

Area Studies

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Paper Theme 5

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Territory is an important example of areamaking. Specific to territorialisation are the ability to control a certain area—both in the sense of controlling that which resides within, but also by controlling what has to remain on the exterior.

In this writing, we will take the territorialisation of the former *Ryukyu* kingdom by the Japanese—a process through which it became modern-day *Okinawa*—as an example of the principles central to this theme of area making.

In his article Anderson et al. (1991), Anderson outlines certain devices through which the territorialisation of a certain area can occur. The first of these examples is the census. According to Anderson, the census—a count of an area's inhabitants, including certain socio-economic characteristics—was an instrument used by authorities to have a better understanding of those under their governance. In the case of *Okinawa*, its population is included in Japanese census-documents after its consolidation into the Japanese state (cen, 2014).

Another tool Anderson describes is that which he calls *museum*¹. This is a general term to the efforts of authorities to shine a subjective light on the pre-territorialisation past by taking care of key cultural heritage sites. In the case of *Okinawa*, we can see an example of this in the post-war reconstruction of *Shiru* castle by the Japanese authorities (figure 1), and the possible second reconstruction after a devastating fire last year (figure 2).

In another article (Lambach, 2020), Lambach describes that the way in which cyberspace is territorialised differs in some ways from the traditional notion of territorialisation. This new method, accompanied by the greater number of actors involved, shows that, when studying territorialisation in this context, a new onlook is required.

¹I decided to highlight *museum*, instead of *map* as this was more applicable to my example



Figure 1: Shuri castle after post-war reconstruction, but before fire



Figure 2: Shuri castle during the fire

References

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