

Some Perspectives on the History of the *East Sea*

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In this paper, we are to look at the rough history of the *East Sea/Sea of Japan* and try to understand some meaningful facts contained in it. This paper does not attempt to describe the entire history of the East Sea, but only to examine some important facts that we should keep in mind. The paper is not intended to explain the historical facts on a specific perspective, but to show what happened in the East Sea.

In the paper, four key issues were discussed. The first is the natural environment such as the formation and the expansion due to the crustal change in the tertiary period and some geographical features of the sea. The second is referred to the peaceful character of the Sea through its long history, which had only three wars. The third is the problems of trials and sufferings caused by the Japanese pirates of 200 years in the medieval age and the military tensions created by recent North Korean nuclear missile tests on the Sea. The fourth is the naming issues of the *East Sea/Sea of Japan* that has recently been raised between Korea and Japan. The naming issues of the *East Sea* is difficult to conclude in a short time because it is linked to the identity of the two countries and the issue of ethnic emotions.

In order for us to understand the core of the problem in a calm way, we need a wider and deeper perspective. In this article, reviewing the natural environments of the Sea and the historical facts that took place in the sea would help us to explore the nature of the Sea. This might be an opportunity for us to gently insight into today's problems.

INTRODUCTION

In this paper, we are to look at the rough history of the *East Sea* and try to understand some meaningful facts contained in it. This paper does not present my original and in-depth research, but is based on well-known materials and important precedent studies. This is not intended to describe the entire history of the *East Sea*, but only to examine some important facts that we should keep in mind.

Today, there are naming issues of the *East Sea/Sea of Japan* between the two countries, Korea and Japan, and their scholars. It is a problem that cannot easily be concluded

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because it is associated with both countries' identity issues and ethnic emotional issues. This problem is often buried in a sectarian and self-centered logic. In order for us to understand the core of the problem in a calm way, we need a wider and deeper perspective. In this paper, we would examine the rough natural environment of the Sea and important historical facts that have occurred on the sea and explore the nature of the Sea. This may be an opportunity for us to gently insight into today's problems.

BIRTH AND GROWTH OF THE EAST SEA

The issue when and how the East Sea was created is not likely to be relevant to the main themes we are discussing. But we need to pay attention to this natural environment. This is to allow us to see how much we are contending with minor issues and to allow us to contemplate beyond these problems if we look at the sea from a global perspective.

Formation and Expansion of East Sea in Palaeo-Geology

It is 4,576 million years ago when the earth first appeared. The early Earth was incredibly hot, but the earth's crust was formed gradually and there was a great deal of rain pouring to be ocean. The tectonic movements were repeated several times, and all the continents were merged about 33,500 years ago, resulting in the Pangea, the Super-continent. In Jurassic age over 180 million years ago, the Pangea continent began to divide, and over the years it has been divided into seven continents as present.

The basic formation of the East Sea was also made by Pangea's continental movement. The East Sea is located on the northeastern edge of the Eurasian plate along with the southern part of Japan in plate tectonics, which corresponds to the point where the Pacific plate in the east, North American plate in the north, and Philipino plate in the south. Therefore, East Sea area is located in a zone where the crustal movements is activated due to the moving force of the four tectonic plates.

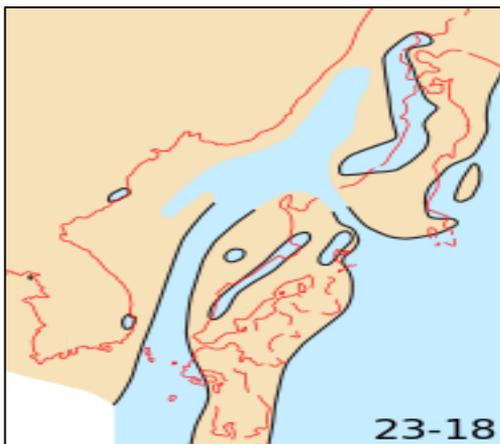


Figure 1. The formation of East Sea in the Tertiary Period (18-23 million years ago)
(Source: Wikipedia)



