Edo to the twenty-first century* (Abingdon, Oxon and New York, 2002), ch.5, especially pp. 158–168.

6 Tiratsoo, et al., *Urban reconstruction in Britain and Japan*, chs 6–9 and C. Hein, J. Diefendorf and Y. Ishida (eds), *Rebuilding Urban Japan after 1945* (Basingstoke and New York, 2003)

7 J. Hasegawa, 'The reconstruction of bombed cities in Japan after the Second World War', in *Urban Morphology* 12 (1), 2008, 11–22. The eight cities were Sendai, Chiba, Hiratsuka, Toyohashi, Okazaki, Wakayama, Fukuyama and Oita. As for Sendai, Hasegawa's further research argues that the citizens' reaction tended to be motivated by personal gains and losses, as shown in the disputes over the city's main station street, which meant that the significance of planning for the sake of public good was belittled. J. Hasegawa, 'Problems of blitz reconstruction in Japan: the case of Sendai' in Larkham and Clapson, *The Blitz and Its Legacy*, ch. 14, pp. 179–192.

8 Land readjustment had long been a principal method of Japanese urban planning. Reconstruction after Great Kanto Earthquake of 1923 that hit Tokyo was based on land readjustment projects. (For the reconstruction after the Great Kanto Earthquake, see J. C. Schencking, *The Great Kanto Earthquake and the Chimera of National Reconstruction in Japan* (New York, 2013).) War-damage reconstruction was also based on land readjustment projects. Land readjustment projects entailed taking portions of individually owned plots to realise plans for roads, open spaces and other purposes. It was expected that land values would rise sufficiently in areas covered by readjustment projects, so that the value of the land after land readjustment should not be different from its value before readjustment. Settlement money would be paid to the owner if it was recognised that he or she had conceded land so that loss of value was incurred; alternatively, if it was judged that the affected owner had gained from land readjustment, that owner had to pay settlement money. For land readjustment, see L. Minerubi et al. (eds), *Land Readjustment: The Japanese System* (Boston MA, 1986).

9 A. Koshizawa, 'Sensaifukkokeikaku no Igi to sono Isan' [The significance of war-damage reconstruction plan and its legacy] *Toshimondai* [Municipal Problems], 96 (8), 2005, 55. Also see his article, 'Sensaifukko kara "Isan" manabe' [Learn the 'legacy' of war-damage reconstruction], contributed to a national newspaper *Yomiuri Shimbun*, 29 August 2005. Ishida has also argued that case studies of war-damage reconstruction would give a useful lesson. See Y. Ishida, *Nihonkindaitoshikeikaku no Hyakunen*, p. 229 and his *Nihonkindaitoshikeikaku no Tenkai 1868–2003* [Development of Japanese urban planning, 1868–2003] (Tokyo, 2004), pp. 188–9. The latter book is an updated version of his *Nihonkindaitoshikeikaku no Hyakunen* of 1987

10 *Nihon Keizai Shimbun*, 10 August 2011. The newspaper carried a series of five articles focusing on Sendai, Hiroshima,

Nagoya and Tokyo. *Nihon Keizai Shimbun*, 10-14 August, 2011.

11 Kensetsusho (ed.), *Sensaifukkoshi*, vol. 5, p. 663.

12 Kensetsusho (ed.), *Sensaifukkoshi*, vol. 8, p. 101.

13 Kensetsusho (ed.), *Sensaifukkoshi*, vol. 7, pp. 96 and 265.

14 Kensetsusho (ed.), *Sensaifukkoshi*, vol. 6, p. 645. Also see the cases in the volumes of *Sensaifukkoshi* of Kamaishi (Iwate Prefecture), vol. 5, p. 45; Taira (Fukushima Prefecture), p. 171; Choshi (Chiba Prefecture), vol. 7, pp. 176–7; Kumagaya (Saitama Prefecture), vol. 7, pp. 137–8; Mito (Ibaraki Prefecture), vol. 8, p. 62; Takahagi (Ibaraki Prefecture), vol. 4, p. 209; Maebashi (Gunma Prefecture), vol. 8, p. 151; Fukui (Fukui Prefecture), vol. 7, p. 366; Shingu (Wakayama Prefecture), vol. 5, p. 580; Kainan (Wakayama Prefecture), vol. 5, p. 615; Katsuura (Wakayama Prefecture), vol. 5, pp. 639–40; Sakai (Tottori Prefecture), vol. 4, p. 553; Miyazaki (Miyazaki Prefecture), vol. 6, p. 645; Miyakonojo (Miyazaki Prefecture), vol. 6, p. 681; Takanabe (Miyazaki Prefecture), vol. 4, p. 744; and Abratsu (Miyazaki Prefecture), vol. 4, p. 715.

15 Kensetsusho (ed.), *Sensaifukkoshi*, vol. 6, p. 224.

16 Kensetsusho (ed.), *Sensaifukkoshi*, vol. 8, p. 314.

17 Kensetsusho (ed.), *Sensaifukkoshi*, vol. 6, p. 13.

18 Kensetsusho (ed.), *Sensaifukkoshi*, vol. 9, p. 382.

19 Ibid, pp. 709–10. Also see the cases in the volumes of *Sensaifukkoshi* of Hanamaki (Iwate Prefecture), vol. 5, p. 74, in which the Town Assembly meeting of 1 April 1946 decided to leave the execution of projects entirely to the prefecture; Okazaki (Aichi Prefecture), vol. 5, p. 312; Ichinomiya (Aichi Prefecture), vol. 7, p. 225; Tsu (Mie Prefecture), vol. 8, p. 469; Yokkaichi (Mie Prefecture), vol. 9, p. 197; Toyama (Toyama Prefecture), vol. 7, pp. 308–9; Tsuruga (Fukui Prefecture), vol. 5, p. 253; Naruo (Hyogo Prefecture), vol. 5, p. 539; Tokushima (Tokushima Prefecture), vol. 7, p. 598; Sasebo (Nagasaki Prefecture), vol. 8, p. 744; Akune (Kagoshima Prefecture), vol. 5, p. 722; Kajiki (Kagoshima Prefecture), vol. 5, p. 760; Yamakawa (Kagoshima Prefecture), vol. 4, p. 769; Tarumizu (Kagoshima Prefecture), vol. 4, p. 792; and Nishinoomote (Kagoshima Prefecture), vol. 5, p. 790.

20 One example of the public reaction to war-damage reconstruction can actually be found in the late 1960s. In 1968, a national newspaper, *Asahi Shimbun*, reported that 44 cities faced problems of settlement money in connection to land readjustment for war-damage reconstruction. An assessment of settlement money was made on the basis of the land price of 1959, when the Ministry of Construction declared that war-damage reconstruction was completed. Inhabitants of Aomori, who would have to pay for settlement, resented the bill that assaulted them suddenly after a lapse of many years; in contrast, inhabitants in Tokushima, who would receive settlement, complained that it would be ‘a paltry sum of money’ because the assessment was made on the 1959 basis. *Asahi Shimbun*, 17 June 1968.

21 Y. Ishida, *Nihonkindaitoshikeikaku no Hyakunen*, pp. 228–9 and his *Nihonkindaitoshikeikaku no Tenkai 1868–2003*, p. 188.