

East Sea/Sea of Japan: from Justice-as-fairness Perspective

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Abstract

This paper is to present the unjust reasons for Sea of Japan, and just reasons for the dual use of Sea of Japan/East Sea on the sea in between Japan and Korea. As a matter of fact, “Sea of Japan/East Sea” has been accepted by many famed map drawers and makers, including the National Geographic. However, Japan has been insisting Sea of Japan. Its only reason is: Sea of Japan has been used by almost all map makers in the last 100 years without Japan’s influence. The Korean people have been protesting the name of “Sea of Japan,” because East Sea has been the name of the sea in the last 2000 years. They have been attributing Sea of Japan to the Japanese colonial rule over Korea in the first half of the 20th century, the most critical time in the scientific and technological progress in the area of navigation and aviation. “Sea of Japan” is unfair to Korea. The sea should be named as the Sea of Japan and Sea of Korea or East Sea. Sea of Far East is a neutral name. Some have proposed the Oriental Sea, Blue Sea or Green Sea as a neutral name. The United States has not claimed the Sea of America or Sea of USA on the sea along its Pacific Coast and its Atlantic Coast. Any nation in the Mediterranean Sea has not imposed its own name on the sea. The Caribbean Sea is the sea of all island nations in the region. The United Nations has recommended two names on the sea between the two nations, when the name of sea is disputed by another nation. That is fair, justice as fairness.

“Japan and South Korea are locked in a battle over water. They’re fighting over what to call the sea that lies between them. Japan says it’s the Sea of Japan; Korea argues that it’s the East Sea. What’s at stake besides national pride? Millions of maps and newspaper references. When the New York Times wrote a story that called it simply “the body of water between the two countries” and published a map that left the sea’s name blank, the Korean media called it a major victory. Koreans have been writing to newspapers and organizations around the world, pushing for a name change for the sea. A worried Japan has struck back with its own official barrage of letters and lobbying. The big test will come with next year’s publication of a key navigation reference, *Limits of Oceans and Seas*, by the International Hydrographic Organization.”

The Korean people want to recover the name of East Sea, that has been in existence for the last 2000 years. Name of Sea of Japan has been in use in the last century or two. The Name of East Sea was lost under the Japanese colonial rule, 1909-1945. The South Korean Government, and citizen groups have made sincere efforts to recover the old legitimate name of the sea. They have been proposing to use and propagate the dual named sea, the Sea of Japan/East Sea, but the Japanese counterpart has been rejecting it. Alas! This is a sad state of human civilization in the 21st century.

Naming the sea should not reflect one nation's wealth and power. We live in a civilized world. First of all, sea is our commons, not one nation's property. The sea and ocean are making the Earth only living planet in the universe. They are the cause symbolizing our precious life. We should pursue justice-as-fairness, our human conscience and common sense in naming the sea.

Sea of Japan: Unjust, Inappropriate Name

Japan wants to sustain Sea of Japan, not the dual name of Sea of Japan/East Sea, because Sea of Japan has been in use in the last century or two. The Korean people do not want to remove Sea of Japan from maps. They just want to use the simultaneous use of the two names. That is the United Nations' basic principle when the name of the sea is in dispute between the nations surrounding the sea. The Japanese Government has explained that it did not influence the map drawers and makers in the United States and European nations in the last century or two. It has not recognized the power and influence it has had in the international society in the first half of the 20th century in the rapidly advancing science and technology in the field of shipbuilding, navigation, and aviation. Korea was lost in the shadow of the Japanese imperialism and superpower status in World War I and World War II. Korea lost its sovereignty to Japan even before the beginning of the 20th century. When the Japanese Navy defeated the Chinese Navy and the Russian Navy in the last decade of the 19th century, and in the first decade of the 20th century, Korea was colonized. The Japanese Army invaded Manchuria in 1935, and later China. Korea was the first victim of the Japanese colonialism, and disappeared from the world society completely in the most critically important time of rapid expansion of scientific knowledge and technology. The Japanese Government does not admit this historical fact.

The Japanese Government has strongly denied the fact that the Sea of Japan was a product of Japanese war power, and asked the world people to see Mateo Ricci's map produced in 1662. It is very true that Mateo Ricci named the Sea of Japan in his map. He was not a professional map drawer or maker, but his map made a great influence over the following generations. However, Ricci is just one name. Even before 1662, The Sea of Chosun (old name of Korea), the Sea of Coree (old name of Korea) and East Sea had been appeared in the maps. Korean people did not influence Western map drawers and makers. In the 17th and 18th centuries, Western map drawers and makers used Sea of Chosun and Sea of Japan interchangeably. Some maps used Sea of Chosun, and some used Sea of Japan.

The name of the sea was not a serious matter to the navigators in the 18th century. It has become a serious matter when modern ships started to sail the oceans. The sea has become the properties of the advanced nations that possessed the power of navigation in

the 20th century. The sea has become the means of transportation, fishing, mining grounds, oil field, and the battle-ground in the 20th century. American Commodore Perry's black ship at the Tokyo Bay forced the Tokugawa Government to open the door to the United States and Western nations. The Meiji Restoration quickly modernized the Island nation. Modern Japan advanced military and navigation technologies, and invaded the Korean Peninsula in the last part of the 19th century and conquered the Asian Continent in World War II. The first part of the 20th century set and shaped the name of the sea as we see today. Expansion of scientific knowledge and information on our Earth was remarkably noticeable. Oceanography and navigation were the wonder of the 20th century phenomena.

