



# Dokdo is Korean Territory





## Foreword

Japan is still claiming sovereignty over Dokdo, Korea's proper territory, with ungrounded argument that the islets are integral part of Japanese territory. Japan's logic is thus. Japan has known about Dokdo from the ancient times, established sovereignty over them since at least the mid-17th century, and reaffirmed that sovereignty in a modern legal sense has existed since 1905 by incorporating Dokdo into Shimane Prefecture. In the post-war San Francisco Peace Treaty, which went into effect in 1952, Dokdo was not expressly included in the article concerning Korean territory Japan had to give up, and is therefore still Japanese territory.

Japan's logic is designed to cover up the core materials on the islets and to trick both its own citizens and the people of the world. The truth is thus: In the late 17th century, Japan confirmed that Dokdo wasn't Japanese territory, and reconfirmed twice in 1870 and 1877 that Dokdo was Korean territory. In 1905, however, Japan - hiding those historic documents, claimed Dokdo was an unnamed and unclaimed land, and forcefully incorporated Dokdo into Shimane Prefecture on the basis of occupation theory. Since this argument ran counter to claims that the islands always were Japanese territory, Japan later switched from the "*terra nullius*" argument to arguing that the 1905 incorporation "reaffirmed" Japanese sovereignty. However, prior to this "reaffirmation," Japan had never "confirmed" its sovereignty over the islands. In the end, the San Francisco Peace Treaty Japan has made with the United States and Great Britain does not mention Dokdo; that agreement does not recognize the islets as Japanese territory. Ultimately, Japan, while hiding documents that are decidedly unfavorable to it, is simply claiming sovereignty over Dokdo even now with imperialist ideas of the past.

This booklet will reveal Japan's logic to be faulty and full of contradictions. I hope that through this booklet the people of the world will come to learn the truth about Dokdo.

August, 2008



# I. Basis for Sovereignty Over Dokdo

## 1. Old Japanese Documents and Maps Prove Korean Sovereignty Over Dokdo

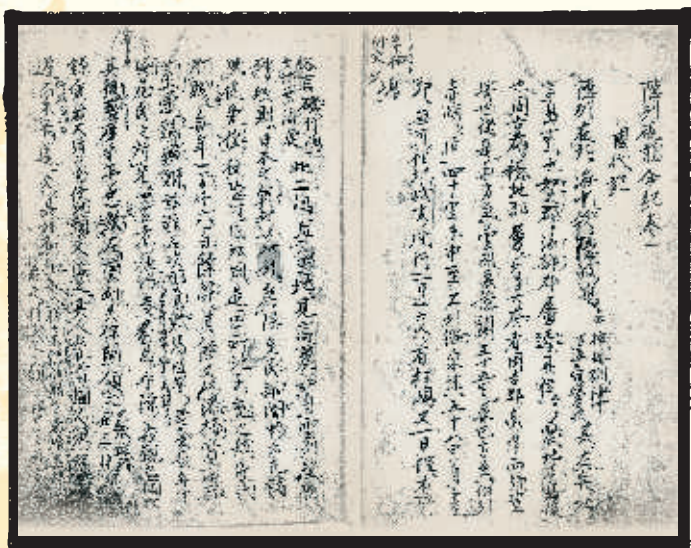
In Japan from the 17th to 19th centuries, Dokdo was called Matsushima and Ulleungdo was called Takeshima. The oldest record concerning Dokdo in Japan is the “Onshu Shicho Goki” (“Records on Observations on Oki”), from 1667. This document was a book of observations written by Saito Hosen, an official of Izumo Province (currently part of Shimane Prefecture) at the behest of the magistrate of Oki Province. In this document, Saito recognized Ulleungdo as an island to which Japan sent trade ships, which is to say, a foreign land. He wrote that a merchant named Murakawa received an official seal from the government office and sent a big ship to Isotakeshima (i.e. Ulleungdo).

The “Onshu Shicho Goki” says that Oki Province marked the northwestern limit of Japan. Moreover, the Edo shogunate drew five maps of Japan. In four of them, the government had maps of the individual provinces drawn up and then brought together to form a whole. In the last one, the government had cartographer Inō Tadataka draw a survey map of Japan. Yet in all these official maps drawn by the Edo shogunate, Dokdo was excluded.



