

# From Centralized Energy to Distributed Energy: From Modern to Post Modern

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The modern civilization of the 20th century depended on fossil energy, especially oil. However, the depletion of oil in the 21st century is threatening our lives since we cannot sustain our civilization without energy. What can be the alternative energy source of our future?

Japan relied on firewood under the federal system of the Edo era for 250 years, from the beginning of the 17th century. At the onset of the Meiji era 150 years ago, Japan achieved its modernization by introducing new energies such as coal and oil. Now in the 21st century, Japan is urged to seek out future energy alternatives.

One potential energy alternative is solar energy. Water is also part of solar energy and it is cyclical and unlimited. Small hydraulic power generation can be an option for future energy needs although the amount of energy produced by small hydraulic power can only supply a small portion of the entire energy needs. It cannot sustain big cities, but it can be an important energy source for local communities to self-sustain themselves.

In this presentation, I will focus on the relation between future energy and post modern civilization by comparing the energy use of Japanese in pre-modern and modern periods.



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