

# TEN TRUTHS ABOUT DOKDO

Not Known in Japan



 **NORTHEAST ASIAN  
HISTORY FOUNDATION**  
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 **NORTHEAST ASIAN  
HISTORY FOUNDATION**

**Japan claims** it has long recognized the existence of Dokdo.

Japan's recognition is confirmed by a variety of written documents and maps, including "The Revised Complete Map of Japanese Lands and Roads" (*Kaisei Nihon yochi rotei zenzu*, 1846), compiled by Nagakubo Sekisui.

**Japan's claim is not true because...**

**Japan has long recognized Dokdo as Korean territory.**

The Japanese government presents "The Revised Complete Map of Japanese Lands and Roads" as proof for its claim that Japan has long recognized Dokdo as Japanese territory. However Dokdo and Ulleungdo are located outside the longitudinal and latitudinal lines of the grid in the 1846 edition of this map and in the original edition completed in 1779. Further, the text "Records on Observation in Oki Province" (*Inshu shicho goki*) includes a sentence which states that the Oki Islands form the northwestern border of Japan. (See Material 1.) This statement indicates that Dokdo had not been recognized as Japanese territory.

Further, there are several old maps published by the Japanese government, including "The Map of Japanese Coastal Areas" (*Dai Nihon en-kai yochi zenzu*), completed in 1821 by Ino Tadataka, which did not mark Ulleungdo and Dokdo as parts of Japanese territory. "The Complete Map

of Joseon" (*Chosen zenzu*) which was completed in 1876 and published by the Advisory Bureau of the Japanese Army, places the two islands within Joseon's territory.

Official Japanese government documents also clearly show that Japan had not recognized Dokdo as its territory until its illegal incorporation of the island in 1905. A report written by an official of the Foreign Ministry of Japan after investigating Joseon, "Confidential Inquiry into the Particulars of Korea's Relations with Japan" (*Chosen-koku kosai shimatsu naitansho*), which was dated 1870, discusses Ulleungdo and Dokdo under the title "The Background of How Takeshima and Matsushima became Annexed to Joseon." Here, "Takeshima" refers to Ulleungdo and "Matsushima" refers to Dokdo. This text, too, shows that Dokdo was perceived as Joseon's territory, not as Japan's territory. (See Material 2.)

In 1877, the Japanese Ministry of Internal Af-

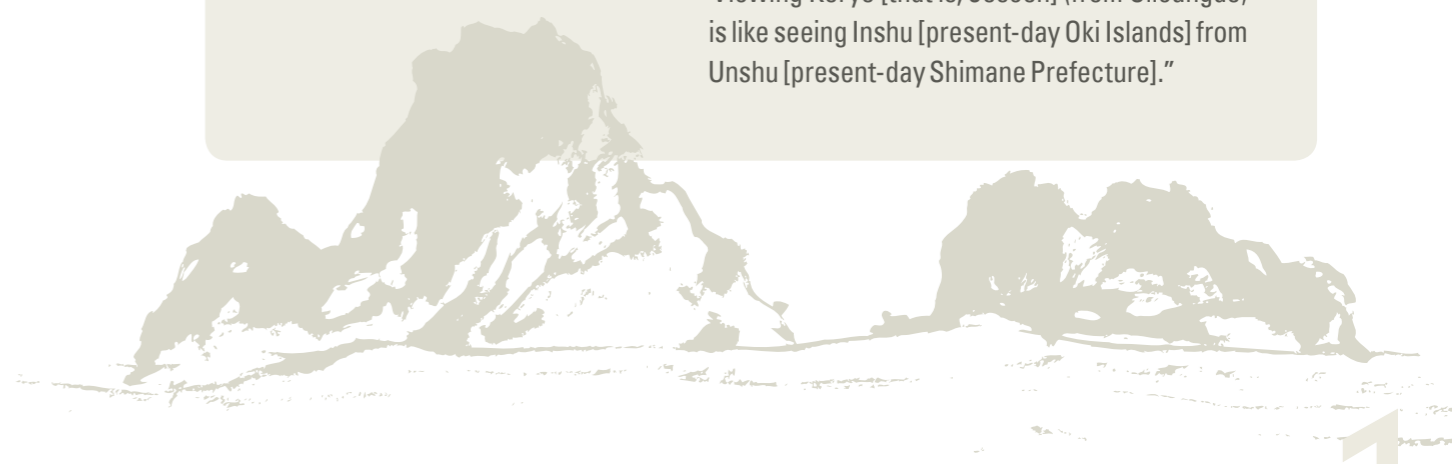
fairs received an inquiry regarding whether to include Ulleungdo and Dokdo into the land register of Shimane Prefecture. In response to this inquiry, Japan's most authoritative government office at that time, the State Council (Dajokan), issued an order which stated, "Concerning the inquiry about Takeshima and the other island, it is to be understood that this country [Japan] has nothing to do with them," based upon the Edo Shogunate's prohibition of passage to Ulleungdo in the

late seventeenth century. Here, "Takeshima" referred to Ulleungdo and "the other island" referred to Dokdo. Some Japanese scholars argue that "the other island" in this order is not Dokdo. However, "The Simplified Map of Isotakeshima" (*Isotakeshima ryakuzu*), completed in 1877 and submitted by Shimane Prefecture to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, made it clear that "the other island" was Matsushima, that is, Dokdo. (See Material 3.)

