

Topics

(3) Mushiro Flags: Symbols of the Struggle

As seen on the placard, Mushiro flags are made of woven straw and other thin reeds instead of cloth. They were held up by the villagers during various protests and demonstrations, and contained strong anti-requisition sentiments such as, "Money is temporary, but this land will be Uchinada's forever!" and "Absolute Opposition to the Requisition!" Mushiro flags have a long history of being used since the peasant revolts of the Meiji period because they could be easily made of materials gathered from around the house. Because Uchinada was still a relatively poor village at that time, this thriftiness was essential. Eventually, when the protests were broadcast nationwide, these humble flags became regarded as symbols of the Uchinada Struggle.