

TOK ISLAND—LAND OF KOREA



Foreign Languages Publishing House,
Pyongyang, Korea
Juche 98(2009)

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Foreword

Tok Island is located on the East Sea of Korea, parallel with Ullung Island and has a scenic beauty.

Placed at the cross point of cold and warm currents, Tok and Ullung Islands are abundant in special animals, plants and marine and underground resources, so they are known as a “pearl” of the East Sea of Korea.

Thousand of years ago the Korean people explored the way towards Tok Isl. and used it for their creative life, regarding it as the sacred national territory.

The island is a treasure and a pride for Koreans.

Japan has resorted to every conceivable means to appropriate Tok Isl. watching for an opportunity from early ages and is now getting heated in insisting that the island belongs to it. This is serious infringement on the dignity and sovereignty of the Korean nation.

This book is intended to analyze in various angles the fact that Tok Isl. is a piece of Korea’s territory and, at the same time, to throw light on the craftiness and effrontery of Japan that had tenaciously tried to appropriate it.

1. Tok Island Is the Sacred Territory of Korea

1) Physical Geography and Resources of Tok Island

Korea, which has been called a silk-embroidered land from the olden times for its magnificent mountains, crystal clear water and scenic beauties, has a lot of pride everywhere. Korea is a maritime country, bounded on three sides by the sea. From the olden times Ullung and Tok Islands on the East Sea of Korea have been a key theatre of Koreans' creative life due to its splendid seascape and rich natural resources.

Tok Island is a volcanic island which was formed about 4 600 000 years ago—almost the same geological age as that of Mt. Paektu volcano and others. The island has long attracted the attention of neighbours for its precious mineral resources, to be seldom seen in the land, and abundant marine resources.

▲ Location of Tok Island

Tok Island is an inseparable part of Korea which represents the easternmost boundary of the Korean territory.

It consists of Tong and So Islets and other scores of rocks, big and small. So Islet is located at 37° 14' 30.6" N. and 131° 51' 54.6" E.; Tong Islet. at 37° 14' 26.8" N. and 131° 52' 10.4" E.



Tok Island is 216.8 km northeast off Ryongchu Promontory in Jukbyon-ri, Uljin County, North Kyongsang Province and 87.4 km southeast off Ullung Island.

The administrative name is Tokdo-ri, Ullung County, North Kyongsang Province.

Tong Islet is 2.6 km in circumference, 73 297 m² wide and 98.6 m high; So Islet is 2.8 km in circumference, 88 639 m² wide and 168.5 m high. As

seen above, So Islet is 0.2 km longer in circumference, 15 342 m² wider and 69.9 m higher than Tong Islet, respectively.

Appurtenant islets to Tong and So Islets cover an area of 25 517 m².

Korean ancestors called Tong Islet “female islet”, as it is smaller in size and lower than So Islet, and So Islet “male islet”. It is 87.4 km (47.2n mile) from Tok Island to Ullung Island and 157.5 km (85n mile) from Tok Island to Oki Island of Japan, which is 70.1 km (37.9n mile) farther away than to Ullung Island. In the fine weather one in Tok Island can see the Ullung Island, but not Oki Island. Geographically Tok Island is so much nearer to Korea than to Japan to justify its belonging to Korea.

▲ Peculiar Scenery of Tok Island

From the olden times, Tok Island has enjoyed much love from Koreans for its peculiar scenery.

Abrasion caves, sea cliffs, abrasion platform, queer-looking peaks and rocks keep in good harmony with the sea, offering picturesque scenery. So Islet has many abrasion caves, sea cliffs and grotesque peaks and rocks. Typical are Three-Brother Cave and Thanggon (horsehair skullcap-shaped) Peak.

In Tong Islet there are also a lot of abrasion caves and wonderful rocks, which are represented by Chonjang Cave and Tonggrimmun Rock.

Sea cliffs are developed in the southern and southwestern parts of So Islet,

subjected to stronger erosion by waves than other places. The sea cliffs house caves and crevices created by the action of erosion by waves, adding luster to the picturesque scenery of the island. The typical abrasion platform extends 330 m long and 150 m wide from Tong Islet to So Islet. The water area around Tok Island is dotted with scores of rock islets—Big Crayfish, Small Crayfish, Centipede, Flat, Warship, Chicken, Starting and Elephant Rocks, centring So and Tong Islets. They are remindful of the archipelago of the South Sea of Korea.

▲ Tok Island, a Good Habitat of Birds

Tok Island is a good habitat of multiple species of birds.

Species of birds nesting on this island are varied according to seasons, but in winter, many sea gulls are seen particularly.

The sea gulls of Tok Island look far more beautiful than other breeds of gulls, for their eyes and bills of yellow, black and red colors are in good harmony. They nest on rock ledges or flat places. In winter, sparrows, too, come in sight everywhere like sea gulls.

Rumor has it that a few sparrows, nested in the thatched roof of a cottage on the island, bred and bred again, so they are now countless in number.

A bullfinch of Tok Island nests in brushes or watersides. As a seasonal bird they spend winter in the island before flying away northward.

There is also a rock thrush adding a luster to the winter scenery of the

island. Originally they used to spend winter in Southeast Asia, but they frequent this island as if attracted by its beautiful natural scenery. And a sea cormorant which is fond of sticking to steep cliffs and a golden eye which is seen even from far distance due to the white spot on the ear are also frequent visitors to Tok Isl.

Besides, there is also a pied wagtail, an eastern rook, a yellow chin bunting, wormwood bunting and a Trisram's bunting.

Entering May, birds, absent in winter, visit the island, adding to its scenery. Also found in spring are an eastern great white egret, a yellow water crow, a Daurian redstart, a siskin, a water-hen, and a grey-backed starling which are busy catching a morning prey, giving a wonderful sight.

In late May 2003, a Siberian thrush, a stranger to the island, appeared. Its whole body is black except the white eyelash. It as a winter bird is a rare bird which is hard for even the ornithologists to see.



Birds in Tok Island

1. Sea gull 2. Daurian redstart 3. Siberian thrush 4. Sanderling

Tok Island gives shelter to other birds such as a yellow-bellied bunting, a sanderling, a heron, a grosbeak and a red-tailed robin.

Like this it is home to the seashore, wintry and passing birds. Besides, a Korean wren stays throughout a year and a pied wagtail, a striated swallow and a reed warbler spend summer here for breeding.

The increasing number of birds nesting on Tok Island is ascribable to its location favorable for breeding and wintering of various species of birds.

Up to now over 40 species of birds have been found, but further study will discover more, ornithologists say.

▲ Tok Island with a Various Flora

The island is grown with about 70 species of plants, most of which are similar to those in the southern flora of the central part of Korea and the rest are endemic plants evolved to suit Tok Island conditions.

The island rock cress, island bellflower, island cyripedium and orange stonecrop, which grow in Ullung and Tok Islands, are peculiar species. There are also a dandelion, oxalis, sow thistle and others which grow everywhere in Korea.

In addition, there are a garden portulaca, rooted into cracks of steep cliff or rocks, an orange stonecrop, which is a perennial plant belonging to *Crassulacea* and China pink that is far more beautiful, graceful than those flowers blooming in spring in color and shape.

Dayflower, milkweed, bound sherry and giant knotweed rooted in the island are also really beautiful and unique.



Flowers in Tok Island

1. Island rock cress 2. Milkweed
 3. *Aster spathulifolius* 4. Orange stonecrop

As seen above, dozens of species of plants grow and bloom according to seasons in Tok Island.

▲ Tok Island, Treasure House of Marine and Underground Resources

Tok Island is renowned for its abundant natural and marine resources, which are a pride of Korea.

The maximum height of the seamount of Tok Island is 2 000 m from the eastern bottom of the Ullung basin, but the sea 100 m and that 200 m off the

island are 3-4 m on average and 20 m deep respectively.

The sufficient sunlight penetrating through the shallow water and plenty of nutrients flowing up from the neighboring deep sea are good conditions for the thriving of brown algae and green seaweed. Their swaying form in the sea currents looks like willow branches waving in the breeze.

In early spring the sea off Tok Island is thriven with the marine plants in South Sea of Korea because the sea water temperature is relatively high due to the influx of the warm current. Therefore, the bed of brown algae and green seaweed and Arabis algae serves as a good habitat for young fishes. Those are starfish, jellyfish, hermit crab, octopus, bootlace worm, wreath shell, large sea urchin and the like.

Tok Island is swarmed with multifarious fishes due to the warm and cold currents crossing each other there.

The sea around Tok Island of the East Sea of Korea down the Okhotsk and Bering Seas, one of the three world fishing grounds, is rich in marine resources. In spring the shoals of mackerel and anchovy go up from south and those of herring down from north; in summer the shoals of sardine go up and in winter Alaska pollack, specialty of Korea, throng the island.

Besides, there are also sea cucumber, ear-shell, squid, dolphin, seal, whale, shellfish, trout and yellowtail.



Marine resources of Tok Island

1. Octopus 2. Sea urchin 3. Ear-shell

In addition, phosphorite and methane hydrate, model energy resources of the 21st century, are deposited in the bottom of the sea around Tok Island. According to the latest data, some 600 000 000 tons of methane hydrate exist in the state of icy crystal.

2) Place Names of Ullung and Tok Islands

From the olden times, the Korean nation is a homogeneous and consanguineous one who had lived in the same land, creating brilliant culture and history and using the same language. In the course of struggle to harness nature and society, Koreans made many names related with the different physical-geographic objects in their native places. It is the same with the names of Tok and Ullung Islands. As the early names of Tok Island were relevant to Ullung Island, it is necessary first to trace the linguistic origin of the name of Ullung Island.

▲ Origin of the Name of Ullung Island

Ullung Island, an island in the East Sea of Korea, is 135 km northeast off Ryongchu Promontory in Jukbyon-ri, Uljin County, North Kyongsang Province.

Its administrative name is Ullung County, North Kyongsang Province. It is 72.834 km² wide, 49.15 km in circumference and is conical in shape with the Songin Peak (984 m) in the middle of the Island. The island is mountainous in most part and flat along the coast. From the olden times, Korean people have lived in the flatland and ravines.

It was called Usanguk in the period of Three Kingdoms, Murung or Urung in the Koryo Dynasty and Ullung Island, Murung or Urung in the Ri Dynasty.

In the period of Three Kingdoms, Usanguk included Ullung and Tok Islands, that was related with the local name of Uljin in Uljin County, North Kyongsang Province.

Then, what was the stem of name of Uljin and in what relations are Uljin and Ullung Islands? With regard to Uljin Prefecture, “History of Koryo” writes: “Originally, Uljin Prefecture was called Ujinya Prefecture in the period of Koguryo. King Kyongdok (742-765) of Silla renamed it the present appellation and upgraded it to county, and the Koryo Dynasty downgraded it to the status of prefecture and sent a magistrate there.”

Common Knowledge—“History of Koryo”

“History of Koryo” is the chronicles of the Koryo Dynasty (918-1392). It started to be written in the early days of the Ri Dynasty and was completed in 1451 through turns and twists. The book consists of 139 volumes—46 dedicated to the influential families, 39 to the local records, 2 to diagrams, 50 to a series of biographies and 2 to catalogue. The part of influential families deals with the historical facts of various fields—politics, the economy, culture and diplomacy of the feudal state of Koryo during 475 years in the order of royal period and date.

As aforesaid, Uljin Prefecture was originated from Ujinya Prefecture of Koguryo. Ujinya, (meaning a field of upper side) means that this region is higher plain or more upper one than other place. The people of Ujinya Prefecture and its surrounding area came to and settled in Ullung and Tok Islands before naming it Usan at first after their native place.

Usan meaning a highland is synonymous with Ujinya.

In the long run, the name of Ullung Island was derived from the name of Uljin Prefecture, which is evidence to the migration of the population of this area to the island and their settlement.

Engaging in brisk activities on the sea, the people in seashore gave names after their local names to islands and coasts of other areas they frequented. For example, Thamra Island, the old name of Jeju Island, was given by the people of the Thamjin area of Kangjin County, South Jolla Province who had migrated there to live.

During the Koryo and Ri Dynasties, Ullung Island was called Urung or Murung, which is translated into a high area of upper side.

As mentioned above, Usanguk, Urung and Murung, the old names of Ullung Island were all derived from Ujinya of Koguryo denoting a high area and this attests to the fact that the island was the settled area of Koreans.

▲ Origin of the Name of Tok Island

Tok Isl. was called Usanguk together with Ullung Island in the period of Three Kingdoms, Usan Island in the Koryo period and Sambong Island in the latter half of 15th century, Kaji Island in the late 18th century and Tok Island in the late 19th century, the period of Ri Dynasty.

Sambong Isl. means an island consisting of three peaks. It is written in the Korean archives, “Sinjungdonggukyojisungnam”, “Chronicles of Ri Dynasty” and “Mangiyoram”.

Common Knowledge—“Sinjungdonggukyojisungnam”

A book on the Korean geography was compiled in the 16th century in 55 volumes. Its fore part had the introduction and General Map of 8 Provinces (Korean map) and the each provincial part comprised the maps and general description of each province and history, names of counties and prefectures, surnames, customs, scenic spots, topographical features, local products, forts, defence facilities for gateway, signal-fire posts, schools, pavilions, postal stations, temples, shrines, tombs, historic spots, noted officials, figures, men of filial piety, chaste women, poems and writings, with descriptions concerned, with county and prefecture as unit.

As for the name of Sambong Isl., in the early 15th century, the feudal state of Ri Dynasty put forth a “policy of emptying islands” and dispatched inspectors to survey it on some occasions in the latter half of the 15th century. When they sailed near to the island, two large rocky islets (Tong

and So Islets) and an islet sandwiched between them came into their view. Hence the name of Sambong came into being.

The detailed survey of Tok Island by Koreans in the period of Ri Dynasty resulted in the derivation of the name Sambong.

Kaji in Kaji Isl. means a fur seal. So, Kaji Isl. leads to the meaning of teeming with fur seals. The entry of Usan Isl. in “Jungbomunhonbigo” gives such descriptions as ran: “ox-shaped and hornless large animals with red eyes lie in groups on the shore of this island. When encountering a single man, they attack him, but on seeing many, they shirk away into the sea; they are called Kaji.” The animal of this kind is now called a fur seal, so Kaji Island came from plenty of fur seal on it.

Common Knowledge—“Jungbomunhonbigo”

It was published in 1908, as the supplemented edition of “Tonggukmunhonbigo” printed in 1770. The book (250 volumes), is divided into various parts—politics, the economy, culture and other systems since the ancient times of Korea and subdivided them according to entries and chronology. It is of historical value as it deals with astronomy, calendar, geography, surnames, feudal rituals, music, army, punishment, land, taxation, national finance, household, identity tag, market, collecting grains at interest, external relations, appointment of officials, school, school age, successive central and local administrative systems, military service and military rank system, stipend, government organization after the Kabo Reform, books, and compilation, catalogue of books and other various systems of Korea and civilization, incidents, special natural phenomena in chronological order and by fields.

This name, therefore, is also the alias of Tok Island Koreans gave it, catching many fur seals around Tok Island.

The name of Tok Isl. used in the late 19th century has the meaning of a rocky island.

Thanks to the policy of exploiting Tok Isl. pursued by the government of Ri Dynasty in the late 19th century, many people of Kyongsang and Jolla Provinces moved to Ullung Island to live and in agreeable seasons they would cross the sea to Tok Island and fish staying long in makeshift huts. Therefore, the present name of Tok Island came into being in the course of the creative activities of the Korean forefathers.