**MATERIAL** 1. "The Revised Complete Map of Japanese Lands and Roads" (*Kaisei Nihon yochi rotei zenzu*) (Original edition dated 1779)

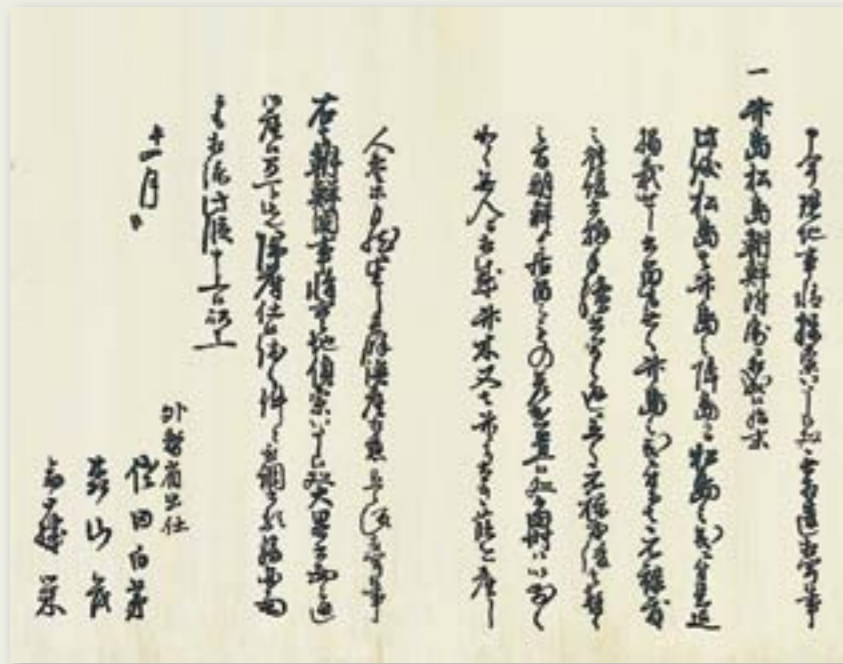


"Viewing Koryo [that is, Joseon] (from Ulleungdo) is like seeing Inshu [present-day Oki Islands] from Unshu [present-day Shimane Prefecture]."



MATERIAL

2. "Confidential Inquiry into the Particulars of Korea's Relations with Japan" (*Chosen-koku kosai shimatsu naitansho*), dated 1870



The background to how Takeshima (that is, Ulleungdo) and Matsushima (that is, Dokdo) became annexed to Joseon.

"Matsushima [that is, Dokdo] is an island next to Takeshima [that is, Ulleungdo]. No records regarding Matsushima exist, but letters exchanged in the late seventeenth century include comments relating to Takeshima [that is, Ulleungdo]. For some time since the late seventeenth century, Joseon had sent people to reside in Takeshima [that is, Ulleungdo], but now it has become an uninhabited island again. It is heard that bamboo, reeds that are thicker than bamboo, and ginseng grow there. Fish may be caught, too. This record is based upon our local investigation. We will report this together with our investigation documents, illustrations, and maps by topic after returning to Japan."

The diplomatic mission of Sada Hakubo, Moriyama Shigeru, and Saito Sakae in April, 1870

MATERIAL

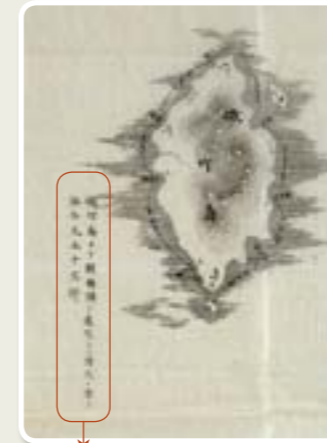
3. The State Council (Dajokan) Order and the Attached Map "The Simplified Map of Isotakeshima" (*Isotakeshima ryakuzu*), dated 1877

▼ The State Council (Dajokan) Order

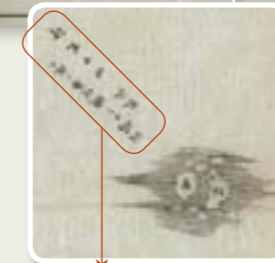
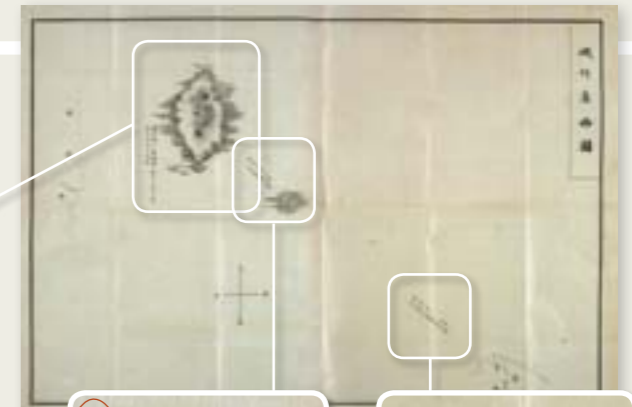


"Concerning the inquiry about Takeshima [that is, Ulleungdo] and the other island [that is, Dokdo], it is to be understood that this country [Japan] has nothing to do with them. March 29, 1877"

The Simplified Map of Isotakeshima (Isotakeshima ryakuzu)



"Joseon is approximately fifty leagues (ri) northwest of Isotakeshima [that is, Ulleungdo]."



"Isotakeshima [that is, Ulleungdo] is approximately forty leagues northwest of Matsushima [that is, Dokdo]."



