**HAA 18j: Japanese Architecture**

Lecture 19: An Eco-History of Japanese Architecture

Terms

environmental humanities

composite pillar (*hagibashira*)

Laws/Edicts

Law of One Castle per Domain (1616)

The Haijō Edict (1873); castle abolition law

Eras of Deforestation

Ancient Predation (600-850 CE)

Early Modern Predation (1550-1700 CE)

**Edo Castle (1636)**

Initial construction on Edo Castle was completed in 1607 and continuously expanded over succeeding decades. Its five-story keep (*tenshu*) was completed in 1607, then rebuilt by the two subsequent daimyo in 1623 and 1636. This final version, at the time, was the tallest structure in Japan at 275 feet. The keep was destroyed in the **Meireki Fire of 1657** and never rebuilt. During the Meiji period the emperor took up residency in Edo Castle.

**Edo Castle Foundation (1658)**

Rebuilt in 1658 by the Maeda lords of Kaga domain at 12 meters in height (the 1636 version was 14m tall). The shogunal elder Hoshina Masayuki (1611-73) made the decision to delay the building of the *tenshu*. In 1712 the shogunal elder Arai Hakuseki (1657-1725) made the same decision to delay, and the *tenshu* was ultimately never rebuilt.

**The Fujimi Turret (Watchtower)(1659)**

Built in 1659, served as a symbolic stand-in for the absent *tenshu*.

**Hōkōji Temple (1595)**

Hideyoshi’s Great Buddha Hall in Kyoto, built in 1595; destroyed by earthquake in 1596; rebuilt in 1614; destroyed again by earthquake in 1662.

**Meiji Shrine (1920)**

Shrine with surrounding forest built to commemorate the Meiji Emperor (1852-1912). When the Emperor died, he was buried in the Momoyama Imperial Mausoleum in Fushimi (near Kyoto), so the Meiji Shrine was constructed as a commemorative site in Tokyo. Its forest was planted with 110,000 volunteers and 350 tree species from all over Japan.