Is It Fair?

It may not be fair for the Japanese Government to reject the Korean people's wishes and hopes to recover East Sea in the world map. The Government of Japan has been threatening the organization that want to use the dual name of Sea of Japan/East Sea. Some Japanese scholars and intellectuals have been proposing a neutral name, Blue Sea or Green Sea, which is contrasting to the Yellow Sea, sea between China and Korea. Color of water is blue in the East Sea/Sea of Japan, because of the depth of the water. The Yellow Sea is only 50 to 60 meters deep. It may take very long time to find a neutral name. Until then, the Korean people are satisfied with the acceptance of the world maps using the simultaneous use of Sea of Japan and East Sea.

It is interesting to know the National Geographic Society's decision to use the two names on the body of water between Korea and Japan.

"We always work hard to make our maps the best and most accurate possible. But sometimes there are two well-respected and widely used names for the something, so which name to use isn't really clear-cut. That is the case here with the East Sea/Sea of Japan issue, so we want to recognize both names to make the maps as accurate as possible." (Allen Carroll, chief cartographer) See Appendix 1.

Rand McNally, one of the largest map-makers in the United States used Sea of Japan (East Sea) in its 1997 world atlas (Rand McNally and Co, 28-31). The most comprehensive World Atlas ever created at www.encarta.com/miscrosoft/2000 also included East Sea in its description of the sea, naming it Sea of Japan (East Sea). The Humanitarian Response Planning Map, 1 988 publication by the United Nations Environmental Programme Global Resources, also named the geographic feature, Sea of Japan (East Sea). The map posted at www.reliefweb.int/map.nsf/wLatestmaps in 1988 by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian affairs (OCHA) used Korean word Tonghae (Donghae) for the East Sea, and named it as Sea of Japan (Tonghae).

It should be noted that using parenthesis around East Sea is not exactly in compliance with the concurrent use requirement. But, it is a sign of progress, which takes the issue a step in the right direction.

The Cartographic Satellite Atlas of the World, which the Canadian Warwick

Publishing Inc. published in 1997, complied with the standardized practice and used the generic terms, Tong-Hae/Nippon-Kai (Japan Sea). Encyclopedia Britannica in its 1998 CD-Rom named the sea as East Sea (Sea of Japan) in Korea-related sections, while using Sea of Japan (East Sea) in Japan-related sections. The New York Times and the Merriam-Webster Atlas 2001 are currently using the same pattern. In 1999, the Bulletin 49(2) (Geographic Map of Korea, p.135) published by the International Geographical Union, identified the geographic feature as East Sea (Sea of Japan), giving East Sea priority. One year later (2000), "Geography: Realms, Regions and Concepts" by HJ. De Blif and Peter O. Muller (John Wiley & Sons, inc.) replaced all its old names of the sea with East Sea (Sea of Japan) throughout the book. The US National Council for Geographic Education in its 1998 seminar at Indianapolis, Indiana, convinced the authors of the book of the validity of using East Sea. An earlier version of the book (1997) offered no reference to East Sea, only identifying the geographic feature as Sea of Japan.

The Internet maps at www.atlapedia.com/online/maos/political/Korea, produced by the Latimer Clarke Corp. in 1998, marked the sea in question as East Sea/Sea of Japan. A 1998 German atlas identified the geographic feature as Japanisches Meer (Japan Sea) and Ostmeer (East Sea) in compliance with the concurrent use principle.

Sea without Name

The joint use of East Sea/Sea of Japan or Sea of Japan (East Sea) has been acceptable by many, but rejected by some. To them, the sea has no name. For example, since January 2001, CNN abandoned its use of Sea of Japan, airing maps of Korea and Japan with no particular name in reference to the sea. The move, apparently meant to strike a balance between Korea and Japan, is nevertheless significant because it suggests that the company finally has recognized the invalidity or unfairness of using Sea of Japan. The Catalogue of Admiralty Charts and Publication, put out in 2001 by the British Hydrographic Office, identified all the seas in the region except for the East Sea. Given the importance of well-documented sea maps for navigational safety, this trend of not identifying the sea should be reconsidered. The Beijing Office of the United Nations Development Programme has been working on a project known as the Tumen River Economic Development since 1991. It has published three maps in 2000. These maps, all published in China and distributed a year later, bear no identification of the sea, even though they identified all other seas in the region. The maps were entitled "Tumen River Economic Development Area and Northeast Asia," "Economic Centers of Northeast Asia," and "Economic Map of the Tumen River Economic Development Area." The North Korean map, published in 2001 by the UN Department of Public Information Cartographic Section, did not name the sea we know as East Sea. The International Hydrographic Organization has distributed the map showing the sea without a name. Avoiding the disputed name of the sea becomes a blank without a name.