"Matsushima [that is, Dokdo] is eighty leagues northwest of Fukuura, in the Oki Islands."

**Japan claims** there is no evidence that Korea recognized the existence of Dokdo in the past

Korea claims that Usando is the current island of Dokdo. However, Usando is either the same island as Ulleungdo or non-existent.

**Japan's claim is not true because...**

**Korea's clear recognition of Dokdo is proven by ancient documents and maps.**

On fine days, Dokdo is visible to the naked eye from Ulleungdo. (See Material 4.) Dokdo has historically been recognized as part of Ulleungdo due to this geographical characteristic. The Geographical Appendix to the Veritable Records of King Sejong (*Sejong sillok jiriji*, 1454) states, "Usan [that is, Dokdo] and Mureung [that is, Ulleungdo] are located in the middle of the sea, due east of this county. The two islands are visible from each other on fine days, as they are not far apart. The island was called Usan-guk in the Silla period, and it is also known as Ulleungdo." This clarifies that Ulleungdo is visible from Dokdo, and Usando belonged to Usan-guk.

Numerous historical documents issued by the Korean government, including The Newly Enlarged Geographical Survey of Korea (*Sinjeung Dongguk yeoji seungnam*, 1531), Reference Compilation of Materials on Korea (*Dongguk munheon*

*bigo*, 1770), The Book of Ten Thousand Techniques of Governance (*Mangi yoram*, 1808), and Revised and Enlarged Edition of the Reference Compilation of Documents on Korea (*Jeungbo Munheon bigo*, 1908), record that Usando is the same as Dokdo.

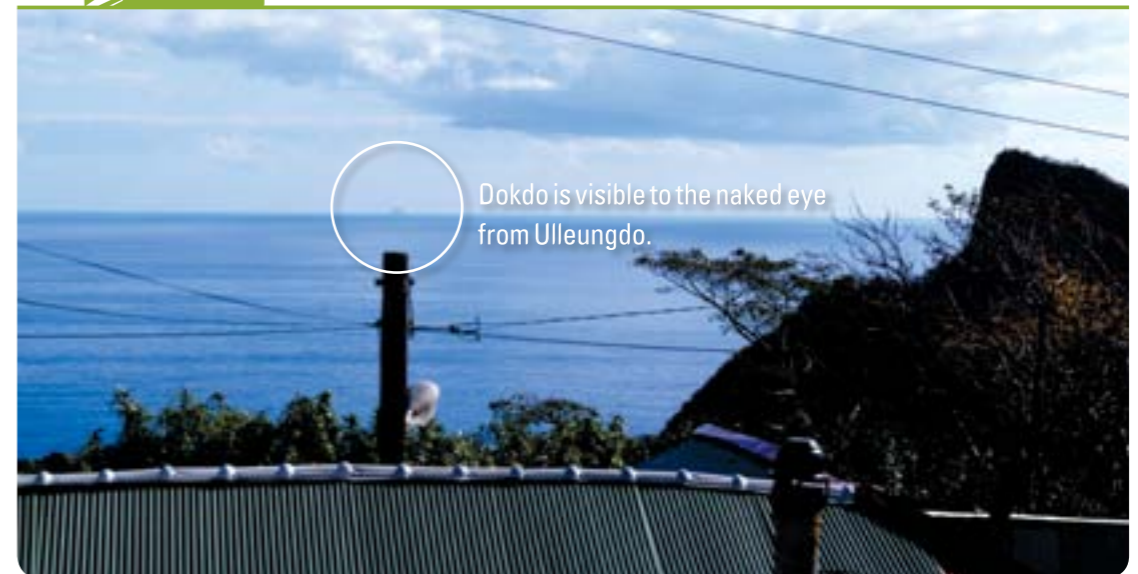
In particular, descriptions in documents such as "Considering Maps" in Reference Compilation of Materials on Korea ("*Yeojigo*," in *Dongguk munheon bigo*) which state that both Ulleung (Ulleungdo) and Usan (Dokdo) are territory of Usan-guk, and Usan (Dokdo) is what Japan calls Matsu-shima, clearly indicate that Usando is Dokdo.

"The Map of the Eight Provinces of Korea" (*Paldo chongdo*), in The Newly Enlarged Geography of Korea (*Sinjeung Dongguk yeoji seungnam*) has the two islands of Ulleungdo and Usando [Dokdo] in the East Sea (see Material 5). The locations are not precise, but the presence of the

two islands means that their existence had been clearly recognized at the time when the map was drawn. And all the maps produced after the eighteenth century, including "Map of Korea" (*Dong-*

*guk jido*), place Usando east of Ulleungdo, showing that the location and formation of Dokdo had also become more precise.

**MATERIAL 4. Dokdo Seen from Ulleungdo**



**MATERIAL 5. "The Map of the Eight Provinces of Korea (Paldo chongdo)"**



This map of Joseon is included at the beginning of The Newly Enlarged Geographical Survey of Korea (*Sinjeung Dongguk yeoji seungnam*) published by the Joseon government. Ulleungdo and Dokdo are clearly marked in the East Sea.

Japan claims

that it established its sovereignty over Dokdo in the mid-seventeenth century.

In 1618, during the early Edo period, the Oya and Murakawa families, who were residents of Yonago in Tottori domain, received permission from the Edo Shogunate for passage to Ulleungdo. There they engaged in a fishing monopoly and offered abalone to the Edo government. Dokdo naturally was used as a stopover en route to Ulleungdo, and served as a fishing ground for abalone and a hunting ground for black sea lions. Thus, Japan established its sovereignty over Dokdo by the mid-seventeenth century at the very latest.

