

Korea in the Age of Empires
HIST 233 (cross-listed with EALC 141)
--Spring 2015--

This seminar reflects on international relations and human agency by considering the case of Korea from 1864 to 1945. During this period, Korea, an independent East Asian kingdom with a long history, had no choice but to deal with the forces of imperialism, as one major power after another sought to impose unequal treaties on Korea. While making significant progress with an effort to build a modern nation-state and even declaring itself an empire in 1897, in 1910 Korea became a colony of Japan, which by then had defeated one rival after another while securing support from key powers such as the United States and the Great Britain. Korea's plight as a colony of Japan, the last country to use "empire" as a part of its official name, provides much material for discussing what modernity means for the majority of humanity which experienced colonial rule until the mid-twentieth century. Fulfills History major and minor's East/South Asia, research (R), and seminar requirements as well as counting as a Diplomatic History Concentration course.

- Instructor: Eugene Y. Park
Korea Foundation Associate Professor of History
Director, James Joo-Jin Kim Program in Korean Studies
College Hall 306E
Mobile number: 610-312-4387
Email: epa@sas.upenn.edu
Office hours: TBA
- Class meetings: Mondays 2–4:50 pm
Location TBA
- Office hours: TBA
- Requirements: Active, informed discussion participation (25%)
Discussion leading (20%, once, including pre-discussion questions
and post-discussion summary posting)
Research paper prospectus (10%, 5-10 pages)
Research paper, rough draft (20%)
Research paper, final version (25%, 15–20 pages; 20–25 pages with
primary source citations for History majors)
- Extra credit: Earned by attending a pre-announced Korea-related talk and
submitting a page-long (single-spaced) write-up analyzing it
- Readings:
- Caprio, Mark E. *Japanese Assimilation Policies in Colonial Korea, 1910–1945*. Seattle:

University of Washington Press, 2009. Required.

Choe, Yong-ho, Peter H. Lee, and William Theodore de Bary, eds. *Sources of Korean Tradition*. Vol. 2: *From the Sixteenth to the Twentieth Centuries*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2000. Required.

Eckert, Carter J., Ki-baik Lee, Young Ick Lew, Michael Robinson, and Edward W. Wagner. *Korea Old and New: A History*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Korea Instituted, Harvard University, 1990. Optional.

Academic journal articles distributed by the instructor. Required

Absences, missed exams, and late submissions will be penalized, unless based on medical, religious, or family emergency-related reasons with documentation.

Academic dishonesty is not tolerated. Cheating, forgery, dishonest conduct, plagiarism, and collusion in dishonest activities erode the university's educational, research, and social roles. In line with university regulations, course instructor reserves the right to discipline any student found guilty of inappropriate conduct.

All marks are final, barring any calculation error. Absolutely no re-grading or re-reading, even when requested on the ground that the student wants to know what (s)he could have done better or needs a certain grade to graduate.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1 (Jan. 14): Introduction

Week 2 (Jan. 26): Korea and East Asia before Imperialism

- Mark Selden, "Center and Periphery in East Asia in Three Epochs," *Journal of Northeast Asian History* 5.1 (June 2008): 5–20.
- James B. Palais, "A Search for Korean Uniqueness," *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* 55.2 (December 1995): 409-25.
- Eugene Y. Park, "War and Peace in Premodern Korea: Institutional and Ideological Dimensions," in *The Military and South Korean Society*, ed. Young-Key Kim-Renaud, R. Richard Grinker, and Kirk W. Larsen (Washington DC: Sigur Center for Asian Studies, George Washington University, 2006), pp. 1–13.

Week 3 (Feb. 2): Imperialism in Korea's Horizon, 1800–1864

- Eckert, pp. 178–92.
- Kenneth Pomeranz, "Empire & 'Civilizing' Missions, Past & Present," *Daedalus* 134.2, *On Imperialism* (Spring 2005): 34–45.
- Takemichi Hara, "Korea, China, and Western Barbarians: Diplomacy in Early Nineteenth-Century Korea," *Modern Asian Studies* 32.2 (May 1998): 389–430.

- Ik-Cheol Shin, "The Western Learning Shown in the Records of Envoys Traveling to Beijing in the First Half of the Nineteenth Century: Focusing on Visits to the Russian Diplomatic Office," *The Review of Korean Studies* 11.1 (March 2008): 11–27.
- *Sources of Korean Tradition 2*:
 - "Yi Hangno: Sinify the Western Barbarians," pp. 140–42.
 - "Chŏng Hasang: A Confucian Defense of Catholicism," pp. 138–40.
 - "Hwang Sayŏng: An Appeal for Aid," pp. 135–37.

