

I. ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS

1. Administrative Areas

The number of prefectures as of April 1, 1975, was 47, which included To (1), Dō (1), Hu (2) and Ken (43). Then there were 3,257 Si, Mati and Mura, of which Si numbered 643, Mati 1,974 and Mura 640.

Under the provisions of the Local Government Law (Law No. 67 of 1947), Si, Mati and Mura are stipulated as basic local autonomous bodies, whereas To, Dō, Hu and Ken are prescribed as inter-area local autonomous bodies encompassing Si, Mati and Mura.

To, Dō, Hu and Ken are on an equal footing in the legal context. In the same vein, Si, Mati and Mura are also placed on an equal standing. Under the provisions of the Local Government Law, four prerequisites are set forth for Si: (1) Si must have a population of more than 50,000, (2) the number of

households in the city center must exceed 60% of all the households, (3) those who are engaged in commerce, industry and other lines of urban business and their families must exceed 60% of the total population, and (4) Si must be equipped with urban facilities and other essential conditions prescribed under prefectural ordinances. In actuality, however, there are many cities whose population does not exceed 50,000, as exceptional measures have been taken for the amalgamation of Mati and Mura. The Local Government Law also stipulates that Mati must be equipped with essential conditions set forth under prefectural ordinances.

Ku in Tōkyō To is a special local autonomous body which is equivalent to Si.

Of the cities with a population of more than 500,000, the Government

ordinance-designated cities (Ōsaka, Nagoya, Kyōto, Yokohama, Kōbe, Kitakyūshū, Sapporo, Kawasaki and Hukuoka) may be able to carry out part of the administrative work of To, Dō, Hu and Ken and establish Ku under a prefectural ordinance.

At present, Gun (County) is only the name of a local area unit which does not function as an administrative area. Sityō (branch agencies) of Tōkyō To, Hokkaidō and Nagasaki Ken are the administrative organs established to take charge of part of the prefectural administrative work.

Sources

1. Geographical Survey Institute, 1:500,000 scale District Maps.
2. Geographical Survey Institute, 1:200,000 scale Regional Maps.
3. Ministry of Home Affairs, Handbook of Si, Mati and Mura in Japan, 1972.

CHANGES IN NUMBER OF PREFECTURES

Date	To	Dō	Hu	Ken	Han	Total	Note
June, 1871	—	—	3	45	261	309	Before the abolition of Han and establishment of prefectures (Ken)
July, 1871	—	—	3	306	—	309	The abolition of Han and establishment of prefectures (Ken)
Dec. 1871	—	—	3	72	—	75	
May, 1872	—	—	3	69	1	73	Ryūkyū Han established
Dec. 1873—Dec. 1874	—	—	3	60	1	64	
Dec. 1875	—	—	3	59	1	63	
Dec. 1876—Dec. 1878	—	—	3	35	1	39	
Dec. 1879	—	—	3	36	—	39	Okinawa Prefecture established
Dec. 1880	—	—	3	37	—	40	Tokushima Prefecture established
Dec. 1881	—	—	3	38	—	41	Sakai Prefecture abolished and Hukui and Tottori prefectures established
Dec. 1882	—	—	3	41	—	44	Hakodate, Sapporo and Nemuro prefectures established
Dec. 1883—Dec. 1885	—	—	3	44	—	47	Toyama, Saga and Miyazaki prefectures established
Dec. 1886	—	—	3	41	—	44	Hakodate, Sapporo and Nemuro prefectures abolished
Dec. 1887	—	—	3	42	—	45	Nara Prefecture established
Dec. 1888	—	—	3	43	—	46	Kagawa Prefecture established
Dec. 1943	1	—	2	43	—	46	Tōkyō Hu was reorganized into To system
Dec. 1946	1	1	2	42	—	46	With the reorganized prefectural system, Hokkaidō established and Okinawa Preexcluded
May, 1972	1	1	2	43	—	47	Okinawa Reversion

