

A Study on Naming 'The East Sea of Korea'

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The subject of “The East Sea of Korea” naming is the problem that recovers our peculiar name, that is to say, the problem that recovers a deprived name. This is also the work that eliminates several consequences that occurred around the colonial period of the Japanese Imperialists.

The problem that eliminates remnants of the colonial period may be the link the recover the national sovereignty in names of a country and a place.

The problem that changes “The Sea of Japan” into “The Sea of Korea” or “The East Sea of Korea” today will be very urgent and presented as an important national task of the 21st century.

The problem like this is presented to several countries and places in the world. We can find it even in the Asian area.

Especially, there are a few cases that recover the place name that was forced in Japanese way in the colonial period as our national intrinsic peculiar name of the place.

For example, there are a lot of cases that recover “Keijyo 京城” as “SEOUL”, and the Japanese names of a places in Pyongyang and Seoul as their origins.

There are also cases that recover “Shinkyō 新京” as “Changchun 長春” in China and “Syonan 昭南道” as Singapore(an independent country)

Moreover today, the problem of a place name is one of the causes of dispute in the world.

For example there are cases of “Persian Gulf” and “Arabia Gulf”, “Falkland Is.” And “Iahas Malrinas”, “DOKDO 獨島” and “Takesyima 竹島”, “Str. of Korea” and “Str. of Tyusyima”.

From the viewpoint of history, Japan has formed the national system since Korean came to Japan.

Considering in this way, who recognized “The East Sea of Korea”, at first is self-evident.

“East China Sea” we use is called “The East Sea” in China. Denmark, which became independent in 1944, began to change the strait between Denmark and Greenland into recognition “Denmark Strait”. “The Black Sea” came from “black” of seawater is not black. France makes an issue of “The Strait of Dover” and they put forth their opinion, “The North Sea” from the viewpoint of the continent of Europe, but it is not from the viewpoint of the United Kingdom. It is called “The East Sea” in the countries around “The North Sea”. The strait in between Siberia and the Island of Sakhalin is called the “Tatarskii Proliv”, and Japan calls its narrowest part “The Straits Mamiya” but Russia “The Proliv Nevel’skogo”.

The border of “the East Sea of Korea”, the international peculiar name that the UN “enacts” at present ignores historical facts and it doesn’t have validity at all and it is no realistic. Now the misrepresentation that Japan side asserts in connection with the problem can resolve itself into the following three points only from the geographical viewpoint.

First, the name “Sea of Japan” is not disseminated as a result of colonial rule of Japan. Thus, Japanese didn’t use the name of “Sea of Japan” at first and they assert that it spread after I.F. Krusenstern(1770-1846) published in the “Notes of Sailing around the World” published in 1815.

They assert it has been used for a long time in Europe because it was written as “Sea of Japan” in the world map of the 17th century. (Kyoto Univ. Kawai Hideo). They assert it has

been written as “Sea of Japan” in all European maps since 1800s. And thus, they assert Japan didn’t establish a colonial rule and “Sea of Japan” wasn’t disseminated as a result of a colonial policy.

Second, they assert, “East Sea” called from ancient times that the Republic of Korea side (The South Korea) asserts does not exist.

① They can’t find a record of “East Sea” as the name of sea, in the historical materials and they assert a record of “East Sea” is the sea that lies in the east, that is, a name to indicate directions.

② “Sea of Korea” and “Sea of Japan” were described in the Japanese map of era “EDO”(1603-1867) of Japan, but there is no sea corresponding to “East Sea of Korea” meaning the closed space.

Third, they aseert it is not proper that The Republic of Korea (The South Korean) side shows disapproval against using the country name of “Japan”

① Japan has called the present ocean space of “East Sea of Korea” in the past as follows.

At the closing era “HEIAN”(790-1190c)... it was called “Sea of Pohai”(the meaning of a seaway to “Balhae Country (渤海國)

From “ear AZUCHI ~ era MOMOYAMA”(1568-1600), to the early era of “EDO” it was called... “Sea of Korea”(the meaning of a seaway to Korea)

At the middle era of “EDO”... it was called North Sea (direction)

There is a record describing “Stri. Thushima”, “East China Sea” as “Sea of Korea”

From the middle era of “EDO” ~ to present it was called... “Sea of Japan”

② A lot of world maps including Shiba-Kohen(司馬江漢) were published, but most of maps mentioned as “Sea of Japan” were replicas of the European maps.

In those days the Europeans trade a large amount of goods with Japan after Marco Polo introduced Japan as “A golden country”. Thus, name of “Sea of Japan” was named not by Japanese, but the Europeans.

③ The national isolation state was suited in the East Asian countries, but Japan had opened Nagasaki and so on in part to foreign countries after 1800s.

Through the trade relation with Japan, they know the present ocean space of “East Sea of Korea” was closed ocean space. They assert the Europeans came to call it “Sea of Japan”

This paper refutes the falsehood nature of opinions that Japanese side asserts.

① They assert the name of “Sea of Japan” was adopted in 80% of charts of the whole world in the beginning of the 19th century, and it wasn’t established under colonial rule. Thus they assert the name of sea isn’t the product of invasion.

② To change the already fixed name of a place simply and to write two or more names together are contrary to the original purpose of IHO, which advocates unification of the place name.

Conclusion

The name of “East Sea of Korea” can be found in History of “The Three Kingdoms(Samgug-sagi 三國史記)”, B.C 59, and “The Monument of Gwang-gae-to-wan(廣開土王陵碑), 414, and History Books. “East Sea of Korea” appeared in “Shinjung-Donguk-Yojisungram(新增東國輿地勝覽)”(1530), “Sobukgyea-do(西北界圖)”(1712-1776) on map. In the early days of the 20th century, “East Sea of Korea”, was used “Sea of Japan” was used in the time of colony.

In the case of Japan, the notation of “Sea of Japan” cannot be found in “Japanese complete diagrams”, “Old Map”(805-1877) published in 1971, in Japan which was collected and out published.

The world map in the beginning of the 19th century(1800s) wrote “Sea of Korea” of “Korea East Sea”, as the East Sea of Korea.

“Kankyo-Dainihon4shin Map, the Map of Government Office(官許大日本四神全圖)”(1870, meiji 3) writes the East Sea of Korea regions as “Sea of Korea”, and the sea near Japan as “West Sea of Japan”.

The East Sea of Korea is called “MER DE CORE” most in Europe. A small number is calling it “MER DU JAPON” and “MER ORIENTAL” or “MAR CHIN” are in parts.

Historical circumstances of the subject of the “East Sea of Korea” naming is clear and the

unjustice of Japanese assertion of naming the Sea of Japan, which Japan side asserts will become certain mort and more.

The subject of “East Sea” and “The East Sea of Korea” naming shows vividly our assertion is appropriate, however, from the viewpoint of historical circumstances and the fact around colonial time.