Figure 2. The expansion of East Sea in the Quarternary Period (2-3 million years ago)
(Source: Wikipedia)

The East Sea was originally a part of the Eurasian continent, but was divided long into the north and south in Tertiary(Neogene) age, which began about 20 million years ago. The waterways leading to Tsugaru Strait and Tsushima Strait began to appear. After the Early Miocene, Ulleung Basin/Tsushima Basin was expanded and the islands as Ulleungdo, Dokdo, and Oki became well due to volcanic eruptions during this period. As a result, the southern part of the area was not fully divided and connected to the continent by a shallow sea. Although the East Sea is a relatively small ocean, it has all the elements of the ocean, which is called as a Miniature Ocean.

The recent Ice Age, which began about 3 million years ago, markedly lowered the sea level, making the southern shallow continent of the East Sea visible above the surface of the water, which is sometimes referred to as a land bridge. So the East Sea became a landlocked sea, and it was only open to the Tsugaru Straits.

Thus, East Sea was a complete mediterranean sea for about three million years. However, when the current interglacial was started from about 10,000 years ago, the enormous glaciers on the earth melted and the sea level rose, so that the shallow continental overpass was sunk and the Japanese islands and the Asian continent were completely separated and the southern East Sea was finally opened to Pacific Ocean.

Geographical features of the East Sea

The first feature of the East Sea is that it is a landlocked sea. From now, 2 million years ago, the vast shallow sea of the southern area of the Sea of Japan (the continental shelf) rose above the surface of the sea, creating a single continent linked by Japan, Korea and China, making the East Sea a lake-like Mediterranean. Later 10,000 years ago, as the sea level rises, this vast area is again submerged and the sea connected to Pacific Ocean.

However, the water depth is shallow to an average of 80m, and the Tsugaru Strait, the Rapseuriz Strait, the Korea Strait and the Tsushima Strait are all narrow. And the northern area of the sea is commonly referred to as the Ulleung Basin/Tsushima Basin. Some of the Kuroshio currents enter the Sea from south, but the amount is not so large, so only 15% of the sea water is exchanged, and 85% of it is always in the Sea. Therefore, the East Sea is still a landlocked sea or an isolated sea.

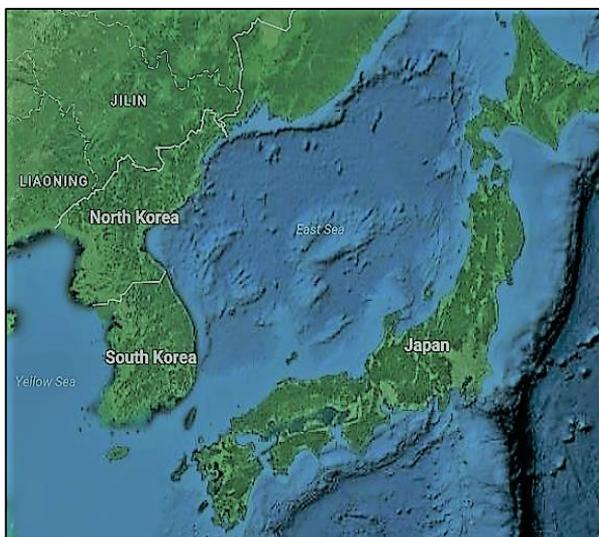


Figure 3. Geological feature of East Sea
(Source: Google Map)

The East Sea is a geological mediterranean surrounded by the Korean Peninsula, the Japanese Islands and the Tsushima Islands. About 10,000 years ago, the East Sea was blocked by land on four sides, and only the Tsugaru Straits were

plowed into the Pacific Ocean. Today, the south, north and east sides are narrow and they are spread in the Pacific Ocean, but they are similar to the Mediterranean Sea in general. The area is about 978,000 km², about half of the Mediterranean Sea (about 2.5 million km²). The countries around the East Sea are South and North Korea, Japan, and Russia. Prior to modern times, the Primorsky Krai(沿海州) provinces were controlled by Goguryo, Bohai and Chinese dynasties including Liao(遼), Jin(金), Yuan(元), and Qing dynasties. Therefore, the East Sea can be said to be an international ocean, both historically and in the current phase.