As seen above, the origins of the different names of Tok Island are a clear proof to identifying it as Korea's.

It was not until 17 century that the Japanese, being familiar to those islands, began to call Tok Isl. Matsushima (pine island—editor) and Ullung Island Takeshima (bamboo island—editor). For more than 200 years since then none of them kept coming to the islands. With re-invasion in 1880s, they miscalled Tok Isl. Takeshima and Ullung Isl. Matsushima and call so still up to now. This bespeaks the groundlessness of their claim to the island.

3) Historical Outline of Tok Island (Ancient times-modern times)

▲ Ancient Koreans who First Explored the Seaway to the East Sea of Korea, Ullung and Tok Islands

It was thousands of years ago that ancient Koreans had first access to Ullung and Tok Islands.

They did mostly fishing off Ullung Island, while farming on fertile land cleared of primitive woods. In spring, summer and autumn they would cross over to Tok Island to catch fur seals, specialty of the island, ear shells and seaweeds, staying there for a certain period.

In the late 19th century Ri Kyu Won, *Puhogun* (a middle-ranking officer), made inspection of Ullung Island on the government’s order and wrote in the diary about his discovery of dolmens in several places of the island. (“Diary of Inspection of Ullung Island”)



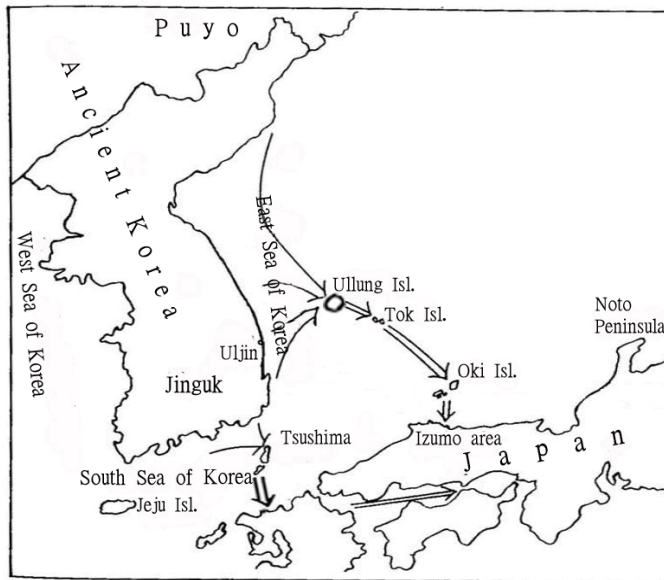
Diary of Inspection of Ullung Island

The dolmens, the tombs of rulers of Ancient Korea, spread to consanguineous countries, Puyo and Jinkuk, as well as at home centering on Pyongyang, its capital. Those represent the main form of grave in the ancient period of Korea, preserving their features intact.

Ancient Korea occupied in general the present-day Kangwon and Hamgyong provincial areas, while Jinkuk ruled the area of Kyongsang

Province. The sea of the borderline area between Kangwon and Kyongsang Provinces, was a fishing ground where cold and warm currents converge, and also one of the sea routes to Ullung and Tok Islands. In this view, it can be said that the owners of the dolmens in Ullung Island were inhabitants of Ancient Korea and Jinglyk.

Koreans of the ancient times in the shores of the East Sea of Korea sailed to Ullung Island for fishing and in fishery seasons frequently went over to Tok Island to catch fish and seaweed.



Ancient Koreans went to Tok Isl. and Japanese Isls.

Particularly, their activities became enlivened around 4th-3rd centuries B.C. This is found in expression that they travelled across the southeast sea of Korea to the Japanese Islands and spread the Yayoi Culture (4th-3rd centuries B.C.-A.D. 3rd century) in north Kyushyu and other western areas of Japan

bounded by the southeast sea of Korea. The Yayoi Culture represents rice farming and metal culture requiring high techniques. The Korean immigrants disseminated such techniques among the Japanese islanders.

For example, bronze daggers (narrow brass daggers), bronze spearheads, bronze barb and bronze bells, the metal weapons the ancient Koreans transferred to them during the period of Yayoi Culture, were distributed mainly in the western area of Japan. And rice cultivation also prevailed in that area. The propagators of the Yayoi Culture were mostly the Jinglyuk people who settled down at the south and east coasts of Korea, but of them were not a few of inhabitants of Ancient Korea who lived in the seaside north of Kangwon Province. In other words, in view of the way to the Japanese Islands taken by the Koguryo people of later generations, the people of Ancient Korea, like the inhabitants of Jinglyuk, sailed to the west coast of the Japanese Islands along the seaway of Ullung-Tok Islands and settled down there, propagating the Yayoi Culture.

It was acknowledged by Japanese scholars, too, that the ancient Koreans went to the Japanese Islands via Ullung and Tok Islands. (“Minutes of Negotiations between ancient Japan and Korea”, fragmentary data, p. 123 and p. 127.)

The myth of Izumo of “Nihon Shoki”, Chronicles of Japan, says that in the period of Yayoi Culture the inhabitants of Jinhan of Jinglyuk sailed to the Izumo area (northeastern part of Shimane Prefecture) along the current of

the East Sea of Korea from Yongil Bay of North Kyongsang Province. This shows that the people of Jinguk went to Japan across the East Sea of Korea along the seaway leading to Ullung and Tok Islands.

This seaway was what An Ryong Bok and his party used when they went to Hoki state (Tottori Prefecture) through Oki Island to defend the dominium over Ullung and Tok Islands after having repelled the Japanese invasion on them in 1693. (“Chronicles of King Sukjong” and “Jungbomunhonbiggo”)

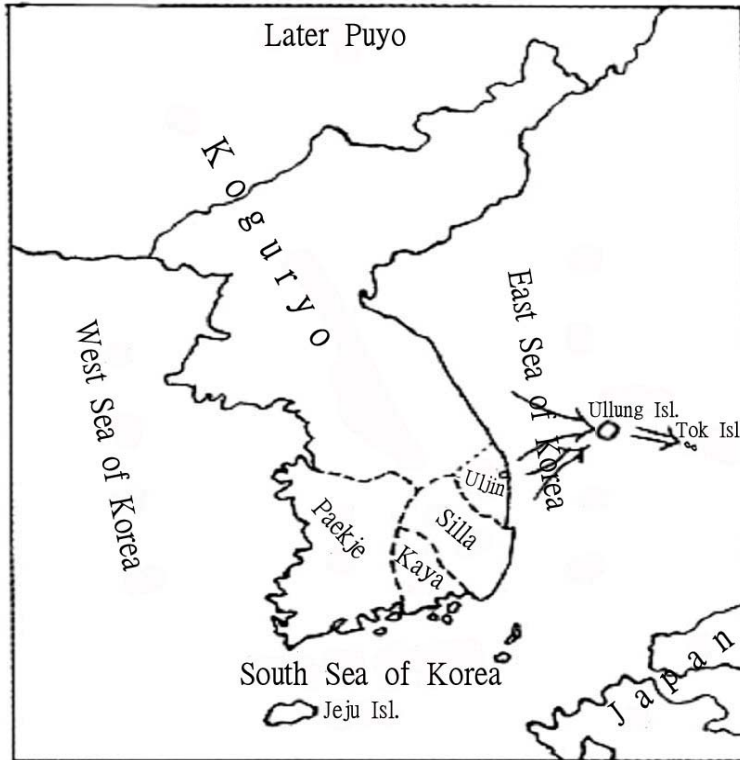
They settled down in Ullung Island and frequented Tok Island to fish in favorable seasons. They went over as far as to the Japanese Islands to propagate civilization.

▲ Crossing of the People of Koguryo and Silla over to Ullung and Tok Islands and the Briskness of Their Action

During the period of Three Kingdoms, the initial stage of Korean feudal society, Korean people’s activities to conquer nature in the East Sea of Korea and, in particular, in Ullung and Tok Islands got more vigorous.

Koguryo, founded in 277 B.C. by Jumong, annexed neighbouring minor states and extended its territory far and wide in the first century A.D. to the River Taedong line on the south and south Maritime Province of Siberia and Hamgyong and Kangwon Provinces on the east.

Silla, established in the mid-first century, expanded its territory to Kyongsang Province and its coastal areas east of the River Raktong in the 2nd century through the conquest of surrounding minor states.



**The people of Kogury and Silla crossed over to Ullung Island
and Tok Island in the period of Three Kingdoms**

In this period, the moving and activities of the people of Silla to the Japanese Islands became brisk.

For example, Chiburi Island, a minor island west of Oki Islands north of Shimane Prefecture, owed its name to the Silla people of the eastern coast of Yongil and Onyang Prefectures, the east coastal areas of Kyongju, North Kyongsang Province who sailed there along the Ullung-Tok Islands seaway. According to “Sinjungdonggukyojisungnam”, the old name of Yongil Prefecture was Kunoji, “oji” of which was also pronounced to be “ogi”. The name of Oki Islands was derived from ogi. Meanwhile, the old name of

Onyang Prefecture was “Kojihwa”, which had a different pronunciation of jiburi. Hence the name Chiburi Island came into being. Japanese scholars, too, acknowledge this. (“Minutes of Negotiations between ancient Japan and Korea”)

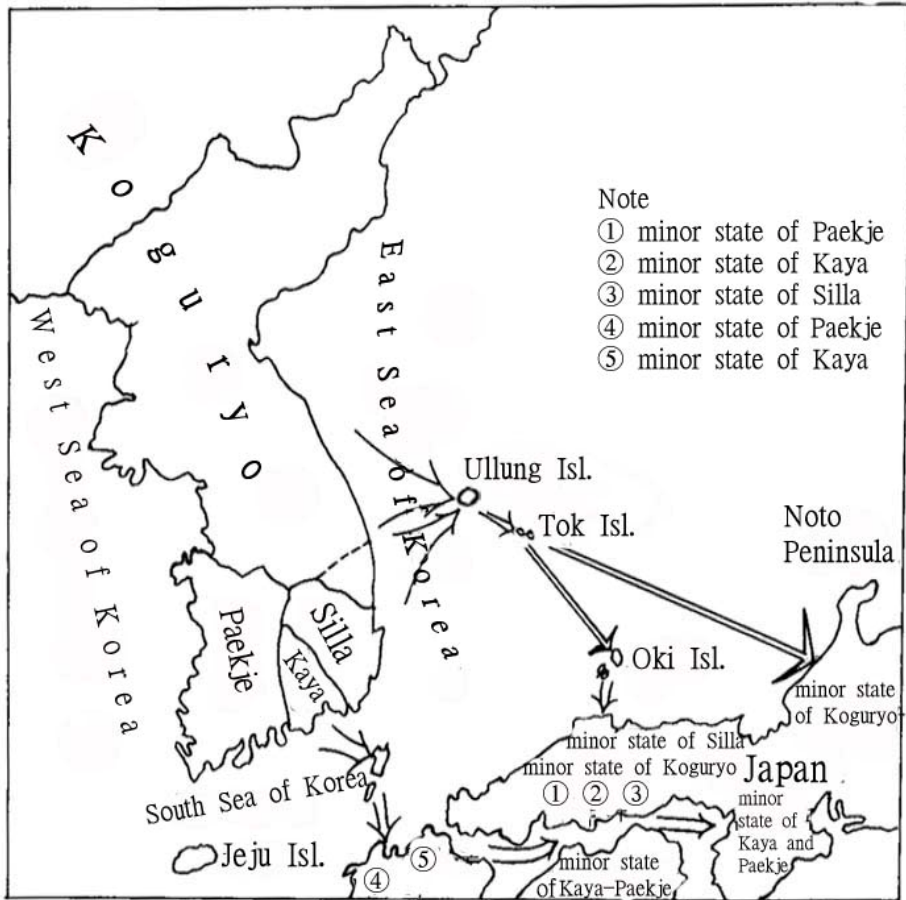
This shows that many of Silla people in Yongil and Onyang Prefectures mainly used the Ullung-Tok Islands seaway of the East Sea of Korea when they went to the Izumo area and that they settled down in Oki Islands including Chiburi Island and gave names to them after their native towns.

They set up minor states in the Izumo area and introduced the advanced civilization. The “History of the Three Kingdoms” writes that in 157 Yonorang and Seonyo resident in an eastern coast village of Silla went to the Japanese Islands by the seaway and became the king and the queen. This gives a hint that they crossed the sea along the Ullung-Tok Islands seaway to Izumo and founded a minor state there.

This fact shows that around the 2nd century Silla people shuttled to Japan along the Ullung-Tok Islands seaway to conduct creative activities.

In particular, notable is the fact that during the 4th-5th centuries the people of Koguryo, Silla, Paekje and Kaya immigrated to Japanese Islands across East Sea and South Sea of Korea spread the Mound Culture and set up many small states of Korean emerged in the western part of Japan.

The distribution of Korean minor states formed in the Japanese Islands is as follows.



Immigration of Koreans to Japanese Islands in the period of Three Kingdoms

In view of their locations and the directions of sea currents, it is presumed that the people of Koguryo and Silla would have gone to the Japanese Islands across the East Sea of Korea and those of Kaya and Paekje would have crossed the South Sea of Korea over there and settle there to form small states.

Meanwhile in the 5th century many Koguryo people went to the Noto Peninsula of the Japanese Islands along the Ullung-Tok Islands seaway and

farther went over to Nagano Prefecture and its surrounding areas and formed a strong force to found small kingdoms. Thousands of stone-wall tombs found in this area are evidence to it. Such tomb style was peculiar to Koguryo tomb.

The wide distribution of stone-wall tombs around the Nagano Prefecture area affords a glimpse into the active advance of the Koguryo people to this region along the Ullung-Tok Islands seaway and their energetic movements in the islands.

Koguryo's vigorous expedition to the Japanese Islands as well as Ullung and Tok Islands is ascribable to its positive policy of southward advance for unifying the Three Kingdoms. In the late 5th-early 6th century, Koguryo advanced to the Chongha area (present-day Pohang City, North Kyongsang Province), thus occupying the coast of the East Sea of Korea.

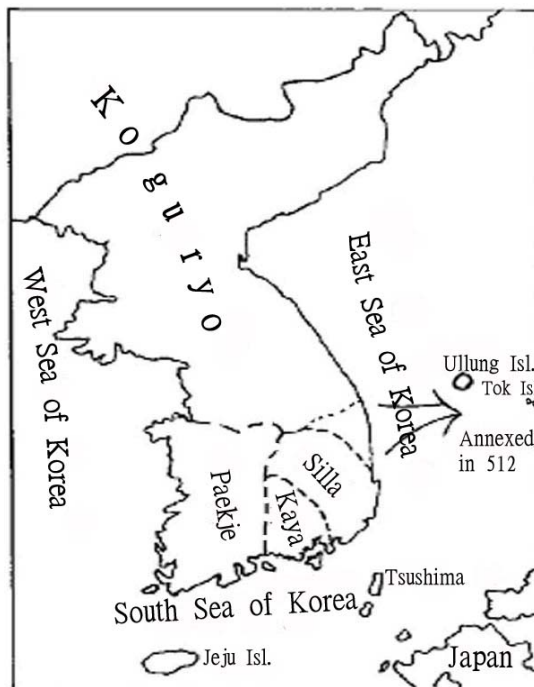
At the time, Ullung and Tok Islands were the hub of the action of Koguryo people and their residence.

A cup with high stem peculiar to Koguryo, was discovered in Ullung Island, which is evidence to it. For additional ground, the "History of Koryo" writes that Uljin County, Kangwon Province was previously Ujin Prefecture in the period of Koguryo and it is said that the names of Ullung Island, Usanguk and Usan Island were derived from the name of Ujinya Prefecture.

