

# **Changes in the Military Organization in Kinai Area in the Middle Kofun Period**

**By TOYOSHIMA Naohiro**

This article discusses the formation of and changes in the military organization in Kinai area in the middle Kofun period based on the arms buried in small low square burial mounds, pit burials, early mounded tomb clusters, and tombs of local rulers. In the middle part of the middle Kofun period the amount of arms buried in local rulers' tombs decreased while small amounts of weapons were buried in small low square burial mounds and pit burials around the local rulers' tombs. In the late portion of the middle Kofun period the practice of burying arms in small low square burial mounds and pit burials became less frequent, and instead early mounded tomb clusters containing ample arms in them emerged around the borders of Yamato basin.

The author considers that the former change suggests the local rulers in the Kinai area distributed weapons to powerful clan leaders in their domains to organize their own armed forces. Regarding the latter change the central government took a policy to oust the local rulers and organized the powerful clan chiefs directly as a military. He concludes the military organization in the later portion of the middle Kofun period suggests that the centralization of government was in a more advanced stage than previously estimated.

(Translation by KŌNO Tetsurō)