● 1640 Map of Japan

In the western portion of this administrative map drawn by the Edo Shogunate, the northern border of Japan is marked as Oki Island. The same goes for the rest of the map. The map shows the Edo Shogunate recognized Dokdo as Korean territory.



● Onshu Shicho Goki

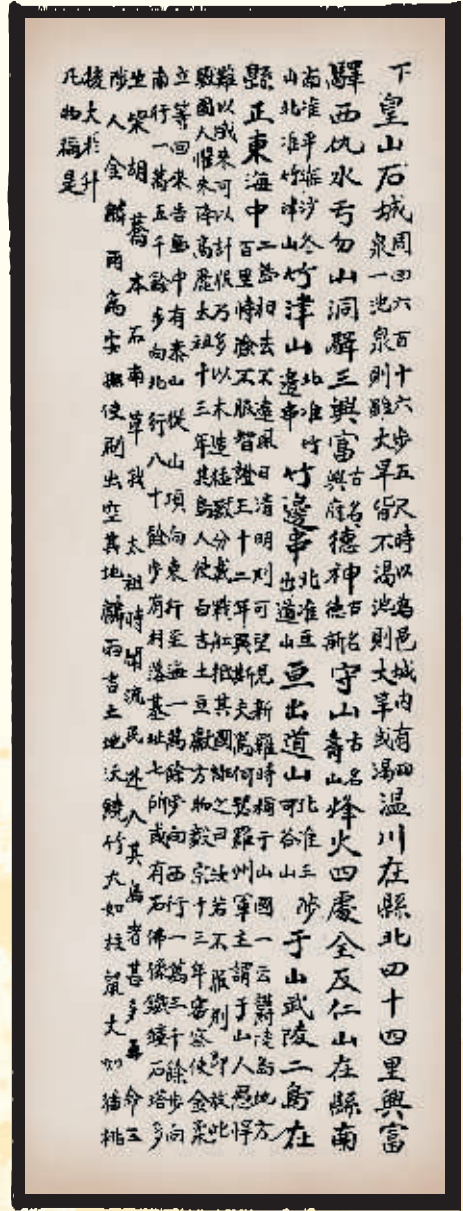
“If you go northwest for two days and one night, you’ll find Matsushima [Dokdo]. Another day from there is Takeshima [Ulleungdo]. There two islands are uninhabited, and from there you can see Goryeo [Joseon] like you can see Oki Island from Izumo Province. Accordingly, Japan’s northwest border is this province [Oki Island].”



## 2. Old Korean Documents and Maps Prove Korean Sovereignty Over Dokdo

The oldest record concerning Dokdo in Korea is found in the Samguksagi. According to it, Kim Isabu subjugated Usanguk in 512; Usanguk was composed of Ulleungdo and Dokdo. In the Donggukmunheonbigo (1770), an official history commissioned by the Joseon royal family, it says that Usan was Usanguk's territory, and that Usan was what the Japanese called Matsushima. Afterwards, Dokdo was recorded as Korean territory on Joseon royal administrative documents and maps. Matsushima was at the time the Japanese name for Dokdo. In the Sejongsillokjiriji (1454), it says that Usan and Mureung were two islands that are currently in the eastern sea, and because the islands are not far from each other, you could see one from the other in good weather. It adds that in the Silla era, they were called Usanguk. The Usan and Mureung islands referred to here are today's Dokdo and Ulleungdo. Even here, the two islands are called Usanguk. In other Joseon royal documents like the Sukjongsillok (1728), Ganggyego (1756), Mangiyoram (1808) and Jeungbomunheonbigo (1907), it is recorded that Usanguk consisted of Ulleung and Usan islands, and Usan was what the Japanese called Matsushima.

In the Ulleungdosajeok (1694), it is written that the Joseon government sent a team led by an official, Jang Han-sang, to Ulleungdo to conduct a survey, during which they confirmed the existence of Dokdo. In this way, Joseon royal documents record that Dokdo was Joseon territory. In Korean maps, Usando (Dokdo) appears as Joseon territory. In a map in the Sinjeungdonggyukyeojiseungnam (1531), Ulleungdo and Usando (Dokdo) both appear in the East Sea, but their position has been reversed. Yet as time passes, maps accurately place Usando's position to the east of Ulleungdo. The representative map is the Haejwajeondo. In this map, the two rock peaks of Usando are drawn, accurately expressing that Usando is Dokdo.