Japan's claim is not true because...

the Edo Shogunate and Tottori domain perceived Ulleungdo and Dokdo as Korean territory.

Permission is not necessary for passage to one's domestic islands. Thus, Japan's claim itself demonstrates that Japan had not recognized Dokdo and Ulleungdo as its territories.

A Japanese document from the mid-seventeenth century, "Records on Observation in Oki Province" (*Inshu shicho goki*, 1667), states that the Oki Islands mark the northwestern boundary of Japan. This indicates that Japan had not perceived Ulleungdo and Dokdo as its land.

When territorial issues arose between Joseon and Japan after the Ahn Yong-bok incident, the Edo Shogunate asked Tottori domain if there were "any islands attached to Tottori domain other than Takeshima [that is, Ulleungdo]." Here, the

domain answered that "no other islands belong to the domain, including Takeshima [that is, Ulleungdo] and Matsushima [that is, Dokdo]," showing that both islands were not under the jurisdiction of Tottori domain (see Material 6).

Based upon such a response, the Edo Shogunate issued the prohibition of Japanese passage to Ulleungdo on the twenty-eighth day of the first month of 1696. Thus, contrary to the Japanese government's claim, Japan recognized Ulleungdo and Dokdo as Joseon's territories in the late seventeenth century.

MATERIAL 6. Tottori Domain's Answer to the Inquiry from the Edo Shogunate (1695)



"Takeshima [that is, Ulleungdo] does not belong to Inaba and Hoki [that is, Tottori domain]. It is heard that Oya Kueemon and Murakawa Ichibe, who were merchants from Yonago, in Hoki, were permitted to sail to and fish at the island through a sealed letter when Matsudaira Shintaro was governing the area. It is also heard that some people used to sail to the island before these merchants, but we are not well aware of that. (omitted)

No other islands belong to the domain, including Takeshima [that is, Ulleungdo] and Matsushima [that is, Dokdo]."



Japan  
claims

that it banned passage to Ulleungdo in the late seventeenth century, but did not ban passage to Dokdo

In 1696, the Edo Shogunate, which believed that Ulleungdo belonged to Joseon, prohibited passage to Ulleungdo, but did not ban passage to Dokdo. This is because Japan perceived Dokdo as its own territory from that time.

Japan's claim is not true because...

Dokdo, as an appendix to Ulleungdo, did not require any separate prohibition for passage to it.

The documents owned by the Oya Family, who used to sail to Ulleungdo, contain sentences, including "Matsushima [that is, Dokdo] in Takeshima [that is, Ulleungdo]" (dated 1660) and "Matsushima [that is, Dokdo] in the vicinity of Takeshima [that is, Ulleungdo]" (dated 1659). This shows that the Japanese regarded Dokdo as an appendix to Ulleungdo in the past as well.

As the Japanese government argues, Japan only used Dokdo as a stopover port while sailing to Ulleungdo and as a fishing ground, and Dokdo had never been a destination of Japanese boats. Thus, additional prohibition of the passage to Dokdo was not necessary when banning the passage to Ulleungdo.

Therefore, it is only natural to assume that the 1696 ban on the passage to Ulleungdo implicitly prohibited the passage to Dokdo as well.



"Murakawa Ichibe and Oya Jinkichi, who are merchants of Yonago, have been sailing to and fishing at Takeshima [that is, Ulleungdo] to date since they were permitted to do so when Matsudaira Santaro was governing Inshu and Hakushu. However, the passage to Takeshima [that is, Ulleungdo] is now prohibited.

Twenty-eighth day of the first month

[Sender:] Tsuchiya Sagami no kami, Toda Yamashiro no kami, Abe Bungo no kami, and Okubo Kaga no kami

[Recipient:] Matsudaira Hoki no kami"



**Japan claims that Ahn Yong-bok's statement is not reliable**

The deposition of Ahn Yong-bok, on which the Republic of Korea bases its claim, contains many points that conflict with factual evidence and that are not included in Japanese records.

**Japan's claim is not true because...**

**the deposition of Ahn Yong-bok is supported by Korean and Japanese documents.**

Ahn Yong-bok's work in Japan facilitated the development of state-level talks on Ulleungdo between Joseon and Japan, and eventually led Japan to recognize Ulleungdo and Dokdo as Korean territories. Despite slight differences in the records regarding Ahn's activities between Joseon and Japan, it does not justify Japan's assertion that Ahn's statement is not credible.

※ Ahn's activities in Japan are also recorded in important government publications of the Joseon government, including the Veritable Records of King Sukjong (*Sukjong sillok*), Diary of the Royal Secretariat (*Seungjeongwon ilgi*), and Reference Compilation of Materials on Korea (*Dongguk munheon bigo*) as well as in Japanese texts, including "Records on Takeshima" (*Takeshima kiji*), "Excerpts from The Record on the Background of the Passage to Takeshima" (*Takeshima tokai yuraiki basho hikae*), "Chronology of Inaba Province" (*Inpu nenpyo*), and "A Study of Takeshima" (*Takeshima ko*).

