

Preface

The donation of property has been prevalent in all regions throughout human history. What is the reason for its spread and why do people give their own property to the others? This volume of the Toyo Bunko Research Library (TBRL) series follows up on *Comparative Study of the Waqf from the East: Dynamism of Norm and Practices in Religious and Familial Donations*, published in 2018 as TBRL series 19. It was a product of the international symposium entitled “Comparative Study of the Waqf from the East: Dynamism of Norm and Practices in Religious and Familial Donations,” the fourth international symposium of the Inter-Asia Research Networks held at the Toyo Bunko in Tokyo on December 5–6, 2015 (jointly supported by the Scientific Grant-in-Aid programme “International Joint Research of Waqf” headed by Miura Toru). The symposium aimed to clarify the socio-economic role of waqf donation by cross-area comparisons among waqf. In 2017, *Vestiges of the Razavi Shrine: Āthār al-Raḏavīya; A Catalogue of Endowments and Deeds to the Shrine of Imam Riza in Mashhad* was edited and published by Professors Morikawa Tomoko and Christoph Werner as TBRL 17.

Around the above-mentioned symposium of 2015, studies of donation and endowment were intensified as several international meetings from a comparative perspective were held at institutes in other countries: “Muslim Endowments in Asia: Waqf, Charity and Circulations” in Singapore organised by the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore (October 19–20, 2016); “Waqf Workshop” in Doha, Qatar organised by Georgetown University in Qatar (December 5–6, 2016); and “FOUNDMED: Ein Modell vergleichender Weltgeschichtsforschung?” in Berlin organised by the research project of “Foundations in Medieval Societies: Cross-cultural Comparisons” (FOUNDMED) at Humboldt University of Berlin (February 10, 2017). FOUNDMED, headed by Professor Michael Borgolte, resulted in the publication of a three-volume encyclopaedia, *Enzyklopädie des Stiftungswesens in Mittelalterlichen Gesellschaften* in 2014–2017, and the journal *Endowment Studies* published by Brill (Leiden) from 2017.

Encouraged by this global trend, we continued the comparative study of donation at the Toyo Bunko, organising a research group financially supported by the Scientific Grant-in-Aid programme “Waqf and Donation in Asia: A Joint International Study” headed by Miura Toru in 2017–2021 (JSPS KAKENHI Grant Number 17H02381), which held three international meetings in collaboration with institutes abroad.

The first was the “International Conference on History and Governance of Awqaf” in Kuala Lumpur on 4–5 July, 2018, organised by the Department of History and Civilization, International Islamic University Malaysia, jointly with IRCICA, Toyo Bunko and Ma’din Academy in India. Twenty-seven papers on Malaysia,

Table. Regional Comparison of Donations and Endowments

	Europe	Islamic ME	China	Japan
Term	<i>fundare/fundatio</i> / foundation mortmain	waqf/ <i>habūs</i>	<i>yizhuang</i> 義莊 <i>zutian</i> 族田 ancestral hall <i>shantang</i> 善堂	<i>kishin</i> 寄進 <i>shoen</i> 莊園
Religion/law (Justification)	Christianity euergetism charity	Islam Islamic law	Confucianism Daoism Buddhism	Buddhism Shintoism
Purpose (beneficial)	church, monastery hospital, chantry charity	religious institu- tions charity family	religious institu- tions lineage charity	temple and shrine superiors
Donated properties	immovable property movable property cash	immovable property (usu- fruct) movable property cash	immovable property movable property cash	land (grain, tax)
Property ownership and inheritance	Exclusive owner- ship primogeniture divided inheri- tance	private/individual ownership usufruct divided inheri- tance	multilayered ownership lineage property divided inheri- tance	primogeniture
Feature	<i>memoria</i>	individuality	concentric (from lineage to region)	reciprocity

Indonesia, Philippines, India, Bangladesh, Zanzibar, Turkey, Hong Kong and Malabar were presented at seven sessions together with two keynote addresses. Some of the papers were published in a digital journal, *Intellectual Discourse*, vol. 26, through the auspices of Professor Arshad Islam, the organiser of the conference.

Second, a symposium entitled “Cross-cultural and Comparative Study of Donation, Endowment and Benefit” was held in Singapore on February 12–13, 2020, organised by Professor Kenneth Dean at the Asian Research Institute, NUS, jointly with the Toyo Bunko research group. Twelve papers on Europe, the Byzantine Empire, the Maghrib, Egypt, Iran, India, Malaysia, Singapore, China and Japan were presented in five panels. Three editors of the journal *Endowment Studies* participated in this symposium as presenters, at the invitation of our research programme, in order to make a connection between the East and the West.

Third, to bring these activities together, we held the final meeting of this comparative study on February 12–13, 2022 online, in the middle of the worldwide Covid-19 epidemic under the title of “Strategy of Donation (Endowment): Its Purposes and Social Benefits in a Comparative Perspective.” It had four sessions: Ses-

sion 1, Regional and Cultural Variety of Donation Strategy; Session 2, Purposes and Social Benefits of Donation; Session 3, Changing Donation Strategy into Modern and Contemporary Times; and Session 4, General Discussion. The donation of properties has been prevalent in all regions throughout human history, but the fundamental question of why one performs the paradoxical act of donation, giving one's own property to a third party, is unclear. To answer this question at the final meeting, we proposed "donation strategy" as a common topic, and circulated the table above for regional comparison in advance.

In addition to these, a conference on "Interreligious Founding" was held at the Humboldt University of Berlin on April 8–9, 2021. I presented an online paper entitled "Creating World History through the Cross-cultural and Comparative Study of Foundations," and was able to speak with Professor Michael Borgolte, author of *Weltgeschichte als Stiftungsgeschichte von 3000 v.u.Z bis 1500 u.Z. (World History as the History of Foundations: 3000 BCE to 1500 CE)*, on his perspective of the comparison. The papers stemming from the conference were published in a special issue of *Endowment Studies* in December 2023.

This present work is entitled "Comparative Study of Donation Strategies" in order to answer the above-mentioned fundamental question, the reason or purpose of giving one's property to a third party or others. It comprises ten papers on donation strategy in the Byzantine Empire, Egypt, Syria, Iran, South Asia, China and Japan, as well as two papers on universal taxonomy and regional comparison. In the last chapter, I presented a regional comparison of donation strategies, based on a questionnaire survey of the Japanese research group members on donation/endowment in each region in pre-modern times (Japan, China, Islamic regions [Arab region, Turkey, Iran and Central Asia], Byzantine Empire and Western Europe). It aims to clarify the commonalities and differences of donation/endowment in regions from East Asia to Western Europe on a basis of the above-mentioned research activities in Europe and Asia these last ten years. I owe much to the many distinguished scholars who organised research programmes and international conferences/symposiums on donation and endowment in human history.

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MIURA Toru