The Mediterranean Sea has served as a center of history and culture from ancient times to the present, while the East Sea only has been active at the southern area, exchanging the cultural and human resources between Korea, China and Japan. The northern East Sea has long been alienated from history and culture. This is because the Primorsky Krai(沿海州), Hokkaido and Sakhalin islands have not been exploited for a long time. Therefore, there has not been human-physical exchanges among the international community for a long period, except for the exchange with Japan in the period of Bohai(698 ~ 926) dynasty. Now there is a small scale of human and material transportation between three countries around the northern East Sea. Despite being in the mediterranean sea, the East Sea has never been hit by international disputes since the beginning of its history until the nineteenth century, especially in its northern area.

SEA OF PEACE

Looking back over the history of the East Sea, we notice that there was little war on the sea. People began living on the peninsula and the Japanese archipelago about 10,000 years ago, but the East Sea has been generally calm throughout the history.

East Sea, Sea of Peace

In the history of East Sea, including the Southern Sea of Korea, there were only three wars internationally, and the period was very short. It is the battle of Hakata during Mongolian invasion of Japan in 1274 and 1281, the battle of South Sea during the invasion of Japan from 1592 to 1598, and the Battle of East Sea during Russo-Japanese war in 1895. Of these, the invasion of Japan lasted for six years, but the Mongolian invasion and the Russo-Japanese war were just short-term one-off battles.

What is particularly striking is that in the two World War and Korean War there was no war on the sea, though China, Russia and Japan were major war states. The Korean War, which began in 1950, was very intense and tragic, but in the East Sea, there was nothing more than a naval battle in which a small battleship of North Korea was struck by the South Korean Navy. This is because there were few North Korean navy in the East Sea at the time. The Korean war was intense, but the East Sea itself was very calm. Because of this, it is not too much to say that we call the *East Sea* "the sea of peace".

The peace of the East Sea is unbelievable when we consider the myriad of war histories that have occurred in the Mediterranean Sea and other waters. Let's take a look at Yellow Sea. The Yellow Sea is about 400,000 km² smaller than the East Sea, but there have been 10 times much in the frequency of wars than East Sea. The history of the West

Sea(Yellow Sea) and the East Sea in Korea was so different, and the peace of the East Sea looks more prominent in this respect.

The East Sea provided a long, peaceful and valuable history of human and culture, except for a few short-term wars. It has become a channel where many people and cultures interact. Historically, many people have moved through this sea. Particularly in the Bronze Age, people who migrated from China and Manchuria via Korean peninsula to Japan had become mainstream in the formation of the Japanese people. The movement of this people continued until the seventh century, where marriage between immigrants and Aboriginal people was common. Among them, Baekje and Japan interacted with each other very closely, and among the royal families of Baekje, they moved to Japan and became members of the Japanese royal family. Emperor Akihito in Japan cited the Nihon Shoki(日本書紀), the ancient chronicles of Japan, to say that the mother of Emperor Kanmu(桓武), his ancestor, was a descendant of King Muryeong(武寧王) of Baekje dynasty. This was of course done through the East Sea.

The East Sea has, of course, become the main artery of East Asian cultural exchanges. The center of ancient East Asian culture was China, and the advanced culture of China was first introduced to Korea and spread to Japan through the East Sea. Bronze and iron cultures spread from Korea to Japan through the Korean peninsula, and monks and scholars of Goguryeo and Baekje preached and taught various culture such as Chinese characters, Confucianism and Buddhism throughout Japan. After Silla unified the three kingdoms in 668, direct exchanges between Korea and Japan became rare. After the 8th century, Japan did not go through Korea but directly interacted with China and accepted the advanced culture. It is interesting that 9th century Japanese monk Enin(圓仁, 794-864) went to the Tang Dynasty to study Buddhism on the ship of Jang Bogo, a naval officer and maritime admiral of Silla Korea.