● Sejongsillokjiriji (1454)

["The two islands of Usan and Mureung are in the middle of the eastern sea. The two islands are not far from each other, and you can see one from the other if the weather is good. In the Silla era, they were called Usanguk"]. Usando Island is without a doubt Dokdo.



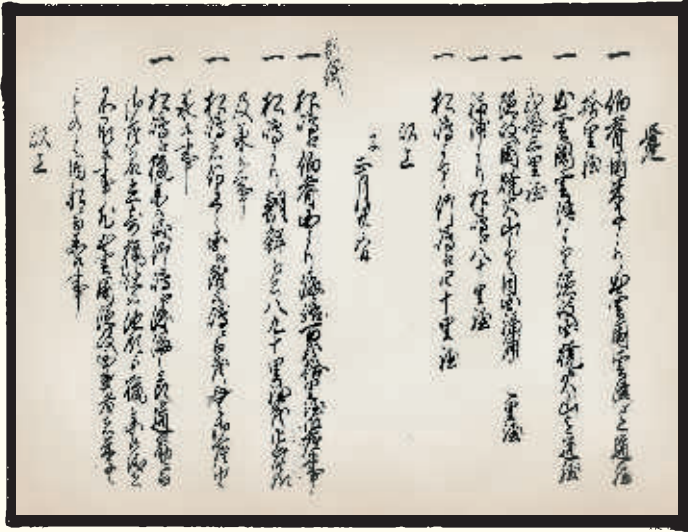
● **Haejwajeondo Map**

Usando is in a precise place, and the peaks of Dokdo's east and west islets are clearly drawn. This is clearly distinct from what is currently called Jukdo (about 2km from Ulleungdo), which has no mountains.

### 3. The Falseness of Japanese Claims That It Established Sovereignty Over Dokdo in the Mid 17th Century

In the early 17th century, the Oya and Murakawa families of Hoki Province (currently part of Tottori Prefecture), started crossing the sea to Ulleungdo and Dokdo from around 1620 after obtaining a permit from the Edo Shogunate (1603~1867). After the 1693 An Yong-bok Incident, the Edo Shogunate in 1696 forbid Japanese fishermen from crossing the sea to Ulleungdo. Japan claims, however, that it did not at the time forbid its fishermen from sailing to Dokdo, establishing sovereignty over Dokdo in the mid 17th century. This is nothing more than a fabrication that ignores the process in which the decree banning travel to Ulleungdo was issued.

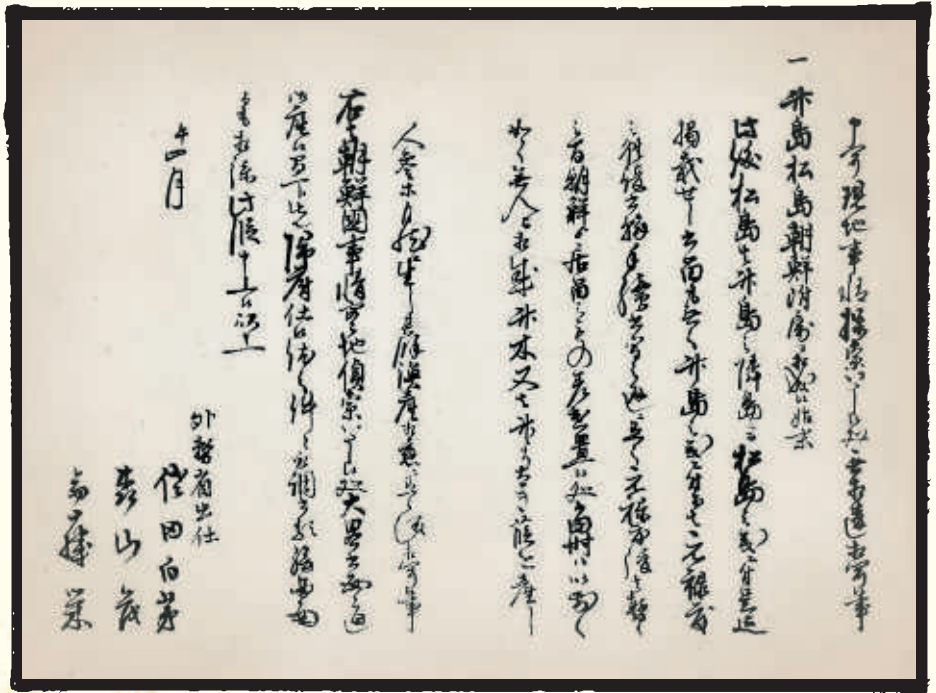
Questioned by the Edo Shogunate on January 25, 1696, Tottori Province said Takeshima (Ulleungdo) and Matsushima (Dokdo) were not part of any lordly province, and that Matsushima (Dokdo) was an island on the way to Takeshima (Ulleungdo). Three days later, the Shogunate handed down its ban on traveling to Dokdo. In the feudal society of the time, land that was not part dominion of individual provinces was foreign land. By banning travel to Ulleungdo, the Shogunate also banned travel to Dokdo, the island on the way. At this point, Dokdo clearly became Joseon territory. This is also proven by the fact that Tottori Province, in later maps drawn of its own domain, never included Dokdo.



