

Comparative and Global Perspectives on Japanese Archaeology

# Burial Mounds in Europe and Japan

Comparative and Contextual Perspectives

edited by

Thomas Knopf, Werner Steinhaus  
and Shin'ya FUKUNAGA

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Cover illustrations: Mori-shōgunzuka mounded tomb located in Chikuma-shi in Nagano prefecture, Japan, by Werner Steinhaus (above)  
Magdalenenberg burial mound at Villingen-Schwenningen, Germany, by Thomas Knopf (below)

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## List of authors (in alphabetical order)

Dr. Ariane Ballmer  
Institute for Archaeological Sciences  
University of Bern (CH)  
mail@arianeballmer.com

Dr. Ines Balzer  
German Archaeological Institute (DAI), Dept. Rome (I)  
ines.balzer@dainst.de

Prof. Dr. Manfred K. H. Eggert  
Institut für Pre- and Protohistory and Medieval  
Archaeology  
Eberhard-Karls-University Tuebingen  
manfred.eggert@uni-tuebingen.de

Prof. Dr. Shin'ya FUKUNAGA  
Division of Studies on Cultural Forms, Graduate School  
of Letters  
Department of Archaeology  
Ōsaka University

Dr. Leif Hansen  
State Office for Cultural Heritage Baden-Wuerttemberg  
leif.hansen@rps.bwl.de

Prof. Dr. Thomas Knopf  
Institut für Pre- and Protohistory and Medieval  
Archaeology  
Eberhard-Karls-University Tuebingen  
thomas.knopf@uni-tuebingen.de

Prof. Dr. Dirk Krausse  
State Office for Cultural Heritage Baden-Wuerttemberg  
dirk.krausse@rps.bwl.de

Prof. Dr. Takehiko MATSUGI  
Graduate University for Advanced Studies (Sokendai)  
Department of Japanese History, Archeological Section  
National Museum of Japanese History

Dr. Nils Müller-Scheeßel  
Institute for Pre- and Protohistory  
Christian-Albrechts-University Kiel  
nils.mueller-scheessel@ufg.uni-kiel.d

Dr. Tatsuo NAKAKUBO  
Division of Studies on Cultural Forms, Graduate School  
of Letters  
Department of Archaeology  
Ōsaka University

Prof. Dr. Frank Nikulka  
Institute for Pre- and Protohistoric Archaeology  
University of Hamburg  
frank.nikulka@uni-hamburg.de

Prof. Dr. Hisashi NOJIMA  
Graduate School of Letters, Humanities  
Department of Geography, Archaeology, and Cultural  
Heritage Studies  
Hiroshima University

Dr. Joseph Ryan  
Division of Studies on Cultural Forms, Graduate School  
of Letters  
Department of Archaeology  
Ōsaka University

Prof. Dr. Kenichi SASAKI  
Graduate School of Arts and Letters, Department of  
History (Archaeology)  
Meiji University Tōkyō

Prof. Dr. Wolfram Schier  
Institute for Prehistoric Archaeology  
Freie Universität Berlin  
wolfram.schier@fu-berlin.de

Prof. Dr. Akira SEIKE  
Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences,  
Department of Archaeology  
Okayama University

Werner Steinhaus M.A.  
Lecturer, Hiroshima University

Dr. Naoya UEDA  
Division of Studies on Cultural Forms, Graduate School  
of Letters  
Department of Archaeology  
Ōsaka University