All the above mentions taken together, the inhabitants and chiefs of Usanguk, which was formed in those days, must be the Koguryo people. They constituted the main population of Usanguk and were about fishing and other jobs in Ullung and Tok Islands.

In those days Usanguk comprised Ullung and Tok Islands and for its topographical features such as vast sea surrounded and steep mountains, it was an entity not to be negligible.

According to the “Chronicles of the Three Kingdoms”, Silla merged it into its territory in 512.



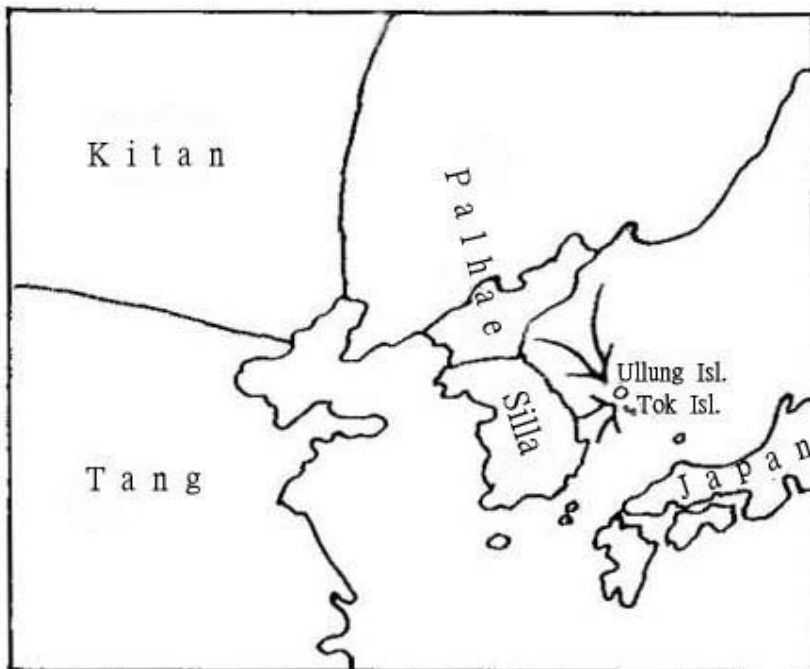
Usanguk annexed by Silla

After the merger, the Silla people held the overwhelming majority of the

population of Ullung and Tok Islands.

After occupying south Maritime Province of Siberia and Hamgyong Province, Palhae (698-926), the successor to Koguryo, exchanged envoys and culture with Japan.

Aboard vessels, Palhae envoys and merchants set sail from Namhae *bu* of Nam *gyong* (the area of Pukchong County, South Hamgyong Province) and Ryongwon *bu* of Tong *gyong* (Chongjin City, North Hamgyong Province) to the Japanese Islands along the cold current of the East Sea of Korea flowing down from the north. In many cases they bee-lined, but sometimes sailed southward and used the sea route through Ullung and Tok Islands.



**Going over of the people of later Silla and Palhae
to Ullung and Tok Isls**

Considering that some people of Hamgyong Province travelled to Ullung and Tok Islands toward the close of the 15th century, it can be assumed that the Palhae people, too, who occupied this region, must have used the same sea route.

However, the movement of Koreans to Ullung and Tok Islands in the period of later Silla and their exploitation of the islands were less active than in the period of the Three Kingdoms.

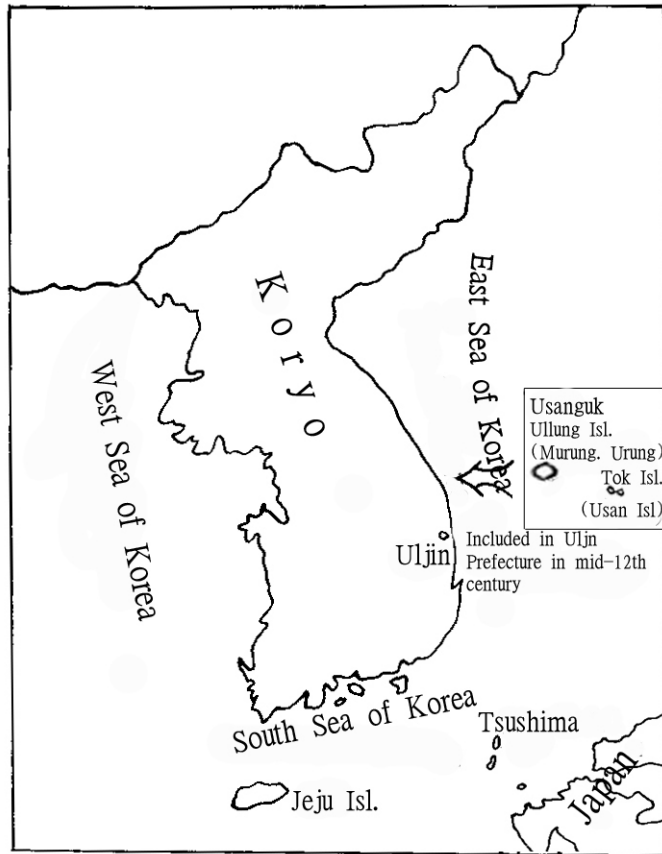
▲ Ullung and Tok Islands Belonged to Koryo

Founded in 918, Koryo established a unified kingdom in the mid-930s. Then it readjusted its feudal ruling system and developed the economy and culture, raising its international status markedly in the 11th century.

With the pooled efforts and wisdom, the Koryo people repulsed the invasions of foreign aggressors and invented metal types for the first time in the world and made unique Koryo ceramics.

Along with this, they made a vigorous effort to seize the East Sea of Korea and Ullung and Tok Islands.

Usanguk including Ullung and Tok Islands and surrounding islets had been tributary state to Koryo, but it was included in Uljin Prefecture of Koryo in the mid-12th century.



Koryo and Tok Island

The part of geography of the “History of Koryo” writes: “The two islands, Usan and Murung, are so close to each other that on the fine day one can see them with his eyes.” This implies that Usan Island or Tok Isl. and Murung or Ullung Isl. were in close terms though they were separate islands.

Usanguk had paid a tribute to Koryo government and carried out its duty as vassal state since the Koryo’s founding; on the contrary, the latter considered Ullung and Tok Islands and their population as its own, taking a good care of them and offering favours to them.

In August 930 Usanguk (Ullung Island) sent *Paekkil* (officialdom in charge of seashore) and *Thodu* (officialdom in charge of land) of Ullung Island and visited the Koryo government to pay a tribute, when the government bestowed on them the official posts of *Jongwi* and *Jongjo* and titles of nobility. And when Usanguk failed in farming due to the invasion of Nuzhen in November 1018, the government dispatched Ri Won Gu there to provide the local inhabitants with farm implements. When the islanders came to the mainland, subjected to invasion of Nuzhen in the Northeast of China in July 1019, it returned them home lest the island should be emptied. As the emigrants increased, the government took measures in July 1022 to settle them in Ryeju (Nyonghae) of Kyongsang Province and provide them with food and other living conditions under the premise of not emptying the islands and, at the same time, sent the inlanders to the island.

The Koryo's cordial steps came from the conception that Usanguk was its vassal state and a part of its territory.

With the gradual withering away of Usanguk in the mid-12th century Koryo merged Ullung and Tok Islands into Uljin Prefecture to get it under its direct control.

In July 1141, Ri Yang Sil, *Kamchangsa* (officialdom in charge of farming and granaries) of Myongju Province (present-day Kangwon Province—editor), sent an official to Ullung Isl. to bring rare local products to the king. In May 1157, the government of Koryo dispatched a royal

envoy Kim Yu Rip to Ullung Island to survey it for the purpose of instituting a prefecture or a county in the island with relatively wide and fertile arable land.

During the late 12th-early 13th century, a step was taken to move the inlanders to Ullung Isl. so as to reinforce it and tighten its control over it.

In February 1273, the government appointed Ho Kong, a privy councillor, as *Jakmoksa* (officialdom in charge of cutting trees) of Ullung Island and when some islanders crossed the sea over to the land in 1346, it allowed them to settle down. This means that Koryo merged the island into a prefecture or county and controlled it till the late period of the dynasty.

Under the direct control and protection of the Koryo government, the islanders went to Tok Island from time to time in favourable seasons to do fishing.

▲Ri Dynasty Exercised Sovereignty Uninterruptedly over Ullung and Tok Islands

Established in succession to Koryo in 1392, the Ri Dynasty renamed the country Joson (Korea) from the meaning of succeeding Ancient Korea, the first state of the Korean nation. Throughout more than 500 years the Ri Dynasty strove to defend the national sovereignty as well as the dominium over Ullung and Tok Islands, the inseparable part of the Korean territory. In this period, too, Tok Island, along with Ullung Island, remained under the jurisdiction of Uljin Prefecture, Kangwon Province.

As regards with Ullung and Tok Islands, the Ri Dynasty exercised its

sovereignty under a “policy of emptying islands” in its first and second half periods, but in the modern age switched over to a “policy of actively developing island” and defended them firmly.

The “policy of emptying islands” was prerequisite for the Ri Dynasty government in its early days.

It was because the incessant invasions and plundering of the Japanese pirates in the late period of Koryo Dynasty caused a great harm to the inhabitants of Ullung and Tok Isls., to say nothing of the people living in the east, west and south coasts of the peninsula and on the other hand, as the increased population went to Ullung and Tok Isls., to dodge the burdensome taxes, tributes and labour draft, the government had to bring them back under its control.

Along with the evacuation of islanders to the main land, the government dispatched officials to inspect the islands once every several years and took steps concerned, exercising sovereignty over them.

After implementing their task, the inspectors submitted the report to the king, bringing the ingenious products of the islands as a tribute.

In 1416, it sent a government official Kim Rin U to the islands to bring the displaced to the land.

In February 1417, some government officials proposed an opinion of stopping the evacuation and getting the islanders to settle down by providing them with food and farm implements. Rejecting it, however, the government

stuck to the work of evacuating islanders.

The “policy of emptying islands” was a passive measure to protect the islanders from harassing and plundering of the Japanese pirates to suit the prevailing situation.

The part of geography of “Chronicles of King Sejong” published in the 15th century and “Sinjungdonggukyojisungnam” compiled in the 16th century write that Ullung and Tok Islands were under the jurisdiction of Uljin Prefecture, Kangwon Province. This affords a glimpse into the then people’s cognition of and attitude to the islands.

Common knowledge—Part of Geography of “Chronicles of King Sejong”

As a general geographical book (in 8 volumes), it was published in 1454. Dividing the country into 8 provinces—Kyonggi, Chungchong, Kyongsang, Jolla, Hwanghae, Kangwon, Phyongan and Hamgil (present Hamgyong)—and subdividing them into bu, county and prefecture totaling in 335, the book deals with the country’s geographical features according to administrative units and items.

During the latter half of the Ri Dynasty the government clung to the “policy of emptying islands”, preserving its dominium over the islands.

Japan laid claim to the islands under the pretext of surveying them and fishing off them, taking advantage of “policy of emptying islands”, but the government of Ri Dynasty and people flatly rejected it.

In 1614 and 1615 the Tsushima local government sent envoys to Korea to notify its plan to survey Uijuk Island (Ullung Island—editor), claiming its dominium over the island. This was a shady plot to hold up the island on the

excuse of surveying its size and terrains.

Pak Kyong Op, Magistrate of Tongrae of Korea declared on behalf of the government that Uijuk Island was Ullung Island of Korea and that the “policy of emptying islands” did not mean allowing foreigners to settle down on them at their will and that Korea would treat the Japanese trespassers in the island as pirates. (“Chronicles of King Sukjong” and “Jungbomunhonbiggo”)

The Korean people as well as the Ri Dynasty government made strenuous efforts to defend Ullung and Tok Islands.

The activity of An Ryong Bok, a fisherman of Tongrae, in the late 17th century is one of the typical examples. As Japanese invasion and plundering of Ullung and Tok Isls were frequent, he sailed himself to Tottori Prefecture in 1693 and visited the lord, who was responsible for it, and got him to acknowledge that Usan Isl. (Tok Isl.) was Korea’s through a parley with him.

Later, having heard that the Japanese squatted in Tok Island, he went to Ullung and Tok Islands in 1696, saying that “Tok Isl. is rightly Usan Isl. and it is our land”, and drove them out of them. Then he visited the lord of Tottori Prefecture again, styling himself *Kamsegwan* (officialdom in charge of taxation) of the two islands, and protested against the trespass of the Japanese people and accepted an apology from him.

Encouraged by the resistance of the people like An Ryong Bok, the

government, too, reaffirmed the system of inspecting Ullung and Tok Islands in compliance with the initiative of *Ryonguijong* (Prime Minister) Ryu Sang Un in April 1697 and made a round of them once every three years, placing a ban against the Japan's looting and trespassing and exercising its sovereignty on the islands.

This fact shows that the government never gave up its dominium over the islands in the middle period of the Ri Dynasty, while pursuing the “policy of emptying islands”.

After the Meiji Restoration in 1868, Japan embarked on the road of overseas expansion. Advocating the “theory of the conquest of Korea,” it forced Korea to sign the Kanghwado Treaty, an unequal treaty, in 1876 and intensified its aggression on Korea. Around this time, the Japanese invaded Ullung and Tok Islands again.

Seven men in 1881, 78 men in 1882 and 144 men in 1900 made forays into Ullung Island to plunder natural resources. (“Chronicles of King Kojong”, “Diary of the Inspection of Ullung Isl. and” and “Record of Ullung Island”)

To cope with the Japan's re-aggression of Ullung and Tok Islands, the Ri Dynasty government switched over to the substantial “policy of developing islands” from the “policy of emptying islands” in the early 1880s.

In 1882 it sent a letter of protest to the Meiji government of Japan and dispatched to Ullung Island a 102-member field inspection team headed by

Ri Kyu Won. Then, practically, it moved inlanders to the island to reclaim arable land and appointed a magistrate as administrative chief. (“Sungjongwongaesuilgi”)

Common Knowledge—“Sungjongwonilgi”

Sungjongwon was one of central bodies of the Ri Dynasty in charge of dealing with the orders or directions of the king and the documents suggested to him. Sungjongwonilgi is a diary book of the period from 1623 to 1894 and Sungjongwongaesuilgi is the supplemented version of the former. These books recorded happenings and events in politics, the economy, culture, military, diplomacy and other sectors of the government and as a source for compilation of true records of successive kings of the Ri Dynasty, are more valuable in some aspects than the royal true records.

In March 1883, the government appointed Kim Ok Gyun, kingpin of the reformist group, as the chief of developing the southeastern islands and a supervisor to catching whales and entrusted him with the development of Ullung and Tok Islands. He expelled all 254 Japanese men who were engaged in illegal business in Ullung Island.

In 1900 the government of the Ri Dynasty upgraded Ullung Isl. to Ullung County and put Tok Isl. under its jurisdiction.

Such positive development policy encouraged many inhabitants in the coast of the East Sea of Korea and dwellers in Jolla Province, to cross over to Ullung Isl. for creative activities.

In 1900, the population of Ullung Isl. increased to 1 700 (400 households) and arable land was extended to over 700 hectares.

With the development of Ullung Island, the islanders frequented Tok

Island, an islet adjunctive to Ullung Island, to work.

A report submitted by Japanese warship *Tsushima* that made surreptitious survey of Tok Island in November 1904 runs, “Every summer many people of Ullung Island came to this island to fish, building huts”. This gives a glimpse of the islanders’ activity around Tok Isl.

