



Dokdo,

Korea's
Beautiful Island







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Dokdo, Korean Territory

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Dokdo, + Korean territory





Basic Position of the Government of the Republic of Korea on Dokdo

Dokdo, the easternmost island in East Sea, is an integral part of Korean territory historically, geographically, and under international law. No territorial dispute exists regarding Dokdo, and Dokdo is not a matter to be dealt with through diplomatic negotiations or judicial settlement.

The Government of the Republic of Korea exercises Korea's irrefutable territorial sovereignty over Dokdo. The Government will deal firmly and resolutely with any provocation and will continue to defend Korea's sovereignty over the island.



 View of Dokdo from East Sea



 Springtime in Dokdo



Geographical Recognition of Dokdo and Relevant Historical Evidence

A. Dokdo has been recognized geographically as a part of Ulleungdo.

On a clear day, Dokdo is visible to the naked eye from Korea's Ulleungdo (Ulleung Island), the island which lies in the closest proximity (87.4 km) to Dokdo. Given its geographical location, Dokdo has historically been considered to be a part of Ulleungdo.

This is well evidenced in early Korean documents. For instance, the Joseon (Korean) government publication *Sejong Sillok Jiriji* (Geography Section of the Annals of King Sejong's Reign), 1454, which provides a geographical record of Korean territory, states, "Usan [Dokdo]·Mureung[Ulleungdo]... The two islands are not far apart from each other and thus visible on a clear day."

While there are numerous adjacent islands around Ulleungdo, Dokdo is the only one visible to the naked eye from Ulleungdo on a clear day.



View of Dokdo from Ulleungdo



Distance between Dokdo & Ulleungdo and between Dokdo & Japan's Oki Islands

B. Korean government publications record that Korea has long recognized Dokdo as Korean territory and exercised effective control over the island.

In the Joseon (Korean) government publication *Sejong Sillok Jiriji* (Geography Section of the Annals of King Sejong's Reign), 1454, it is recorded that Ulleungdo (Mureung) and Dokdo (Usan) are two islands that are part of Joseon's Uljin-hyeon (Uljin prefecture). It is also recorded that the two islands had been territories of Usan-guk (Usan State), which was conquered by Silla (former kingdom of Korea) in the early 6th century (AD 512), indicating that Korea's effective control over Dokdo extends back to the Silla period.

Consistent records pertaining to Dokdo are also found in other government publications, including *Sinjeung Dongguk Yeoji Seungnam* (Revised and Augmented Survey of the Geography of Korea), 1531; *Dongguk Munheon Biggo* (Reference Compilation of Documents on Korea), 1770; *Man-gi Yoram* (Manual of State Affairs for the Monarch), 1808; and *Jeungbo Munheon Biggo* (Revised and Enlarged Edition of the Reference Compilation of Documents on Korea), 1908.



 *Sejong Sillok Jiriji*

Particularly noteworthy is the record in the volume “Yeojigo” in *Dongguk Munheon Biggo* (Reference Compilation of Documents on Korea), 1770, which states, “Ulleung [Ulleungdo] and Usan [Dokdo] are both territories of Usan-guk [Usan State], and Usan [Dokdo] is what Japan refers to as Matsushima [the old Japanese name for Dokdo].” This passage makes it evident that Usando is present-day Dokdo and that it is Korean territory.



Ulleungdo Dispute and Confirmation of Korea's Sovereignty over Dokdo

A. Korea's territorial sovereignty over Ulleungdo and its ancillary island, Dokdo, was confirmed through the diplomatic negotiations between the Korean and Japanese governments (Ulleungdo Dispute) in the 17th century.

While illegally fishing in Ulleungdo, a territory of Joseon (Korea), the Ohya and Murakawa families of Tottori-han (feudal clan of Tottori) of Japan had a run-in with Korean fishermen, including An Yong-bok, in 1693.

The two Japanese families petitioned the Japanese government (Edo shogunate) to prohibit Koreans' passage to Ulleungdo. The Edo shogunate ordered Tsushima to negotiate with the Joseon government. Thus began the negotiations between the two countries referred to as the "Ulleungdo Dispute."

The Edo shogunate sent an inquiry to Tottori-han on December 25, 1695. Upon receiving Tottori-han's response that neither Ulleungdo (known then in Japan as Takeshima) nor Dokdo (known then in Japan as Matsushima) belonged to Tottori-han, the Edo shogunate issued a directive on January 28, 1696, prohibiting all Japanese from making passage towards Ulleungdo.

The dispute between Korea and Japan thus came to a close. Through the Ulleungdo Dispute, Ulleungdo and Dokdo were confirmed to be Korean territory.



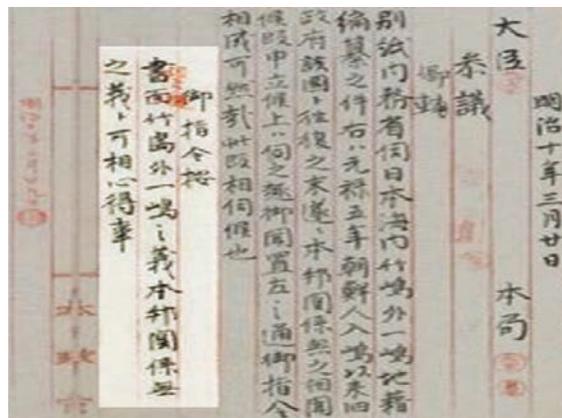
B. Until Japan’s attempt at incorporating Dokdo in 1905 through Shimane Prefecture Public Notice No. 40, the Japanese government itself had consistently acknowledged that Dokdo was non-Japanese territory, as evidenced by the Dajokan Order of 1877 and other official Japanese government documents.

Up until the Meiji period (1868-1912), the Japanese government had consistently acknowledged that Dokdo was non-Japanese territory ever since the Ulleungdo Dispute, through which it was confirmed that Dokdo was Korean territory.