Week 4 (Feb. 9): The Taewŏn'gun's Reform, 1864–1873

- Eckert, pp. 192–98.
- Daniel C. Kane, "Bellonet and Roze: Overzealous Servants of Empire and the 1866 French Attack on Korea," *Korean Studies* 23 (1999): 1–23.
- Gordon H. Chang, "Whose 'Barbarism'? Whose 'Treachery'? Race and Civilization in the Unknown United States-Korea War of 1871," *Journal of American History* 89.4 (March 2003): 1331–65.
- A. W. Hamilton, "British Interest in Korea, 1866–1884," *Korea Journal* 22.1 (January 1982): 24–41.
- *Sources of Korean Tradition 2*:
 - "Pak Chehyŏng: Political Reforms of the Taewŏn'gun," pp. 216–20.
 - "Pak Chehyŏng: Conflicts with the West," pp. 222–26.
 - "Yi Hangno: Memorial to Express Private Thoughts," pp. 236–39.

Week 5 (Feb. 16): The "Eastern Ways-Western Implements" Reform, 1873–1882

- Eckert, pp. 199–214.
- Yi Tae-Jin, "Was Korea Really a Hermit Nation?" *Korea Journal* 38.4 (Winter 1998): 5–35.
- Donghyun Huh, "The Korean Courtiers' Observation Mission's Views on Meiji Japan and Projects of Modern State Building," *Korean Studies* 29 (2005): 30–54.
- Sung-hwa Cheong, "William Elliot Griffis and Emerging American Images on Korea," *The Review of Korean Studies* 3.2 (December 2000): 53–72.
- *Sources of Korean Tradition 2*:
 - "Ch'oe Ikhyŏn: Memorial Against Peace," pp. 240–42.
 - "Yi Manson and Others: Memorial Submitted by Ten Thousand Men," pp. 242–44.
 - "Chi Sŏgyŏng: Memorial on Current Tasks (1882)," pp. 247–48.

Week 6 (Feb. 23): The "Eastern Ways-Western Implements" Reform, 1882–1894

- Eckert, pp. 214–30.
- Joshua Van Lieu, "The Politics of Condolence: Contested Representations of Tribute in Late Nineteenth-Century Chosŏn-Qing Relations," *The Journal of Korean Studies* 14.1 (Fall 2009): 83–115.
- Keun-Gwan Lee, "Trope of a Sovereign State: Treaty-Making by Korea from 1876–1899," *The Review of Korean Studies* 11.3 (September 2008): 11–36.
- A. W. Hamilton, "The Komundo Affair," *Korea Journal* 22.6 (June 1982): 20–33.
- *Sources of Korean Tradition 2*:
 - "Kim Okkyun: *Kapsin* Reform Edict," pp. 255–56.

- “Yu Kilchun: Levels of Enlightenment,” pp. 248–53.
- “Pak Yŏnghyo: Memorial on Domestic Political Reforms,” pp. 258–60.

Week 7 (Mar. 2): The Kabo Reform and the King Biding His Time, 1894–1897

- Hyung-dae Lee, “Korean Embassy Trips Around the World and an Understanding of Global Civilization During the Enlightenment Period (1894–1910): *Haecheon chubeom, Sagu sokcho, and Seosarok*,” *The Review of Korean Studies* 11.1 (March 2008): 29–46.
- Huajeong Seok, “International Rivalry in Korea and Russia’s East Asian Policy in the Late Nineteenth Century,” *Korea Journal* 50:3 (Autumn 2010): 176–201.
- Young-Soo Kim, “Two Perspectives on the 1895 Assassination of Queen Min,” *Korea Journal* 48.2 (Summer 2008): 160–85.
- *Sources of Korean Tradition 2*:
 - “A Call to Arms Issued at Paeksan,” pp. 263–64.
 - “The King’s Fourteen–Article Oath,” pp. 275–76.
 - “Inaugural Message of *The Independent*,” pp. 279–80.

Spring Recess (Mar. 7–15)

Week 8 (Mar. 16): The Kwangmu Reform, 1897–1905

- Eckert, pp. 231–41.
- Vladimir Tikhonov, “Images of Russia and the Soviet Union in Modern Korea, 1880s–1930s,” *Seoul Journal of Korean Studies* 22.2 (December 2009): 215–47.
- Ki-Jung Kim, “Theodore Roosevelt’s Image of the World and United States Foreign Policy toward Korea, 1901–1905,” *Korea Journal* 35.4 (Winter 1995): 39–53.
- Ki-Seok Kim, “Emperor Gwangmu’s Diplomatic Struggles to Protect His Sovereignty before and after 1905,” *Korea Journal* 46.2 (Summer 2006): 233–57.
- *Sources of Korean Tradition 2*:
 - “Chu Sigyŏng: Essay on the Korean Language,” pp. 280–81.
 - “Sŏ Chaep’il: People Are the Master,” pp. 286–88.
 - “Syngman Rhee: The Spirit of Independence,” pp. 299–305.

