

Discussion

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The Korean perspective on the *East Sea* through old maps by KWAK Jino

Using wonderful historical maps, Dr. Kwak presents the Korean perspective of the *East Sea* naming dispute. Pointing to these maps, he references the Japanese labeling of the East as the Chosen Sea indicating a lack of tension over the sea naming as a historical debate. He highlights the dispute as being a contemporary issue particularly for Korea even though more and more maps today are published with the dual naming approach. I found this to be true as well when I was researching for my presentation. It was very difficult to locate a map online that did not include the *East Sea* labeling.

Dr. Kwak also mentions the tensions created by Korea's colonial experiences with Japan. The vivid memories of the colonial past very much influences the Korean perspective of the *East Sea* naming including the exclusion of Korea at the adoption of the *Sea of Japan* label by the International Hydrographic Organization thereby denying Korea authority and control over their own affairs. Dr. Kwak's logical and strategic use of critical historical maps to support and justify Korea's legitimacy to the *East Sea* label is most effective.

Japan also had dual marks of the *East Sea* and *Sea of Japan* by LEE Sang-Tae

Professor Lee's paper begins with the fact that the people of Korea have used the name the *East Sea* for over 2000 years and at times Japan has also used the *East Sea* on their own maps. While including historical maps as evidence to justify Korea's position in the naming dispute, Professor Lee also includes cultural justifications as

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well as references to the injustices brought against Korea during the colonial period. The *East Sea* is a part of the Korean culture included in their national anthem and considered a sacred place for Koreans. For me as an educator, these cultural traditions included by Professor Lee are an ideal way to connect high schools students to the importance of naming disputes with a social justice approach. For Koreans, this is much more than a name. It is their history. Identifying the *East Sea* on maps is recognition of the Korea as a sovereign nation possibly free of colonial influence.