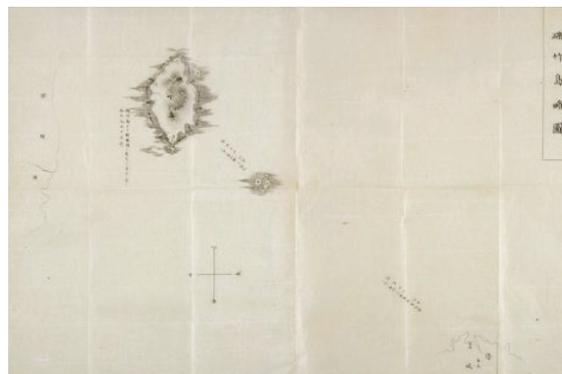
This is corroborated by the absence of Japanese government documents citing Dokdo as being Japanese territory prior to Japan’s attempt to incorporate Dokdo in 1905 through Shimane Prefecture Public Notice No. 40. In fact, there are even official Japanese government publications that plainly state that Dokdo is not Japanese territory.

Most important among them is an 1877 directive issued to the Ministry of Home Affairs by the Dajokan (Grand Council of State), Japan’s highest decision-making body during the Meiji period. In it, the Dajokan assesses, “It was confirmed through the negotiations between the old government [Edo shogunate] and the Joseon [Korean] government that the two islands [Dokdo and Ulleungdo] do not belong to our country [Japan].” Thus the Dajokan sent a directive to the Ministry of Home Affairs stating as follows: “Regarding Takeshima [Ulleungdo] and another island [Dokdo]... bear in mind that our country [Japan] has nothing to do with them.”

The [Meiji] Ministry of Home Affairs had attached *Isotakeshima ryakuzu* (Simplified Map of Isotakeshima - Japan used to refer to Ulleungdo as Isotakeshima) as a reference in its inquiry to the Dajokan. Takeshima (Ulleungdo) and Matsushima (Dokdo) are shown together in the map, corroborating the fact that the “another island” aforementioned in “Takeshima [Ulleungdo] and another island” is Dokdo.



Dajokan Order of 1877(Japan)



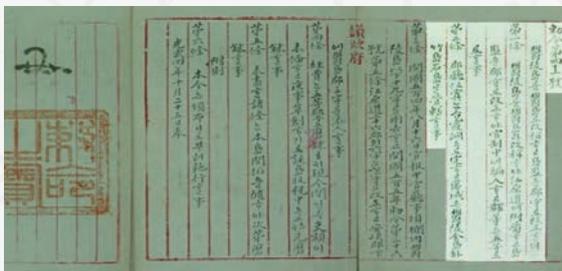
Isotakeshima ryakuzu(Japan)

4

The Empire of Korea's Effective Control over Dokdo and Restoration of Sovereignty over Dokdo after World War II

A. Through Imperial Edict No. 41 in 1900, the Empire of Korea placed Dokdo under the jurisdiction of Uldo-gun (Uldo county), and Dokdo came to be administered by a county magistrate.

On October 27, 1900, the Empire of Korea issued Imperial Edict No. 41, proclaiming the renaming of Ulleungdo as Uldo and the elevation of the post of Ulleungdo inspector to county magistrate. In the second article of the same edict, it is provided that "all of Ulleungdo as well as Jukdo and Seokdo [Dokdo] shall be placed under the jurisdiction of [Uldo-gun (Uldo county)]."



Imperial Edict No. 41

On March 28, 1906, a Japanese survey team comprised of officials and civilians from Shimane Prefecture visited County Magistrate Sim Heung-taek of Uldo-gun and mentioned

during conversation with him that Dokdo had been incorporated into Japanese territory. Sim Heung-taek submitted a report to the governor of Gangwon-do (Gangwon province) the very next day, on March 29, 1906. The phrase "Dokdo, which is under the jurisdiction of this county" in his report clearly demonstrates that Dokdo was indeed a part of Uldo-gun as per Imperial Edict No. 41 of 1900.

On April 29, 1906, Yi Myeong-rae, the county magistrate of Chuncheon-gun (Chuncheon county) and the acting governor of Gangwon-do, reported the matter in the "Special Report" to the Uijeongbu (State Council of the Empire of Korea), Korea's top decision-making body at the time. Thereupon, on May 20, 1906, the Uijeongbu issued Directive No. 3, repudiating the claim that Dokdo had become Japanese territory.

This clearly demonstrates the fact that the county magistrate of Uldo-gun had continued to govern Dokdo and exercised Korea's territorial sovereignty over Dokdo pursuant to Imperial Edict No. 41 issued in 1900.



Special Report & Directive No. 3

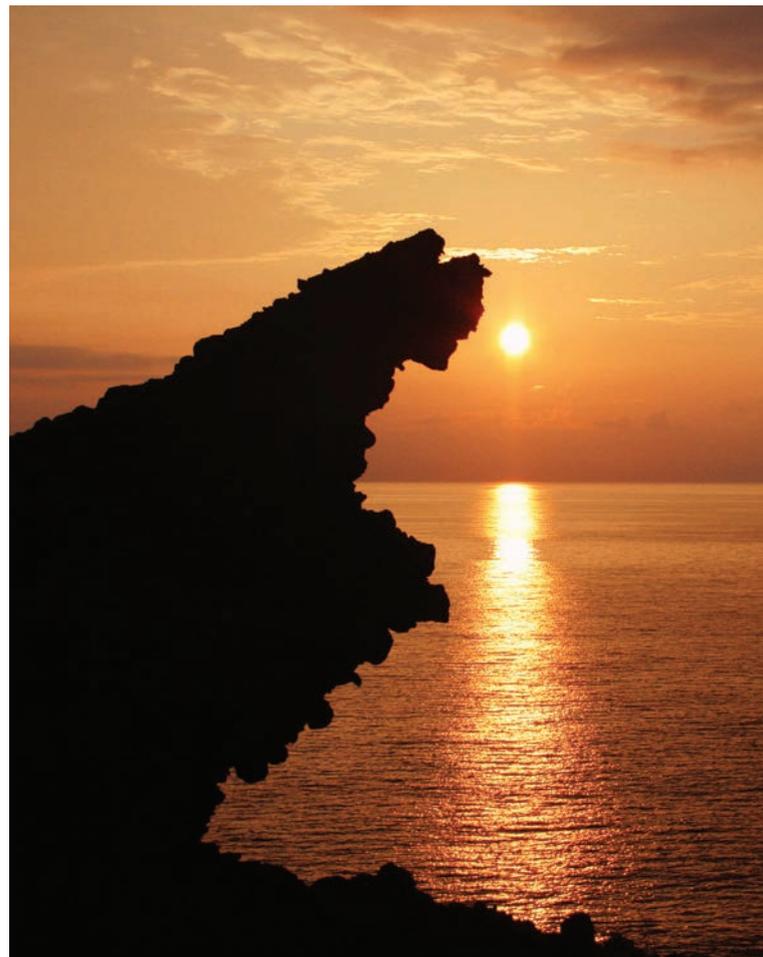
B. Japan's attempt at incorporating Dokdo in 1905 through Shimane Prefecture Public Notice No. 40 was done in the process of and as part of its occupation of Korea. It was not only an illegal act, infringing on Korea's sovereignty over the island, but also null and void under international law.