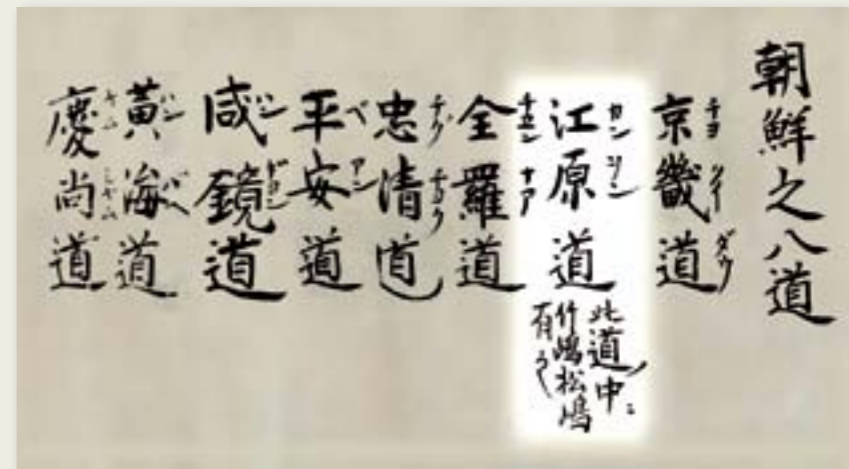
Regarding Ahn's second visit to Japan in 1696, the Veritable Records of King Sukjong records that he stated to a Japanese fisherman in Ulleungdo that "Matsushima [that is, Dokdo] is Jasando [that is, Dokdo], and that is Korean territory," and went to Japan to protest against Japanese entry there.

According to the "One Volume Memorandum Concerning the Korean Boat that Came Alongside the Pier in the Ninth Year of Genroku [1696]" (*Genroku kyu heishi-nen Chosen fune chakugan ikkan oboegaki*), Ahn Yong-bok argued that Takeshima [that is, Ulleungdo] and Matsushima [that is, Dokdo] are under the jurisdiction of Gangwon Province, in Joseon. This supports Ahn's statement in the Veritable Records of King Sukjong. (See Material 8.)

Japan also cast doubts over Ahn's report that he met Japanese fishermen in Ulleungdo in the fifth month of 1696 based upon the fact that the passage to the island was prohibited in the first month of 1696. However, the Edo Shogunate's order banning Japanese passage to Ulleungdo, which was issued in the first month of 1696, was not immediately delivered to the Oya and Mu-

rakawa families. Joseon received that order in the tenth month of the same year. Thus, it is unreasonable to argue that Ahn's statement is not reliable simply because the order prohibiting the passage to Ulleungdo was issued in the first month.

**MATERIAL 8. The oral report from "One-Volume Memorandum Concerning the Korean Boat that Came Alongside the Pier in the Ninth Year of Genroku [1696]"**



This is a Japanese document relating Ahn's activities during his second visit to Japan. According to this report, Ahn clearly argued that Takeshima [that is, Ulleungdo] and Matsushima [that is, Dokdo] belonged to Joseon's Gangwon Province.

## Japan claims Japan reaffirmed its intention to claim sovereignty over Dokdo by incorporating the island into Shimane Prefecture in 1905

After receiving a request from Nakai Yozaburo, a resident of Oki Islands in Shimane Prefecture, to incorporate Dokdo into Japanese territory, the Japanese government reaffirmed, through a Cabinet decision made in January of 1905, its intention to claim sovereignty over the island. Consequently, in February of that year, the governor of Shimane Prefecture issued an official notification that Dokdo was to be put under the jurisdiction of the Okinoshima office of Shimane Prefecture.

## Japan's claim is not true because...

### Japan illegally occupied Dokdo during the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-1905.

In January, 1905, during the Russo-Japanese War, Japan incorporated Dokdo under the rationale of the acquisition of sovereignty over *terra nullius*. However, such an excuse was modified as "a reaffirmation of Japan's intention to claim sovereignty over Dokdo" because Japan realized that its own rationale of "Dokdo has always been Japanese territory" and "occupation of *terra nullius*" conflicted with each other. Its claim, "occupation of *terra nullius*," contradicted Japan's previous argument that Dokdo had no relationship with Japan, which is also shown in the State Council (Dajokan) Directive of 1877.

The Russo-Japanese War began in 1904 when the Japanese Navy launched a surprise attack against the Russian Pacific Fleet at Port Arthur and at Jemulpo. The Japanese Navy built watch towers at Jeju Island, Geomun Island, and Ulsan in order to monitor the movement of the Russian fleet. In August of 1904, two watch towers were installed in Ul-

leungdo, too, actions which stressed the strategic value of Dokdo.

Nakai Yozaburo was aware that Dokdo belonged to Joseon. He intended to submit a request for the lease of the island to the Joseon government through the Japanese government. However, Nakai submitted a petition to incorporate Dokdo, instead of a lease request, to the Japanese government in September of 1904, having been influenced by officials of the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Japanese Navy Department.

The Japanese Ministry of Home Affairs attempted to reject his petition based upon the opinion that "the gains would be extremely small while the situation would become grave if the acquisition of a barren islet (Dokdo) suspected of being Korean territory...would amplify the suspicions of various foreign countries that Japan had an ambition to annex Korea." However, the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs proceeded to incorporate the is-

land with the rationale that hostile warships would be better monitored if watch towers were constructed, and wireless or submarine cables were installed there.

