EFFECTS OF REORGANIZATION PROCESS OF ADMINISTRATIVE BOUNDARIES IN THE EARLY MEIJI ERA ON THE MUNICIPAL AMALGAMATION IN YAMAGUCHI PREFECTURE

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The aim of this study is to make clear the effects of reorganization process of administrative boundaries in the early Meiji era on the municipal amalgamation by a case study on Yamaguchi prefecture, and to obtain new knowledge related to regional planning method. Before the Meiji municipal amalgamation, the Meiji government had determined two kinds of administrative districts about family register and education. After that, the administrative functions of these districts were handed over to municipalities having spent several decades. During the years that intervene, the coordination among these kinds of administrative districts had been in disarray. However, these kinds of administrative districts had been coordinated comparatively smoothly in Yamaguchi prefecture. Therefore, we analyzed the designation process of these antecedently determined districts in Yamaguchi prefecture. As a result, we revealed the factor deciding boundaries of new municipalities after merger.