Japan tried to incorporate Dokdo into its own territory in 1905 through Shimane Prefecture Public Notice No. 40.

At the time, Japan was at war with Russia over its interests in Manchuria and the Korean peninsula. Japan had forced the Empire of Korea to sign the Korea-Japan Protocol in February 1904 to secure unlimited access to Korean territory in the execution of the Russo-Japanese War. Japan's attempt at turning Dokdo into Japanese territory was also aimed at meeting its military needs in the face of possible maritime clashes with Russia.

Japan had also coerced the Korean government to appoint Japanese and other non-Korean nationals as advisors through the First Korea-Japan Agreement in August 1904. In effect, Japan had been systematically implementing its plan to take over Korea even before the forced annexation in 1910.

Dokdo was the first Korean territory to fall victim to the Japanese aggression against Korea. Japan's attempt at incorporating Dokdo in 1905 through Shimane Prefecture Public Notice No. 40 was not only an illegal act that infringed upon Korea's ancient and undeniable sovereignty over the island, but also null and void under international law.



C. Dokdo was restored as Korean territory after World War II, and the Government of the Republic of Korea has been exercising Korea's irrefutable territorial sovereignty over Dokdo ever since.

In the Cairo Declaration regarding Japan's unconditional surrender and Korea's independence, announced in December 1943, it is stated that "Japan will also be expelled from all other territories which she has taken by violence and greed." The Potsdam Declaration of July 1945 confirms that "the terms of the Cairo Declaration shall be carried out."

Futhermore, the General Headquarters of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers excluded Dokdo from those territories controlled and administered by Japan through its instruction in SCAPIN (Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers Index Number) 677 in January 1946 and in SCAPIN 1033 in June 1946.

Accordingly, Dokdo was restored as an integral part of the territory of the independent Republic of Korea after World War II, as was reaffirmed by the San Francisco Peace Treaty of 1951.

The Government of the Republic of Korea exercises Korea's irrefutable territorial sovereignty over Dokdo. The Government will deal firmly and resolutely against any provocation with respect to Korea's sovereignty and will continue to defend Korea's sovereignty over Dokdo.



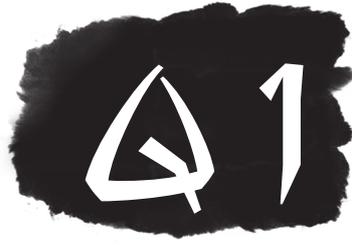
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Dokdo Q&A





How is Dokdo recorded in early Korean government publications?

Many early Korean government publications mention Dokdo, which demonstrates that Korea has long recognized and governed Dokdo as Korean territory.

1454

Sejong Sillok Jiriji
(Geography Section of the Annals of King Sejong's Reign)

于山武陵二島在縣正東海中

二島相去不遠 風日清明 則可望見

新羅時 稱于山國 一云鬱陵島

The two islands of Usan [Dokdo] and Mureung [Ulleungdo] are located in the middle of the sea due directly east of the hyeon [Uljin prefecture].

The two islands are not far apart from each other and are visible on a clear day. They were called Usan-guk or Ulleungdo during the Silla period.



Sejong Sillok
Jiriji

Some of the most notable records pertaining to Dokdo in early Korean government publications are listed below:

1531

Sinjeung Dongguk Yeoji Seungnam
(Revised and Augmented Edition of the Survey of Geography of Korea)

于山島 鬱陵島

一云武陵 一云羽陵 二島在縣正東海中

Usando-Ulleungdo

They are also called Mureung or Ureung. The two islands are located in the middle of the sea due directly east of the hyeon [Uljin prefecture].



Sinjeung Dongguk
Yejji Seungnam



1770

Dongguk Munheon Bigo

(Reference Compilation of Documents on Korea)

于山島 鬱陵島 ...

二島一卽于山...

輿地志云 鬱陵·于山皆于山國地

于山則倭所謂松島也

Usando [Dokdo] Ulleungdo...

Together, these two islands comprise Usan...

According to *Yeojiji* [Geography of Korea], it is said that Ulleung and Usan are both territories of Usan-guk and that Usan is what the Japanese refer to as Matsushima [old Japanese name for Dokdo].

Dongguk Munheon Bigo



1808

Man-gi Yoram

(Manual of State Affairs for the Monarch)

鬱陵島在蔚珎正東海中...

輿地志云 鬱陵于山皆于山國地

于山則倭所謂松島也

Ulleungdo is located in the middle of the sea due directly east of Uljin...

According to *Yeojiji* [Geography of Korea], it is said that Ulleung and Usan are both territories of Usan-guk and that Usan is what the Japanese refer to as Matsushima [old Japanese name for Dokdo].

Man-gi Yoram



1908

Jeungbo Munheon Bigo

(Revised and Enlarged Reference Compilation of Documents on Korea)

于山島 鬱陵島...

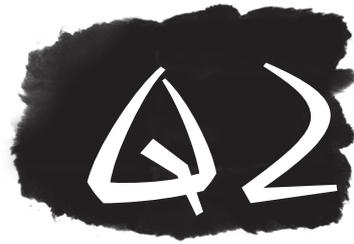
二島一卽芋山 續今爲鬱島郡

Usando [Dokdo] Ulleungdo...

Together, these two islands comprise Usan. Addendum: It has now become Uldo-gun.