Politics as Usual

IHO staffs want to avoid the controversy surrounding Sea of Japan/East Sea. They identify themselves as technical experts, and thus avoid the political controversy.

What is political? What is technical? In this world, everything is, and can be political.

Webster's Dictionary defines political in the following:

1a: of or relating to government, a government or the conduct of government. b: of, relating to, or concerned with the making as distinguished from the administration of government policy.

2a: of, relating to, or involving politics and especially party politics. B: adept at, sensitive to, or engrossed in politics.

3: organized in governmental terms.

4: involving or charged or concerned with acts against a government or a political system.

IHO claims that it is not a political organization, but a technical organization. The IHO in 1929 named Japan Sea in its first publication of the "Limits of Oceans and Sea," that was eight years after the formation of the IHO. That was a political act. Did IHO name the sea with any serious academic consultation with old maps and Asian nations? It was named by Japan's visible and invisible political influence.

Time has changed. Naming the sea with a sense of justice as fairness can be political, ethical, and moral to all mankind. It can be an academic, or technical effort. The IHO cannot avoid the difficult decision-making. "Difficult" seems "political" to the IHO. Majority rule by the IHO members in naming the sea can be a decision tool, but justice as fairness should be. Naming the sea should consider historical, scientific, moral and ethical consideration. The wealth of the nation or superpower status should not prevail in the civilized world.

Sea as Our Commons

Re-naming the sea is not just seeking another name. Sea of Japan cannot seek the cooperation among the surrounding nations. Cooperation for ocean life and environment is absolutely necessary in the 21st century. Russian nuclear ships and radioactive materials have been disposed in the Sea. Japanese have disposed radioactive waste materials in the Sea. Yellow Sea is polluted from pollutants from the Yangtze River and Yellow River, and coastal industrial cities. Overexploitation of marine resources is becoming serious by the ocean liners and deep sea fishery assisted by advanced science and technology. Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP) has been organized for marine environmental cooperation under the United Nations Environmental Programme. NOWPAP programs should be expanded to maintain the marine and ocean environment and ecosystems.

The sea does not care national prestige and boundary line. The sea needs international environmental care and management. The 21st century will require more regional and global cooperation, because one planet Earth requires one-ness of all nations on Earth. Japan and Korea cannot resolve the name of the sea. Then, the international cooperation for their commons cannot be expected. They should learn the management of Mediterranean Sea, and North Sea. Asia nations have not learned the lesson from European nations who are using one currency, Euro dollar. Outdated nationalism, emotional sentiment, lack of common bondage will make the Asian nations regionally cooperative.

We should pay attention to sea and oceans: Convention on the High Seas, Convention for the Prevention of marine Pollution for Land-based Sources, International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution at the Sea by Oil, International Convention for the Pollution from Ships, International Convention relating to Intervention on the High Seas in case of Oil Pollution Casualties, and Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matters among many others. International peace in international sea can be only achieved by intergovernmental cooperation for the commons.

NOWPAP's first intergovernmental meeting, held in Seoul on September 14, 1994, adopted the action plan for the protection, management and development of the marine and coastal environment of the Northwest Pacific Region. China, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, and Russia were the participating nations. North Korea did not participate after the first meeting. The second meeting was held in Tokyo on November 16, 1996 to approve the programme document, and work plan and budget for the biennium 1997/1998. However, it was decided that further trust fund arrangement and establishment of a regional coordinating unit were to be discussed at a later time. The third meeting, held in Vladivostok, the Russian Federation on August 9, 1998, endorsed the revision of the work plan and budget for the biennium 1997/1998, and decided on the procedure for the establishment of a network of regional activity centers. The fourth meeting held in Beijing on April 6 and 7, 1999, further reviewed progress in the implementation of NOWPAP in 1997-1998 and adopted a work plan and budget for the 1999-2000 biennium, decided on the need to establish a regional coordinating unit in the future, and requested the executive director of UNEP to prepare a proposal for its creation for the consideration of the 5th meeting.

Four regional centers were proposed:

- +The Data and Information Network Regional Activity Center, Beijing, China.
- +The Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Center, Vladivostok, Russia.
- +The Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response Regional Activity Center, Taejon, Korea.
- +Special Monitoring Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Center, Toyama, Japan.

The fifth meeting was held in Incheon on March 20, 2000. The trust fund was set in the meeting: Japan, \$135,000; South Korea, \$100,000; Russia, \$50,000; and China, \$40,000. China proposed the following principles for contributions:

- (a) the common but differentiated principle;
- (b) the level of economic development should be commensurable with the obligations to be assumed;
- (c) the voluntary and proactive principle;
- (d) the principle of honoring the pledged contribution; and
- (e) mobilizing other financial resources for funding.

All participating nations showed interest to invite the Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) to their nations. Once the RCU is established, regional activity centers will be well coordinated and other environmental programs for the Northwest Pacific Sea will be effectively launched. Many hoped to create the RCU in the next meeting in Toyama,

Japan.