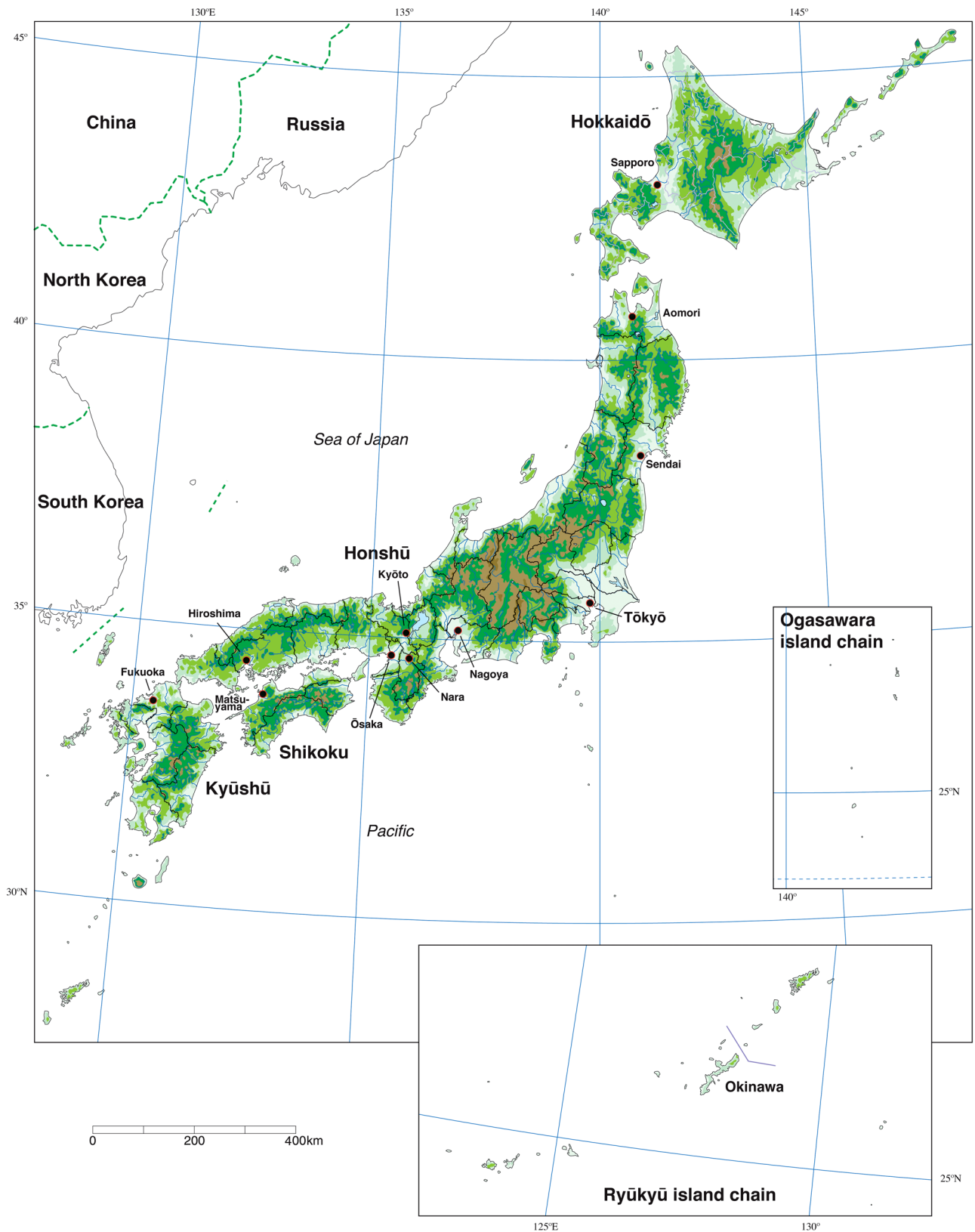


Figure 1. Japan map (political map) (Werner Steinhaus; DesignEXchange, license Nr. 10861983)

## **JŌMON PERIOD (13.000 BC ~ 300 BC)**

## **YAYOI PERIOD (circa 10th century BC – mid-3rd century AD)**

<b>INITIAL YAYOI PERIOD</b>	(circa 10th BC – c. 8th BC)
<b>EARLY YAYOI PERIOD</b>	(circa 7th BC – 4th BC)
<b>MIDDLE YAYOI PERIOD</b>	(4th BC – 1st AD)
<b>LATE YAYOI PERIOD</b>	(1st AD – mid-3rd century AD)

### **Around 10th century BC**

Adaption of wet rice cultivation

### **4th – 3rd BC**

Emergence of ironware; appearance of bronze ware

At the end of the Early Yayoi period the first burial mounds appear; burial mound building intensifies during the Middle Yayoi period

### **1st AD**

Emergence of graves with burial mound and graves with a slightly elevated platform-shaped mound with a square base

### **2nd – 3rd AD**

Late Yayoi period to end of the Yayoi period: emergence of the large-sized burial mounds reaching 40m in length

**Note:** The precise dating of Japanese archaeology continues to be debated.

Dates given here indicate the maximum date ranges for each period.