Meanwhile the government of Ri Dynasty proclaimed its dominium over Tok Island to the world by promulgating the Royal Ordinance No. 41 on October 25, 1900, which was a precautionary measure against the re-invasion by the Japanese imperialists.

As seen above, Ullung and Tok Islands remained in the possession of Korea during the whole period of Ri Dynasty comprising the days of “policy of emptying islands” and “policy of development”.

4) Tok Island Viewed from the Legal Point of View

Tok Island is Korea’s territory, when viewed in the light of not only history, geography and language but law.

▲ Tok Island Examined in the Light of the Principle of Preoccupation of Uninhabited Land

The principle of preoccupation of uninhabited land is grounded on the principle of discovery and the principle of preoccupation. The most important factors in deciding the owner of an uninhabited island are the principle of discovery and principle of preoccupation by which a man or a

country that discovered it first must hold it.

Tok Isl. is doubtlessly a Korean island which fully complies with these two principles.

What, then, are the principle of discovery and principle of preoccupation?

In 1492 when the American Continent was known to Europe, Spain and Portugal argued that land must belong to its discoverer, with an intention of owning the vast continent. This became the principle of discovery. The principle has been acknowledged as the fundamental principle in deciding the ownership of territory for more than one and a half century.

In the mid-17th century, Hugo Groeijus, a Dutch lawyer, held that discovery alone was not enough to decide the ownership of a territory and proposed a principle that one must occupy and use it if one is to claim the land.

The principle of preoccupation was advanced, representing the position of the Netherlands against the Spanish and Portuguese monopoly of the Latin American Continent. Up to now these two principles are regarded as international legal criteria for deciding the ownership of uninhabited area (including deserted island) in the international relations.

As mentioned above, the first discoverer and exploiter of Tok Island were the ancient Koreans. They discovered and occupied Ullung Island as far back as thousands of years ago and advanced to Tok Island and engaged in production activities.

In the period of the Three Kingdoms, too, the people of Koguryo and Silla occupied Ullung and Tok Islands and founded a country named Usanguk.

Later Tok Island had been acknowledged as the Korean territory until the early 20th century.

The Japanese, however, came to know the existence of Ullung and Tok Islands only in the close of the 14th century and invaded them incessantly and pillaged. Judging from both the principle of discovery and that of preoccupation, Tok Island is a legitimate territory of the Korean nation.

Recently Japan insistently justifies its invasion and occupation of Tok Island in the modern age on false premises that it was an ownerless island until it discovered and used it, abusing the principles of discovery and preoccupation. This is a sheer sophistry defying historical facts.

▲ Tok Island Viewed in the Light of Medieval Basic Law of Recognition of Territorial Rights

Until the advent of modern international laws authentic government records, geographical books and dictionaries have the full force and effect as a code of laws in deciding the proprietary right to a territory. This is because they are the main view representing the will of a state and, accordingly, are regarded as the basic medieval law recognizing territorial ownership.

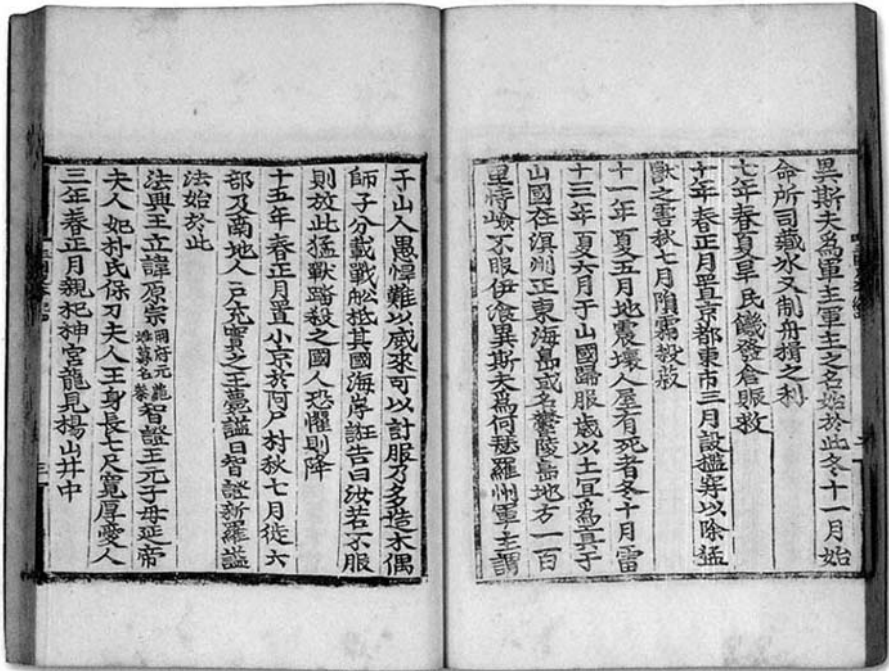
The “Chronicles of the Three Kingdoms”, “History of Koryo”,

“Chronicles of Ri Dynasty” and other government authentic records, “Sinjungdonggukyojisungnam” and other geographical books, and “Jungbomunhonbigo” and other official documents all specified Tok Island along with Ullung Island in the entry of islands of Uljin Prefecture of Kangwon Province.

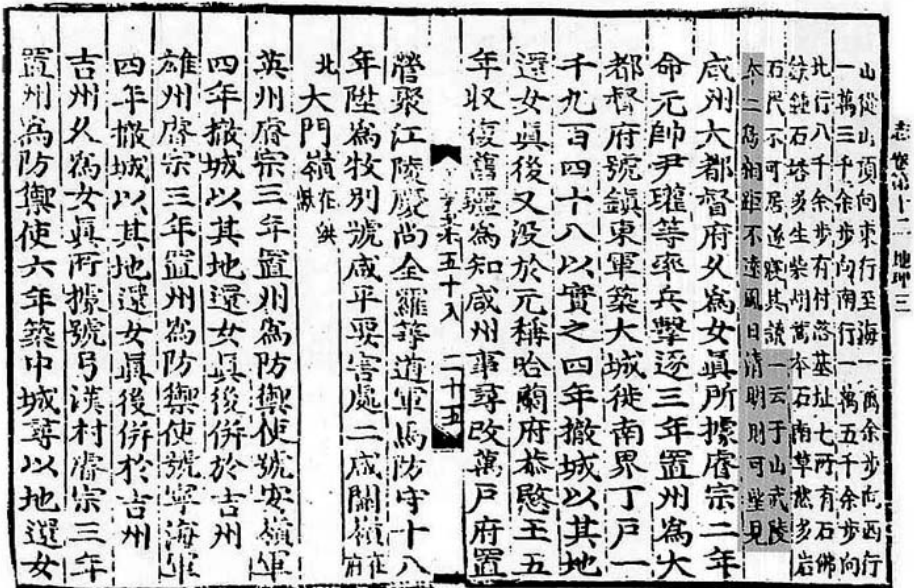
As publications issued by the government, not by individuals, such government documents can be regarded as the legal ones of the country concerned. Judging from the fact that China and Japan, Korea’s neighboring countries, used the above-mentioned books as the major reference data for their diplomacy towards Korea, it is clear that they were of the character of official documents and represented the government’s will in the international arena.

This means that they correspond to the fundamental laws for the recognition of territorial land stipulated by the international laws.

The fact that the “Chronicles of the Three Kingdoms”, geographical books and “Jungbomunhonbigo” wrote Tok Island as Korea’s territory proves that it was inviolable island of Korea in the light of the fundamental code of laws for the recognition of territory in the Middle Ages.



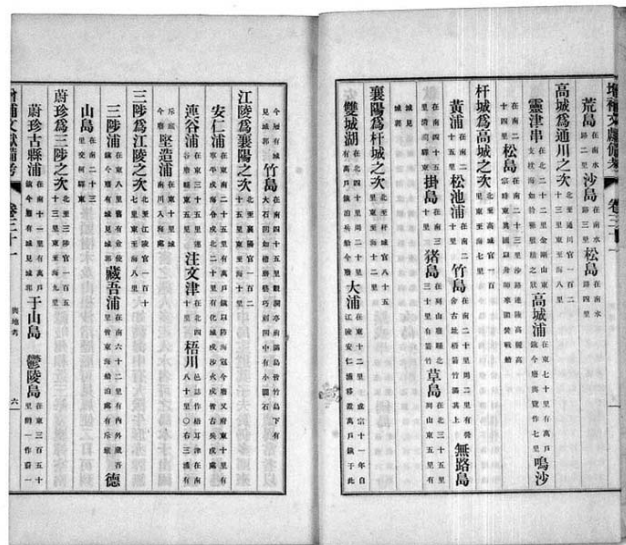
Material on Usanguk in the “Chronicles of the Three Kingdoms”



Material on Usan and Murung Islands in the “History of Koryo”



Material on Usan and Ullung Islands in “Sinjungdonggukyojisungnam”



Material on Usan and Ullung Islands in “Jungbomunhonbigo”

However, neither of the authentic records nor geographical books printed in Japan in the Middle Ages wrote Tok Island as the territory of Japan. This shows the island irrelevant to Japan’s territory.

▲ Modern Law—Royal Ordinance No. 41 Issued by the Ri Dynasty

Modern international laws stipulate that a country's ownership of territory is effective only when the country promulgates a law concerning it.

Fully aware of the modern laws and regulations, the government of Ri Dynasty issued a royal ordinance on its dominium over the island on October 25, 1900 as Japan's invasion of Korea became frequent. Following is the extract from the royal ordinance:

“Royal Ordinance No. 41: Ullung Island shall be renamed Ul Island and the chief of island be upgraded to the county magistrate.

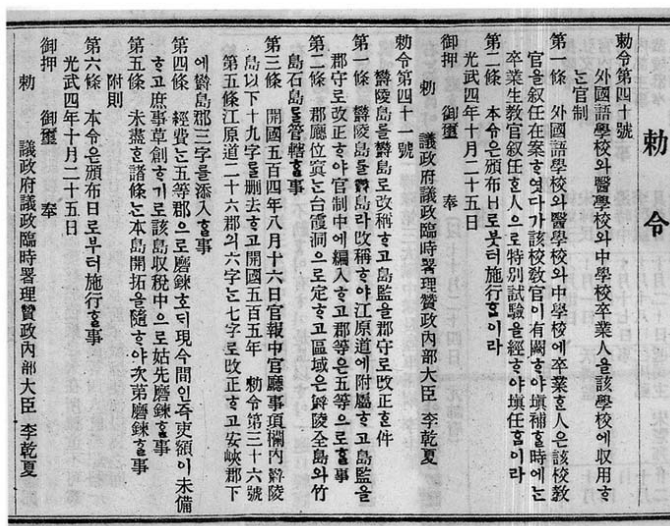
“Article 1. Ullung Island shall be renamed Ul Island and brought under the administration of Kangwon Province as a county of fifth grade; the title of the chief of island shall be upgraded to that of county magistrate and enrolled into governmental official rank.

“Article 2. The county ... district administration shall exercise its influence on the whole of Ullung Island and Juk Island (Jukso Island) and Sok Island (Tok Island).

...

“Article 6. This edict shall take effect from the date of its promulgation. October 25, Kwangmu 4 (1900)”

The Royal Ordinance No. 41 was officially promulgated by the government newspaper, *Kwanbo*, No. 1716. (dated October 27, 1900.)



Royal Ordinance No. 41 of the government of Ri Dynasty

Through this royal edict dated five years earlier than the Notice No. 40 of Shimane Prefecture of Japan, the government of the Ri Dynasty proclaimed to the world its dominium over Tok Island which had belonged to Korea for thousands of years in accordance with the international law of modern age.

▲ Tok Island Viewed in the Light of International conventions

The post-World War II international conventions dealing with the disposal of the territory of defeated Japan defined Tok Island as an object Japan must surrender to Korea.

Such conventions are the Cairo Declaration, the Potsdam Declaration, memorandums, directives and agreements of the Supreme Command of the Allied Powers and San Francisco Peace Treaty (separate Peace Treaty with Japan).

The Cairo Declaration was adopted on November 27, 1943 and published on December 1 the same year. Its article regarding the post-war disposal of Japan's territory and the Korean issue reads: "Japan is to lose all Pacific islands which it had acquired after 1914 and is to be expelled from all other territories which it has taken by violence and greed. Manchuria, Formosa and the Pescadores are to be restored to China."

It is the same case with the Potsdam Declaration. The declaration was announced on July 26, 1945 by the USA, Britain and China (led by Jiang Jieshi) in Potsdam of Germany. The same year the USSR was present at the meeting on August 8.

The 8th article of the declaration stipulates that "The terms of the Cairo Declaration shall be carried out and Japanese sovereignty shall be limited to the islands of Honshu, Hokkaido, Kyushu, Shikoku and such minor islands as we determine". By defining Japan's territory as the four major islands and other small islands to be defined by the Allied Powers, Japan was in fact to be expelled from the Korean territory including the Korean peninsula and Tok Island.

After the Potsdam Declaration went public, the Japanese Emperor Hirohito issued the "Protocol on accepting the Potsdam Declaration" and on August 14, 1945, the Foreign Minister transmitted it to the Allied Powers through its minister to Switzerland. On September 2, the representative of Japan signed the document of surrender on the US flagship.

Thus, the Cairo and Potsdam declarations became the basic documents which have the binding force of law in the postwar treatment of the Japanese Islands.

Based on the two declarations the Supreme Command of the Allied Powers (SCAP) drew up and issued a memorandum, a directive and an agreement to be effected practically.

On January 29, 1946, the SCAP published the Directive No. 677 entitled Memorandum on Separating Some Surrounding Areas from Japan Administratively. The Article 3 of the directive reads in the following vein: Japan encompasses four major islands (Hokkaido, Honshu, Kyushu and Shikoku) and about 1 000 other small peripheral islands. The islands to be included are Tsushima and Ryuku Islands north of 30 degree N. And those to be excluded are, first, Ullung Island and Liancourt Rock (Tok Island) and Jeju Island, second, Ryuku Islands south of 30 degree N. and third, Kuril Islands.

As seen above, Tok Island, a colonial island illegally conquered by Japan, was excluded from the Japanese Islands and was included in the Korea's territory again.

The SCAP Directive No. 1033 dated June 22, 1946 stipulates that neither Japanese vessels nor their crew thereafter should be allowed access to 12 miles around Tok Island.

In this way, Tok Island was defined by the Allied Powers as

internationally recognized, legitimate part of Korean territory.

Afterwards, the SCAP drew up an agreement on the disposal of the territory of the defeated Japan. According to the Article 3 of the agreement, the Allied Powers agreed on the takeover of the integral sovereignty over all of Korea's appurtenant islands to Korea. It also pointed out that the islands included Jeju, Komun, Ullung and Tok Islands.

Recognized by the international community and accepted by Japan, the aforesaid declarations and official documents of the SCAP hold a position corresponding to that of international commitment with full legal binding force.

Because they were not unilateral declaration of the Allied Powers, but agreements between the victor nations and the defeated nations, they became the international conventions with strong binding force in defining the sphere of Japanese territory.

As demanded by the Cairo and Potsdam declarations, Japan, after its unconditional surrender, gave up Manchuria, Formosa (Taiwan) and the Pescadores taken from China in and after the Sino-Japanese War and restored to the former Soviet Union the southern part of Sakhalin and four islands of Kuril Islands deprived of Russia in the Russo-Japanese War.

It is most natural that Tok Island belonged to Korea as required by the international laws and conventions.

