

●What's the value of Jomon Culture for human beings?

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Aomori prefecture is a treasure house of Jomon archaeological sites. Especially Sannai-Maruyama Site in Aomori city as well as Oyu Stone Circle in Kazuno city, Akita prefecture is a national special historical site, so called a national treasure of archaeological site. It's a matter of course that Kamegaoka Site and Korekawa Site are prominent historical sites known to the whole country since old times, and that stone circles at Komakino Site and Omori-Katsuyama Site are quite extraordinary. That's why we became determined to recommend typical Jomon historical sites in Aomori, Akita, Iwate prefecture and Hokkaido to world heritage as

Japan's typical Jomon cultural heritage.

But national recommendation as world heritage candidate and registration as world heritage by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) aren't fulfilled, however important it may be in Japan and however wonderful Japanese people may insist on. In order to realize the purpose it's necessary that their universal worth and significance common to all humankind must be highly valued in the world.

What's "the distinguished and universal value" of Jomon Culture? In my opinion the following three items are even more

significant than excellent earthenware culture which is quite extraordinary in the world and high spiritual culture seen in Dogu (a clay figure). Firstly, Jomon Culture is an unprecedented case in which people formed and sustained the sedentary settlement for as long as 10,000 years, not by full scale agriculture and stock-farming like western Neolithic Culture, but by gathering, fishing, hunting, plant management and initial plant growth in deciduous broad-leaved forests. Secondly, Jomon society co-existed between people and nature on Japanese islands rich in biodiversity, which is quite rare in the world, and was sustained, adjusting to

changing natural environment. Thirdly, Jomon people never waged war.

These give human beings living today and going forward to the future a very precious hint. Another important point is that it's Jomon Culture that formed the foundation of Japanese people and Japanese culture after Yayoi Culture and that it's "Mother culture".

I have no doubt that this unique prehistoric culture which was developed on Japanese islands in East Asia is indispensable to provide a new model to the whole world history and to re-construct really universal human history.

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Born in Hakodate city, Hokkaido in 1939. Graduated from both Waseda University Literature Department and Tokyo University Literature Department. Completed Tokyo University Graduate School Humanities Course Master's Degree Course (Archaeology). Emeritus professor at Waseda University and director of Mahoron (Fukushima Cultural Property Center, Shirakawa Branch) at present. Have written many books including "First step of Archaeology (Published by Asahi Student Newspaper Company, 2013)".

