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Located in Gunma Prefecture, the city of Kiryu 桐生 is often associated with a long tradition of textile production. Its development is linked to a combination of geographical, economic, and technical factors that fostered the emergence of a major production center. For centuries, the skills involved in spinning, dyeing, and weaving have formed an essential part of its identity. However, Kiryu is not merely defined by its artisanal specialization. The city illustrates how a community can build its reputation on mastery of a craft. Its history also attests to the ability of regions to integrate innovations while preserving ancient legacies. Like other textile cities around the world, it has had to navigate industrialization, international competition, and changing fashion trends. Kiryu thus serves as a particularly fascinating case study of the relationship between heritage and adaptation. Its history reflects several centuries of economic and cultural transformation in Japan.

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