



TODAY I WANT TO TALK ABOUT JAPANESE RAILWAY.



RAIL TRANSPORT IN JAPAN IS A MAJOR MEANS OF PASSENGER TRANSPORT, ESPECIALLY FOR MASS AND HIGH-SPEED TRAVEL BETWEEN MAJOR CITIES AND FOR COMMUTER TRANSPORT IN URBAN AREAS.



IT IS USED RELATIVELY LITTLE FOR FREIGHT TRANSPORT.



THE PRIVATISED NETWORK IS HIGHLY EFFICIENT, REQUIRING FEW SUBSIDIES AND RUNNING EXTREMELY PUNCTUALLY.



RAIL TRANSPORT SERVICES IN JAPAN ARE PROVIDED BY MORE THAN 100 (ONE HUNDRED) PRIVATE COMPANIES, INCLUDING:

SIX JAPAN RAILWAYS GROUP (JR) REGIONAL COMPANIES (STATE OWNED UNTIL 1987 NINETEEN EIGHTY-SEVEN) WHICH PROVIDE PASSENGER SERVICES TO MOST PARTS OF HOKKAIDO, HONSHU, SHIKOKU, AND KYUSHU;

THE NATIONWIDE JR FREIGHT COMPANY; AND

16(SIXTEEN) MAJOR REGIONAL COMPANIES WHICH PROVIDE RAILWAY SERVICES AS PART OF THEIR CORPORATE OPERATIONS.



THERE ARE ALSO DOZENS OF SMALLER LOCAL PRIVATE RAILWAYS.



TO SUM THINS UP I WANT TO SAY THAT RAILWAYS ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT MEANS OF PASSENGER TRANSPORTATION IN JAPAN, MAINTAINING THIS STATUS SINCE THE LATE NINETEENTH CENTURY



GOVERNMENT POLICY PROMOTED RAILWAYS AS AN EFFICIENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM FOR A COUNTRY THAT LACKS FOSSIL FUELS AND IS NEARLY COMPLETELY DEPENDENT ON IMPORTS.