Week 9 (Mar. 23): Korea as a Japanese Protectorate, 1905–1910

- Eckert, pp. 241–53.
- Shinichi Arai, “Looking at Legitimacy and Illegitimacy from a Historical Perspective,” *Seoul Journal of Korean Studies* 18 (2005): 175–94.
- Andre Schmid, “Two Americans in Seoul: Evaluating an Oriental Empire, 1905–1910,” *Korean Histories* 2.2 (2010): 7–23.
- Michael Finch, “German Diplomatic Documents on the 1905 Japan-Korea Protectorate Treaty,” *Korean Studies* 20 (1996): 51–63.
- *Sources of Korean Tradition 2*:
 - “Ch’oe Ikhyŏn: An Appeal to Arms,” pp. 292–94.
 - “Yi Kangnyŏn: Open Letter to Itō Hirobumi,” pp. 294–95.
 - “Pak Ŭnsik: Esasy on Technological Innovation,” pp. 310–12.

*Nick Okrent's overview of research tools and resources, 4 pm, Monday, 3/23.

Week 10 (Mar. 30): The Military Rule, 1910–1919

- Eckert, pp. 254–75.
- Caprio, pp. 3–110, 172–74.
- Yong-ho Ch'oe and Tae-jin Yi, "The Mystery of Emperor Kojong's Sudden Death in 1919: Were the Highest Japanese Officials Responsible?" *Korean Studies* 35 (2011): 122–51.
- Timothy L. Savage, "The American Response to the Korean Independence Movement, 1910–1945," *Korean Studies* 20 (1996): 189–231.
- *Sources of Korean Tradition 2*:
 - "Son Pyŏnghŭi and Others: Declaration of Independence," pp. 336–39.
 - "The Korean Congress in the U.S.: An Appeal to America," pp. 341–43.

*Paper prospectus due at the beginning of the class, Monday, 3/30.

Week 11 (Apr. 6): The Cultural Rule, 1919–1931

- Eckert, pp. 276–304.
- Caprio, pp. 111–40, 174–87.
- Richard Devine, "Japanese Rule in Korea after the March First Uprising: Governor General Hasegawa's Recommendations," *Monumenta Nipponica* 52.4 (Winter 1997): 523–40.
- Jin-hee Lee, "The Enemy Within: Earthquake, Rumors and Massacre in the Japanese Empire," in *Violence: Mercurial Gestalt*, ed. Tobe Levin (New York: Rodopi, 2008), pp. 187–211.
- *Sources of Korean Tradition 2*:
 - "An Ch'angho: Grand Strategy for Independence," pp. 344–46.
 - "Sin Ch'aeho: What is History? What Shall We Study in Korean History?" pp. 317–19.
 - "Manifesto of the Korean Communist Party in Shanghai," pp. 354–57.

Week 12 (Apr. 13): Preparation for War with China, 1931–1937

- Eckert, pp. 305–26.
- Caprio, pp. 141–45.
- Jong Chol An, "No Distinction Between Sacred and Secular: Horace H. Underwood and Korean-American Relations, 1934–1948," *Seoul Journal of Korean Studies* 23.2 (December 2010): 225–46.
- Mitsuhiro Kimura, "The Economics of Japanese Imperialism in Korea, 1910–1939," *Economic History Review*, New Series, 48.3 (August 1995): 555–74.
- *Sources of Korean Tradition 2*:
 - "Mun Ilp'yŏng: New Challenges for a Nation with Old Culture," pp. 319–20.
 - "Yi Yunjae: Inaugural Editorial for *Han'gŭl*," pp. 321–22.
 - "Declaration of the Korean Fatherland Restoration Association in Manchuria," pp. 361–65.

Week 13 (Apr. 20): Forced Assimilation and Wartime Mobilization, 1937–1945

- Caprio, pp. 145–70, 187–97.
- Pyong Gap Min, “Korean ‘Comfort Women’: The Intersection of Colonial Power, Gender, and Class,” *Gender and Society* 17.6 (December 2003): 938–57.
- Brandon Palmer, “Imperial Japan’s Preparations to Conscript Koreans as Soldiers, 1942–1945,” *Korean Studies* 31 (2007): 63–78.
- *Sources of Korean Tradition 2*:
 - “Provisional Government of the Korean Republic: Declaration of War on Japan (9 December 1941),” pp. 350–51.
 - “Programs and Platforms of the North China Korean Independence League,” pp. 365–66.

*Research paper rough draft due at the beginning of the class, Monday, 4/20.

Week 14 (Apr. 27): The Colonial Legacy

- Caprio, pp. 171–72, 198–212.
- Koen De Ceuster, “The Nation Exorcised: The Historiography of Collaboration in South Korea,” *Korean Studies* 25.2 (2002): 207–42.
- Youn-tae Chung, “Refracted Modernity and the Issue of Pro-Japanese Collaborators in Korea,” *Korea Journal* 42.3 (Autumn 2002): 18–57.
- Kyu Hyun Kim, “Reflections on the Problems of Colonial Modernity and ‘Collaboration’ in Modern Korean History,” *Journal of International and Area Studies* 11.3 (2004): 95–111.

*Paper due at 5 pm on Monday, 5/4 (email submission only).