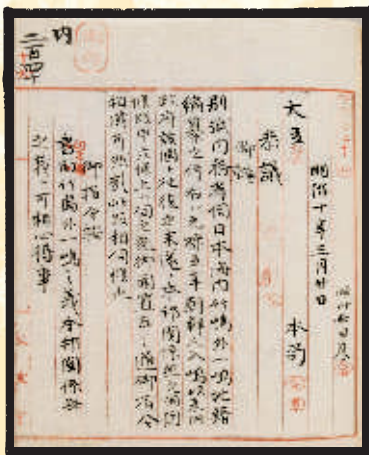
● Report by Tottori Province saying Matsushima (Dokdo) is not part of the province.

#### 4. The Highest Executive Body of the Meiji Government Affirms Twice that Dokdo and Ulleungdo are Korean Territory

The Daijokan (Council of State), the highest executive body of the Japanese government in the Meiji era (1868~1912), twice reconfirmed that the Edo Shogunate decided that Ulleungdo and Dokdo were Joseon territory. The first time was in 1870, when the Daijokan ordered the Foreign Ministry to investigate the circumstances in which Takeshima (Ulleungdo) and Matsushima (Dokdo) became Joseon territory. The important thing here is that the Daijokan presumed that Ulleungdo and Dokdo were part of Joseon. After this, in 1877, Shimane Prefecture and the Home Ministry told the Daijokan that they understood Ulleungdo and Dokdo were foreign territory in the Edo era, but asked that the council reaffirm this. The Daijokan issued a notice to the Home Ministry telling them to keep in mind that Takeshima (Ulleungdo) and an additional island (外一島) beside that had no relation to Japan, and the Home Ministry conferred this to the Foreign Ministry and Shimane Prefecture. Japanese scholars claim that the additional island (外一島) is not Dokdo, but in an addendum to the notice, it explains that the island is called Matsushima, it's about 3.3km in area, it's on the same sea lane to Takeshima from Oki Island, and it's 157km from Oki Island. It also says it has few trees and bamboo, and produces fish and animals. The Matsushima mentioned here is clearly today's Dokdo, based on its area, distance from Oki Island and other characteristics. Thus, the Japanese government has reconfirmed for us that Ulleungdo and Dokdo were Joseon territory, outside the territory of Japan.



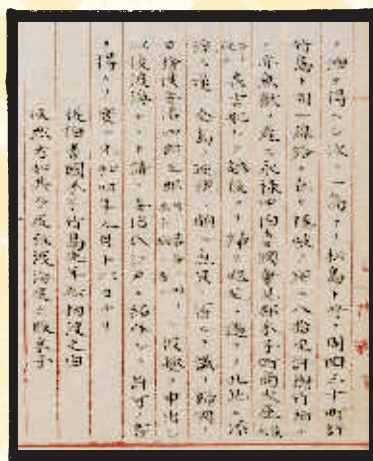
● In 1870, the Meiji Daijokan (Council of State) ordered the Foreign Ministry to investigate how Takeshima (Ulleungdo) and Matsushima (Dokdo) became Joseon territory.



● In 1877, the Daijokan directed that Takeshima (Ulleungdo) and Matsushima (Dokdo) were not Japanese territory.