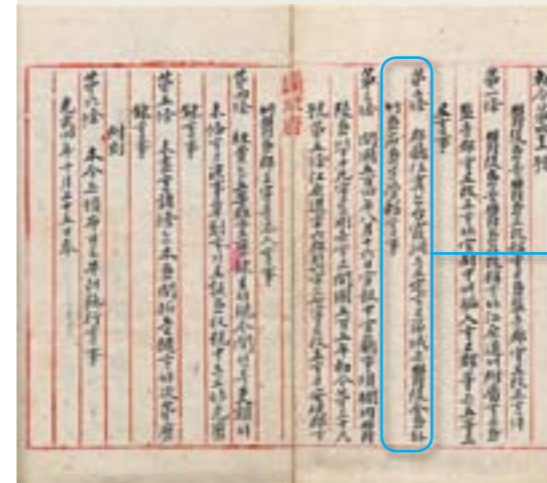
Japan's incorporation of Dokdo in 1905 is void by international law. Japan argues that it incorporated the island based on the rationale of "occupation of *terra nullius*." However, Korea had established its sovereignty over Dokdo in ancient times, and reaffirmed this under the modern law by issuing Imperial Ordinance No. 41 (see Material 9) on October 25, 1900.

Japan discussed and notified its incorporation of Dokdo to Western countries, including the United States. However, Korea did not receive any query or notification regarding the unilateral incorporation. In March of 1906 the Governor of Uldo (Ulleungdo) learned of the incorporation from Japanese offi-

cials of Shimane Prefecture visiting Ulleungdo. The next day, the Governor of Uldo reported this to the central government in Seoul and to the governor of Gangwon Province. On receiving this report, the Minister of Interior and the State Council Minister stated that it is groundless for Japan to claim sovereignty over Dokdo, and ordered an investigation of the facts relating to what Japan had done. (See Material 10.) The Korean government, having been deprived of its diplomatic rights following the protectorate treaty in November 1905, was not able to take any diplomatic action against such a situation. However, Korean newspapers, including the Daehan Daily Newspaper (*Daehan maeil sinbo*) (May 1, 1906) (see Material 11) and The Hwangseong Newspaper (*Hwangseong sinmun*) (May 9, 1906), published articles protesting against the Japanese act.

## MATERIAL 9. The Korean Imperial Ordinance No. 41 and the Gazette

▼ Korean Imperial Ordinance No. 41



The Gazette Containing Imperial Ordinance No. 41 ►



"Article 2. The seat of the County Office shall be in Taeha-dong, and as for jurisdiction, the County shall govern the whole of Ulleungdo, Jukdo, and Seokdo."

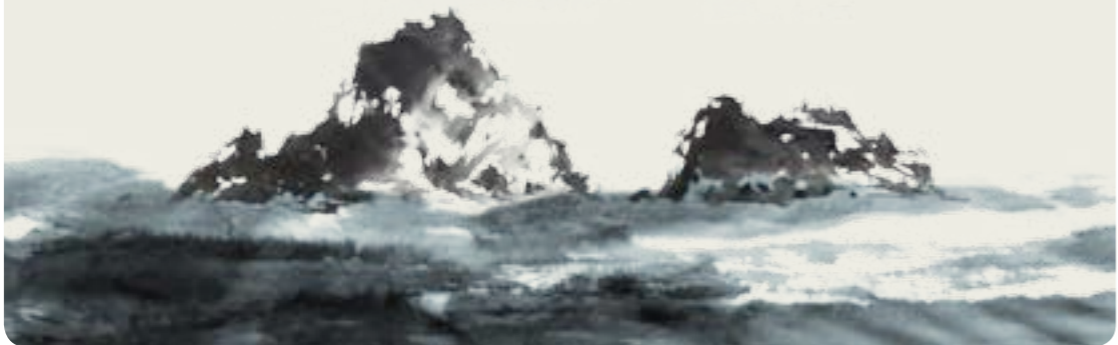
Korea renamed Ulleungdo as Uldo, and raised the highest administrative position in Ulleungdo to County Magistrate of Uldo. The County Magistrate gained authority over the whole of Ulleungdo, Jukdo, and Seokdo. Korean Imperial Ordinance No. 41 was issued in Korean Gazette No. 1716 on October 27, 1900.



**MATERIAL 10.** The Report of Yi Myeong-nae, Chuncheon County Magistrate and acting Governor of Gangwon Province (April 29, 1906), and Order No. 3 of Bak Je-sun, the State Council Minister (May 20, 1906)



In 1906, the Chuncheon County Magistrate and acting Governor of Gangwon Province Yi Myeong-nae informed State Council Minister Bak Je-sun of Japan’s incorporation of Dokdo, which belonged to Korea, immediately after this Japanese act was reported by the Uldo (Ulleungdo) Governor Sim Heung-taek. In response to this, Bak stated that Japan’s claims to Dokdo were unfounded and through Order No. 3 commanded that a close eye be kept on the situation on Dokdo and the movements of the Japanese there.



**MATERIAL 11.** Daehan Daily Newspaper (Daehan maeil sinbo)



●無難不有 獨島領守沈身  
氏가이京時報告才到日本官  
一行이水到本國才叶本國所  
領島之日本官地叶自領才五  
界湖被戶口船檢電一一錄  
才受受可叶部叶對指令才  
是既既大叶地界戶口之錄  
日老地地必無其理以今此  
報才其事詳悉이 다才受이 다

“The Uldo governor Sim Heung-taek reported that some Japanese officials had come to Ulleungdo and claimed Dokdo as Japanese territory, surveyed the island, and then counted the number of households. In response to the report from Sim Hueng-taek, the Korean government stated, ‘Their claiming Dokdo as Japanese territory does not make sense at all. We find the Japanese claim shocking.’”