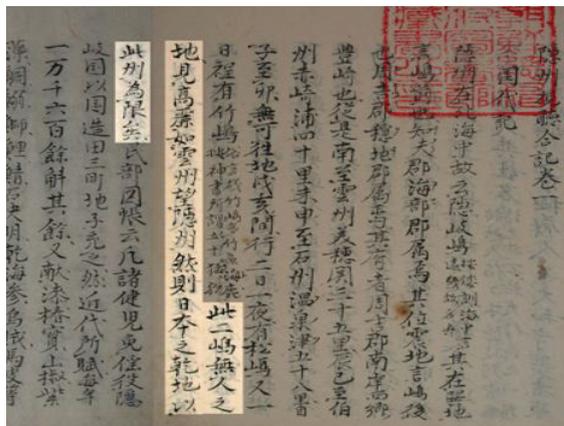
Jeungbo Munheon Bigo





**How is Dokdo recorded
in *Inshu shicho goki*
(Records on Observations
in Oki Province),
one of the earliest
Japanese texts
referring to Dokdo?**

Inshu shicho goki (Records on Observations in Oki Province), 1667, is one of the earliest Japanese texts that make mention of Matsu-shima (the old Japanese name for Dokdo). It was written by Toyonobu Saito, a local official of Izumo (today's eastern part of Shimane prefecture), Japan. The passage pertaining to Dokdo is as follows:



 *Inshu shicho goki*

Translation

The two islands [Ulleungdo and Dokdo], which are uninhabited, are located towards Goryeo [Korea] in the same way that Unshu [today's eastern part of Shimane prefecture] is located towards Inshu [Oki Islands]. Therefore, this province [Oki Islands] shall be Japan's northwesternmost boundary.

Original

此二島 無人之地 見高麗 如自雲州
望隱州 然則日本乾地 以此州為限矣

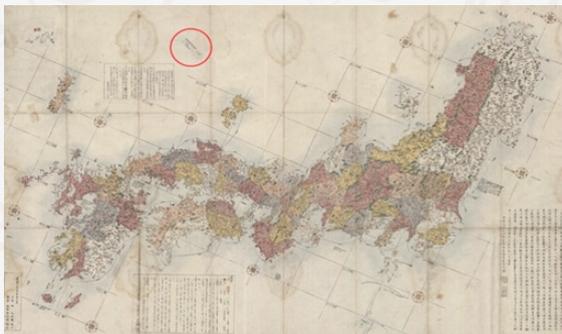
The passage above shows that the Oki Islands constituted Japan's northwesternmost boundary and that Dokdo was not included within the scope of Japan's territory.



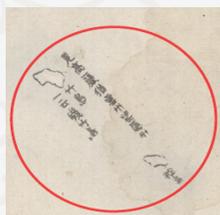
How is Dokdo portrayed in early Japanese maps?

Dokdo does not appear in early maps commissioned by the Japanese government. For instance, Dokdo is missing in *Dainihon enkai yochi zenzu* (Maps of Japan's Coastal Areas), 1821, a famous collection of maps made from actual surveys by Tadataka Ino as per orders from the shogunate during the Edo period. Dokdo's absence in these government-commissioned maps reflects the Japanese government's recognition of Dokdo as non-Japanese territory.

The Japanese government has put forth *Kaisei Nihon yochi rotei zenzu* (Revised Complete Map of Japanese Lands and Roads), first published in 1779, as evidence of Japan's sovereignty over Dokdo. However, this is merely a privately drawn map by Sekisui Nagakubo, a Confucian scholar of the Edo period.



Kaisei Nihon yochi rotei zenzu
(Second Edition, 1791)



Furthermore, a quote from *Inshu shicho goki* (Records on Observations in Oki Province) appears next to Dokdo (Matsushima) and Ulleungdo (Takekushima) in this map, indicating that the map reflects the understanding of *Inshu shicho goki* that the Oki Islands is Japan's northwesternmost boundary.

This is also clear from the fact that Ulleungdo (Takekushima) and Dokdo (Matsushima) are presented differently from Japanese territories in the map's first edition as well as in the subsequent official editions: Ulleungdo and Dokdo, like mainland Joseon (Korea), are not colored in and are positioned outside the longitudinal and latitudinal lines.

Translation

Takekushima [Ulleungdo], also known as Isotakeshima

Matsushima [Dokdo]

[The two islands] are located towards Goryeo [Korea] in the same way that Unshu [today's eastern part of Shimane prefecture] is located towards Inshu [Oki Islands of Japan].

Original

竹島 一云磯竹島

松島

見高麗猶雲州望隱州



**What is
the “Tottori-han’s Response,”
in which it was revealed
that Dokdo was not
Japanese territory
during the dispute
over Ulleungdo
between Korea and Japan?**

A **diplomatic** row between Korea and Japan erupted in 1693 concerning the passage of Japanese fishermen to Ulleungdo (Ulleungdo Dispute). On December 24, 1695, the Edo shogunate sent an inquiry to Tottori-han (feudal clan of Tottori) to determine whether Ulleungdo was a part of Tottori-han and whether there were other islands under Tottori-han’s jurisdiction.

Translation

1. Since when has Takeshima [Ulleungdo], which belongs to Inshu and Hakushu [Inaba and Hoki: today’s Tottori prefecture], been under the jurisdiction of the two states [Inaba and Hoki]? ...

1. Apart from Takeshima [Ulleungdo], are there any other islands that belong to the two states [Inaba and Hoki]?

Original

一 因州伯州之付候竹島は、いつの頃より兩國之附屬候哉...

一 竹島の外兩國之附屬の島有之候哉



The next day, on December 25, Tottori-han responded to the effect that Ulleungdo and Dokdo were not the territories of Japan as follows: "As for Takeshima [Ulleungdo] and Matsushima [Dokdo], neither belongs to the two states [Inaba and Hoki: today's Tottori prefecture] nor are there any other islands belonging to these two states."



Translation

1. Takeshima [Ulleungdo] is not an island that belongs to Inaba and Hoki [today's Tottori prefecture] ...

1. As for Takeshima [Ulleungdo] and Matsushima [Dokdo], neither belongs to the two states [Inaba and Hoki] nor are there any other islands belonging to these two states.

Original

一. 竹島は因幡伯耆附屬にては無御座候...
一. 竹島松島其外兩國之附屬の島無御座候事

After thus confirming Ulleungdo and Dokdo's jurisdictional status, the Edo shogunate cancelled the so-called "passage license to Takeshima [Ulleungdo]" on January 28, 1696, prohibiting further passages towards Ulleungdo.