## **KOFUN PERIOD (mid-3rd – 7th century AD)**

**EARLY KOFUN PERIOD** (mid-3rd – late 4th century AD)

**MIDDLE KOFUN PERIOD** (late 4th – end 5th century AD)

**LATE KOFUN PERIOD** (beginning 6th to 7th century AD)

### **239 AD**

Delegation of the Queen of Wa to China to the court of the Wei dynasty (the Three Kingdoms period, 220-265 AD); construction of a large burial mound of 100 „steps" in diameter following the death of Queen Himiko

### **Around mid-3rd century AD**

The first keyhole-shaped mounded tombs are built.

### **Last third of the 4th century AD**

Formation of the Furuichi and the Mozu mounded tomb groups in the Ōsaka plain

### **End 4th century AD**

In Kyūshū, the erection of burial stone chambers with horizontal side entrance begins.

### **Mid-5th century AD**

In Kinai (five old provinces in the vicinity of Kyōto and Ōsaka) the construction of burial stone chambers with horizontal side entrance begins.

The time of the five kings of Wa – between 424-478 AD (according to the ‘Account of the Wa’ in the ‘History of Song’ compiled in the 14th century AD; Chinese Song dynasty, 960-1279 AD)

### **478 AD**

According to the ‘Account of the Wa’ in the ‘History of Song’, King Bu of Wa sends an envoy to the emperor of the Chinese Lui Song dynasty (420-479 AD)

### **1st to 2nd third of the 5th century AD**

The construction of giant burial mounds peaks.

### **6th century AD**

The construction of corridor-style stone chambers with horizontal side entrance spreads through the Japanese islands.

### **Mid-6th century AD**

Introduction of Buddhism

### **Early 7th century AD**

The construction of keyhole-shaped mounded tombs ends.

### **End 7th century AD**

The construction of mounded tombs completely ends.

## Foreword

Burial mounds were among the first monuments of antiquity to attract the attention of antiquarians in both Europe and Japan. They comprise a very particular category of archaeological remains. Archaeologists spend the majority of their time on materials that have survived from the past through chance and serendipity. The archaeology of burial mounds, on the other hand, presents the fortunate excavator with materials arranged in a manner originally expected by those involved in the funerary rites to last long into the future. The materials recovered from burial mounds, and indeed other forms of tomb, were intended to accompany the incumbents of these sepulchres to the afterlife: those incumbents would surely have been surprised to know that their afterlife would include an archaeological intervention.

This volume represents the culmination of the first phase of an international collaboration between Japanese and European specialists in the archaeology of burial mounds. It also marks the inauguration of a new series of volumes intended to explore the international significance of Japanese archaeology through comparative studies. To date, the collaboration has comprised a series of trilateral study visits between Japan, Germany and the United Kingdom, examining sites, meeting practitioners on the ground, giving talks and participating in workshops. As well as bringing together established specialists interested in what a comparative approach can achieve, these interactions have provided opportunities to introduce students from the various countries to each other, to broaden their perspectives through encounters with very different ways of approaching comparable archaeological material.

The papers in this volume are based on presentations given at an international workshop at the Eberhard-Karls-University Tuebingen in November 2015. The workshop was supported by the German Research Foundation (DFG) within the program 'Initiation of international cooperation', the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures and the Ōsaka University. Sincerest thanks are due both to the organisers of the conference and to the editors of this resulting volume. Thanks are also due to Joseph Ryan (Ōsaka University) for editing the texts of the Japanese colleagues as well as translating some of the texts from Japanese into English and to Katherine Song (Hiroshima University) for editing two texts of the German colleagues.

It is hoped that this publication will both provide the foundation for further fruitful international collaboration in regard to this most fascinating class of archaeological site, and also stimulate further comparative studies of Japanese archaeology.

Dr Simon Kaner

Executive Director and Head of  
the Centre for Archaeology and  
Heritage Sainsbury Institute for  
the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures,  
and Director, Centre for Japanese Studies,  
University of East Anglia