The sixth meeting was held in Tokyo on December 4-6, 2000. The participating nations were Japan, South Korea, Russia and China. In Resolution 2 of the sixth meeting, the NOWPAP members agreed in principle to establish a co-hosted NOWPAP RCU in Toyama, Japan and Pusan, South Korea, subject to the confirmation of all members on the basis of their review of the detailed plan prepared by Japan and South Korea regarding the modalities of the RCU operation. The meeting also requested the members to confirm and approve the proposal of the co-hosted RCU so that the consensus of the NOWPAP region could be conveyed to the 21st Governing Council of UNEP. As an interim measure, the meeting requested UNEP to operate the RCU under the authority of the UNEP executive director.

The sixth meeting also decided to establish and implement a new activity on the 'assessment and management of land-based activities' within the NOWPAP work program. Following that decision, UNEP Division of Environmental Conventions, in collaboration with the UNEP Coordination Office of the Global Program of Action (GPA) for the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities and UNEP/Global Environmental Facility (GEF), was requested to assist the NOWPAP members in the development of a strategy to improve the land-based activities for sea environmental quality and let them incorporate the strategy into the 2002/2003 work program.

The seventh meeting was held in Vladivostok, Russia on March 20-22. The participating nations were the same as before. North Korea participated in the meeting as an observer. In the meeting, the NOWPAP trust fund of \$315,000 was established, and the member nations should submit their land-based activities for sea environment should be submitted to the GEF executive office. The NOWPAP executive office, independent from the UNEP executive office, was proposed. In the meeting, the Korean delegates proposed to change Sea of Japan in the NOWPAP maps to a simultaneous name such as Sea of Japan/East Sea or a neutral name such as NOWPAP sea area.

The Sea of Japan has finally challenged by the Korean delegates at the NOWPAP meeting. NOWPAP's success will start in the changing name of the sea from Sea of Japan into a neutral name or simultaneous name. I hope Japan does not rock the NOWPAP's success.

International Regime's Role

The UN organizations persuade the disputed nations to resolve the name of the sea. Japan is not cooperating to resolve the name of the sea. If Japan cannot accept the Sea of Japan/East Sea, it does not deserve the respect and admiration from the international community. It should be ostracized. It is a shame. The UN has pursued human rights as an ideal of the international organization, and punished the crime against humanity. The prevailing name of Sea of Japan is a byproduct of the Japanese colonial rule over Korea in the most critical time. It is justice as fairness to investigate the relationship between the Japanese crime against the humanity in Korea in the first 40 years and the name of sea, Sea of Japan, over the sea between Japan and Korea.

It is interesting to find the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. The United States did not commit such a crime against the Jewish people, but created the museum. Why? It has been heralding the human conscience toward the world society. East Sea is a legitimate name of the sea. That name should be simultaneously used with Sea of Japan. That is justice as fairness for all nations should pursue. That is civilization.

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Appendix 1

Dual Names of the Sea and Islands in the World Atlas: The National Geographic's View

Abstract

Body of waters between Japan and Korea has dual names, East Sea and Sea of Japan. Korea has been proposing to use dual names, East Sea/Sea of Japan or Sea of Japan/East Sea. But Japan has been strenuously opposing that proposal. This paper examines the historical background of the Persian Gulf/Arabian Gulf and the Falkland Islands/Malvinas through the National Geographic's map policy-making. The East Sea/Sea of Japan is a strong case in the National Geographic, and should be the norm in world atlas. The National Geographic is printing East Sea in a map, even if the scale of the map may be too small for including more than one name.

Key Words: East Sea, Sea of Japan, Persian Gulf, Arabian Gulf, Falkland Islands, Malvinas, National Geographic

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Oh, East Sea

Our sea lost its name
Into the waves of Japanese imperialism
At the turn of the century,
After we lost our own names.

But the Japanese imperialists are defending
Sea of Japan
With Matteo Ricci and other mapmakers.

They don't want to know the historical fact,
"East Sea emerged 600 years before Japan emerged."

They don't want to see many ancient maps showing
East Sea, Oriental Sea, Chosun Sea and Korea Sea.

Listen, the Japanese imperialists!
The sea is our commons.
Do you know the tragedy of the commons?
The sea makes the Earth beautiful,
Living, Green and Blue.
Do you see the Earth

As we see?

We don't claim an exclusive use of East Sea
Over Sea of Japan. We are humbly asking the simultaneous use
Of East Sea/Sea of Japan
On the waters in between Japan and Korea.
A shared sea should keep a shared name.
Don't you think so?

My fellow human beings,
You use your cognitive power.
You use your reasoning power
To change the ugly course of history
From the Imperialism into the peaceful sailing
Of our blue sea.

What's our lives for?
We should search for the beauty of justice-as-fairness
For the humankind
And for the sea.

Introduction

The body of waters between Korea and Japan has two names: East Sea has been in existence for more than 2000 years, and Sea of Japan has been in existence for the past 500 years. The Korean people want to use dual names, East Sea/Sea of Japan. The East Sea had been in existence at least 700 years before the name of Japan emerged in the Islands. The Korean people cannot deny the prevailing name, Sea of Japan, over the waters. Since the last part of the 19th century and the first part of the 20th century, Japan has been a powerful nation over Korea, because Japan colonized Korea during that period. During that period, the ocean became the major route of transportation, and navigation science and technology were rapidly advancing. Cartographers and Mapmakers in the world adopted Sea of Japan over the waters between Korea and Japan.