Q5

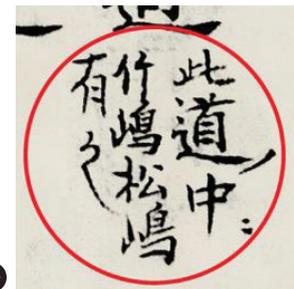
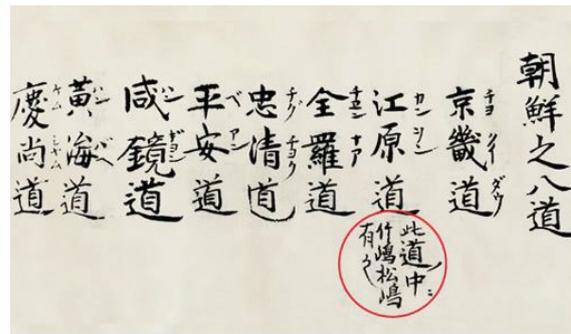
What is the significance of An Yong-bok's activities with regard to Dokdo?

An Yong-bok, who lived during the reign of King Sukjong of the Joseon dynasty, made two passages to Japan, once against his own will in 1693 when he was captured by the Japanese in Ulleungdo. The 1693 kidnapping of An Yong-bok triggered the Ulleungdo Dispute between Korea and Japan. The kidnapping was significant because the jurisdictional status of Ulleungdo and Dokdo was confirmed in the course of the diplomatic negotiations that ensued.

Regarding An Yong-bok's second passage to Japan in 1696, a record of An Yong-bok's statement can be found in *Sukjong Sillok* (Annals of King Sukjong's Reign). It is recorded that An Yong-bok told the Japanese fishermen he encountered in Ulleungdo that "Matsushima is Jasando [Dokdo] and it is Korean territory" and that he went over to Japan to lodge a protest against Japan's encroachment on the Korean territories of Ulleungdo and Dokdo.

An Yong-bok's passages to Japan are recorded not only in Korean but also in Japanese documents, including *Takeshima kiji* (Records of Takeshima), *Takeshima tokai yurai kinuki gaki* (Copy of Excerpts from Record of a Trip to Takeshima), *Inpu nenpyo* (Chronology of Inaba Province), and *Takeшимako* (Notes on Takeshima).

Particularly noteworthy is a historical document discovered recently in 2005 in Japan entitled "Genroku kyu heishinen chosenbune chakugan ikkan no oboegaki" (Memorandum on the Arrival of a Boat from Joseon in 1696 - a report on An Yong-bok's visit to the Oki Islands drafted by an official of the island). According to the report, An Yong-bok stated that Ulleungdo and Dokdo belonged to Gangwon-do, which corroborates the information in *Sukjong Sillok* (Annals of King Sukjong's Reign).



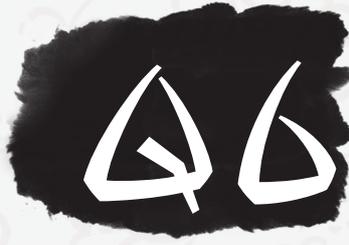
Genroku kyu heishinen
chosenbune chakugan
ikkan no oboegaki

Translation

In this province lie Takeshima
[Ulleungdo] and Matsushima [Dokdo].

Original

此道中竹嶋松嶋有之



What was the Joseon (Korean) government's repatriation policy?

The Joseon government dispatched officials to Ulleungdo for the evacuation of the island's residents to the mainland. This was what is called the repatriation policy.

This was one of the island policies adopted by the Joseon government in consideration of the possible raids by Japanese pirates on Joseon's islands, not an act of relinquishing Joseon's sovereignty over Ulleungdo.

This is evidenced by the fact that the Joseon government continued to exercise sovereignty over Ulleungdo by dispatching officials to the island. In the early Joseon period, special government agents (*sunsimgyeongchagwan*) were dispatched to Ulleungdo. During the reign of King Sukjong, the Joseon government implemented a government patrol and inspection system whereby officials were regularly dispatched to Ulleungdo and other such places. The dispatch of officials continued until the system was discontinued in 1895.





What is the Dajokan Order of 1877, through which the Meiji government officially confirmed that Dokdo was not Japanese territory?

In the course of a land registry project during the Meiji period, the Ministry of Home Affairs sent "Inquiry on Takeshima [Ulleungdo] and Another Island [Dokdo] in East Sea as regards the Land Registry Project" to the Dajokan (Grand Council of State), Japan's highest de-

cision-making body at the time. The Ministry of Home Affairs wanted to determine whether the said islands were to be included in the project.

The Dajokan concluded that Ulleungdo and Dokdo did not belong to Japan following the diplomatic negotiations between the Edo shogunate and the Joseon (Korean) government (Ulleungdo Dispute). Thereupon, the Dajokan issued a directive to the Ministry of Home Affairs in March 1877. The directive states, "Regarding Takeshima [Ulleungdo] and another island [Dokdo]... bear in mind that our country [Japan] has nothing to do with them." This is the Dajokan Order of 1877.

Translation

March 29, 10th year of Meiji

Regarding the inquiry from the Ministry of Home Affairs about Takeshima [Ulleungdo] and another island [Dokdo] in East Sea pertaining to the land registry project

Considering the understanding that our country [Japan] has nothing to do with the two islands as per the conclusion of the negotiations between the old government [Edo shogunate] and the country concerned [Korea] in the 5th year of Genroku [1692] following the entry of Joseon [Korean] people into the islands, we propose to issue the following:

directive

Regarding Takeshima [Ulleungdo] and another island [Dokdo] about which an inquiry was submitted, bear in mind that our country [Japan] has nothing to do with them.