Three wars in East Sea history

There were only three wars in the long history of the East Sea. The first one was the war between Mongl and Japan in 13th Century, the second was the war between Korea and Japan in the 16th Century and the last was the war between Russia and Japan in modern times.

Mongolian invasions of Japan

The first international war in the East Sea was the Mongolian invasion of Japan in 1274 and 1281. The battle took place in Tsushima, Iki Island and Hakata, present Fukuoka. This was imposed on the ambition to the unification of the whole world under the heaven of the Yuan/Mongol Chinese emperor Kublai Khan, and to impose tribute to Japan. King Chungyeol of Koryo dynasty was joined to this war because he was the son-in-law of Kublai Khan.

In the first invasion in October 1274, more than 40,000 coalition forces of the Yuan and Goryeo departed from Masan, located in Korean southern coast, on 900 ships and attacked Tsushima and Iki. Arrived at the port of Hakata and punished the surrounding area, but soon the typhoon blew and the ships sank and suffered a great deal of damage. Since the arrival of the troops from Chinese southern counties were delayed, the war could not be continued and the Mongolian Allies retreated.

The second expedition began in June, 1281, with 40,000 coalition forces starting from Goryeo, 900 vessels and 100,000 Mongolian troops on 3,500 ships from China. They attacked Tsushima, Iki and Hakada, but the resistance of the Japanese army was stubborn, and the Mongolian army continued to lose in the field battles. In this situation, on August 15, again due to the big typhoon, many ships sank, and the expedition ended with a defeat of the Mongolian army. Although the typhoon was the decisive factor for the failure of the second invasion, the strong resistance of the Kamakura Shogunate and the patriotism of the Japanese became major factors. Mongolians also prepared the third invasion, which was cancelled because of the rebellion occurred in the southern Song region.

The battle of the South Sea during the Japanese Invasion of Korea

When Toyotomi Hideyoshi unified the entire nation after the 100 years war ended in 1590, he embraced a fanciful ambition to conquer the whole world. He planned to invade the Joseon dynasty first to conquer China. After a few years of preparation, in April 1592, Toyotomi invaded Korea with the 200,000 more elite troops to Pusan. As Joseon was too weak in military power to defend itself from the land, retreated repeatedly, and the king escaped through Pyongyang to Euiju at Yalu river, the border line between China.

During such a terrible transition, the fleet of Admiral Yi Sun-shin of the Korean Navy defeated the Japanese navy in Sacheon and Dangpo in the southern sea from May with overwhelming firepower and excellent tactics. In July, Thus, Yi Sun-shin's naval forces took the hegemony of sea battle on the South Sea. The allied army of Ming China and Joseon removed the Japanese troops in Pyongyang and recovered the capital Seoul.

In the following year(1593), the Ming army began negotiations with the Japanese military for truce, which continued boring negotiations for three years. In 1597 when Yi Sun-shin was slandered and dismissed from his commanding officer for a while, his successor Admiral Won Kyun fought a reckless war with the Japanese in August, consequently turned out a fatal defeat with his death. Yi Soon Shin was reinstated to the control and defeated 130 Japanese ships in October of that year.

In the following year (1598), as Toyotomi died in August, the Japanese army began to evacuate entirely in Korea. Admiral Yi attacked the Japanese ships which withdrew in November of that year and sank 200 ships and destroyed 150 ships. As a result, the six-year war that broke out in the South Sea of Korea was over, and the East Sea was back in tranquility.

Battle of East Sea during the Russo-Japanese War

The Russo-Japanese War that broke out on February 8, 1904 and continued until the fall of 1905, was a battle between Russia and Japan to take the lead in Manchuria and Korea. The war broke out in the western coast of Korea and on the East Sea, mainly at Tsushima and Ulleung islands.