Japanese Home Ministry Inquiry : "We've heard that Takeshima (Ulleungdo) and an additional island (外一島) beside that are irrelevant to Japan, the old government (Edo Shogunate) having suspended travel to the relevant nation (Joseon) in 1692 after Koreans moved to the Island, but we ask again about this issue."

Daijokan Directive : "Remember that Takeshima (Ulleungdo) and the additional island (外一島) have no relation to Japan."



● Explanation of an Additional Island (外一島) : "After this is an island. It is called Matsushima. It is about 3,3km in area, on the same route as Takeshima and about 80 ri (148 nautical miles) from Oki Island. Trees are rare and there is plentiful fish and beasts."

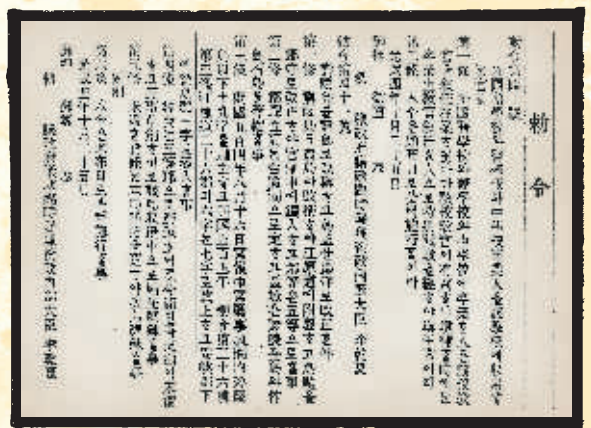


## II. Korea's Declaration of Sovereignty Over Dokdo and the Impropriety of Japan's Incorporation of Dokdo into Shimane Prefecture in 1905

### 1. Daehan Empire's Imperial Ordinance No. 41 in 1900 Announces to World that Dokdo is Korean Territory

In 1900, the Daehan Empire declared to the world Imperial Ordinance No. 41 in the Daehan Empire Gazette No. 1716. Imperial Ordinance No. 41 changed Ulleungdo's name to Uldo and elevated its status, and renamed the title of its magistrate. In article 2 of the ordinance, the magistrate office was designated as Daehadong, and was given administration of all of Ulleungdo Island and the islands of Jukdo and Seokdo. Here, Jukdo refers to an island 2km from Ulleungdo, while Seokdo is Dokdo. Throughout the Joseon era, Dokdo was usually called Usando, but its name was changed during an 1882 meeting between King Gojong and Ulleungdo imperial inspector Yi Gyu-won, when Gojong said Ulleung-do, Jukdo and Songdo (Dokdo) should be combined and referred to as a whole as Ulleungdo. Later, it is presumed that the name of Songdo was discarded as a Japanese name. Because Ulleungdo residents called Dokdo "Dolseom," this became Dokseom in some regional dialects, and eventually settled on Dokdo, its current name. The first time the name appeared in documents was in 1904, when the Japanese warship Niitaka noted that Koreans called the islets Dokdo. The first Korean document to mention it was a 1906 report from Ulleungdo magistrate Sim Heung-taek in which he called the islets by the name Dokdo. This proves that the name Dokdo had already settled into use sometime before. Seokdo is how you transcribe Dolseom in Chinese characters.

Japanese scholars say that Seokdo refers not to Dokdo but to Gwaneumdo, an island to the north of Ulleungdo. However, Gwaneumdo already had names such as Dohang and Kkaksae Island, so there was no need to call it Seokdo. Moreover, it was also called Gwaneumgi, suggesting that people regarded it as a cape, not an island. Dohang, too, means the scrape of an island's neck, meaning that it was not considered a complete island. This is to say that Seokdo is Dokdo, and in 1900 the Daehan Empire formally incorporated Dokdo into the administration of Uldo County. This was five years prior to Japan's illegal 1905 incorporation of Dokdo into Shimane Prefecture.



