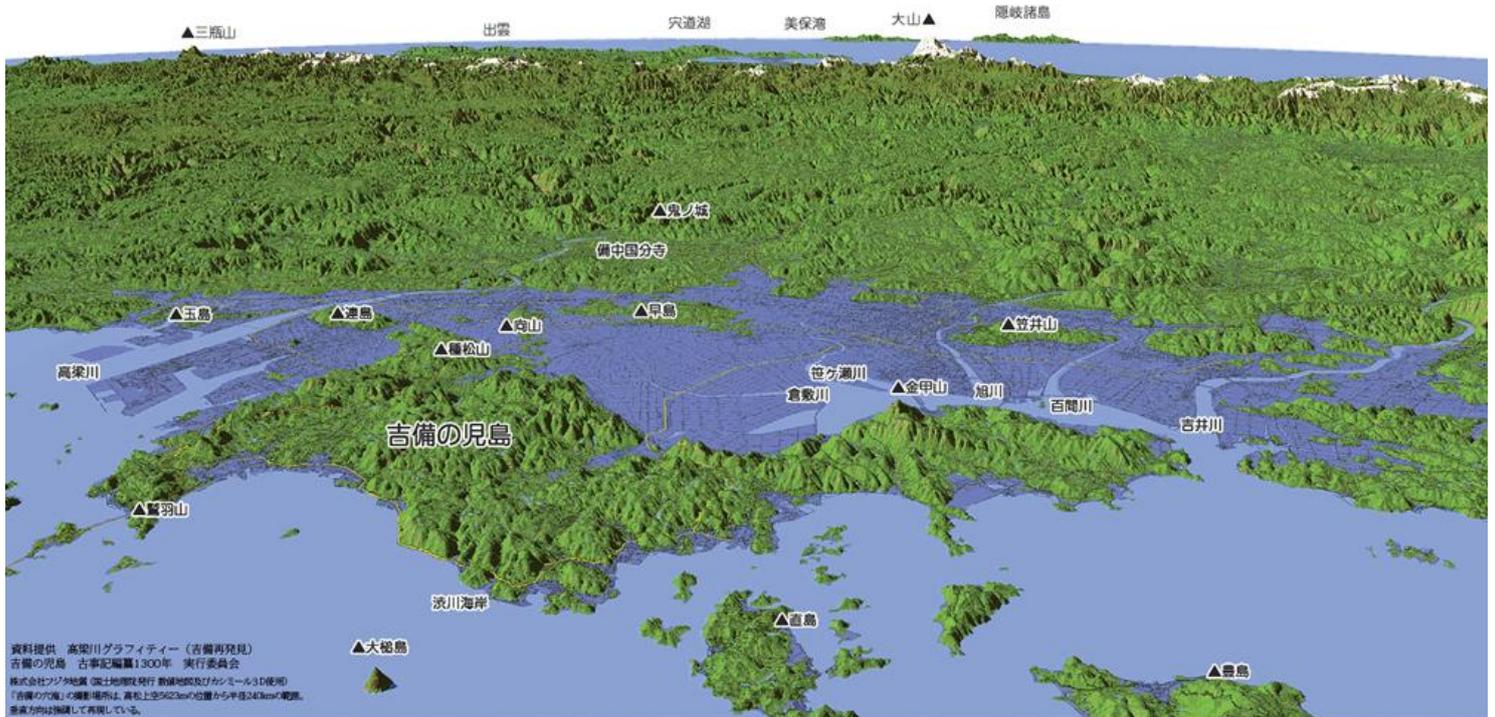


Long ago, Kojima was an island !

In 712 Japan's oldest chronicle, the "*Kojiki*", was completed. According to the origin myths in the "*Kojiki*", "Kojima of Kibi" was the 9th Japanese island to be formed. 2012 marks 1300 years since the completion of the "*Kojiki*"



Kojima of the "Kojiki"

Folk stories centered around gods and told through the generations are commonly known as myths. Japanese myths are chronicled in the *Kojiki* and the *Nihon Shoki*

In the *Kojiki*, the two deities Izanagi-no-mikoto and Izanami-no-mikoto, the first husband and wife deities, are the gods of creation. The order of creation of the Japanese islands was: Awaji, Shikoku, Oki, Kyushu, Iki, Tsushima, Sado, and Honshu. These islands make up Oyashima ("The eight great islands"), the axis of the nation. Of the islands which follow, "Kibi Kojima also known as Takehikatawake" is given as the first to be created, clearly showing the importance of Kojima in mythology. Following Kojima are the creation of Shodo etc and Mushima.

Why would Kojima be given as the first-created of the following islands? It is likely that, being in the inland sea, Kojima received attention for being an important transportation hub between Shikoku and western Japan.

Incidentally, in the *Nihon Shoki* the creation myth gives Kibi no koshima (=Kojima) as the eighth and last island of Oyashima above. This also implies the importance of Kojima and the expectation that it would contribute to the prosperity of the nation.

Explanation: Toshifumi Otani

Ancient times

- 710 Capital moved to Heijō-kyō (Nara)
- 712 Completion of the *Kojiki*
- 720 Completion of the *Nihon Shoki*

Early modern period

- 1603 Ieyasu Tokugawa starts the Edo Shogunate
- 1618 Kojima of Kibi is joined to the mainland
....Cotton, a strong crop in salt water, is cultivated in the reclaimed land.

Present day, the Future

- Kojima thrives as "The textile town, Kojima"
- 2012 1300 years since completion of *Kojiki*
- 2014 80 years since establishment of the Seto Inland Sea National Park
- 2018 400 years since Kojima of Kibi is joined to the mainland.
30 years since the opening of the Seto Ohashi Bridge
- 2020 1300 years since completion of *Nihon Shoki*

Building it together, our town Kojima
Executive Committee for Kojima, Kibi 1300 years after
the compilation of *Kojiki*
Kojima Chamber of Commerce
Kojima Eki-mae 1-37, Kojima, Kurashiki, Okayama