The war began on February 8th when Japan attacked the Russian imperial fleet of Lushun. The Russian fleet suffered a fatal blow in this battle, and all of them were destroyed at Incheon offshore. Russia ran the Baltic fleet, the main navy force, and traveled to South Africa to reach the Tsushima offshore in May of the following year (1895). The Japanese Navy, which had been preparing and gleaning such information,

engaged the Baltic Fleet on the Tsushima Strait from May 27 to the following day. As a result, the Baltic fleet lost eight warships, many small ships and more than 5,000 sailors. The Baltic Fleet in Russia was only able to flee to Vladivostok with only three warships.

Russia, defeated on the East Sea, concluded a peace treaty with Japan in Portsmouth under American intervention and ended the war. In this treaty, Russia acknowledged Japan's occupation of Korea, transferred all interests in China to Japan, and transferred the southern part of Sakhalin Island to Japan.

TRIALS AND SUFFERINGS AROUND THE EAST SEA

There were trials and tragedies in the history of the peaceful East Sea, where many people and cultures came and went. One of them was a plunder of Japanese pirates and took place on all coasts of East Asia for a long time. Another is the North Korean nuclear missile test on the sea as a recent military crisis.

Piracy of Wokou(倭寇)

In the vicinity of the East Sea, there were intermittent plundering of the Japanese pirates in the 7th and 13th centuries, but the actual outbreak was from the 14th to the 16th century. They were small groups of pirates consisting of several vessels, but they constantly popped up in turns and devastated the coastal areas of Korea and China. They attacked the entire East, West, and South coasts of Korea across the East Sea and plundered the inland areas through the Nakdong and Han rivers. It has been extensively devastated not only in Korea but also far away from China. At that time, the Ming dynasty of China and the Goryeo dynasty of Korea failed to defend them effectively. For this reason, most areas in Korea and China have suffered much and have been devastated.



Figure 4. Routes of Wokou's activity
(Source: Wikipedia)

Wokou originally refers to Japanese pirates. The mainstream was Japanese pirates, and they were local forces based in the western coast of Japan, such as Tsushima, Mitsuura, and Iki. There were also Japanese traders, and in the latter period, there were Chinese and Korean pirates either who pretended to be Japanese, who were called as "Fake Wokou(假倭)".

The occurrence of Wokou was caused by a confused political situation in Japan in the middle of the 14th century. At this time, Japan was suffering from the civil war of the Northern and Southern Dynasty(1336~1392). The local powers were severely troubled by the situation of the war, and the two central governments and local lords lost control

at all. Because of this, the local forces of the province called out and the society became very confused and the life of the lower classes became very difficult. It made them go to sea and work as a plunder. As Northern Dynasty unified the Southern in 1392, the defeated Southern warriors and cadets joined the Wokou to plunder.

The piracy was originally due to the survival efforts, but in later times it became a great business because it brought enormous profits. The suffering and tragedy of the people of Korea and China at the coastal regions have also increased.

From 1350 the Wokou began to invade and plunder Korean coasts very violently. At one time, they attacked Ganghwa Island and Yesung river which was the entrance of the Capital, threatening the government and the people. So Goryeo Dynasty considered seriously to move the Capital to inner region. In Goryeo, the aggression of Wokou was most polarized in the decade of the 1370s ~ 1380s. During the 14 years of the reign of King Wu, there were 378 plunders of Wokou. The invasion of the Chinese coast was uncountable.

Ming China was neglected in defense of the pirates due to the confusion and the expulsion of the Northern Mongol powers shortly after the founding of Ming Dynasty, and Goryeo could not defuse them because of its weak military power. However, at the end of the Goryeo dynasty, they sent envoies to Japan to ask for the eradication, and were able to suppress the piracy with the military activities of marshal Choi Young, admiral Choi Mi-sun, and General Lee Sung-gye.