Original

明治十年三月廿日

別紙内務省伺日本海内竹嶋外一嶋地籍編纂之件

右八元禄五年朝鮮人入嶋以来旧政府該国卜往復之末遂二本邦關係無之相聞候段中立候上八伺之趣御聞置左之通御指令相成可然哉此段相伺候也

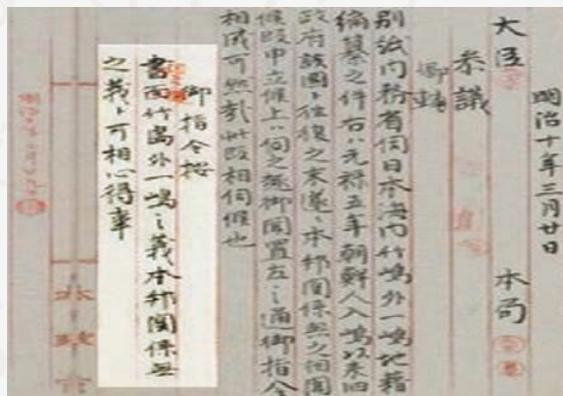
御指令按

伺之趣書面竹島外一嶋之義本邦關係無之義卜可相心得事

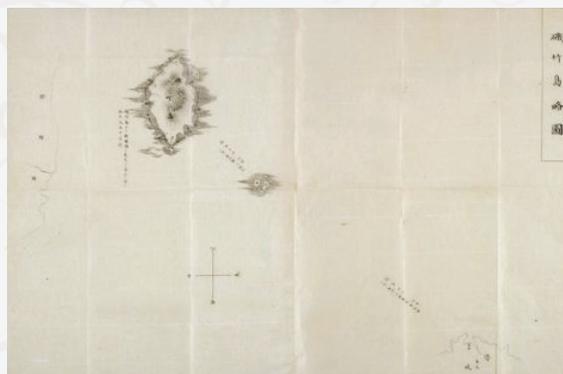
Along with its note of inquiry, the Ministry of Home Affairs sent *Isotakeshima ryakuzu* (Simplified Map of Isotakeshima - Japan used to refer to Ulleungdo as Isotakeshima) as a reference. Given that Takeshima (Ulleungdo) and Matsushima (Dokdo) appear on the map, it is evident that Dokdo is the “another island” referenced in the phrase “Takeshima [Ulleungdo] and another island” in the Dajokan Order of 1877.

The Dajokan Order of 1877 clearly demonstrates the Japanese government’s understanding that the status of Ulleungdo and Dokdo had been confirmed by the conclusion of the Ulleungdo Dispute between the Edo shogunate and the Joseon government in the 17th century.

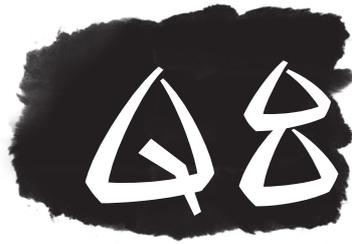
There is also the mention of “how Takeshima [Ulleungdo] and Matsushima [Dokdo] have come under Joseon’s jurisdiction” in “*Chosenkoku kosai shimatsu naitansho*” (Report on Past Interactions with Joseon). This Ministry of Foreign Affairs report, drafted by Hakubo Sada and a team of officials based on their survey of Joseon, was submitted in 1870, several years before the Dajokan Order of 1877. This report reveals the fact that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the time regarded the two islands as Joseon’s territories.



Dajokan Order of 1877



Isotakeshima ryakuzu



What is Imperial Edict No. 41 of 1900, through which the Empire of Korea placed Dokdo under the jurisdiction of Ulleungdo?

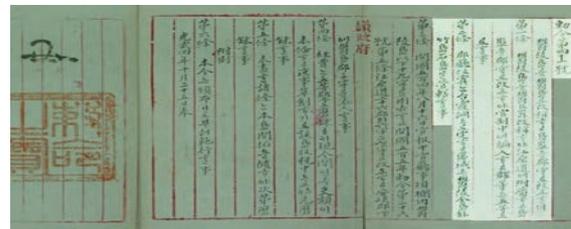
In the late 19th century, various problems arose in Ulleungdo, including illegal logging by the Japanese. The government of the Empire of Korea demanded that the Japanese government order the withdrawal of the illegal loggers. The Empire of Korea also decided to strengthen laws pertaining to the local administration of Ulleungdo.

On October 24, 1900, the Uijeongbu (State Council) decided that “Ulleungdo shall be renamed Uldo” and “the post of inspector [dogam] shall be changed to county magistrate [gunsu].” The changes were approved by the Emperor

on October 25, 1900 and published as Imperial Edict No. 41 in the government’s official gazette on October 27, 1900.

Article 2 of Imperial Edict No. 41 stipulates that “as regards the districts, all of Ulleungdo as well as Jukdo and Seokdo [Dokdo] shall be placed under the jurisdiction of [Uldo-gun (Uldo county)],” explicitly including Dokdo among the districts under the jurisdiction of Uldo-gun (Uldo county).

Imperial Edict No. 41 evidently demonstrates the historical fact that the government of the Empire of Korea exercised its sovereignty over Dokdo as a part of Ulleungdo.



 Imperial Edict No. 41

Translation

(Imperial Edict No. 41) Renaming of Ulleungdo to Uldo and the changing of the post of inspector [dogam] to county magistrate [gunsu]

Article 1. Ulleungdo shall be renamed Uldo and shall fall under the jurisdiction of Gangwon-do [Gangwon province]. The post of inspector [dogam] shall be changed to county magistrate [gunsu] and incorporated into officialdom, and the county shall be a class-5 county.

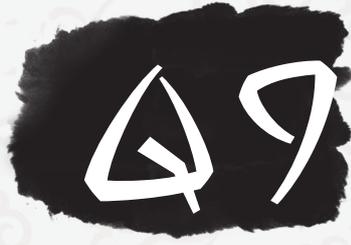
Article 2. The location of the county office shall be Taeha-dong, and as regards the districts, all of Ulleungdo as well as Jukdo and Seokdo [Dokdo] shall be placed under the jurisdiction of [Uldo-gun (Uldo county)].

Original

(勅令第四十一號) 鬱陵島를 鬱島로 改稱하고 島監을 郡守로 改正한 件

第一條 鬱陵島를 鬱島라 改稱하여 江原道에 附屬하고 島監을 郡守로 改正하여 官制中에 編入하고 郡等은 五等으로 할 事

第二條 郡廳位實은 台霞洞으로 定하고 區域은 鬱陵全島와 竹島·石島를 管轄할 事



**What was the backdrop
against which Japan issued
Shimane Prefecture
Public Notice No. 40 of 1905,
and does this notice
carry legal validity
under international law?**

Japan had been at war with Russia over its interests in Manchuria and the Korean peninsula since 1904. Japan's attempt at incorporating Dokdo into its own territory through Shimane Prefecture Public Notice No. 40 in 1905 was aimed at meeting its military needs in the face of possible maritime clashes with Russia in East Sea.