5) Tok Island through Maps

From the olden times, man has drawn maps to get a better knowledge of the shape and location of the land. Therefore, the map inevitably bears marks of location, dimensions and owner country of the given area.

In the past few cartographers in the world laid down Tok Island in maps, except those of Korea and Japan, whose maps generally marked Tok Island as Korea's.

▲ Tok Island on Maps Drawn by Koreans in the Past

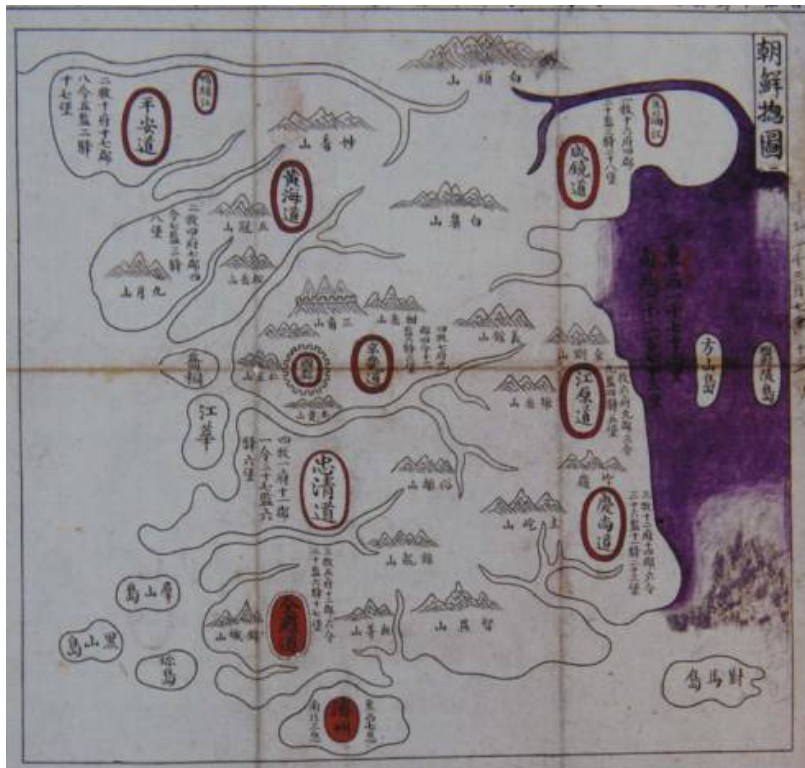
Many maps drawn during the days of the Ri Dynasty still remain.

“The General Map of 8 Provinces” and “Map of Kangwon Province” in “Sinjungdonggukyojisungnam” (published in 1530) can be said to be the oldest ones handed down so far that marked Ullung and Tok Islands of the East Sea of Korea belonging to Kangwon Province.



General Map of 8 Provinces in “Sinjungdonggukyojisungnam” (1530)

Besides, there are many old maps of Korea—“General Map of 8 Provinces of the East State” and “Map of Korea” made in the 16th century, “General Map of 8 Provinces of the Country”, “Map of Korea and East Asia” and “General Map of 8 Provinces” printed in the 17th century, “General Map of Korea” and “Map of East Country” drawn in the 18th century, “General Map of Crab” and “General Map of 8 Provinces” made in the 19th century, “General Map of Great Korea” drawn in the late 19th century and “General Map of Taehan” issued in 1899. All these maps laid down Ullung Island and Tok Island (Usan Island or Jasan Island or Pangsang Island) as Korean island.



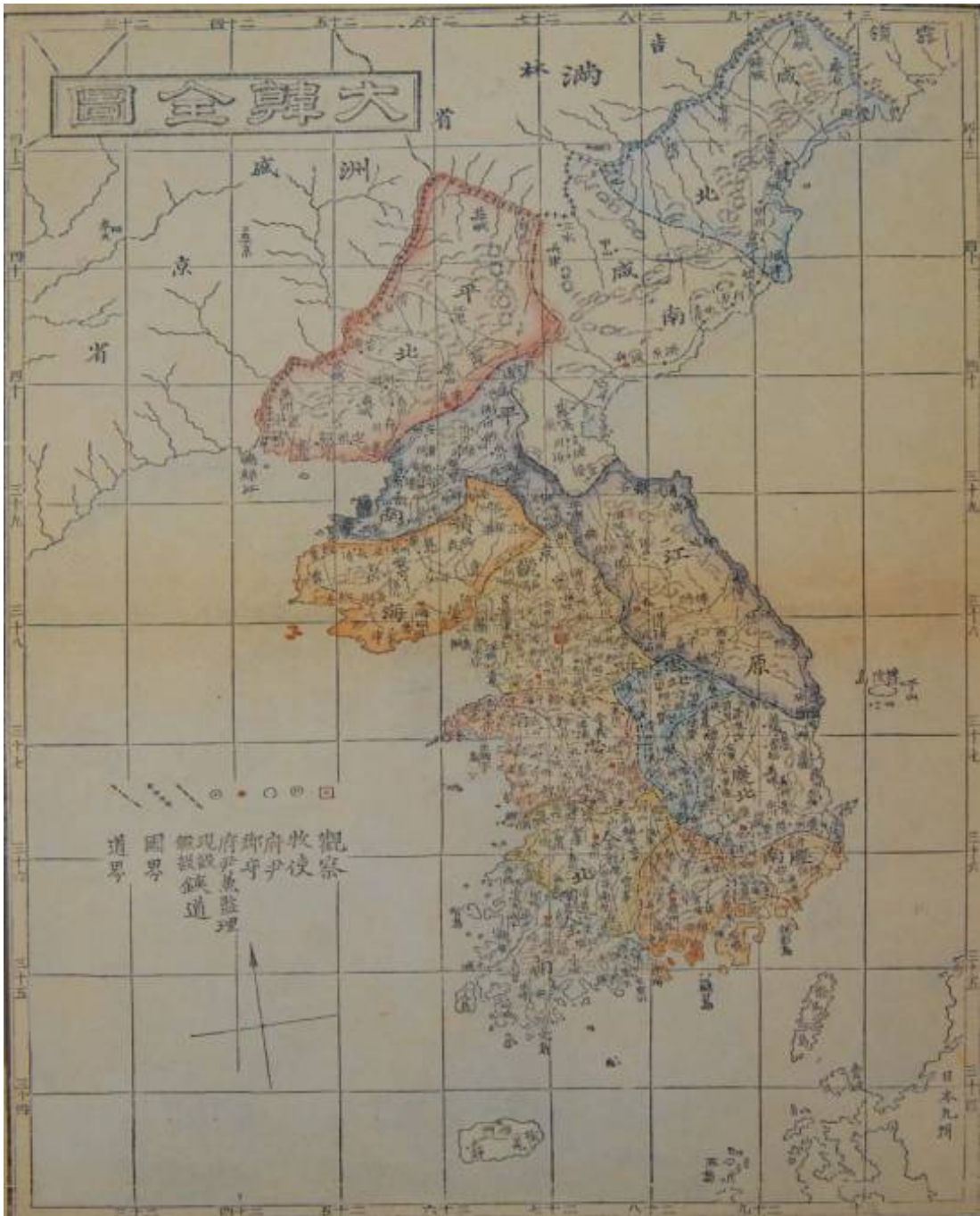
General Map of Korea drawn in the fore half of 18th Centur



Map of East Country (latter half of the 18th century)



General Map of 8 Provinces printed in the fore half of the 19th century



General Map of Taehan in 1899

Like this, all the maps of Korea drawn in the days of the Ri Dynasty mark Tok Island as belonging to Korea. However, such maps of Japan drawn by

Koreans as “General Map of Japan” in the “Old Atlas” made in the latter half of the 18th century and “Map of Japan” in “Map of East Country” and “Map of Japan” made in the fore half of the 19th century marked Oki Island of Shimane Prefecture, but excluded Ullung and Tok Isls. west of it.

This bespeaks that the Koreans regarded Tok Island as the Korean territory and Oki Island as the northwestern island of Japan.

▲ Tok Island on Old Maps Drawn by the Japanese

The old maps drawn by the Japanese, too, marked Tok Island along with Ullung Island as the Korean territory. The “Map of Korea” published in the late 16th century is the first Japanese map to put down Ullung and Tok Isls. in the Korean appellation. During the Imjin Patriotic War (1592-1598) this map was drawn on the order of Toyotomi Hideyoshi for the purpose of invasion of Korea. On the “General Map of 8 Provinces” and partial map of Kangwon Province are marked Usan Isl. (Tok Isl.) and Ullung Isl. off Kangwon Province.

This is the same case with the “Map of Capital-Province of Korea and Seaway of West Coast of Osaka, Japan” and the “Map of Three Neighbouring States” drawn in the 18th century.



Map of Capital-Province of Korea and Seaway of West Coast of Osaka, Japan

The “Map of Three Neighbouring States” was drawn by Hayashi Shihei of Japan in 1785. This map shows Japan and three states around it, in which Takeshima (the Japanese name of Ullung Island—editor) and a small island (Tok Island—editor) beside it are drawn in yellow, the same colour as the Korean Peninsula with the inscription “belonging to Korea” beside it. And Tsushima is coloured in green along with the Japanese Islands, so as to make clear that Ullung and Tok Islands were not Japanese islands.

The same is true of the Japanese maps drawn in the modern times.

On “General Detailed Map of Korea” drawn in 1873, Tok Island (Usan Island) is placed near Ullung Island as if annexed to it; on the “General Detailed Map of Korea—8 Provinces” drawn in 1874 and “the General Map of Korean Land” in 1875 are marked Ullung and Tok Isls. as Korean territory.

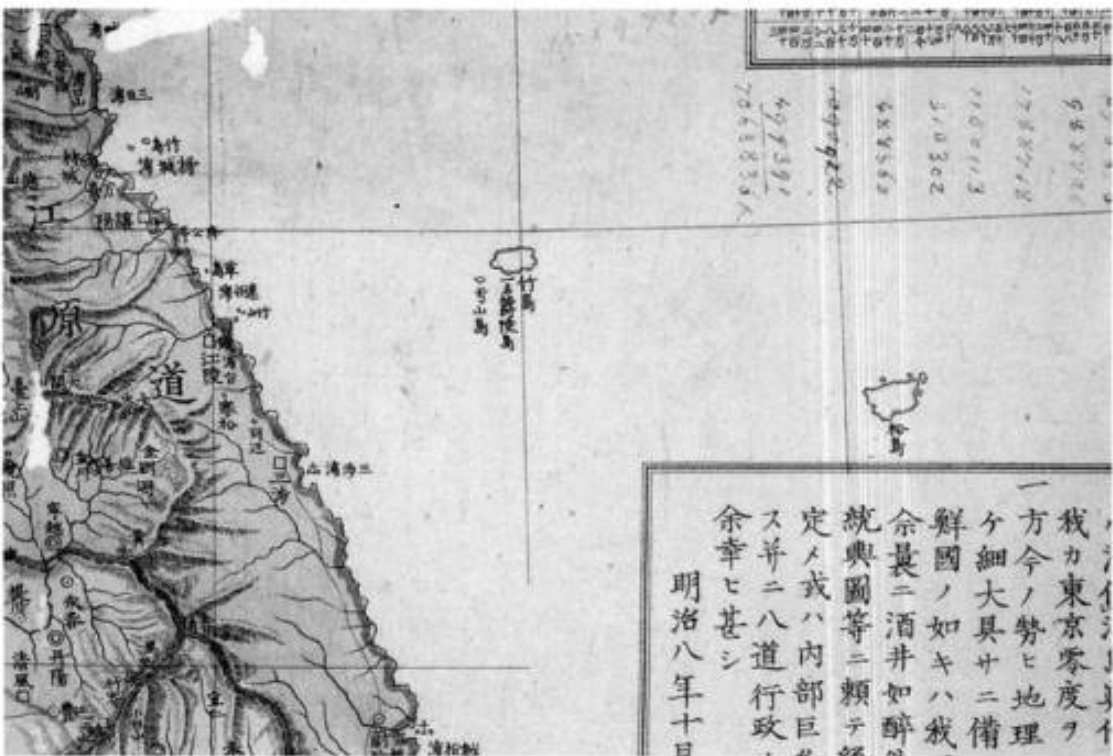


General Detailed Map of Korea—8 Provinces (1874)

The “Chart of the East Coast of Korea”, an operations map, which the hydrographic bureau of the Japanese Navy re-printed the map made by a

Russian fleet *Paradah* in 1876, had the looks of Tok Island viewed from various spots. They were all within the Korean territory. All the Japanese maps printed until 1905 included Tok Island in the Korean territory.

The “General Map of Korea” issued by the staff bureau of Ministry of Army of Japan in 1882 encompasses Ullung and Tok Islands within the Korean territory.



Partial map of Tok Isl. of the “General Map of Korea” (1882)

Like this the old maps of Korea and Japan are the visual testimony to the fact that Tok Island has been belonging to Korea, not to Japan, from the olden times.

6) Japanese Men and Government Recognizing Tok Island as the Korean Territory

Japanese progressive scholars recognized and scientifically proved the Korea's proprietary rights to Tok Island.

Not a few scholars, fishermen and officials of Japan made clear or argued that the island was part of the Korean territory. Even the Japanese government recognized it.

▲ Recognition by Japanese Individuals

① Letter of Oya

In his letter sent to his friend Muragawa on September 5, 1660, prior to applying for a “license to cross the sea over to Matsushima (Tok Island—editor)”, Oya, a fisherman wrote “Matsushima in Takeshima (Ullung Island—editor).” (Japanese book, “Historical and Geographical Study of Tok Island”) This is tantamount to recognition that since Ullung Island belonged to Korea, Tok Island was a Korea's island annexed to it.

② Saito's Report

The first archive of Japan dealing with Tok Island is the “Record on Experience in Inshyu”, a report made in 1667 by Saito, an official of Izumo, after inspecting the border areas of northwest of Japan on the order of the feudal lord of Izumo. It reads:

“The two islands (Ullung and Tok Islands —editor) are uninhabited islands. The distance between the two islands and Korea is nearly the same as that between Unshyu (Izumo) and Oki Island. Therefore Inshyu is the northwest boundary of Japan.” This shows that he, well aware of Tok Island, understood that the northwest boundary of Japan was Oki Island and that Ullung and Tok Islands were part of Korea’s territory.

③ Letter of Opinion of Tanabe, Official of Foreign Ministry of Japan

In his letter of opinion concerning Tok Island the Meiji government wanted in December 1878, Tanabe, head of the record bureau under the Foreign Ministry of Japan, wrote:

“Matsushima, named by our people, is actually Usan Island (Tok Island—editor) appurtenant to Ullung island which belongs to Korea. In the days of the former government (shogunate government) a conflict occurred between Korea and Japan over Ullung Island’s belonging to Korea. After exchanges of documents between them we promised certainly to give up the claim to the island for good and all. This has been written in the historical records of the two countries. If Japan is going to send people to inspect the islands without particular reason, it is as good as coveting other’s treasury. It will be all the worse if Japan violates the frontier of the neighbouring

country.” (“Records of Matsushima”)

As an experienced official of the Foreign Ministry of the Meiji government, Tanabe was well-versed in the foreign relations, especially the internal affairs and topographical features of Korea. He held that Tok Island was Korea’s island and, accordingly Japan should keep the promise not to intrude it again, made by the former Edo shogunate government in 1699. His Foreign Ministry colleagues, too, shared his opinion.

