

## **The Naming of Sea, East Sea and Japan Sea, before and after Russo-Japanese War in 1905**

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The sea situated between the Eurasian continent and its Korean Peninsula, the Japanese islands, and the island of Sakhalin has changed its name several times on old maps of Russia. This was typical of most seas, bays, and straits adjacent to the eastern frontiers of Russia due to various causes and factors, such as lack of knowledge of this sea in Europe up to the mid-18th century, information sources used by European and Russian cartographers for map compilation; biases of European and Russian seafarers and explorers for using certain names; the right of discoverers to give names to untitled geographical objects (or to objects whose names were unknown to Europeans); political motives; as well as the traditions historically established in Europe in relation of geographical names. Nevertheless, one can trace a certain general regularity in terms of the names of the Far East seas. Through the ages, since the 16th century, the names of these seas derived, as a rule, from geographical names of the Eurasian continent: countries names (China, Korea) – the China Sea, the Korea Sea; largest rivers (the Amur, the Okhota) – the Amur Sea, the Sea of Okhotsk; peninsulas (Kamchatka, Chukchi) – the Kamchatka Sea, the Chukchi Sea. In more recent times, since the mid-19th century, the sea names derived from large islands (Sakhalin, Japanese) emerged on maps – the Sakhalin Sea, the Sea of Japan.

The Sea of Japan remained untitled on maps up to the early 18th century because of scanty store of European knowledge on the sea and wrong depiction of its shorelines. It should be noted, however, that some sea charts of the first half of the 17th century depicted the outlines of the Sea of Japan rather exactly without giving its name. The entire western part of the Pacific, or Eastern, Ocean was referred to on maps as the China Sea, or Ocean (Mare Sinicvm, Mare Cjn, Mare Cin, Cathaycvm Mare, Sinesee Zee, the Chinian Ocean, etc.), or

the Silk Sea (Sericum Mare).

Maps of the Russian Empire and Siberia (Tartaria) of the 15th - 17th centuries.

1. The first printed map of Siberia "Tartariae sive Magni Chami regni typus" included in the atlas by Abraham Ortelius "Theatrum orbis terrarum" (1570) shows the sea between Eurasia and Japan under the name "Mare Cin", i.e. the Chinese Sea. Korea was not depicted on the map yet.
2. The new map of Siberia "Tartaria" compiled by Jadocus Hondius and included in the Mercator's atlas of 1606 "Atlas sive cosmogr. meditationes... auctus ac illustr. a Iud. Hondio" already depicts Korea but still in form of an island. The water area bounding Asia on the east is represented as a "part of the Pacific Sea" (Maris Pacifici pars).
3. After being reprinted under the title "Tartaria five magni chami imperium" in the atlas by Ioannis Jansson (1637), this map depicts this water area again under a "Chinese" name - the Chinese Ocean (Oceani Chinesis pars).
4. The French atlas "Cartes generales de toutes les parties du monde" by Sanson includes the map of Siberia "Description de la Tartarie..." engraved in 1654; the water area to the east of Korea is named on this map the East Ocean (Ocean Oriental).

The name "Chinese Sea" - sometimes with some specifications - is used on maps compiled by other cartographer as well.

5. Thus, the world map by Christian Sgrooten [1592] "Orbis Terrestris tam Geographica quam Chorographica Descriptio Christian Sgrooten", held at the Madrid National Library, contains the name "Chinese Sea" added by another name - "Silk Sea" (Cathaycum olim Sericum Mare).
6. The new map of the Russian Empire "Nova Tabula Imperii Russici" published by Everardus Ysbrants Ides in 1704 and compiled on the basis of the known map of Siberia by N. Witsen (1687) also depicts the sea as "Chinese Sea" (Sinesee Zee).

Thus, the maps of the Russian Empire and Siberia of the 15th - 17th centuries showed the water area between Eurasia and the Japanese islands under the name "Chinese Sea" or "Pacific, or East Ocean (Sea)". The depiction of this sea,

its Asiatic coasts and islands was extremely approximate and geographically unreliable. The Korean Peninsula sometimes was not depicted at all, or, as a rule, it was shown as an island. It should be noted, however, that some European maps of the 17th century had more realistic depictions of this region: Korea was shown as a peninsula, the outlines of the Japanese islands were more correct, and at last the outlines of the water area between Japan and the Korea Peninsula approximated to the geographical reality (e.g., the map of the Pacific Ocean by J. Teixeira Albernaz, 1649, and the map of the Indian Ocean by Pieter Goos, 1660).

7. The map of Siberia by Giacomo Cantelli ("La Gran Tartaria divisa nelle sue parti principali da Giacomo Cantelli da Vignola", 1683) from the atlas "Mercurio geografico" is similar in this relation to the above mentioned maps. The sea area between the Korean Peninsula and the Japanese islands is depicted rather distinctively but remained nameless as well.

Maps of the Russian Empire and Siberia of the 18th - mid-19th centuries.

8. In the 18th century new names for the sea area between Japan and the Korean Peninsula appeared on maps: "Pacific Sea", "East Sea", and "Korean Sea". At the same time, this water area remained nameless on some maps of the Russian Empire of the first half of the 18th century, e.g. on the famous General map of the Russian Empire (Imperii Russici. Tabula generalis...) compiled by Ivan Kirilov in 1734.

