



Tokyo Tower and Monorail symbolize Tokyo's growth
Source: Makoto Ikuta.

Chapter 3

Urban Sprawl and Improvement of Urban Infrastructure

High economic growth and the Olympic Games (1950s-1980s)

The period of high economic growth spurred on the concentration of population and industries in Tokyo, and motorization also spread through the country. Tokyo's urban development transitioned from postwar recovery to the stage of advancement of development as a modern city. Taking the opportunity presented by the Olympic Games, infrastructure was built at a rapid pace, and at the same time, demands to address unique urban issues presented by Tokyo's huge growth arose.

[Highlights of the period of high growth and late Showa era]

1956 ▶

- Economic White Paper declares that "it is no longer 'postwar'"

1958 ▶

- Completion of Tokyo Tower
- Decision on the First Basic Plan for the National Capital Region

1961 ▶

- Amendment of the Building Standards Act (introduction of floor-area ratio zoning system)

1964 ▶

- Building of Olympic related roads
- Tokyo Desert (Tokyo's lack of water)
- Tokyo Monorail opens for service
- Tokaido Shinkansen bullet train opens for service
- Tokyo hosts the Games of the XVIII Olympiad

1968 ▶

- Japan ranks second in the world in GNP
- Promulgation of the new City Planning Act
- Completion of the Kasumigaseki Building

1969 ▶

- Promulgation of the Tokyo Metropolitan Pollution Prevention Ordinance

1971 ▶

- Tama New Town starts accepting residents

1973 ▶

- First oil crisis