

## NAME OF THE SEA OF JAPAN/EAST SEA ON THE GEOGRAPHICAL MAPS IN PAST, AT PRESENT AND IN FUTURE

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The current name of the sea separating the eastern margin of the Eurasian continent from the Japanese Islands is characterized by the complicated history. This is related to the participation in the study and development of this region of representatives of different countries. The Russian researchers began to study and develop the East Siberia lands in the midseventeenth century, 360 years ago. In 1639, the first Russian expedition under the direction of Ivan Moskvitin has for the first time reached the Pacific ocean and established the first Russian marine base referred to as Okhotsk. From that date, the intense studies of the eastern margins of Russia and adjacent to them seas have begun. For a period from the midseventeenth century to the end of eighteenth century, more than 10 considerable marine expeditions have been carried out with the aim to find a pathway to India, America, Japan. All expeditions have been accompanied by construction of maps with indication of one or another geographical names including new ones. In this connection, one can, to a quite full measure, trace a history of the geographical name of the sea separating the Japan Islands from continent.

The study of the Russia eastern coast and adjacent seas has been carried out to the end of eighteenth century along two directions:

1) from the north where in 1648 a group under the direction of the Yakut Cossack S. Dezhnev for the first time has boated from the Arctic Ocean to the Pacific one rounding the Chukotka and discovering a straight separating Eurasia and America;

2) from Okhotsk, Amur river mouth, the sea coast of the continent has been investigated and expeditions have carried out to Kamchatka, Sakhalin and Alaska. The north-eastern part has been, to a greater degree, studied. Until the mideighteenth century, on the Russian geographical maps, there has been no any strict boundary between the Sea of Okhotsk and Sea of Japan. The common sea was referred to as Lamsky, Tartary, Kamchatsky, Okhotsk etc. A division of this sea has been related to the more accurate determination of true dimensions and coastal line of Sakhalin Island. On the globe map issued in Moscow in 1768, the common sea area has been already divided into two seas; northern one by the name of "Okhotsk" and southern one by the name of "Korean sea".

Then, up to the end of eighteenth century, on the Russian geographical maps,

different names were used for this water area: Korean, Quiet (Calm), East, Tatory, Tartary, Chinese, Japan. The same names were used for this water area in the West European Atlases of the day. In this case, for people of China and Korea, the name of this sea was most often related to only single name: East Sea which was reflected in national documents, many legends and stories. It should be noted that the encyclopaedia "Britannic" in 1771 has officially assigned to this water area a name "Korean Sea". This name was widely used in the Russian geographical literature too. The evidence of this can be found in the transactions of the Russian researcher V.M. Golovnin describing the travel of G.I. Sarychev in 1792 and using the name "Korean Sea".

Later on, apparently with a penetration into Russia of newer West European geographical maps, the name "Sea of Japan" began more and more to become firmly established. To arising of this name on the geographical maps, the fact contributed that the European (French, Dutch, Spanish, English etc.) scientists entered this sea on the Pacific Ocean side, behind the Japan Islands. For them, this sea was "just behind Japan".

The first Russian voyage of I.F. Kruzenshtern round the world was organized in the early nineteenth century and in, its course, the eastern margin of the Asian continent was studied. Upon voyage termination, in 1815, the "Atlas of the northern part of the East Ocean" was issued in which the Korean Sea was referred to as "Japan Sea" and the name "East" was used for the Pacific Ocean as a whole. After issuing this Atlas, in the Russian geographical literature, the name "the Sea of Japan" was conclusively assigned to this water area.

At present, in the world and Russian geographical literature, one of historical names of this water area - "East Sea" - began in increasing frequency to mention. It is known that, between Republic of Korea and Japan, an agreement of the official use of dual name - "East Sea/Sea of Japan" - was reached. A number of the current geographical maps and atlases issued in Republic of Korea use for this water area a name "East Sea". In Korean People's Democratic Republic, a name "East Sea" is also used.

In succeeding decades of XX century, between countries and areas adjacent to this sea, the various integration relations are intensively developed. Such relations reached the highest level between Japan and Republic of Korea. In 1990s, the regions of the Russian Far East began more and more to be included in the integration processes. The initial steps along this line are also taken by Korean People's Democratic Republic. The north-eastern Chine, although it has no direct access to this area but, approaching the high level of industrial development,

enters actively into these processes. Thus, the Sea of Japan/East Sea becomes a sphere of concentration, intersection and integration of vital economical, social, ecological and scientific-cultural interests of many countries, people and regions. Under these conditions, the name of sea is more and more used on many maps, in names of numerous companies, in documents, contracts etc. In this connection, the name of sea begins to fulfil not only geographical and geopolitical functions but also cultural, market-economical, historical and humane ones. Therefore, the name of this sea should equally reflect the historical memory, full understanding and national feelings of all people residing on its coasts. In this case, one can make the following conclusions:

1. The name of sea "Sea of Japan" - is not always first and far from single from the historical point of view that is well reflected on the old European and Russian geographical maps.
2. The names - East Sea, Korean Sea, Sea of Japan - have practically same roots.
3. In Republic of Korea and Korean People's Democratic Republic, in all times, the name "East Sea" was used. Just to such name, the historical memory and national feelings of citizens of these countries are related.
4. This sea is situated in one of the central, most industrially developed areas of the Asiatic-Pacific region. Thus, the name of sea should be favourable to the development, cooperation, growth of integration processes and relations of the countries and regions adjacent to this sea.

In our opinion, in order to emphasize a respect for national feelings and to renew the historical roots in the name of sea, it is needed to support an agreement to name this water area as "East Sea/Sea of Japan" reached by two countries. To assign this name it is necessary to recommend the International Cartographic Commission to use in future this name as official one on the geographical maps. There are examples of changing the names of the great geographical objects. For example, the International Hydrographic Organization is discussing the question of using the name "Southern Ocean" as an official geographical name for waters sweeping the Antarctic Continent.

The substantiated proposals on changing the name of this sea were put forward by the specialists of a number of countries. For example, on the basis of in-depth historical-geographical study, the Russian scientist prof. A.N. Makhinov (Seoul, 1998) proposed to call this sea as "Korean Sea/Sea of Japan". It is possible, such name will still further reflect the historical-geographical grounds and integration role of this sea in development of two unique civilizations.