● Daehan Empire's Imperial Ordinance No. 41

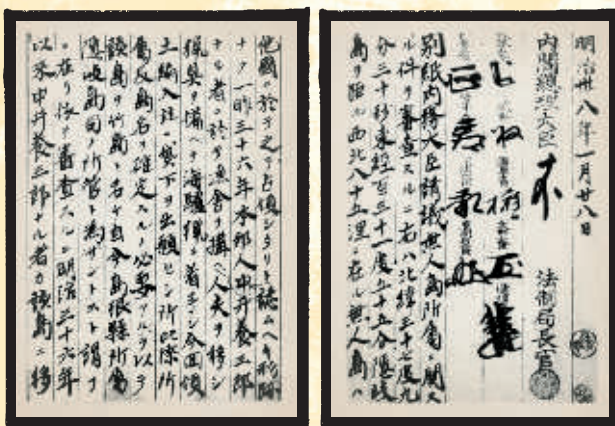


## 2. Japan's Forceful 1905 Annexation of Dokdo and the Contradictions between *Terra Nullius* and Original Japanese Territory

On January 28, 1905, the Japanese government designated Dokdo an unnamed, unowned and uninhabited rocks, and using the name formerly used for Ulleungdo, Takeshima, forcefully incorporated it into Shimane Prefecture. Despite the fact that Dokdo had a historical name, Matsushima, a fact confirmed by the Japanese Foreign Ministry, Japan - using the confusion brought about by the 1885 abolishment of the Daijokan (Council of State), argued that it had discovered the islands, claiming they were unnamed and unowned.

This was a flagrant act of infringement upon Korea's territorial sovereignty, intentionally covering up the three times Japan itself had denied sovereignty over Dokdo. Dokdo's incorporation into Shimane Prefecture was a wayward act committed in the course of Japan's invasion of Korea. Japanese fishermen, even while believing Dokdo to be Joseon territory, fished in the waters around Dokdo without reporting to Joseon; even though this was a violation of a bilateral fishing agreement signed 1899, the treaty was an unequal one that failed to give Korea a power to exercise its own maritime jurisdiction. While these illegal wanton acts were going on in the East Sea, the Japanese government, declaring Dokdo to be *terra nullius*, incorporated it into Shimane Prefecture, arguing that it was the first to occupy the islands. Arguing the islets are *terra nullius*, however, is diametrically opposed to what the Japanese government currently argues, which is that the islets were originally Japanese territory. Accordingly, the Japanese government argues Dokdo was an original Japanese

territory, and in 1905 it "reconfirmed" this in a modern legalistic sense. But prior to 1905, Japan had never "confirmed" that Dokdo was Japanese territory. Ultimately, Japan's claims that Dokdo was originally Japanese territory and its 1905 incorporation of the islands into Shimane Prefecture represent a ruined logic that cannot coexist rationally. The reason Japan cannot discard arguments that Dokdo was originally Japanese territory is that to do so would be virtually admitting that the islands were historically Joseon territory.



● Japanese Cabinet Decision Document (January 1905)

During a Cabinet meeting on January 28, 1905, the Japanese government, arguing Dokdo to be *terra nullius*, names the islands Takeshima and annexes them to Shimane Prefecture. This was an act of infringement upon Korea's territorial sovereignty that hides the fact that Dokdo was Korean territory.



### III. Korean Sovereignty Over Dokdo Seen Through Allied Post-War Measures

#### 1. Allied Powers' Supreme Command Excludes Dokdo from Japanese Administration in 1946

On January 29, 1946, Supreme Command of the Allied Powers (SCAP) issued SCAPIN No. 677, which terminated Japanese political and administrative authority control over Dokdo. On June 22, 1946, it issued SCAPIN 1033, establishing the so-called MacArthur Line to delineate Japanese fishing zones and in so doing banning Japanese ships from approaching Dokdo. Japan claims these two documents do not represent a final decision regarding sovereignty over Dokdo, but if one considers that the Republic of Korea, founded in August 1948, has exercised sovereignty over Dokdo since then, it means from August 1948, Korea completely recovered territorial sovereignty Daehan Empire (the predecessor state) had earlier exercised, but ceased to exercise by Japanese annexation and so Dokdo surely became Korean territory. This is to say, Korea became independent not when the San Francisco Peace Treaty went into effect in April 1952, but with the founding of the Republic of Korea in August 1948; this is a historical and legal fact recognized by both Japan and the United States. Moreover, Dokdo, which was originally Korean territory, corresponds to the kind of territory Japan had to give up according to the 1943 Cairo Declaration, which said, "Japan will also be expelled from all other territories which she has taken by violence and greed."