Japan claims

that while drafting the San Francisco Peace Treaty the United States suggested that Dokdo is under the jurisdiction of Japan

While drafting the San Francisco Peace Treaty, the United States rejected the Republic of Korea's request to include Dokdo as one of the areas Japan must renounce by sending a diplomatic letter called the "Rusk Note." Consequently, Dokdo was not included as an area Japan should relinquish under the San Francisco Peace Treaty, which was signed in September, 1951.

Japan's claim is not true because...

the San Francisco Peace Treaty succeeded the Cairo Declaration and the Potsdam Declaration.

The General Headquarters of the Allied Powers had treated Dokdo as separate from Japan until the San Francisco Peace Treaty took into effect after World War II. The General Headquarters applied SCAPIN - 677 (January 29, 1946), which provides that Dokdo, along with Ulleungdo, belongs to the area that is excluded from Japan's governmental or administrative authority. (See Material 12.)

※ SCAPIN - 677: Governmental and Administrative Separation of Certain Outlying Areas from Japan

"3. For the purpose of this directive, Japan is defined to include the four main islands of Japan (Hokkaido, Honshu, Kyushu, and Shikoku) and the approximately 1,000 smaller adjacent islands, ... excluding (a) Utsuryo (Ulleung) Island, Liancourt Rocks [that is, Dokdo] ...."

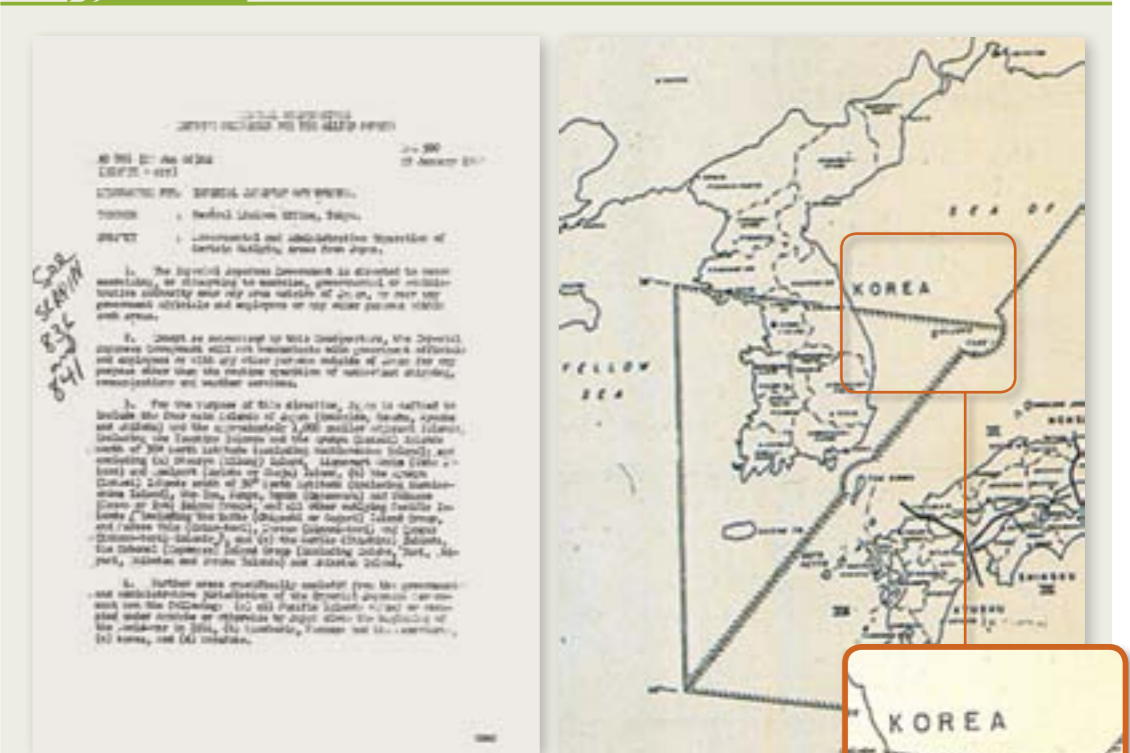
The Allied Powers' decision to exclude Dokdo from Japan's territory was part of postwar measures to implement the results from the Cairo Declaration (1943) and the Potsdam Declaration (1945), which obligated Japan to renounce territories it had taken by "violence and greed." Thus, Dokdo was rightly included as an area Japan should relinquish because it was Korea's territory, which Japan usurped through violence and greed during the Russo-Japanese War.

These measures taken by the Allied Powers were succeeded in the San Francisco Peace Treaty signed in September of 1951. Even though Dokdo was not explicitly mentioned in the treaty, it is only natural to see Dokdo as having been included in the Korean territory that Japan should relinquish. Even islands larger than Dokdo were not all referred to in the treaty, because

it was impossible to mention all the islands of the Republic of Korea. Also the "Rusk Note," upon which Japan bases its claim for sovereignty over Dokdo, has no legal effect in determining the holder of sovereignty over the island, as this note only reflected the opinion of the United States, not the opinion of the Allied Powers as a whole.

Dokdo was reclaimed as an island annexed to the Korean Peninsula as the Allied Powers won the war in August, 1945 and the Government of the Republic of Korea was established on August 15, 1948, in accordance with a United Nations resolution. The San Francisco Peace Treaty merely confirmed these facts.