The Korean people who lost their personal names under the Japanese rule regained their lost names, and want to regain the East Sea since mid-1990s. However, the Japanese Government does not care such a proposal to use dual names over the body of waters between Korea and Japan. It has claimed that the Japanese colonialism and imperialism were nothing to do with the name of Sea of Japan. The United Nations has maintained a neutral position toward the Korean proposal. If there are disputes over the body of waters between the two nations, the United States suggests the peaceful resolution between the two nations. Unfortunately, Japan has not responded to the Korean proposal to resolve the disputed name of the sea. Until a peaceful resolution, using dual names over the same body of water is only possible, and desirable (Choi, 2001, 2002).

The Parade weekly magazine in the United States described the tension over the body

of waters between Japan and Korea in 2003 in the following paragraph.

“Japan and South Korea are locked in a battle over water. They’re fighting over what to call the sea that lies between them. Japan says it’s the Sea of Japan; Korea argues that it’s the East Sea. What’s at stake besides national pride? Millions of maps and newspaper references. When the New York Times wrote a story that called it simply “the body of water between the two countries” and published a map that left the sea’s name blank, the Korean media called it a major victory. Koreans have been writing to newspapers and organizations around the world, pushing for a name change for the sea. A worried Japan has struck back with its own official barrage of letters and lobbying. The big test will come with next year’s publication of a key navigation reference, *Limits of Oceans and Seas*, by the International Hydrographic Organization.” (*Parade*. August 24, 2003. p.16).

I am going to investigate the history of the Persian Gulf/Arabian Gulf and of the Falklands/Malvinas. The Persian Gulf has been the prevailing name, but the Arab people challenged the name, and proposed the Arabian Gulf. The Falkland Islands has been the prevailing name, but the Argentine people have been calling the Islands Malvinas. The National Geographic Society made a policy to use dual names over the Gulf and the Islands on their maps.

The Persian Gulf/Arabian Gulf

The name of Persian Gulf may imply the fact that the Gulf belongs to Iran. That can be so. The body of water shared by Iran and other Arab nations should be neutral. The name of Persian Gulf has been challenged by Arab nations, and Iran defends the Persian Gulf from the ground that the Arabian Gulf has meant the Red Sea historically. The Arabian Gulf is, therefore, not a very desirable name that can replace the Persian Gulf, or dual use of Persian Gulf/Arabian Gulf (Malmirian, 1998).

The ancient Persians, the principal settlers of the southern part of present day Iran, had established trade relationships with the West, and for this reason, the Greeks for the first time referred to the sea situated in the south of Iran as the Persian Gulf. The name of Persian Gulf had existed long before Iran emerged as a nation.

A world map drawn by Herodotus in the 5th century before Christ (B.C.), a famous historian, divided the then world into two main parts, namely Asia and Europe, and upon which the Red Sea was called the Arabian Gulf, precluding any confusion with the Persian Gulf. The Red Sea was identified as the Arabian Gulf. The Red Sea, not the Arabian Sea or Arabian Gulf, has been well established in the world maps.

In the 2nd century AD, another Greek historian Flavius Arrianus in his famous book, *Anasis*, pertaining to “Military Adventure of Alexander in India,” recounting the seafaring of Nearchus, Alexander’s Macedonian admiral, who upon his King’s orders, sailed from India via the Delta of the Indus, through the Gulf of Oman and the Persian Gulf, reaching the entry of Euphrates, has called the Persian Gulf, “Persiconkaitas” which literally meant the Persian Gulf.

Cladius Ptolemaens, the celebrated Greco-Egyptian mathematician/astronomer in the 2nd century, wrote a geography book in the Latin language in which he called this sea “Persicussinus” meaning the Persian Sea or Persian Gulf. The Latin word of Sinus Persicus has been translated into other languages of the world: Gulf Persique in French; Persian Gulf in English; Persisher Gulf in German; Golfo Persico in Italian; Persidskizliv in Russian; and Persusha Man in Japanese. All these languages use the name of “Pares” which is meaning Persian.

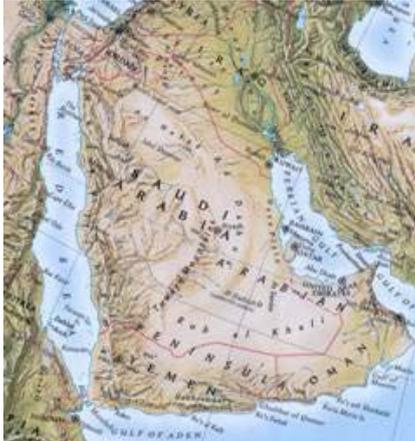
After The Arabian conquest of Iran, Persian Gulf was called Bahr Farsi, meaning the Persian Sea. The Ottoman called it Persian Gulf or Persian Sea. The Arabian Gulf had been in existence before the Persian Gulf, but it exclusively referred to the Red Sea or Qolzon Sea. The Greeks were the first people who used both names for the two seas, i.e., the Persian Gulf and the Red Sea.

Since the 5th century, the geographical designation of the landlocked sea of the Persian Gulf has remained unchanged and since then, the name of the Persian Gulf has established itself in the living languages of the world.