#### 2. US and British Views of Dokdo's Status

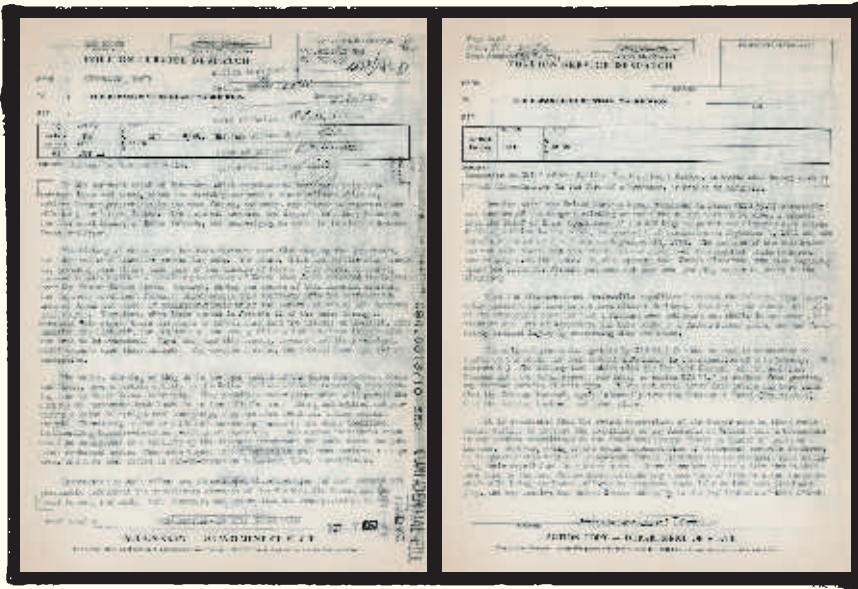
In the first five drafts of the text of the San Francisco Peace Treaty, Dokdo was listed as Korean territory, but due to forceful lobbying on the part of Japan, the US State Department briefly listed the islets as Japanese territory in one draft. This was not told to Korea, which was not a signatory nation to the treaty. Due to British objections, however, the passage to the effect that Dokdo is reserved for Japanese territory was erased. Accordingly, Japan's claim that Dokdo remained as Japanese territory does not stand. Great Britain drew up a separate draft apart from the American one that included a map clearly delineating Dokdo as Korean territory. In the end, the American and British drafts were combined into a final draft, in which Korea's territory was designated as the Korean Peninsula including larger islands only. When the Korean government learned in July 1951 that Dokdo had not been clearly listed as Korean territory, it could not sufficiently respond since it was in the middle of fighting the Korean War. The Korean government asked the US State Department to clearly list Dokdo as





● Addendum Map, SCAPIN No. 677

On the map of Korea drawn in accordance with SCAPIN No. 677 (1946), Dokdo is excluded from Japanese administrative control and marked as Korean territory. The Republic of Korea, founded in 1948, in beginning to exercise sovereignty over Dokdo, confirmed Dokdo was Korean territory after World War II.



● Document (Liancourt Rocks) : Official document sent by US embassy in Tokyo to State Department headquarters [October 3, 1952]

Korean territory, but the US State Department refused. The State Department’s geographical division, however, said continued research was needed concerning Dokdo’s disposition, and the US continued to acknowledge that its information concerning Dokdo was less than perfect, always prefacing its statements with “according to our information.”

John Foster Dulles, the US Secretary of State at the time, said that if it was certain that Dokdo was Korean territory prior to Japan’s annexation of the islets in 1905, it would not be problematic to include them in the San Francisco Peace Treaty text designating territories Japan needed to give up. In the end, however, before sufficient research about Dokdo could be done, the United States and other Allied nations - viewing the matter from a Cold War perspective - prioritized getting Japan to join the Western camp, and in September 1951 signed the San Francisco Treaty, minus clear reference to Dokdo.

In spite of these facts, there has been sufficient evidence that Dokdo was Korean territory prior to 1905. A recently unearthed document sent to the US State Department by the then US ambassador to Japan in October 1952, he acknowledged that the US State Department had carried out investigations of Dokdo, saying, “The history of these rocks has been reviewed more than once by the Department, and does not need extensive recounting here. The rocks, which are fertile seal breeding grounds, were at one time part of the Kingdom of Korea. They were, of course, annexed together with the remaining territory of Korea when Japan extended its Empire over the former Korean State.” The letter also acknowledges that Korea’s objections to Japanese sovereignty over the islets were based on clear grounds.