9. The manuscript "General map of the entire Russian Empire with surrounding neighbouring lands and showing the newly constructed lines of fortresses and the barrier of fortified outposts from the Yaik River up to the very Kamchatka Sea", held in the collection of the Russian State Library and dated back to the early 18th century, represents the above mentioned water area as "Pacific Sea", obviously according to the name of the Pacific Ocean. "Pacific Sea" can be interpreted here as a constituent part of the Pacific Ocean.

10. As far as the use of the names "Chinese Sea" and "Sea of Japan" is concerned, "New map of the entire empire of Great Russia in the state as it was at the time of the death of Peter the Great. Compiled on the newest observations and dedicated to the immortal memory of this great monarch. Published in Amsterdam by R.&I. Ottens [1725 - 1727]" (Carte Nouvelle de Tout l'Empire de la Grande Russie dans l'Etat ou il s'Est Trouvé a la mort de Pierre le Grand. Dressée sur des observations toutes nouvelles et dédiée a

*l'Immortelle Memoire de Ce Grand Monarque. Avec Privilege. à Amsterdam chez R.&I. Ottens*) is of great interest. The sea area between the Korean Peninsula and the Kamchatka Peninsula was named there the Kamchatka Bay. The name "Chinese Sea" was used for the water area southward of Korea, i.e. the today's East China and South China seas. The name "Sea of Japan" belongs to the water area northeastward of the Kamchatka Peninsula, i.e. the today's Bering Sea. It seems to be one of the first European maps mentioning the name "Sea of Japan".

The map was presumably compiled by Swedish officers being held captive in Russia.

11. The name "East Sea" appears on Russian maps in the first half of the 18th century. One of the first printed maps containing this name is apparently the map "General depiction of the terrestrial and aquatic globe" included in a school atlas of 1737. It should be noted that the name "East Sea" on this map is not related to the East, or Pacific, Ocean which is characteristic of some other maps. "South Sea", a rather rare name on maps, was used here for the Pacific Ocean.

12. The name "East Sea" is also used on some West-European maps of the first half of the 18th century to refer to the sea area between the Korean Peninsula and the Japanese islands. Thus, the map of the Russian Empire and Siberia (*Imperii Russici et Tartariae Universae, tam majoris et Asiaticae, quam minoris et Europae Tabvla ex recentissimis et probatissimis monumentis et relationibus concinnata, et ad legitimas projectionum Geographic regulas plane exacta opera Ioh. Mathiae Hasű, Math.P.P. Norimberae, impensis Homannianorum Heredum. Seb. Dorn. sc.*), compiled and issued by the "Homann's heirs" publishing house in Nuremberg in 1730, refers to the water area in question as "Small East Sea" (*Mare Orientalis Minvs*). This name can be interpreted as related to the East (Pacific) Ocean, as its smaller component (according to the word "Minvs").

13. The names "Korean Sea" or "Korean Strait" were most frequently used on Russian maps in the second half of the 18th century and in the early 19th century. The name "Korean Sea" is to be found for the last time in 1844 on the Map of the Polar sea and the Eastern Ocean, compiled on base of the up-to-date surveys in the Hydrographical Department of the Navy Ministry.

Thus, on the map of "Asia divided into main possessions" included in the instructional "New atlas, or map collection, of all parts of the globe" (1793), the sea was referred to as "Korean Sea".

14. The manuscript "Astronomical and geographical map..." (1810), held in the collection of the Russian State Library, uses the pelagonym "Strait of Korea" for this part of the water area.
15. Thanks to voyages of European and Russian seafarers the western part of the Pacific Ocean got a correct appearance on maps as well as a new proper name - the Sea of Japan. Doubtless contributions to it were made by the French expedition led by the commander Jean François Galaup de la Pérouse and the Russian Expedition under the command of the admiral Ivan Fyodorovich Krusenstern. It is just J.F.G de la Pérouse who is credited with having introduced the tradition to name the sea between the Korean Peninsula and Japan "Sea of Japan" (he navigated in its waters in the summer of 1787 during his explorations in the Pacific Ocean on board *La Boussole* and the *Astrolabe* frigates). It should be noted, however, that J.F.G de la Pérouse used the name "Tartar Sea" in his expedition journal according to the name of Tartaria (Siberia), the vast area scarcely known in Europe and bounded by this sea. Emphasizing the importance of exploration of the sea where J.F.G de la Pérouse's frigates entered in early June, 1787, he wrote: "Our explorations will contribute quite significantly to the geographical science because the width of the Tartar Sea, where I decided to make my way, will be found out".
16. The tradition of using the pelagonym "Sea of Japan" on Russian maps was introduced by I.F. Krusenstern who explored the sea during the first Russian round-the-world expedition on board the ships *Nadezhda* and *Neva* in 1803-1806. Among Russian seafarers it was just he who used this name for the first time on the general world map "Allgemeine Welt Charte" issued in 1815 and included in the atlas of Krusenstern's voyage (*Atlas zur Reise um die Welt ... unter dem Commando des Capitains von Krusenstern*, St. Petersburg, 1814). Since the mid-19th century the name "Sea of Japan" was used on Russian maps in all cases in accordance with the European hydrographic tradition rooted by that time.