Outside the region, not many people cannot identify the Red Sea as the Arabian Gulf. The Arabian nations, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar want to call the sea the Arabian Gulf. Iraq invaded Kuwait and Saudi Arabia in 1990. The Gulf War pressured the United States military authorities to adopt the Arabian Gulf over the Persian Gulf, because liberating Kuwait from Iraq’s military occupation was the purpose of the US’s participation in the Gulf War in 1991. Saudi Arabia was the base of the US troops. The US State Department consented to use the name of the Arabian Gulf. The National Geographic Society reviewed the dual names of the Persian Gulf and The Arabian Gulf, but not to use the dual names in 1991. The issue remerged in 2002. In 2003, it decided the dual names. The National Geographic Society is a non-profit and non-governmental organization. It does not need to collaborate with the governmental authorities at all. A group of map editors, composed of six senior cartographers, recommends the name changes to the map policy committee. The committee makes the formal decision. Once the decision is made, all project directors of the National Geographic Society follow the decision. David Miller, senior edit cartographer and category manager of the National Geographic Society, told me: “the National Geographic Society considers legitimacy of changing the name of the sea or islands. The map editors review the rationale of the name changes. It requires the consensus when they make the name change.” (Interview at his office on August 4, 2004)

The National Geographic Society uses the dual names in the way of the East Sea(Sea of Japan) or Sea of Japan(East Sea) over the body of waters between Korea and Japan, because the dual names are most legitimate and desirable. The more the National Geographic Society knows about the Koreans’ reasoning of dual names, the more it consents to use the dual names. Miller continued to say: “Until Japan and Korea propose a neutral name over the sea, the National Geographic will use the dual names.” (Interview at his office on August 4, 2004). I told him some have been proposing the neutral name such as “Blue Sea” or “Green Sea” which is poetically contrasting to the Yellow Sea between China and Korea. But the chance of adopting such a neutral name is nil at the present time.

Map 1. The Persian Gulf. National Geographic Society, 2004, National Geographic Atlas of the World, 8th edition, Washington, D.C.



Map 2. The Persian Gulf(Arabian Gulf). National Geographic Society, 2004. National Geographic Atlas of the World. 8th edition, Washington, D.C.



Falkland Islands/Islas Malvinas

The Falkland Islands are a group of islands in the South Atlantic. The two main islands, East Falkland and West Falkland, lie 300 miles (480 km) east of the Argentine coast. About 200 smaller islands form a total land area of approximately 4,700 sq. miles (12,200 sq km). The capital and only town is Port Stanley. The total population of the islands is 2000 (www.falklands-malvinas.com).

Argentina has claimed the islands since 1820. Britain has occupied and administered the islands since 1933 and had consistently rejected Argentina's claims. The Falkland War, started after Argentine invaded and took control of the islands in April 1982, and ended quickly by the British victory (Thornton, 1998).

The War was quickly over, but the name of the islands is still Las Islas Malvinas to

Argentina. They still think they lost their islands to the “imperialistic injustice.”

Argentine versions state that various Spanish and Portuguese seamen were first to see the islands. The most documented case is that of Esteben Gomez on the ship of San Antonio of the famous Spanish expedition headed by Magellan, who discovered the isles on the way to Spain in 1522. Argentine historian Maria Laura San Martino de Dromi lists maps dated 1522 through 1561 showing the Malvinas off the mainland coast. Malvinas were originated from here.

According to the Encyclopedia Britanica, the English navigator John Davis on the Desire (1592) may have been the first person to sight the Falklands.

The English captain John Strong heading a British expedition made the first recorded landing in the Falklands in 1690. The British claimed the islands for the Crown, and named the Sound between the two main islands, East Falkland and West Falkland, after Viscount Falkland, a British naval officer. The name was later applied to the whole island group.

In 1764, French navigator Louis Antoine de Bougainville found the island’s first permanent settlement on East Falkland. During subsequent years, a French fishery is manned by people from St. Malo (hence “illes Malouvines” from which the Argentine name “Islas Malvinas” is derived.

The British are the first to settle in the West Falkland in 1765.

In 1767, the Spanish bought out the French settlement (Port Louis) in the East Falkland island. For Spain, this meant a French recognition of the Spanish rights to the island. In 1770, a Spanish flotilla arrived at the islands asking the British to leave. The British officer in charge of the garrison, captain Hunt replied:

“I have received your letters by the officer, acquainting me that these islands and coast thereof belong to the King of Spain, your master. In return, I am to acquaint you that the said islands belong to his Brittanic Majesty, my master, by right of discovery as well as settlement, and that the subjects of no other power whatsoever can have any right to be settled in the said islands without leave from His Brittanic Majesty or taking oaths of allegiance and submitting themselves to His Majesty’s Government as subjects of the Crown of great Britain.”

This is the first documented sign of the conflict between Britain and Spain regarding the islands.

Shortly thereafter, the Spanish revisited with a much superior force convincing the British garrison to leave on July 14, 1770.

In 1774, the British withdrew from the island (for economic reasons according to British sources). Spain maintained the settlement on East Falkland (which is still called Soledad Island) until 1811, when Spain was about to lose control of its colonies in the American Continent.