④ Application for Leasing Tok Island by Nakai Yosaburo

In order to secure the exclusive right to catch fur seals in the sea off Tok Island, Nakai Yosaburo, a fisherman of Shimane Prefecture, submitted an “application for leasing Liancourt Rock (Tok Island—editor)” to the Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce of Japan in September 1904. Here he requested the ministry to negotiate with the government of Ri Dynasty on granting him 10-year lease of Tok Island. His application was based on the premise that the island was not Japan’s territory, but Korea’s.

Later Nakai himself said: “I regarded Matsushima and Takeshima as Korea’s territory, so I had gone to the capital city with an intention to request the lease of the Ri Dynasty government through the good offices of the Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce of Japan.” (His curriculum vitae

written in 1910 and “History and Geography”, Vol. 8, No. 6, in 1906.)

Various publications issued in Japan later affirmed his view on the island.

The “Records of Shimane Prefecture” published by an educational society in Shimane Prefecture in July 1923 writes: “Regarding this island (Tok Island—editor) as the Korean territory, Nakai intended to go to the capital city and request the lease of the island of the government of the Ri Dynasty through the Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce.”

The “Records of Oki Island” published in February 1933 reads: “Nakai, believing that Liancourt Rock (Tok Island—editor) belongs to Korea, determined to petition the government of Ri Dynasty for a lease of it.”

The above-mentioned people were the typical officials and fishermen involved in the issue of Tok Island, whose remarks are an evidence to the fact that the then Japanese recognized the island as the Korean territory.

▲ Recognition by the Japanese Government

① “Licenses for Crossing the Sea over to Takeshima and Matsushima”,

Certifications of Japanese Government in the 17th century

Hearing that fish was teeming in the sea off Ullung and Tok Islands, Oya and Muragawa, fishermen, petitioned the government to permit them to

cross the sea over there for fishing. In compliance with it, the Tokugawa shogunate issued them the licenses for crossing the sea over to Takeshima in 1618 and to Matsushima in 1661, respectively. Fishing within one's own territorial waters does not need permission to crossing a sea, which signifies the violation of sea borderline.

Official certificates, the licenses are, therefore, the strongest evidence to the Japan's recognition of Korea's dominium over Ullung and Tok Islands.

② The Resolution of the Tokugawa Shogunate in 1696 and Exchanges of Documents between Korea and Japan in 1699

The vehement struggle of the patriotic Korean fishermen including An Ryong Bok forced the Japanese trespassers to retreat from Ullung and Tok Islands and the head of Oki Island and the lord of Tottori Prefecture could not but admit that Tok Island was part of the Korean territory in 1693. The issue on the island was carried to the shogun of the Edo shogunate the power holder of that time.

In January 1696, the Tokugawa shogunate adopted the following resolution concerning Takeshima and the other one (Matsushima): "...As Matsushima is about 16 km away from Korea and 64 km off Japan, it seems doubtless that it belongs to Korea. When the government allowed the request of the fishermen in Yonako for permission to go to the island to fish, it did not mean to take the island from that country (Korea—editor). In

future our fishermen shall stop fishing there. The Korean government shall be notified of this.” (“Records of Friendly Relations with Korea,” Vol. 8 and Collection of Official Documents, Home Ministry Section 1.)

The other one island in “Takeshima and other one island” mentioned in the resolution can be considered Tok Island. It is proven by a line of the Collection of Official Documents which reads: “Beside Takeshima, there is another one island, which is called Matsushima.”

Therefore the government of Tokugawa shogunate admitted finally in the late 17th century that Ullung and Tok Islands belonged to Korea and the licenses to crossing the sea issued illegally were revoked on their own accord. Afterwards, the Japanese government issued an order to prohibit its people from felling in Ullung Island and fishing off the island. And by the documents exchanged between the two countries in 1699, the Japanese were forbidden access to Ullung and Tok Islands.

This signified that the government of shogunate admitted that Tok Island was Korea’s territory and that it gave assurance to Korea in the late 17th century.

③ Recognition by Foreign Ministry of Japan in 1869

The Japanese Meiji government established after the fall of the shogunate in 1868 reaffirmed Korea’s dominium over Ullung and Tok Islands. In December 1869, the following year of the Meiji Restoration, the Foreign

Ministry of Japan dispatched to Korea its three officials—Sada, Moriyama and Saito—to examine latter’s internal situation. After the investigation, they submitted to the Foreign Ministry a report “Private Inquiry Report on Association with Korean Government” in which they gave details of how Takeshima and Matsushima belonged to Korea, agreeing to it. (Diplomatic Documents, Japan, Vol. 3.)

As the report was an official document, it can be said that the Foreign Ministry of Japan recognized that Tok Isl. was an island adjacent to Ullung Isl. and that those two islands belonged to Korea.

④ Instruction of the Meiji Cabinet in 1877

In 1877 the Home Ministry of Japan made a study of Takeshima and the other one for five months in compliance with suggestion submitted by Shimane Prefecture concerning the nationwide geographical survey and reported the result of the study to the Cabinet. After minutely examining the report, Iwakura Tomomi, the then acting Prime Minister, worked out on March 20, an instruction that Takeshima (Ullung Island) and the other one (Matsushima or Tok Island) should be excluded from Japan’s territory. (Material offered by the director of the Japanese State Official Document Depository, Home Ministry Section 1, “Collections of Official Documents”) The instruction was given to the Home Ministry and Shimane Prefecture to be confirmed.

It is cogent evidence to the fact that Tok Island is Korea's territory.

⑤ Canceling by Meiji Government in 1878

In August 1878, Shimomura of Nagasaki Prefecture and Saito of Chiba Prefecture, government officials, proposed to the Meiji government to establish a "Matsushima Exploiting Office". The exploiting of Matsushima (Tok Island) implies invasion. Having examined this issue in detail, the Meiji government turned down the proposal because Matsushima was Korea's territory.

⑥ Recognition by Ministry of the Navy of Japan

Tok Island was marked as Korea's island on the "Chart of East Coast of Korea" drawn by the Ministry of the Navy of Japan in 1876. Other maps made until 1905 included the island in the Korean territory. The same is true of "Loop Hydrographic Chart" and the "Hydrographic Chart of Korea" drawn by the Hydrographic Bureau of Japan. It is noteworthy that the chart drawn by the Ministry of Navy of Japan and a geography book compiled by the Hydrographic Bureau of Japan laid down Tok Island as part of the Korean territory.

⑦ Recognition by the Ministry of the Army of Japan

The Ministry of the Army, too, recognized Tok Island as the Korea's territory. The "General Map of Korea" made by the staff of the Ministry of the Army in 1875 encompassed Ullung and Tok Islands in the Korean

territory. So did the “Table of Regional Maps” compiled by the staff headquarters of the Army of Japan in 1936.

▲ Recognition by the Educational, Publishing and Legal Circles of Japan in the Present Age

① An entry of Tok Island in “Encyclopedia of Japan” published by the Shogakukan in 1960 writes: “Though the island is called Takeshima in Japan, it is called Tok Island in Korea. It is known as Liancourt Rock to European and American people. The first Korean book dealing with this island is ‘Tonggukyojisungnam’ published in 1481. According to the book, the island by the name of Usan Island was under the jurisdiction of Uljin Prefecture, Kangwon Province together with Murung (Ullung) Island and was regarded as the Korea’s territory. Although the existence of the island became known to Japan by its fishermen in the Edo Era (1603-1867), Japan did not consider as its own territory.” Considering that the “Encyclopedia of Japan,” a representation of view point of the educational and academic circles of Japan, was highly authentic, it can be said that Tok Island had been regarded generally as the Korea’s territory in Japan until 1960.

② The first volume of “Korean Dictionary” compiled by the professors of the Korean language research room of the Osaka Foreign Languages

University and published by the Kadogawa Publishing House in 1985 reads on the entry of Tok Island in page 670: “Tok Island is an uninhabited island belonging to Ullung County, North Kyongsang Province, Korea. It is called Takeshima in Japan. Opinion on its retrocession to Japan is being raised in Japan. Its old name is Usan Island.” The “Korean Dictionary” is the integrity of view of top-rank linguists of Japan.

③ Japan proclaimed the Prime Minister’s Office Order No. 24, dated on June 6, 1951 and the Finance Ministry Order No. 4 on February 13, the same year, which excluded Tok Island from Japan’s appurtenant islands. The Article 2 of the Prime Minister’s Office Order No. 24 stipulated that Ullung, Jeju and Tok Islands were to be excluded from the Japanese territory, distinguishing the colonial islands from the native Japanese islands. Moreover, the Finance Ministry Order No.4 excluded Ullung, Jeju and Tok Islands from those appurtenant to Japan. Later in 1960 and 1968, Japan made revisions of the two orders but the article stipulating the exclusion of Tok Island from Japanese appurtenant Islands remained intact. The Prime Minister’s Office and Finance Ministry hold the top position within the Japanese Cabinet and their statutory documents have a considerable effect unparalleled with others. The Japanese government’s separating of Tok Island from its territory by issuing the Prime Minister’s Office Order and Finance Ministry Order is tantamount to its recognition of the legal status of Tok

Island given by the prevailing international law documents and to making it an internal law.

2. Japan's Sinister Design for Tok Island

Tok Island is Korea's inherent territory from the olden times, as aforesaid. Nevertheless, as the Japanese government insists persistently on its dominium over Tok Island and moves to hold it up are getting wilder, it is necessary to trace back Japan's history of aggression on the island, by stages.

1) Japan's Invasion on Tok Island in the Middle Ages

The invasion and pillage of Ullung and Tok Islands by the Japanese started in the late 14th century and became more frequent in the 17th century.

▲Beginning to Trespass on Tok Island

The Japanese made their first incursions on Ullung and Tok Islands in the late 14th century or in the Koryo Dynasty.

The Japanese piratical raiders attacked foreign countries in groups of hundreds, thousands or tens of thousands some times. At that time, the feudal lords in the west part of Japan and the shogun, as well, masterminded the pirates and shared their booty.

The sphere of their barbarous acts reached southeastern Asian countries including Koryo and China. Koryo was the most hit of them as it was the

closest country to Japan. Inhabitants in the west, east and south coasts of Korea and islands including Ullung and Tok Islands suffered savagely from their assaults.

According to “History of Koryo” in July 1379, some Japanese pirates attacked Ullung Island and occupied it for a fortnight, killing the islanders and robbing them of their property.

To cope with the frequent raid of the Japanese pirates, Koryo naval forces attacked them with war vessels equipped with newly-invented powder weapons by Choe Mu Son, and made an expedition to Tsushima, a den of the pirates in 1389. After then they did not dare raid for some time. However, entering the early 15th century, their outrages had a fit again. They trespassed on the coastal areas and islands of Korea, while requesting to allow them living and bargaining there.

Being scanty of natural resources and channels to continent, Japan had no choice but to rely on Korea to satisfy the shoguns’ and feudal lords’ demand for luxuries.

In 1407, the lord of Tsushima paid tribute to government of the Ri Dynasty of Korea, imploring to grant him and islanders of Tsushima to live in Ullung Island. (“Chronicles of King Thaejong”) They were avaricious of rich marine resources off Ullung and Tok Islands, not of land.

It was shortly after King Thaejong, in compliance with the suggestion of

Kangwon provincial governor, adopted the “policy of emptying Ullung” to cope with the invasion of the Japanese.

The application of the Japanese for residence aimed to exploit marine resources rich in this area. King Thaejong flatly rejected their demand, saying that “if the Japanese were granted residence, it would surely be led to trouble.” (Chronicles of King Thaejong, Vol. 13.) This shows that the government of Ri Dynasty foresaw their residence would entail invasion and plundering.

When the request was rebuffed, the Japanese resumed trespassing on the islands. In 1417 they raided Tok Island and Ullung Island again. (*ibid.*, Vol. 34.) This is the instance of it.

The Imjin Patriotic War (1592-1598) ignited by Japan in the late 16th century did a great harm and disaster to the Koreans. At the initial stage of war the Japanese aggressors occupied large part, being wild of robbery, destruction and murder, but they had to be expelled at last in face of stubborn resistance of the Korean people

▲ Intensified Invasion and Plunder of Ullung and Tok Islands in the 17th Century

After the war, the government of the Ri Dynasty loosened control over coastal islands. Japan, taking advantage of this opportunity, intensified invasion of Ullung and Tok Islands. In the early 17th century the lord of

Tsushima Island claimed dominium over the islands. In 1614, he demanded that the government of Ri Dynasty allow the Japanese to “reside” in Ullung and Tok Islands (“Diary of Kwanghaegun”, Vol. 82) and the next year repeatedly notified the Korean government that they would “make a survey” of the size and terrains of Ullung Island which is located on the extension line of the border between Kyongsang and Kangwon Provinces. (“Jungbomunhonbigo”, Vol. 31.)

The hidden purpose of his proposal was none other than to usurp the proprietary right to Ullung Island, based on the “survey”.

Upon the authorization of the government of the Ri Dynasty, Magistrate of Tongrae notified him that Uijuk Island was rightly Ullung Island and it was an indisputable fact that it was situated on the sea off Kyongsang and Kangwon Provinces, as written in “Yojisungnam”, and that the “policy of emptying islands” never meant allowing foreigners to come in at their free will and live there, warning that any Japanese people who trespassed on the island would be punished as pirate. (*ibid.*)

The hardline policy of the government refuted the face of the lord of Tsushima and defended the sovereignty of Ullung and Tok Islands. However, their outrageous acts were continued. On the plea of “catching fish”, they trespassed on Ullung Island in 1614 and three times in 1617 to steal marine resources.

Moreover, taking the advantage of the Korea’s “policy of emptying

islands”, the Tokugawa shogunate issued the families of Oya and Muragawa the licenses on crossing the sea over to Takeshima in 1618 and licenses on Matsushima in 1661, respectively so that they could catch fish off the islands at their will.

By issuing the passports, the Japanese government officially admitted the Korea’s dominium over the two islands and came to the front in intruding them. The licenses were like a thief “certificate” allowing the Japanese to plunder Korea’s marine resources. In the late 17th century, Japan’s invasion and plundering resources were on a full-scale, whereas it claimed the proprietary rights to Ullung and Tok Isls.

In his letters sent to the Korean government in August 1694 and June 1695, the lord of Tsushima insisted Takeshima be Japan’s territory, saying that Korean fishermen trespassed on the island.

In 1693 An Ryong Bok encountered a Japanese piratical fishing boat on the way to Ullung Island. (“Chronicles of King Sukjong”, Vol. 26.) This has a hint that Japan set out on full-dress aggression of Ullung and Tok Islands.

Encouraged by the patriotic struggle waged by An Ryong Bok and other fishermen of the East Sea of Korea, the government of Ri Dynasty repulsed the absurd demand and intrusion of Japan. The tightened control over Ullung and Tok Islands and the agreement concluded in 1699 between two countries did not allow Japanese access to the islands for some period.

2) Japan's Temporary Occupation of Tok Island in the Modern Times

After the Meiji Restoration in 1868, Japan embarked on the road to aggression of Korea, advocating the “theory on the conquest of Korea”.

After fabricating the “*Unyo Incident*” on August 21, 1875, Japan forced the feudal government of Ri Dynasty to sign the “Kanghwado Treaty” in February 1876, which was aggressive and unequal.

In the wake of this, Japan infringed upon the Korea's sovereignty seriously including the incursion on Ullung and Tok Islands.

▲ Japan's Moves to Despoil Tok Island

In the 1880s, Japan intensified aggression of Ullung and Tok Islands, openly claiming its ownership of them. When Ri Kyu Won, a government official, inspected Ullung Island in April, 1882, he found 78 Japanese people and a signpost with inscription “Matsushima of Japan” set up there. (“*Ilsongrok*”, King Kojong and “*Diary of Inspection of Ullung Island*”)

Around this time Japanese miscalled Ullung Island Matsushima, instead of Takeshima they had called previously. This is because those islands were not theirs, quite strange to them after some years of interval from the late 17th century to the late 19th century.