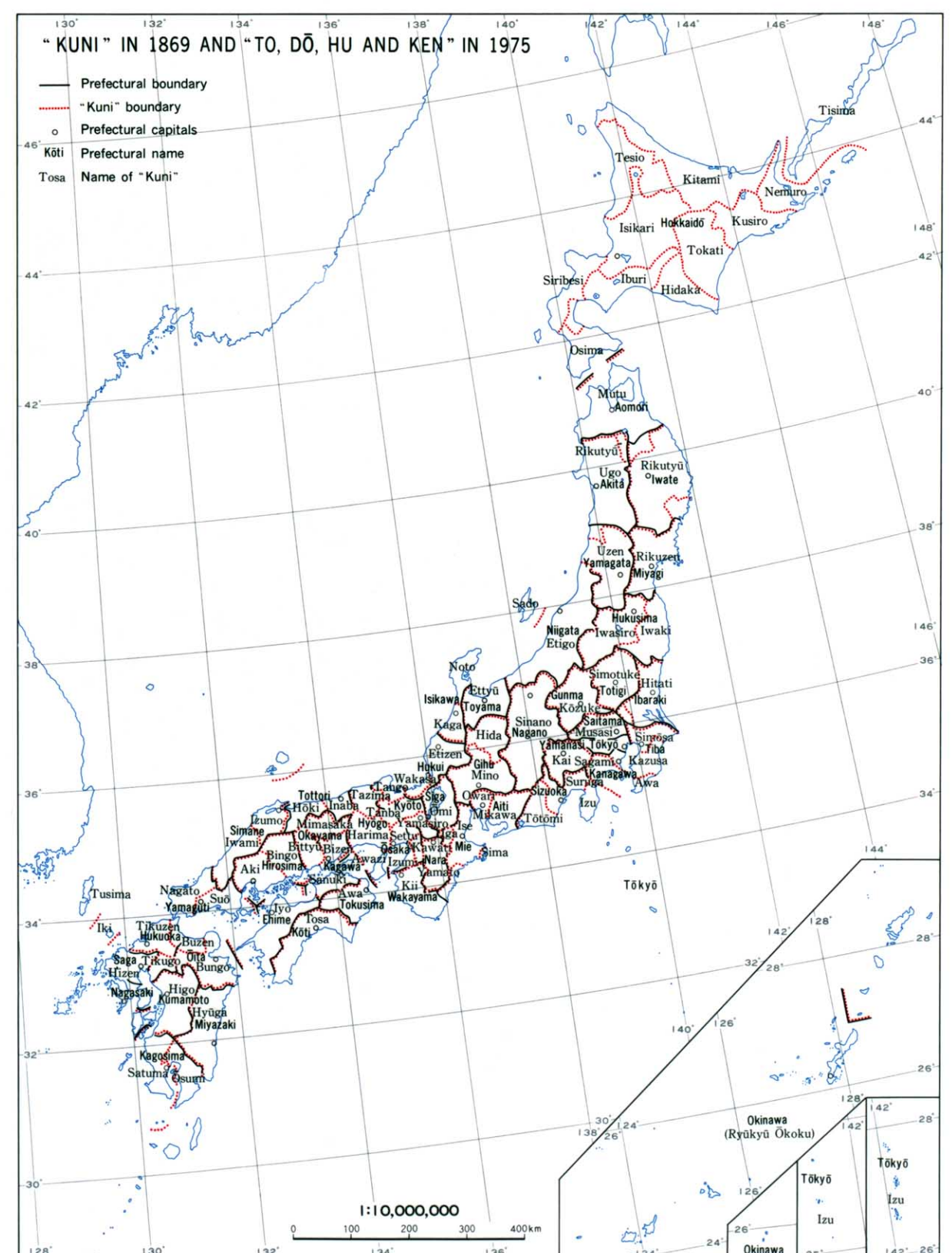
Note: Before Dec. 1943 (excluding the period from 1880 to 1886) excluding Hokkaidō

(Based on Handbook of Si, Mati and Mura in Japan)

CHANGES IN NUMBER OF SI, MATI, AND MURA

Date	Si	Mati	Mura	Total
1883	19	12,194	59,284	71,497
1889	39	15,820	—	15,859
1898	48	1,173	13,068	14,289
1908	61	1,167	11,220	12,448
1922	91	1,242	10,982	12,315
1930	109	1,528	10,292	11,929
1940	178	1,706	9,614	11,498
Oct. 1945	205	1,797	8,518	10,520
Jan. 1950	235	1,862	8,346	10,443
Apr. 1955	488	1,833	2,885	5,206
Apr. 1960	555	1,922	1,049	3,526
Apr. 1965	560	2,005	827	3,392
Apr. 1970	564	2,027	689	3,280
Apr. 1975	643	1,974	640	3,257

(Based on Handbook of Si, Mati and Mura in Japan)



# ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS

- Ku in Tokyo and Government ordinance designated city
- Si
- Mati
- Mura
- Prefectural boundary
- Si, Mati, Mura boundary and Ku boundary in Tōkyō
- Ku boundary in Government ordinance designated city
- Index number

Status as of October 1, 1975

1:2,500,000

## INDEX OF PREFECTURAL NAMES

1:18,000,000