In 1816, Argentina became an independent nation. Four years later, the Buenos Aires

government proclaimed its sovereignty over the Falklands. In 1828, Argentine warlord, and later governor of Buenos Aires Juan Manuel de Rosas sent a governor, Mr. Veruet, together with a garrison and settlers for menial work to the islands. That was the first recorded Argentine settlement in the islands.

In 1831, the American warship USS Lexington destroyed the Argentine settlement on East Falkland in reprisal for the arrest of three US ships that had been hunting seals in the area. Afraid that the US seized the islands, the British reinvaded the islands, forcefully deposed Veruet and sent the argentines back to the mainland in 1833. By 1885, a British community of some 1,800 people on the islands was self-supporting.

In 1964, the islands' position was debated by the United Nations Committee on de-colonization. Argentina based its claim to the Falklands by the Treaty of Tordesillas (1494), by which Spain and Portugal had divided the New World between themselves, and the islands' proximity to South America. Britain based its claim on its "open, continuous, effective possession, occupation, and administration" of the islands since 1833 and its determination to grant the Falklanders self-determination as recognized in the United Nations Charter. Britain asserted that far from ending a colonial situation, Argentine rule and control of the lives of the Falklanders against their will would, in fact, create one.

In 1965, the General Assembly approved a resolution inviting Britain and Argentina to hold discussions to find a peaceful solution to the dispute. These protracted discussions were still proceeding in February 1982 shortly before the Falkland War started in April 1982 (Chronicle of Falklands/Malvinas: History and War of 1982).

The National Geographic Society uses the dual names in the way of Falkland Islands(Islas Malvinas). The dual names are fair to the Great Britain and the Argentina, according to the National Geographic.

Map 3. Falkland Islands(Islas Malvinas). National Geographic Society, 2004. National Geographic Atlas of the World. 8th edition. Washington, D.C.



Summing Up

The National Geographic Society uses the dual names in the way of the East Sea(Sea of Japan) or Sea of Japan(East Sea) over the body of waters between Korea and Japan, because the dual names are most legitimate and desirable. The more the National Geographic Society knows about the Koreans' reasoning of dual names, the more it consents to use the dual names. Miller continued to say: "Until Japan and Korea propose a neutral name over the sea, the National Geographic will use the dual names." (Interview at his office on August 4, 2004). I told him some have been proposing the neutral name such as "Blue Sea" or "Green Sea" which is poetically contrasting to the Yellow Sea between China and Korea. But the chance of adopting such a neutral name is nil at the present time.

It is worthwhile to read Elizabeth Bishop's poem, the Map in her first poetry book, *North & South*. The poet does not see the national boundary lines and political tension in the map, but sees the beauty of nature, green land and blue sea.

Land lies in water; it is shadowed green.
Shadows, or are they shallows, at its edges
Showing the line of long sea-weeded ledges
Where weeds hang to the simple blue from green.
Or does the land lean down to lift the sea from under,
Drawing it unperturbed around itself?
Along the fine tan sandy shelf
Is the land tugging at the sea from under? (Elizabeth Bishop, "The Map," *North & South*, Boston, Houghton Mifflin, 1946).

The National Geographic maps print the East Sea(Sea of Japan) or Sea of Japan(East Sea). They have made enormous impacts on the cartographers and mapmakers in the world. The National Geographic prints seven or eight million maps in English and some other languages. Miller told me that the East Sea(Sea of Japan) or Sea of Japan(East Sea) had a stronger case over another sea name such as the Persian Gulf(Arabian Gulf). He explained: "Not all maps print the Arabian Gulf. If the space allows, the Arabian Gulf is printed in parenthesis. But all maps, however small in scale, the National Geographic prints dual names of East Sea(Sea of Japan) or Sea of Japan(East Sea)." He pointed out the most respected and circulated college textbook, *Geography: Realms, Regions, and Concepts* by H.J. de Blij and Peter O. Muller, which uses East Sea(Sea of Japan) in all editions (Blij and Muller, 2002). See Figure 1 and 2.

Map 4. Sea of Japan(East Sea).National Geographic Society, 2004. National Geographic Atlas of the World. 8th edition. Washington, D.C.



Figure 1. East Sea(Sea of Japan). Blij and Muller, 2002. p.475.