In the fifteenth century, Chosun Korea and Ming China allowed a limited amount of trade to the Japanese. In 1443 King Sejong made a system of trade agreements with Japanese local lords concluded Tsushima. As the trade surged and the military subjugation was strengthened, the plunders of the Wokou were greatly reduced. However, as Japan entered the age of the Civil War after 1467, the trading system collapsed, and the Wokou became active again. At this time, they mainly attacked the coast of China and the Ming government could not prevent them properly.

It was very difficult to stamp out the numerous small group of them constantly popping up in turns. As Chinese and Korean navies at that time were rather poor, they could not defeat them thoroughly in the sea, For this reason, the people living in the coastal areas of the two countries were plundered, killed and captured. This situation lasted almost 200 years. It was a tragedy at the coast of the Sea of Peace.

Experiment of nuclear missile

After the retreat of the Japanese army of Toyotomi Hideyoshi who invaded Korea in 1598, there has been peace for more than 400 years in the East Sea, except for one naval battle between Russia and Japan. The East Sea avoided World War I, World War II and the Korean War. North Korea could not fight in the East Sea because the navy was not built during the Korean War in 1950. Thus, during the war, American and South Korean battleships and other vessels could freely navigate the East Sea and support the operation of the army.

During the 60 years after the war, North Korea fostered the Navy in the East Sea and had many battle ships and submarines. So, in 1968, the US Navy reconnaissance Pueblo was captured from the remote sea near Wonsan. Now they have the ability to launch

SLBM missiles from submarines. In the future, however, the North Korean Navy would not grow enough to engage in a regular sea battle with ROK and US Navy.



Figure 5. DPRK's Missile Ex. (The Chosun Ilbo 5. July (left) and 17. Sept. (right) 2017)

The reason the East Sea would fall into an international dispute area is not the navy power but the ICBM nuclear missiles launched from the land, or ballistic missiles such as IRBM or SLBM. Currently, the East Sea has become a test site for the missiles of North Korea. These missiles not only fall off the East Sea, but have also been launched into the Pacific over crossing the Japanese archipelago. Because of this, Japan and the American people became extremely sensitive. Currently, North Korea, the United States and the Japanese government are pouring out mutual threats and exaggerations. The South Korean people are relatively calm because they have lived within the range of North Korean cannons and short-range missiles for a long time.

The development of North Korea's nuclear weapons and missiles has reached a considerable extent and has become a balance with the US nuclear arsenal, and Korea, China, Japan and Russia are linked here. However, the uneasy peace on the East Sea will continue for a while.

NAMING ISSUES OF EAST SEA/SEA OF JAPAN

The names of East Sea includes the endonym given by the locals through its long history and the Exonym given by outsiders. The current 'East Sea' is the name Koreans have called for more than 2,000 years, while the Japanese have called 'North Sea' for a long time. The Chinese have called it 'Jinghai(鲸海)' which means 'Whale Sea' since Han Dynasty in second century BC, but the Manchurians have called it 'East Sea' or 'South Sea'. Lots of these names are come from the sea's direction, which has a similar use all over the world as 'Noord Zee(North Sea)' of the Netherlands and Ostsee(East Sea, Baltic sea) of Germany.

Since the 17th century, westerners have made their way to the East Asia, and the it has been known as "Sea of Japan/Japanese Sea/MER DU JAPON", "Orient Sea" "SEA OF COREA). These names were attached to their convenience and were not used by the locals. In the present world trend, there is a strong movement to recover the endonym from the Exonym.

Endonym of East Sea

Korean Endonym of East Sea

The History of the Three Kingdoms (三國史記) was compiled in the 12th century, which recorded the history of three kingdoms in Korean peninsula from 1st century BC to 10th century AD. The naming practices of the East Sea recorded in this book are as much as followings.

