

Nara Women's University

周礼と洛陽

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Shurai (Zhouli) and Rakuyō (Luoyang)

The ancient city of China, Rakuyō, has its origin in Rakuyū (Luoyi) constructed at the beginning of Seishū (Western Zhou Dynasty). At the end of Former Han Dynasty a volume called *Shurai (Rites of Zhou, or Zhouli)* became popular among people. It describes an ideal city state which is geometrically tidy with square sections. The Confucians of Han Dynasty tried to coherently interpret ancient histories and the philosophy of *Shurai*, and Rakuyō was regarded as sacred because of the lineal city of the capital of Seishū. While the actual conditions of the imperial city planning described in *Shurai* was thought ambiguous in details because of the contradictions between texts and the various theories, the city planning of *Shurai* was regarded as sacred without any actual details as is the case with Rakuyō. These days the city planning of Fujiwara-kyō (the Fujiwara Capital City) in Japan is believed to be influenced by the descriptions in *Shurai*. This theory, however, lacks the historical context that the philosophy of *Shurai* cannot be built without the presupposition of sacred Rakuyō. How the theories of city planning in Japanese ancient history develop in the future is expectable.