At this juncture Japan became more frantic in its effort to occupy Ullung and Tok Islands. When U Yong Jong, a government official of Korea, inspected Ullung Island in 1900, there were 144 Japanese people with

eleven ships anchored there. As the islanders demanded their withdrawal, they justified their illegal acts, threatening them with swords.

However, their trespasses upon the two islands were foiled by the “policy of developing” that region the Ri Dynasty government carried out and the strong resistance of Koreans.

These events show that the Japan’s aggressive manoeuvres on Tok Island escalated stage by stage.

▲ Fabrication of “Notice No. 40 of Shimane Prefecture” and Occupation of Tok Island

As its victory in the Russo-Japanese War came in its sight, Japan furtively drew up the “Notice No. 40 of Shimane Prefecture” on February 22, 1905 and on November 17, 1905 it concluded the “Ulsa Five-Point Treaty” with the Korean government by force of arms. With the notice and treaty rigged up, the Japan’s ambition for Tok Island was accomplished.

Under the excuse of the Russo-Japanese War ignited by Japan in February 1904, Japan shipped into Korea a huge force. Fully aware of the strategic significance of Ullung and Tok Islands in the East Sea of Korea, Japan built an observation tower on Tok Island and laid a submarine cable from Korea to Japan proper via Ullung and Tok Islands during the war (February 1904-September 1905). Thus, Tok Island was used as a base of Japan to observe and strike Russian fleets coming from and to Vladivostok. Thus in May 1905, the fleet of Japan led by Togohe Hachiro destructed the Baltic

expeditionary fleet of Russia off Tsushima and destroyed fleeing ships to submission around Ullung and Tok Islands.

Meanwhile, Japanese pillage of natural resources on and around Tok Island gained momentum.

The Japanese fishermen vied with one another to catch fur seals, a specialty of Tok Island. Among them was Nakai Yosaburo, who started catching fur seals around the island. In 1903 he undertook trial fishing and the next year caught illegally 2 760 fur seals. In order to gain monopoly right to catch fur seals around Tok Island, he submitted to the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce in September 1904 an “Application for Leasing Liancourt Rock (Tok Island—editor)” to negotiate with the Korean government about granting him ten-year-long monopoly right to catch fur seals around the island. The application, based on his recognition that Tok Island was Korea’s island, was the reflection of his tricky intention of acquiring the rights to permanent residence in and ownership of the island on the excuse of “lease”.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce, however, lingered approval to the petition, seeing which way the cat would jump. Calculating that it would occupy Tok Island and turn it into a base for overseas aggression if it made a good use of the petition, the quick-witted Ministry of the Navy

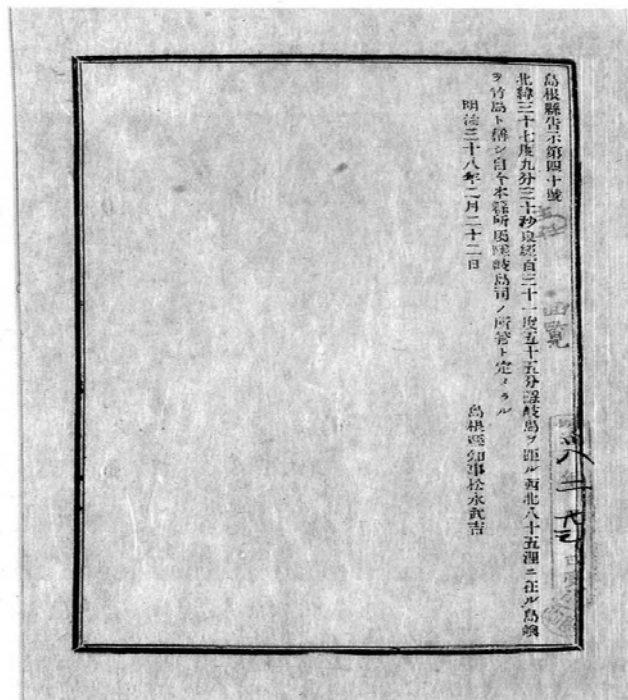
submitted to the Minister of Home Affairs, Foreign Minister and Minister of Agriculture and Commerce an “Application for Leasing Liancourt Rock” on September 29, 1904. In this way, the issue on negotiation over leasing Tok Island was changed into one of incorporating it by the Japanese government. In 1904, the three ministers asked the government to dispatch a warship *Amaki* to Tok Island on a mission of “surveying on the spot”.

The problem on occupation of Tok Island was in a practical stage. Although *Amaki* confirmed that Ullung and Tok Islands were Korea’s territory where Koreans lived on fishing, Japan made it a good opportunity to deal with Nakai’s application as planned, convinced of its victory in the war.

In 1905, Japan forged legal documents to be used to justify their conquest of Tok Island in the coming years. In the Cabinet meeting held on January 28, 1905, the Japanese government adopted following resolution: “This uninhabited island has no sign of foreign countries’ preoccupation. The document concerned proved that after the Meiji 36th year a man called Nakai Yosaburo crossed the sea over to the island to live on fishing. Acknowledging the fact of our occupation, the island will be annexed to the Japanese territory according to the international laws. (“Official Documents”, Japan, Part 29, Vol. 1.)

In pursuance of the Cabinet resolution, Shimane Prefecture issued the Notice No. 40 of Shimane Prefecture on February 22, 1905.

The notice reads: “Hereafter, the island located at 37° 9′ 30” N. and 131° 55′ E. 85 miles off the northwest of Oki Island, shall be called Takeshima and put under the jurisdiction of Oki Island belonging to Shimane Prefecture.”



Notice No. 40 of Shimane Prefecture

Fearful of the protest of the international community, the Japanese government and authorities of Shimane Prefecture did not dare to officially proclaim the notice.

The Cabinet resolution on absorbing Takeshima which was represented as the state will was not carried in the government organs nor notified to foreign countries but the notice of a local prefecture was published only in *Saning Shimbun*, the official newspaper of Shimane Prefecture.

As a prefecture assembly of Japan cannot represent the Japanese state, so the article in a local newspaper cannot be of the state and legal character.

Consequently, the Notice No. 40 of Shimane Prefecture was a backroom product designed for an excuse to justify Japan's occupation of Tok Island.

So far as a country's occupation of a certain area or island is concerned, it can be recognized by foreign countries and assumes the legal character only when it represents the state will and is proclaimed to the world. When it incorporated Ogasawara Island, Japan notified twelve European countries and when it merged Minamidori Island appurtenant to the former, it published a notice concerning it through *Yomiuri Shimbun* and *Miyako Shimbun*, nationwide newspapers.

The above-mentioned facts show that the Japan's scheme for hold-up of Tok Isl. on the strength of the "Notice No. 40 of Shimane Prefecture" was absolutely illegal.

The gangster-like nature of Japan to justify occupation of Tok Island by the means of the notice of Shimane Prefecture is thrown into relief when viewed against the fact that the Korean government had reaffirmed its dominium over the island by proclaiming the Royal Ordinance No. 41

through its organ in 1900, as required by the international laws of the modern times, that is, five years earlier than the notice of Shimane Prefecture.

On March 28, 1906, Japan sent a party headed by the lord of Oki Island to Tok Island to inspect it. On his way back from the inspection tour, he notified the Magistrate of Ullung County, Sim Hong Thaek that Tok Island had been incorporated to Japan's territory and he inspected it. (Report of Sim Hong Thaek, Magistrate of Ullung Island) This is an expression of Japan's gangster-like territorial ambition.

Indignant at Japan's incorporation of Tok Island, the Korean people scathingly condemned Japan. Hwang Hyon and other patriotic-minded intellectuals denounced that Japan's proclaiming Tok Island to be its territory was a sheer sophistry.

It was absolutely because Korea had been deprived of its diplomatic right by Japan that the Korean government could not lodge an official protest.

After having swallowed up the island, Japan buckled down itself to full-scale plundering of natural resources including fur seals. Nakai, who had obtained a license on leasing Tok Island from the Japanese government, established the Takeshima Fishing Company and caught 10 000 fur seals for five years after 1906.

3) Japan's Moves for Dominion over Tok Island after Its Defeat

Shortly after its defeat in the World War II, Japan did not dare to mention its ownership of Tok Island. Then under the patronage of the United States, it started to claim the island back.

▲ Resumed Invasion on Tok Island under the Patronage of the United States

In an attempt to use Japan as a tool in its aggression of Korea and other Asian countries, the United States resorted to cunning plots to revive and re-arm Japan after the World War II. A typical example is that it changed its policy towards Japan concerning the treatment of Japan's territory after the war. In accordance with the Cairo and Potsdam Declarations, the sovereignty of Japan was to be confined to Honsyu, Hokkaido, Kyushu, Shikoku and other small islands to be defined by the Allied Powers. This notwithstanding, the US policy on Japan published in September 1945 reads: "The sovereignty of Japan shall be confined to Honshu, Hokkaido, Kyushu, Shikoku, and other small islands to be defined by the Cairo Declaration and other conventions which the United States joined or will join in the future. This directive was a clear reflection of its intention for unilaterally treating the Japanese territory after the war in its favour, on the contrary to its previous promise with the Allied Powers.

The US support and stance added fuel to Japan's burning territorial

ambition.

In its 1947 policy on the treatment of the Japanese territory the United States reported that it recognized Japan's territorial right to Takeshima (Tok Island), gave wide publicity to it through media and designated the island on maps in a wrong way, thereby stirring up public opinion in the world.

The US active support to Japan revealed clearly in the course of the conclusion of the San Francisco Peace Treaty (Separate Peace Treaty with Japan) in September 1951.

In preparation for the Peace Treaty with Japan, the Allies drew up an "Agreement on Treatment of Territory of Erstwhile Japan", the Article 3 of which stipulated as follows:

"The Allies reached agreement on surrendering to Korea all its peripheral islands. They include Jeju, Komun, Ullung and Tok Islands."

When drawing up the draft of agreement of the separate "Peace Treaty with Japan" on the basis of the agreement, the United States in the first (March 1947)-fifth (November 1949) drafts wrote Tok Island as the Korean territory in accordance with the spirit of the Cairo and Potsdam Declarations for fear of international public opinion. But it included arbitrarily the island in the Japanese Islands in the sixth draft (December 1949) in compliance with the Japanese behind-the-curtain solicitation.

Sebald, an American advisor to the Japanese provisional government, advised his government that it should be considered from the security point

of view to build a meteorological observatory and radar base in this island (Tok Isl.). The US government accepted it and inserted it in the sixth draft.

The sixth draft was a product of conspiracy between the United States and Japan and was betrayal to the spirit of the declarations, directive and agreement the Allies already reached.

The sixth draft aroused a strong opposition among Britain, Australia, New Zealand and other Allied countries. Outraged at the despicable acts of the United States and Japan, Britain made a draft of the peace treaty of its own so that Tok Island was included in the Korean territory as agreed by the Allies.

With their discord left unsettled, the United States and Britain compromised on omitting the definition of Tok Island as Japanese territory from the treaty document and excluding the island from the list of the object that Japan had to retrocede to Korea in the peace treaty. This compromise draft constituted the basis of the separate “Peace Treaty with Japan.”

Judging that the conference for separate “Peace Treaty with Japan” to be held in the future would be a golden opportunity to gain the dominium over Tok Island, Japan proposed the question of the title to Takeshima, saying it was originally its own island. When the draft of the peace treaty between the Allied Powers and Japan was published on August 18, 1951, a month before the separate “Peace Treaty with Japan,” Japan held that Takeshima remained its territory as ever.

Along with this, the Japanese government egged on the officials of Shimane Prefecture to submit to it on August 30 a petition titled “On Re-affirmation of Takeshima, Territory of Shimane Prefecture”, under the name of the prefecture.

On the basis of this, Japan requested the United States to define Tok Island as its island in the separate “Peace Treaty with Japan”.

Accepting it, the United States unilaterally convened a conference for the separate “Peace Treaty with Japan” to deal with the postwar treatment of Japan in San Francisco on September 8 the same year in the absence of the representatives of Korea, China and Soviet Union, the participants in the war against Japan, and other countries concerned. In the conference the United States handled the issue of Tok Island at its will. As a result, the definition of Tok Island as the Korean territory was omitted in the San Francisco Peace Treaty. The treaty, an outcome of the criminal conspiracy between the United States and Japan, constituted a strong support to Japan in usurping Tok Island.

Although the United States omitted the definition of Tok Island as Korean territory, it could not include it in the Japanese territory sphere for fear of the worldwide protest. Moreover, the separate “Peace Treaty with Japan” in which all the Allied countries did not participate was devoid of international character and was only manifestation of wickedness of the United States and Japan and its illegitimacy.

Another support of the US to the Japanese ambition for Tok Island is the annulment of the MacArthur Line in April 1952, the line which had been made in September 1945 to ban the spread of the influence of communism and the overseas advance of Japan. According to the stipulations provided by the MacArthur Line, the Japanese vessels were not to sail out from the limit of 12 miles around the Japanese territory. This step gave Japan a key precondition for the expedition to Tok Isl.

While using Tok Island for military purpose in cooperation with Japan, the United States gave a great help to Japan in its infiltration into the island. The US started to use the island as a military drill base of its navy and air force since 1948. On July 26, 1952 the US and Japan signed the “Agreement on the Service and Area to Be Used by the Army” in which it agreed with Japan to turn the island into a training base of the US air force, on the premise that the island belonged to Japan.

In the long run, the US patronage led to Japan’s revival and re-claim to Tok Island after its defeat in the World War II .

▲ Japan’s Attempt to Take Tok Island through the South Korea-Japan “Talks”

Japan tried to take Tok Island through the south Korea-Japan “talks” held on seven rounds during 1951-1965.

The United States brokered the south Korea-Japan “talks” with the intention of using Japan as a “shock brigade” in its aggression of the other

Asian countries by organizing a Northeast Asian Military Alliance. Japan harboured an ambition to infiltrate into south Korea and realize its old dream of the “Greater Asia Co-prosperity Sphere” by joining its aggressive program. Japan made every effort to realize its ambition for Tok Island, unaccomplished until then.

The Korean war ignited by the United States created very favourable conditions for Japan to occupy Tok Island. Japan, as a defeated nation, had been controlled by the United States and not supposed to have foreign relations on its own accord until the publication of the separate “Peace Treaty with Japan” in April 1952, which granted “independence” to it. By the treaty, Japan could engage openly in talks with south Korea.

The talks discussed the issues concerning the normalization of diplomatic relations, property claim against Japan, the legal status of the Koreans in Japan, fishing ground and other issues pending between the two countries. However, the issue of Tok Island was not brought up for discussion, except in the 2nd-4th rounds, owing to the strong protest on the part of the Korean people.

Speaking about Japan’s machinations to despoil Tok Island through the talks, first, Japan resorted to every manner of scheme to take the island in return for its helping the United States in the Korean war (1950-1953).

Japan laid the issue of Tok Island on the table of the second round of the talks held in February 1952. It tried to solve the issue by bringing pressure

to bear upon the chief executive of south Korea, relying on the military agreements and treaties it had concluded with the United States.

At the time when the US concluded the separate “Peace Treaty with Japan,” the latter pledged to help the former in the Korean war with might and main. On the basis of the treaty, the “Japan-US Status-of-forces Agreement” and “Agreement on the Use of Military Facilities and Military Zone” were concluded.