In a related Japanese historical document, it is recorded that the territorial incorporation of Dokdo was being pursued based on the opinion of a Ministry of Foreign Affairs' official that "building a watchtower and setting up a wireless or submarine telegraph communication system in Takeshima [Dokdo] would be very advantageous in terms of monitoring enemy ships." Yozaburo Nakai, who petitioned for the territorial incorporation of Dokdo, had initially perceived Dokdo as Korean territory. Also, an official of Japan's Ministry of Home Affairs stated, "... the disadvantages of arousing the suspicion that Japan harbors the ambition to gobble up Korea outweigh the advantages ... by seizing the barren rocks [Dokdo] where not a blade of grass grows and which are con-

sidered as belonging to Korea... " This points to the Japanese government's recognition of Dokdo as Korean territory.

In February 1904, Japan compelled the Empire of Korea to sign the Korea-Japan Protocol to ensure unlimited access to Korean territory in the execution of the Russo-Japanese War. Japan also coerced the Korean government to appoint Japanese and other non-Korean nationals as advisors through the First Korea-Japan Agreement in August 1904. In effect, Japan was systematically implementing its plan to take over Korea, and Dokdo became the first victim to fall prey to Japan's imperialist ambitions.

As is thus shown, Shimane Prefecture Public Notice No. 40 was part of Japan's systematic plan to undermine Korea's sovereignty. Japan's attempt to incorporate Dokdo was an illegal act that infringed upon Korea's undeniable sovereignty over the island, which had been established over a long period of time. Accordingly, Shimane Prefecture Public Notice No. 40 is null and void under international law.



What was in the 1906 report on Dokdo submitted by County Magistrate Sim Heung-taek of Uldo-gun (Ulleungdo)?

A Japanese survey team comprised of officials and civilians from Shimane Prefecture visited Ulleungdo and mentioned to County Magistrate Sim Heung-taek of Uldo-gun that Dokdo had been incorporated into Japanese territory. Immediately thereafter, on March 29, 1906, Sim Heung-taek submitted a report to the governor of Gangwon-do (Gangwon province) and the Korean Ministry of Home Affairs.

On April 29, 1906, Yi Myeong-rae, the county magistrate of Chuncheon-gun (Chuncheon county) and the acting governor of Gangwon-do (Gangwon province) reported the matter to the Uijeongbu (State Council of the Empire of Korea).

Translation

County Magistrate Sim Heung-taek of Uldo-gun [Uldo county] reported as follows: Dokdo, which is under the jurisdiction of this county, is some 100 *li* [old Korean measurement unit] out at sea. A ship docked at Dodongpo [Dodong Harbor], Uldo-gun, approximately at the 5th hour [7-9 a.m.] on the 4th day of this month [March 28]. A group of Japanese government officials came to the county office and stated, "We have come to inspect the islands as Dokdo has now become Japanese territory." They first asked about the number of households, size of the population, land area, and agricultural yield and then asked about the size of the staff and budget [of the county office]. They recorded the information as though they were undertaking a general survey [of the islands] and then left. The matter is thus reported to you for your consideration as it was reported to me for my consideration.

Original

報告書號外

鬱島郡守 沈興澤報告書內開에 本郡所屬獨島가 在於外洋百餘里 外 이삼더니 本月初四日 辰時量에 輪船一雙이 來泊于郡內道洞浦 而日本官人 一行에 到于官舍 ㅎ야 自云 獨島가 今爲日本領地 故로 視察次 來到이다 이온바... 先問戶總·人口·土地·生産 多少 ㅎ고 且問 人員 及經費 幾許 諸般事務을 以調查樣으로 錄去이옵기 茲에 報告 ㅎ으니 照亮 ㅎ시를 伏望等 因으로 准此 報告 ㅎ으니 照亮 ㅎ시를 伏望

Thereupon, on May 10 of the same year, the Uijeongbu, the top decision-making body of the Empire of Korea, issued the following directive (Directive No. 3):

Special Report and Directive No. 3



Translation

(Directive No. 3)

The submitted report has been read and given due consideration. The claim that Dokdo has become [Japanese] territory is completely groundless, so inquire again into the situation in the island and the activities of the Japanese and submit a report.

Original

指令第三號

來報之 閱悉이고 獨島領地之說은 全屬無根호니 該島 形便斗 日人 如何 行動을 更爲查報호 事

This shows that the county magistrate of Uldo-gun (Ulleungdo) was governing Dokdo in 1906 pursuant to Imperial Edict No. 41 issued in 1900.



**What is
in the Cairo Declaration
of 1943, which stipulates
the Allied Powers’
basic position
on Japan’s
territorial boundaries
after World War II?**

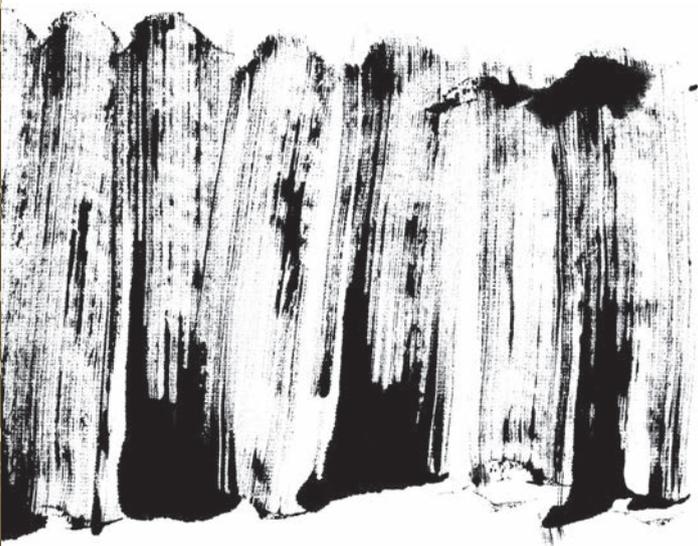
In the Cairo Declaration (December 1, 1943), which stipulates the Allied Power’s basic position on Japan’s territorial boundaries after World War II, it is stated that “Japan will also be expelled from all other territories which she has taken by violence and greed.”

The Cairo Declaration also guarantees the independence of Korea as follows: “The aforesaid Three Great Powers, mindful of the enslavement of the people of Korea, are determined that in due course Korea shall become free and independent.”