MATERIAL 12. SCAPIN - 677 (January 29, 1946) and Related Maps



Dokdo shown on a map relating to the SCAPIN - 677 document ▶

Japan  
claims

**the designation of Dokdo as a bombing range for military practice for the United States Forces in Japan shows that Dokdo was treated as part of Japan's territory**

In July 1952, the Japan-United States Joint Committee established for the purpose of implementing the Japan-United States Administrative Agreement, designated Dokdo as a bombing range for the United States Forces stationed in Japan. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan notified this in its gazette.

**Japan's claim is not true because...**

**the United States Air Force immediately excluded Dokdo from its bombing range upon the Korean government's protest.**

Dokdo was an important fishing ground for Korean fishermen. However, Japan led the United States Forces to designate the island as a bombing range, although such a decision was very likely to inflict significant losses to Korean fishermen working near the island. (See Material 13.) This is also shown in the meeting minutes from the National Diet of Japan.

※ The following are words exchanged between Yamamoto Toshinaga, a Diet member from Shimane Prefecture, and Ishihara Kanichiro, the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, in a Foreign Affairs committee meeting held on May 23, 1952.

Yamamoto: "As for the designation of the military practice area for the Occupation Forces, I think that if the vicinity of Dokdo is designated as a practice area, it would help Japan get confirmation of its

territorial sovereignty over the island. Please tell me if that is what the Ministry of Foreign Affairs intends."

Ishihara: "It seems that things are sought after in various ways largely from such an idea."

However, in November, 1952, as the Korean government protested the United States Air Force's bombing drills over Dokdo, the United States Air Force immediately excluded the island from its bombing range. And the United States Embassy in the Republic of Korea sent an official notification of the decision to the Korean government.



A number of Korean fishermen lost their lives from the United States Forces' bombing over Dokdo in June of 1948. The Headquarters of the United States Far East Air Force described the bombing as an "accidental incident," and announced that it will suspend its bombing practice over the island. In June of 1950, the unveiling of the memorial monument for the victims was held with the Governor of North Gyeongsang Province in attendance.

**Japan claims that the Republic of Korea is illegally occupying Dokdo**

The Republic of Korea is illegally occupying Dokdo without any basis of international law. Thus no measure taken by the Republic of Korea during the illegal occupation with regard to Dokdo has any legal justification. Japan strongly protests against and requests withdrawal of the measures taken by the Republic of Korea.

**Japan's claim is not true because...**

**the Republic of Korea is exercising its legitimate sovereignty over Dokdo.**

Japan annexed Dokdo through the Shimane Prefectural Notice in 1905, and the Japanese Government-General of Korea began to illegally rule Korea from 1910. However, as the Allied Powers won World War II, Korea regained its territorial sovereignty over Dokdo. Immediately after its establishment in August of 1948, the Republic of Korea gave Dokdo an address (1, Dodong, Nam-myeon, Ulleung-gun, North Gyeongsang Province), and began exercising its sovereignty over the island, and neither the Allied Powers nor Japan raised any objection to this.

Now the island has residents. South Korean police officers and public officials are protecting the island and operating various installations such as a lighthouse and a radiation detector all

year round. (See Material 14.) Currently, ferries based in Ulleungdo sail between Ulleungdo and Dokdo. Every year 100,000 tourists from home and abroad visit Dokdo.

The Republic of Korea government designated the island as "Natural Monument No. 336: Dokdo Breeding Ground for Seabirds" in 1982 and as an "Environmentally Protected Area" in 1999. As elaborated so far, the Republic of Korea government exercises firm territorial sovereignty over Dokdo based upon legal grounds.



▲ Resident housing on Dokdo



▲ Lighthouse and radiation detector installed on Dokdo

**Japan  
claims**

although Japan proposed to the Republic of Korea to refer this dispute over Dokdo to the International Court of Justice, the Republic of Korea rejects doing so.

Japan proposed to the Republic of Korea to refer this dispute over Dokdo to the International Court of Justice in September 1954 and in March 1962. However, the government of the Republic of Korea has rejected the proposal.

**Japan's claim is not true because...**

**Dokdo is a symbol of the Republic of Korea's sovereignty. There is no reason to bring this issue to the International Court of Justice.**

It is an obvious fact that Dokdo is an integral part of Korean territory through history, geography, and international law. The Republic of Korea now exercises its legislative, administrative, and judicial rights over the island (see Material 15). Thus, Dokdo may not be subject to any diplomatic negotiation or judicial resolution.

In response to the Japanese government's proposal to refer this issue to the International Court of Justice in 1954, the Republic of Korea government expressed the following position, a position which has not changed to this day.

The proposal by the Japanese government is merely an attempt at another falsification that is disguised as a judicial procedure. The Republic of Korea has sovereignty over the island, and has no reason to prove its own legitimate rights at the International Court of Justice.

Dokdo was the first victim of the Japanese invasion in Korea. The persistent and unreasonable claim of Japan over the island makes Koreans suspicious that Japan might intend to invade Korea once again. For Koreans, Dokdo is not only a tiny island in the East Sea, but a symbol of Korean sovereignty.

For the two countries to lay foundations for peace and prosperity in Northeast Asia through cooperation, and not to repeat the tragic history, Japan should first renounce its groundless claim over Dokdo.

**MATERIAL**

15. Dokdo, a symbol of sovereignty of the Republic of Korea (The lighthouse and the national flag of the Republic of Korea, the Taegeukgi, on Dokdo)