Grounding on these agreements and treaty, Japan insisted doggedly on one hand that the island had originally belonged to it and brought pressure to bear upon south Korea in the second and third rounds of talks.

The Japanese delegate to the talks said that it “became obvious” that Tok Island had belonged to his country by the conclusion of the San Francisco Peace Treaty. But his argument was rejected. As a matter of fact, the definition of the island as Japan’s territory had already been crossed from the draft of the treaty for fear of the possible public protest of the international community.

Also the Japanese side took the “Agreement on the Facility Area” as a ground for Japan’s claim to the island. The agreement cannot serve as a ground for Japan’s claim to the island, but it is only evidence to a vile conspiracy between Japan and the United States.

Failure in the south Korea-Japan “talks” made Japan resort to a blunt hold-up policy on Tok Island. It sent to Tok Island the ship *Shimanemaru* in

May 1953 and ship *Otorimaru* in June the same year on the pretext of “marine survey”.

Japan dispatched ships *Guzuryu* and *Noshiro* to the island on the plea of “joint survey” on June 27 and set up a signpost with the inscription “Takeshima, Goka mura, Onchi County, Shimane Prefecture” and a warning post on the name of its Security Department that read “Warning! No access to the territorial waters (30 miles around the island) without permission of the Japanese government, except the Japanese or foreigners who went through due formalities”. And between July and October, 1953 it sent *Hekura* and *Noshiro* ships of the Security Department and *Shimanemaru*, ship of Shimane Prefecture to the island on more than 20 occasions on a mission to check the posts and inspect the island.

However, Japan’s plot to occupy the island came to naught as Korean people emerged victorious in the Fatherland Liberation War.

After the Korean war the south Korea-Japan “talks” came to a deadlock from October 1953 to March 1958 owing to the difference in the objectives sought by Japan and south Korea—the former aiming at the occupation of Tok Island and the latter intending more aid from the former.

Even during deadlock of talks, Japan did the best it could to despoil the island from Korea. It clamoured that it would solve the issue of the island by military method.

On September 9, 1954, a vice Foreign Minister of Japan said at a meeting

of the foreign affairs committee of the House of Councilors that Japan should solve the issue of Takeshima through military method by mobilizing the “Self-Defence Forces”.

Though it claimed to be an “independent state”, Japan was subjugated to the United States economically and militarily. So it could not mobilize its military forces at its will. Therefore, its bombastic words were no more than a mere empty threat. Its intention was to take away dominium over Tok Island through talks on the basis of the military threat. The military option for solving the issue of the island was unfeasible from the outset.

Then, Japan tried to settle the issue through the International Court of Justice.

On September 24, 1954, the Cabinet of Japan submitted to the International Court of Justice a “document relating to the issue of dominium over Takeshima”, the main points of which are as follows:

First, the Japanese government is convinced that Takeshima is an integral part of the Japanese territory.

Second, the Japanese government hereby proposes that the issue of the dominium over the Takeshima be submitted to the International Court of Justice as a matter of territorial dispute.

Third, the Japanese government hereby pledges itself to comply in good faith with whatever decision the International Court of Justice may make.

By submitting the document, Japan calculated to snatch the dominium over the island by bringing pressure to bear upon south Korea with the decision of the International Court of Justice. But its attempt brought no fruition.

In the meantime, Japan continued to intrude into and plunder Tok Island. After 1954, the Japanese warships *Daiseng*, *Oki*, *Hekura* and *Tsugaru* under the Security Department patrolled and inspected Tok Island, plundering fur seals and other marine produce from the island.

Japan showed its true colours once again at the fourth round of the “talks” which resumed in April 1958.

In the “talks”, Japan proposed to discuss pending issues including property claim, while openly advocating peaceful settlement of the issue of the island. Its intention was to obtain concession from south Korea by using pending issues as a bait, pretending to be interested in the peaceful settlement of the territorial dispute over the island.

Faced with strong resistance of the entire Korean nation, Japan could not realize its aim. In the fifth round of the “talks” Japan dared not give the official mention about the issue of the island, but made efforts to attain its goal with the behind-the-scenes backing of the United States.

At the meeting of the budget committee of the House of Councilors on March 9, 1960 the Foreign Minister of Japan said: “It is natural to negotiate the issue of the Takeshima with the United States as it will have much

impact on peace and security of Japan. The United States alone can solve it.”

However, the US support was useless in the face of the tireless struggle of the entire Korean nation and the Popular Uprising on April 19, 1960 in south Korea.

In the consequent round of the “talks”, Japan shifted to the mode of closed-doors meetings with the newly-emerged south Korean authorities.

In October 1962, Japan sent to south Korea Ono Banboku, who professed himself to be advocate of the modern version of the “theory on conquest of Korea” on a mission to negotiate with south Korean delegate about making Tok Island a “common property of Japan and south Korea” and, on this basis, settling the issue of “fishing rights”.

At the “political talks” held in Tokyo on November 12 the same year, Japan and south Korea exchanged confidential memorandums agreeing to make Tok Island a “joint training place of the navies and air forces of the two countries” and explode away the part of the island above the sea.

Owing to the strong resistance and impeachment of the Korean people, Japan could not explode away the island but had to dispose of the issue of the island mixed with the fishing right.

In the meantime, in order to maintain its tottering ruling mechanism and perpetuate the national division, south Korea stepped up its “talks” with Japan and on the other hand, sold off the fishing ground around Tok Island

to Japan.

At the “political talks” held on July 26, 1963, Japan established the “jointly-controlled waters” around Tok Island in exchange for 178 000 000 US\$ of fishery loan it would give to south Korea.

This allowed Japanese fishermen free access to the fishing ground of south Korea and water areas around Tok Island, regardless of the “peace line” centering on it. This means that as a matter of fact Japan had the fishing ground off Tok Island to itself.

When concluding the agreement and the treaty with regard to pending issues with Japan at the seventh round of south Korea-Japan talks on June 22, 1965, south Korea, at the request of the United States, agreed to adopt an appendix document, “Official Exchange Document on Peaceful Settlement of the Dispute between Japan and south Korea (minutes on agreement), which reads that the issue of the dominium over Tok Island should be settled through diplomatic channels between the two countries.

Thus, bargaining through the south Korea-Japan “talks” and Japan came to an end.

Later “south Korea-Japan Agreement on Fishing” concluded in 1965 defined the area 50 miles wide on average as the jointly controlled waters for fishing.

However, Tok Island had ever belonged to the Korean nation

4) Tok Island—Focus of Japan’s Overseas Expansion Policy in the Late 20th Century-Early 21st Century

The Japanese government resorted to every possible means to gain the ownership of Tok Island step by step through 1970s 1980s, 1990s and 2000s.

In 1977, Shimane Prefecture organized the “Council of Shimane Prefecture for Promoting the Settlement of the Issue of Takeshima composed of relevant organizations of prefecture, city, *cho* and *mura*. In 1987, the prefecture formed the “organization for demanding the return of Takeshima and northern territory”, which organized citizens rally, symposiums, re-print of materials on development of the island and the publishing of research books.

With the advent of the 1990s, Japan’s effort for the ownership of Tok Island was made at the government and Diet level in every sphere.

During 1993-2000 the Diet at all levels dealt with the issue of Tok Island on 151 occasions—the House of Representatives on 75 occasions, the House of Councilors on 53 occasions and prefecture assembly of Shimane on 23 occasions,.

In the 1990s the Tok Island issue, beyond a mere issue on dominium over it, was argued in the Diet and government in connection with national “humiliation” and damage of “national interests” and, furthermore, with “collapse” of the morale of the people and “existence” of the state.

Japan instituted the “mining right” to phosphate ore in Tok Island on its

own accord and imposed taxes for it and made relevant documents, administrative and legislative justifications for the ownership of Tok Island.

The mine lot concession was instituted in 1954. According to it the Japanese government granted a Japanese man the mining right to the phosphate ore in Tok Isl. and as the practical mining was impossible, he sued the Japanese government and Shimane Prefecture for mining tax levied on him, but the government judged that the taxation imposed on him was “right”, so he has ever paid it. Some Diet meetings advocated that Japan should ask the United States to restore Tok Island to it, on the basis of the “US-Japan Security Pact”, to end the illegal occupation of Tok Island by Korea and that it was high time for south Korea to return Tok Island to Japan in compensation for the aid and loans it had long given to south Korea.

According to the minutes of the prefecture assembly of Shimane (369th session, dated December 15, 1997), seven Japanese men in six houses transferred their domicile to Tok Island.

Their assertions spoken in the Diet at all levels are totally preposterous.

Entering the 21st century Japan, which is bent on seeking a military guarantee for the pursuit of endless profits by its extremely expand monopoly capital and military supremacy in the Asia-Pacific region, badly needed the sources of raw materials, markets and military bridgehead. Its important object is the Korean peninsula. Tok Island, in particular, is the

first target of Japan's invasion.

Since Tok Island has inexhaustible deposits of natural gas, the source of main energy in the 21st century and is placed in strategic location to invade Korea and other Asian countries, Japan regarded it as a key object to realize its ambition for overseas expansion. That's why Japan is getting overheated in seizing Tok Isl. in its hand in the 21st century.

Typical events during 2004-2006 are:

2004

- ① The chief executive of Japan said at the beginning of the year that Tok Island was the Japanese territory.
- ② The Postal Bureau of Japan issued a "Takeshima Stamp" describing Tok Island as the Japanese territory.

2005

- ① The Japanese ambassador to south Korea said at the beginning of the year that Tok Island was the Japanese territory from the viewpoint of both history and international laws.
- ② The prefecture assembly of Shimane passed a regulation on designating February 22 as the "Day of Takeshima".
- ③ At a Cabinet meeting the Japanese government ratified the "2005 diplomatic blue paper" nominating the Tok Island as the Japanese territory.

- ④ On March 9, a patrol plane under the Maritime Security Department hovered over the sky of Tok Island for more than four hours.
- ⑤ On March 15, the “League of Diet Men Acting to Defend the Japanese Territory” which was made up with diet men of the Liberal Democratic Party and the Democratic Party published a statement in support of designation of the “Day of Takeshima” by Shimane Prefecture.
- ⑥ Newspaper *Yomiuri Shimbun* said that the “Japanese government had no intention of making further concession” with regard to the Tok Island issue and reported officially that Shimane Prefecture’s designation of the “Day of Takeshima ” was a righteous step representing the stance of the government.
- ⑦ On March 16, the chief executive of Japan said that Japan should deal with the issue of the Tok Island, taking into consideration the fact that both Japan and south Korea had claimed the ownership of the island from the olden times.
- ⑧ The Minister of Education and Science asserted that Tok Island must be entered as the Japanese territory in the course of study.
- ⑨ A vice Foreign Minister said that the Japanese government’s assertion that the Tok Island is the Japanese indigenous territory remained

unchanged.

- ⑩ At a meeting of the deliberation committee of textbooks held on April 5 the Minister of Education and Science passed history textbooks submitted by 8 publishing houses. The textbooks described the Tok Island as the Japanese territory and beautified the colonial rule over Korea by Japan in the past.

2006

- ① On March 29, the Minister of Education and Science instructed that Tok Island should be described as the Japanese territory in the textbooks of history and geography for senior high schools from 2007.
- ② In early April the Japanese government notified the International Hydrographic Organization that Japan would make a survey of waterways in the vicinity of Tok Island from the mid-April to late June. With regard to the survey, the ambassador to south Korea insisted the area to be surveyed was within the exclusive economic zone of Japan and the government explained prospecting in the zone near waterways or survey of waterways would pose no problem in the light of the international laws, adding that checking such acts would be a violation of the international laws. Japan suggested that the issue of Tok Island be handed over to the International Court of Justice and the chief executive of Japan warned that Japan might take a physical counter-measure with

regard to the issue of Tok Island.

Claiming ownership of other's land can be done only by Japan that is deep-seated in overseas invasion.

What makes the matters worse is that distortion of history and moves for territorial hold-up are executed under the direct control of the Japanese government.

The Japanese government had professed non-interference in composing textbooks, saying that how to compose them belongs to the "freedom" of the author and editor. However, in 2005 and 2006 it ordered to describe Tok Island as the Japanese territory in the textbooks. It had cheated the international community in 2005 by saying that the designation of the "Day of Takeshima" was done by a local government (Shimane Prefecture), but it claimed the ownership of Tok Island in 2006.

Also very dangerous is Japan's plan of prospecting the vicinity area of Tok Island. In 1875, Japan dispatched a warship *Unyo* on the excuse of "survey" and "sounding" of the coastal waters of Korea. The next year it forced the Korean government to sign the "Kanghwado Treaty" under the pretext of it and in 1905 fabricated the "Ulsa Five-Point Treaty" to make Korea its colony.

Japan's "sounding of waterways" or "prospecting" on the periphery of Tok Island is aimed to take the island by making an excuse in future. This might lead to a Korean war.

In 2008, the Japanese government gave a directive that the explanation of the “New Course of Study” should adopt a phrase that Tok Island is the native territory of Japan and accordingly the textbooks for middle school universally should deal with the problem on the dominium over Tok Island.

On February 22, 2009, the annual function was held again on the occasion of the “Day of Takeshima”. Present there was Yamatani Eriko, member of the House of Councilors and of Liberal Democratic Party spoke about the increased budget and the building up of so-called “world public opinion” with regard to the Takeshima issue.

Moreover, the Defence Ministry of Japan described again Tok Island as part of the Japanese territory in the “2009 Defence White Paper”.

These facts are clear testimony to the criminal attempt of Japanese reactionaries to take Tok Island, the sacred land of Korean nation, at all costs and realize their sinister design for reinvasion of Korea.

Recently international scholars in different countries appreciate that an assertion that Tok Island belongs to Korea is absolutely persuasive in view of history and usage of international law.

On May 7, 2009, the international scientific symposium on the Tok Island issue was held at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. Some scholars here delivered speeches.

Professor John Ban Dike from the U.S. Hawaii University who was well versed in the issue of Tok Island said that judging from historical data and

judicial precedents of international disputes over territorial dominium, there would be a strong possibility for Tok Island to be acknowledged as the Korean territory even if the Tok Island issue is sued to the International Court of Justice.

He illustrated that there were historical records that Tok Island was part of the territory of Silla in the period of the Three Kingdoms and that Japanese maps dating back 1700s-1800s provided evidences to the fact that it belonged to Korea. On the contrary, it was not until 1905 that Japan advocated claim to Tok Island for the first time, saying that there was no evidence to any country's ownership of it, added the professor.

Professor Hosaka of the Sejong University in south Korea said as follows:

“The Japanese government is laying claim to Tok Island probably because of a political reason. Japan's renouncement of claim to Tok Island may have evil effect on the issues of dominium over Diaoyu Island in South Sea of China, focus of the territorial dispute between Japan and China, and that over the northern part of Hokkaido, object of Japan-Russia dispute and other problems.

The Washington Special Commission to Defend Tok Island, the sponsor of this meeting, promised to send to the home libraries in the United States the books compiled with essays on Tok Isl. written by scholars so that the readers can use them for study.

* * *

To conclude, the editorial board has a hope that the conscientious people

of the world, basing on the historical materials on Tok Isl., will pay a deep attention to Japan's ongoing claim to and hold-up policy on Tok Island, regarding the island as a means to realize its political purpose.

Japan's greed for Tok Island and persistence in the policy of reinvasion will only bring self-destruction.

Tok Island was, is and will be the sacred land of the Korean nation forever.

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