- 1) Buyeo (夫餘), which was a small chiefdom in the Jilin province of China, received the revelation of God and moved to the Gaseobwon (迦葉原) coast of the East Sea in the year of 59 BC, Afterward the chiefdom was called as East Buyeo (東夫餘).
- 2) In the year of 47 AD. Gojuri (高朱利), a fisherman of the East Sea, offered the whale's eyes to the King.
- 3) In 56 AD, King Taejo of Goguryeo conquered the small chiefdom Ogjeo (沃沮) and extended the border to the East Sea coastal area.
- 4) Silla set up an altar in Toihwa-gun (退火郡), present Yeonghae in Gyeongbuk province) and offered sacrifices to the East Sea every year. During the Goryeo and Chosun dynasties, a shrine for the East Sea God was established in Yangyang (襄陽), Gangwon Province. There are many other examples of the name East Sea in the book.

The name East Sea is also recorded in the inscription of the gravestone of the Great King Gwanggaeto (廣開土王) built in 414 AD in Goguryeo dynasty. There are, of course, many records in the *History of Goryeo Dynasty* (高麗史) and the *Annals of Chosun Dynasty* (朝鮮王朝實錄). The East Sea was described on the *Map of Eight Provinces* (八道總圖) in 1530 and the *Map of Yeongnam* (嶺南) in 1740. In addition East Sea was indicated in many other old maps of Korea.

In Korea, rarely have called the sea name ‘Sea of Seulhae (瑟海)’ meaning sea of Mandolin. Originally it was the name of the offshore of the Tumen River in the northern East Sea, which has been spread as another name sometimes in Korea.¹ There were also examples of calling ‘Great Sea (大海), which is pointing to the entire East Sea, but it might be a description of the image of the sea and is not a proper noun.

¹ 『大東地志』卷 19, 咸鏡道, 慶興都護府, 山水.

Chinese Endonym of East Sea

In China, from the Han dynasty (2C.BC. ~ 3C.AD.), the sea in the northeast region (northern East Sea) has been called Jinghai (鯨海, Whale Sea). It has appeared in many poetries of the literary people since the Tang Dynasty. The name might have come from the fact that there were many whales in the East Sea. In China, the Japanese name "North Sea" also have been used rarely.

In the *History of Jin Dynasty* (金史), the Manchurians who were indigenous people of this area used to call the sea "Sea of Feiya (費雅海)". However, in early Qing Dynasty when the Capital was in Shenyang (瀋陽: Mukden), they called the sea as Tonghai (東海, East Sea) or Nanhai (南海 South Sea). The former was indicated in many articles of the *Annals of Manchuria* (滿洲實錄), *Annals of Emperor Taijo* (太祖實錄), *Annals of Emperor Taijong* (太宗實錄), while the latter was described in a collection of official dispatches of Joseon Dynasty in 17th century, which was named *Reports from Shenyang* (瀋陽狀啓). However the former would have been popular at that time.

Japanese Endonym of East Sea

In the pre-modern era of Japan, the East Sea was usually called as 'Hokkai (北海)' meaning 'north sea'. The North Sea seems to have been so named because it is located in the north of the Kinai (畿内) region including Kyoto, Nara and Osaka, which was the center of ancient Japan. The North Sea was first recorded in the ancient book *Nihon Shoki* (日本書紀, the Chronicles of Japan) published in 720, at the second year (213 AD) of the Emperor Suinin (垂仁天皇). 'Hokkai' was also recorded several times in the *Izumo Fudoki* (出雲国風土記: *Landscape descriptions of Izumo*) compiled in 733. The name was also recorded in the *Annals of Joseon Dynasty* (朝鮮王朝實錄).²

In Japan, the terms 'Tokaido (東海道, East Sea Province)', 'Sai Kaido (西海道, West Sea Province)' and 'Nankaido (南海道, South Sea Province)' and Hokkaido (北海道, North Sea Province) are used for the name of wide region originating from ancient administrative districts. It is an extremely natural practice to name a sea according to its direction, and the name Hokkai (North Sea) was so familiar to the Japanese people in pre-modern times.

