

Modern East Asia

II. Emergence of Modern Korea

Dr. Krishan Gopal Tyagi
Department of History
Ram Lal Anand College
University of Delhi

krishanjnu@gmail.com

Topics of Discussion

1. The old order and Institutional Decay: Joseon Korea
 2. Korea's interactions with the Western powers and Korea's unequal treaties with Japan
 3. Attempts at social, political, and economic reforms in Korea
 4. Japan's colonization: March First Movement and growth of Korean nationalism; institutional transformation 1910-45
 5. Post-War changes.
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1. The old order and Institutional Decay: Joseon Korea

- What was the Old Order?
 - Korea's Place in the Sun
 - Sino-centric world (Concept of middle kingdom)
 - Korea had notion of '*sadaechui*'
 - Source of civilization China- e.g. Neo-Confucianism etc.
 - Internal order
 - Emphasis on community, collectivity, hierarchy, authority, obedience, filial piety, etc.
 - Stratified society- Yangban, Chungin, Sangmin, Chonmin
 - Unproductive economy and stagnant social and intellectual life.

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- Around mid-19th century
 - Decline of China
 - Decline and deterioration in Korea
 - Rise of Japan
 - There were contest among three sources and models for Korea in this period.
 - Many scholars were more comfortable in reviving and reforming old Chinese tradition (*donghak*)
 - Few other scholars were argued for a model which was presented by Japan and which was largely based on western modernity (*saehak*)
 - Another group of scholars argued for evolving indigenous tradition (*sirhak*)
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The New Order in Korea

- Korea from Hermit Kingdom to a place of churning (Kanghwa Treaty)
 - It was basically Japanese model which became dominant over the two other alternatives and was called the New Order.
 - It was based on the secular and western notion of state and bureaucracy.
 - It argued for new philosophical and education orientation
 - It led to reconsideration of place of China in Korean minds (Jina)
 - *Ilcheon hoe.*
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2. Korea's interactions with the Western powers and Korea's unequal treaties with Japan

- Opening up of Korea Japan 1876
 - The US
 - China, Japan, Russia, and Western countries
 - Christianity (from 17th century)
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Unequal Treaties with Korea

Japan-Korea Treaty of 1876 (Treaty of Ganghwa)	1876
United States-Korea Treaty of 1882	1882
Japan-Korea Treaty of 1882 (Treaty of Chemulpo)	1882
China-Korea Treaty of 1882 (Joseon-Qing Communication and Commerce Rules)	1882
Germany-Korea Treaty of 1883	1883
United Kingdom-Korea Treaty of 1883	1883
Russia-Korea Treaty of 1884	1884
Italy-Korea Treaty of 1884	1884
Japan-Korea Treaty of 1885 (Treaty of Hanseong)	1885
France-Korea Treaty of 1886	1886
Austria-Korea Treaty of 1892	1892
Belgium-Korea Treaty of 1901	1901
Denmark-Korea Treaty of 1902	1902
Japan-Korea Treaty of 1904	1904
Japan-Korea Protocol of August 1904	1904
Japan-Korea Protocol of April 1905	1905
Japan-Korea Protocol of August 1905	1905
Japan-Korea Treaty of 1905	1905
Japan-Korea Treaty of 1907	1907
Japan-Korea Treaty of 1910	1910

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- The process and Japanese intent of imposition of unequal treaties on Korea
 - Phase one (creating distance from China)
 - Phase two (indirect control and domination)
 - Phase three (direct colonization)
 - The US and Western Power and their interest in Korea
 - 'good office' clause
 - France, Germany and Russia (Triple intervention)
 - Anglo-Japan Treaty 1902
 - Tuft-Katsura Agreement 1905
 - Protectorate Treaty 1905
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3. Attempts at social, political, and economic reforms in Korea

- Sirhak
 - Donghak- Choe Je Ju- 1860
 - Cheondoism
 - Sprout of Capitalism
 - Independence Club
 - Righteous Army
 - Kabo Reform
 - Phase 1 (1894)- role of uijongbu got increased, Japanese bureaucracy, tax, currency, marriage, widow, equality and other more than 200 hundred reforms
 - Phase 2 1894-5- political and administrative reform
 - Phase 3 cultural (hair), educational, postal etc. Korean king was given status of Emperor.
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4. Japan's colonization: March First Movement and growth of Korean nationalism; institutional transformation 1910-45

□ Nature of Japanese Colonialism

■ Three phases:

- First Phase: 1910-1919 Dark Age
- Second Phase: 1919-1931 Review
- Third Phase: 1931-1945 War Mobilization

■ Late-comer

■ Unique project for Korea

■ Modernization but attempt to eliminate Korean identity.

■ Positives- bedrock for future economic growth

■ Negative- humiliation, comfort women etc.

□ Korean Nationalism

- Dangun myth and ethnic nationalism
 - Shin Jae-ho and Minjok
 - Three discourses of nationalism
 - Lee Gwang-su and 'national spirit'
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WW II in Korean History

□ March First Movement

- Reasons: Japanese Atrocities and Wilson's Fourteen Points
 - Demand for freedom and Pagoda Park meeting and signing of the Declaration of Independence (33 people)
 - Started from Seoul but spread into other parts of Korea
 - Overall 2 million people participated, more than 1500 demonstrations, 7000 people got killed 15000 people got wounded, and 46000 people got arrested.
 - Provisional Government in Shanghai, Review of Japanese strong rule.
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5. Post-War changes

□ Cairo Conference: 1943

- Korea to be occupied
- Korean Independence “in due time”

□ Yalta Conference: Feb 1945

- USSR to join war on Japan 3 months after German surrender
- USSR to participate in occupation of Korea

□ Potsdam Conference: July—Aug 1945

- Yalta Conference arrangements for Korea Confirmed
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- ❑ Joy of independence and suffering of division
 - ❑ Arrival of the Cold War
 - ❑ Division of Korea into two states through external imposition
 - ❑ Korean War- Was it a Civil War?
 - ❑ Creation and Trajectory of South Korea
 - ❑ Creation and Trajectory of North Korea
 - ❑ Contest between the two states: legitimacy, economic and military powers, external recognition
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Readings