Relevant Part of the Cairo Declaration

Japan will also be expelled from all other territories which she has taken by violence and greed. The aforesaid Three Great Powers, mindful of the enslavement of the people of Korea, are determined that in due course Korea shall become free and independent.

The Potsdam Declaration of 1945, which Japan accepted as a condition of its surrender, reconfirms that “the terms of the Cairo Declaration shall be carried out.”

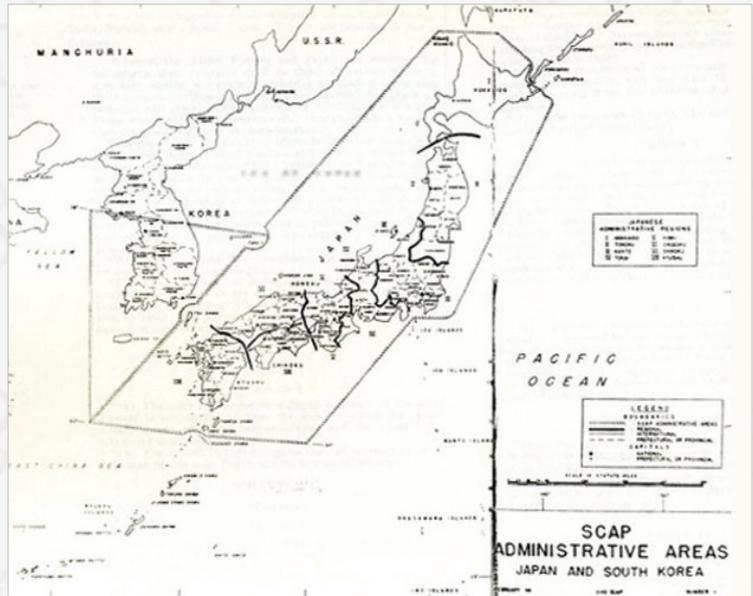


Q12

What was the position of the General Headquarters of the Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers as regards Dokdo when World War II came to an end in 1945?

After the end of World War II, the General Headquarters of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers excluded Dokdo from those territories controlled and administered by Japan as mandated in its instruction in SCAPIN (Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers Index Number) 677 on January 29, 1946.

The third paragraph of the said instruction lists “the four main islands of Japan (Hokkaido, Honshu, Kyushu and Shikoku) and the approximately 1,000 smaller adjacent islands” as the territories of Japan and stipulates the exclusion of “Utsuryo (Ullung) Island, Liancourt Rocks [Dokdo] and Quelpart (Saishu or Cheju) Island.”



Reference map for SCAPIN 677

SCAPIN-677

January 29, 1946

Governmental and Administrative Separation of Certain Outlying Areas from Japan

3. For the purpose of this directive, Japan is defined to include ... excluding
(a) Utsuryo (Ullung) Island, Liancourt Rocks and Quelpart (Saishu or Cheju) Island ...

SCAPIN-1033

June 22, 1946

Area Authorized for Japanese Fishing and Whaling

3. (b) Japanese vessels or personnel thereof will not approach closer than twelve (12) miles to Takeshima (Dokdo) (37°15' North Latitude, 131°53' East Longitude) nor have any contact with said island.



What are the stipulations concerning Dokdo in the San Francisco Peace Treaty of 1951?

Article 2(a) of the San Francisco Peace Treaty of 1951 provides, “Japan recognizing the independence of Korea, renounces all right, title and claim to Korea, including the islands of Quelpart, Port Hamilton and Dagelet.”

Among Korea’s some 3,000 islands, the said article refers to only Jejudo (Quelpart), Geomundo (Port Hamilton), and Ulleungdo (Dagelet) as examples. Therefore, the mere fact that Dokdo is not directly mentioned in the said article does not suggest that Dokdo is not included among those territories of Korea separated from Japan.

In consideration of the Allied Powers’ stance reflected in the Cairo Declaration of 1943 and SCAPIN 677 of 1946, Dokdo must be regarded as having been included among the territories of Korea separated from Japan.

Relevant Part of the San Francisco Peace Treaty

Article 2

.....
(a) Japan recognizing the independence of Korea, renounces all right, title and claim to Korea, including the islands of Quelpart, Port Hamilton and Dagelet.
.....



Q14

What was the response of the Government of the Republic of Korea to the Government of Japan's proposal in 1954 for the Dokdo matter to be taken to the International Court of Justice (ICJ)?

In 1954, when the Government of Japan demanded that the Dokdo matter be taken to the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the Government of the Republic of Korea conveyed the following to the Japanese side:

The proposal of the Japanese Government is nothing but another attempt at the false claim in judicial disguise. Korea has the territorial rights *ab initio* over Dokdo and sees no reason why she should seek the verification of her rights before any international court of justice.

As the Japanese Government is no doubt well aware, the aggression took place by steps, culminating in the annexation of whole Korea into Japan in 1910. For all practical purposes, however, Japan had seized the power to control Korea in 1904 when Japan had forced upon Korea the so-called Korea-Japan Protocol and the First Agreement between Korea and Japan.

Thus, Dokdo was the first Korean territory which had been made a victim of the Japanese aggression. Now, in view of the unreasonable but persistent claim of the Japanese Government over Dokdo, the Korean people is in serious doubt if Japan is repeating the same course of aggression. The surrounding facts being such, to the Korean people Dokdo is not merely tiny island off the eastern sea. It is indeed the symbol of Korean sovereignty vis-à-vis Japan and the test case of the integrity of Korean sovereignty.

The Government of the Republic of Korea still maintains the same position.

Q15

How is the Republic of Korea exercising its sovereignty over Dokdo?

The Republic of Korea exercises its irrefutable territorial sovereignty over Dokdo, legislatively, administratively, and judicially.



- First,** a Korean police force is stationed in Dokdo, patrolling the island.
- Second,** the Korean military defends the waters and skies of Dokdo.
- Third,** there are various laws specific to Dokdo.
- Fourth,** a lighthouse and other government facilities have been erected and are in operation in Dokdo.
- Fifth,** there are Korean civilians residing on Dokdo.

The Government of the Republic of Korea will continue to defend Korea's territorial sovereignty over Dokdo.



 Facilities in Dokdo



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