In the maps produced and published by Westerners, even when the East Sea was described as 'Sea of Japan', 'Sea of Orient' and 'Sea of Korea', the name North Sea continued to be used in Japan. The name 'North Sea' was also spread in China, and it was also recorded in the book *Annals of Chosun Dynasty*. These names (Endonym) are usually derived from the direction of the sea, which shows the general pattern of naming the sea along its direction.

We can recognize that among the many endonyms of the sea, 'East Sea' and 'North Sea' were the most popular in the East Asian history. I wonder why the traditional name 'North Sea' of the Japanese was abandoned in Japan.

² 『成宗實錄』成宗 7年(1476) 7月 26日(丁卯), 10年(1479) 7월 28日(壬午). 『中宗實錄』中宗 30年(1535) 2月 22日(癸丑).

Exonym of East Sea

It was the first case of using the name 'Sea of Japan' that Mateo Ricci, a Catholic missionary despatched to China, produced the *Map of the Myriad Countries of the World* (坤輿萬國全圖) with his Chinese colleagues in 1602. On this map he referred to the present eastern sea of Japan as 'Small Oriental Ocean (小東洋)', and the East China Sea as the Daming Sea (大明海, Great Ming China Sea), all of which were not used in Japan and China. These names might have been used by westerners to refer to the waters around Japan and China.

Since then, maps produced and published by Westerners have marked the East Sea/Sea of Japan in various names. In addition to 'Sea of Japan/Japanese Sea/Mer du Japon', also used the name 'Oriental Sea/Mer Orientale', Sea of Korea/Mare di Corai/Mer de Coreer/Sea of Corea. Among the maps produced in Japan, there are some maps that mark the East Sea as 'Sea of Corea'. The simplified above table shows the facts.

Table 1. Samples of the Name (Exonym) of East Sea/Sea of Japan

Name	Author/Publisher	Title	Year
日本海 (Sea of Japan)	Mateo Ricci	坤輿萬國全圖 (Map of the Myriad Countries of the World)	1602
Mar Coria	Manoel Godinho	Map of Asia	1615
Mare di Corai	Robert Dudley	Map of Asia	1647
Mer de Coreer	Jean-Baptiste Tavernier	Map of Japan Archipelago	1679
Mer Orientale	Guillaume Delisle	Map of Asia	1700
Mer Orientale ou Mer de Coree	Guillaume Delisle	Map of India and China	1705
Sea of Corea	Herman Moll	Map of Asia	1715
Mer de Coree	Robert de Vaugondy	Map of Asia	1750
Sea of Corea	Encyclopædia Britannica	Map of Asia	1771
Corean Sea	Jean Baptiste d'Anville	Map of Asia	1794
Mer du Japon	la Pérouse	Voyage de la Pérouse	-
Sea of Japan	(Published in England)	Corea and Japan Map	1815
Noord Zee	(Published in Nederland)	New Map of Japan	-

On the maps produced by Westerners, these names were used to denote the sea between Korean and Japan. There are hundreds of such maps, all of which are arbitrarily used by their own needs. These names, of course, have never been used by locals in Korea, China, and Japan, and can be hardly a standard name.

Now we need to return to the original and peculiar name. It is a global trend that an exonym disappears and it returns to an endonym, which reflects the history and culture of the area.

CONCLUSION

This is just what happened in the East Sea from ancient times to the present. This is not an entire history of the East Sea, but only a few important facts that we should keep in mind. This paper is intended to show what happened on the East Sea and what happened in relation to the East Sea, and not to explain its meaning at the author's specific point of view. Identifying and explaining the meanings of this topic will be the work of individual readers. I hope that this small article would be of little help for the readers understand the unique characters of this sea.

Finally, one of my sincere wishes is that this beautiful, calm and historic sea would always remain a sea of peace. And someday in the future, the sea would have the meaning of 'peace' in its name.