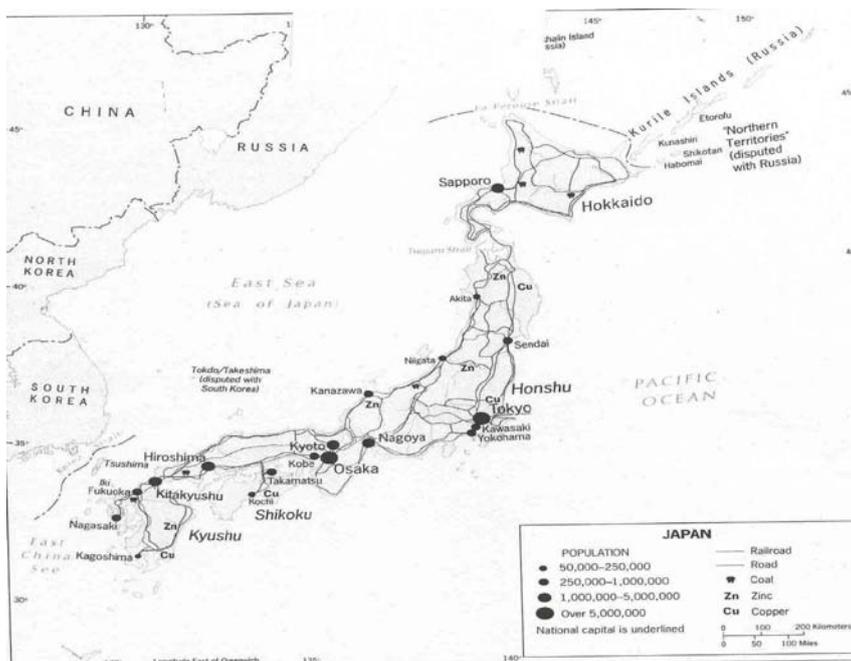
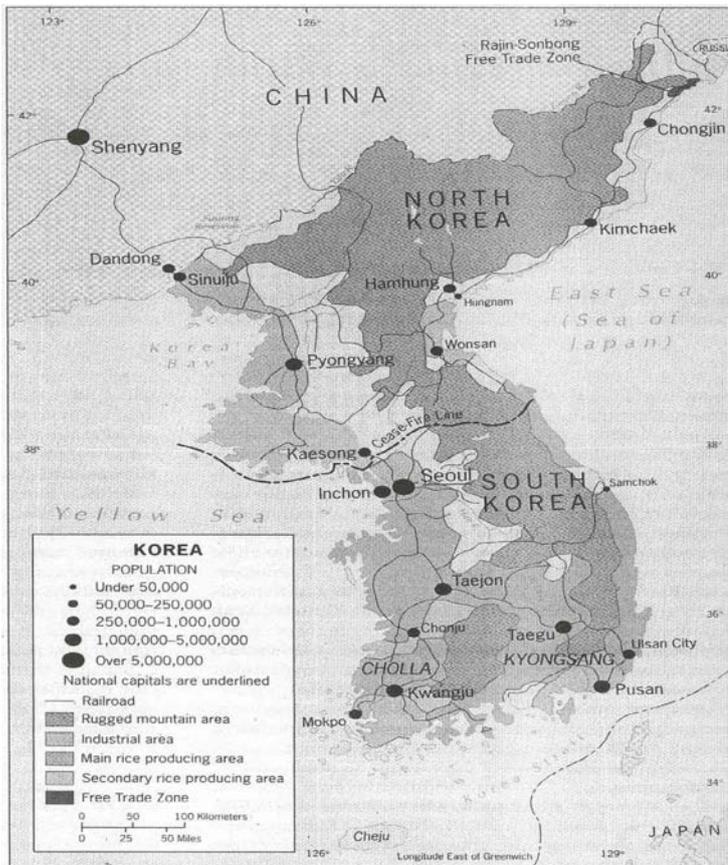


Figure 2. East Sea(Sea of Japan). Blij and Muller, 2002. p.478.



The National Geographic Society is also going to change the British Isle into Britain and Ireland, because Ireland is no longer an island of Great Britain. So the new name is fair to Ireland.

Australia, New Zealand, Argentina, and South Africa have proposed a new name of Southern Ocean over the sea in between the South Pacific and South Atlantic and the Antarctica. The National Geographic is not sympathetic to it.

The French partner of the National Geographic uses La Manche over the English Channel. The National Geographic has not heard any serious complain or desire to use the dual names of the English Channel/La Manche, so that it does not need to change the name of the English Channel into the English Channel/La Manche.

The first thing to do in a case of different names being applied to a single water body and leading to friction would be to follow the recommendations of the United Nations, namely for the two (or more) countries to try to reach agreement on a single unified name. However, Japan has not sincerely responded to the negotiations for one single name such as the Blue Sea or Green Sea. The two nations should accept the East Sea/Sea of Japan for the time being. That is the order from the United Nations. If Japan is adamant to use Sea of Japan only, the United Nations would be a natural third party in such a case. But the world organization, through the UN Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names, has no powers to force a solution on the sides. This can be done only by the

Security Council or the General Assembly and has been attempted only once to my knowledge, in the case of Greece vs. Macedonia/Former Yugoslavia of Macedonia.

But if this does not help, a practical step can still be tried. Since maps and atlases are perhaps the major and most important repository of geographical names, even in this age of digital geographic information systems (GIS), the party which feels slighted or underprivileged can approach map and atlas publishers around the world with the request to print its preferred maritime name in addition to any other. If this request is reasonable, and is accompanied by documentary evidence supporting the claim, it might be followed up by cartographers and by other publishers. The National Geographic has set up a good precedent to all cartographers and mapmakers. There should be justice as fairness in naming the sea. Sea of Japan has been the prevailing name in the 19th and 20th centuries. That is a fact; however, East Sea/Sea of Japan should be the name of the sea between Japan and Korea. The East Sea can be replaced by the Sea of Korea.

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