Evolution of the City Planning System
Reconstruction following the Great Kanto Earthquake and World War II (1910s-1950s)

In Tokyo, which continued to modernize throughout the Meiji era, along with the rapid advance of industry caused by the impact of World War I, population growth and expansion of urban areas progressed. Although a city planning system that would allow Tokyo to systematically address growth of urban areas and guide development to desirable standards was established, the Great Kanto Earthquake struck Tokyo soon after, causing extensive damage.

During the process of reconstruction following the quake, Edo’s old town plans were renewed to create the framework of today’s Tokyo. Years later, Tokyo was again nearly destroyed by the Great Tokyo Air Raids of World War II. Reconstruction of the city was achieved over a period of about ten years, and signs indicating the gravitation of the population and industry to the city center, as well as the expansion of urban areas, became apparent.