## IV. Korean Sovereignty Over Dokdo After the San Francisco Peace Treaty

### 1. Syngman Rhee's Maritime Sovereignty Declaration

President Syngman Rhee's January 1952 declaration of maritime sovereignty and the Syngman Rhee Line (usually referred to as "Peace Line"), which were declared by Korea prior to the establishment of diplomatic ties with Japan, were not illegal, as claimed by Japan, when one considers the situation at the time. This is because if they were illegal, it would be hard to explain why they continued to exist until the normalization of diplomatic relations between Korea and Japan in 1965. The same goes for Japan, which occasionally did protest but in fact remained silent about the declaration until 1965. At the time, Korea was neither a UN member state nor a signatory to the San Francisco Treaty. Yet as a sovereign nation whose independence was endorsed by the UN in December 1948, Korea declared its maritime sovereignty and established the Syngman Rhee Line. The Syngman Rhee Line, issued in January 1952 as a successor to the MacArthur Line, which was still in effect, puts into writing that Korea would not interfere with foreign shipping in international waters. Korea's "maritime sovereignty declaration" was a declaration of sovereignty over the sea areas within the Syngman Rhee Line, and was issued to protect and preserve the natural resources found within. As there was international precedence for this, with South and Central American nations making similar declarations at the time, Japan's argument that this was illegal does not stand.

In short, Korea has continued sovereignty over Dokdo through the Syngman Rhee Line, a legal successor to the MacArthur Line. Japan's labeling this as illegal is nothing but absurd.



● President Syngman Rhee



## 2. The 1965 Korea - Japan Treaty and Dokdo

In June 1965, Korea and Japan established diplomatic relations with the Treaty on Basic Relations between the Republic of Korea and Japan. During the negotiations, Japan coerced the Korean negotiating team, calling for the Dokdo issue to be handled by the International Court of Justice. Japan, however, proved it didn't really care that much about Dokdo, with Japanese negotiator Iseki Yujiro even calling during talks in September 1962 for the "worthless" islands to be blown up and destroyed. In November 1962, even the Korean side responded to Japanese duress by presenting a third country mediation plan for the dispute settlement, but this was not the government's decided position. Later, Seoul took this offer off the table, and Japan did not accept it anyway. From then on, Korea stuck to its position that Dokdo was Korean territory and refused to discuss the issue. In the end, reference to Dokdo was completely omitted from the Treaty on Basic Relations between the Republic of Korea and Japan. Japan claims that Korea agreed to discuss the matter later, but no such document remains. This is to say, the Treaty on Basic Relations between the Republic of Korea and Japan confirms Korean sovereignty over Dokdo virtually or indirectly.



● President Park Chung-hee signs Treaty on Basic Relations between the Republic of Korea and Japan (June 22, 1965)



## V. Korean Sovereignty Over Dokdo from the Perspective of International Law

### 1. Opinions of Renowned Global Scholars Confirm Dokdo is Korean

Professor Jon M. Van Dyke of law school of the University of Hawaii says that Korea has far greater historical evidence for the exercise of sovereignty over Dokdo, and this is proven even by Japanese historical documents from the 18th and 19th centuries. He also explains that Japan's 1905 annexation of Dokdo was an imperialist measure that took place during the process of Japanese colonization of Korea, which began the year before in 1904. He stresses that one must consider that despite Dokdo being Korean territory rather than *terra nullius*, Korea was not in a position to protest due to the start of Japanese military control. He also said that Dokdo's relative proximity to Ulleungdo and Korea's half-century of effective control favor international recognition of Korean sovereignty over the islets.

Larry A. Niksch, an Asian expert with the US Library of Congress, says the Dokdo issue is a territorial one involving historical basis, and is a matter involving control of the surrounding waters or maritime resources, and national identity or pride as well. He stresses Korea is in a more favorable position than Japan concerning sovereignty over Dokdo since it has exercised effective control over the islets.

Meanwhile, Serita Kentaro, a law professor at Aichi-gakuin University in Japan presents a solution to the Dokdo issue as follows; Japan's reflecting over its past colonial rule of Korea, recognizing Korean sovereignty over Dokdo, establishing a maritime border between Ulleungdo and Oki Island, establishing a 12 nautical mile no-fishing zone around the island and opening it to world scientists, and signing a bilateral treaty on Dokdo between Korea and Japan.



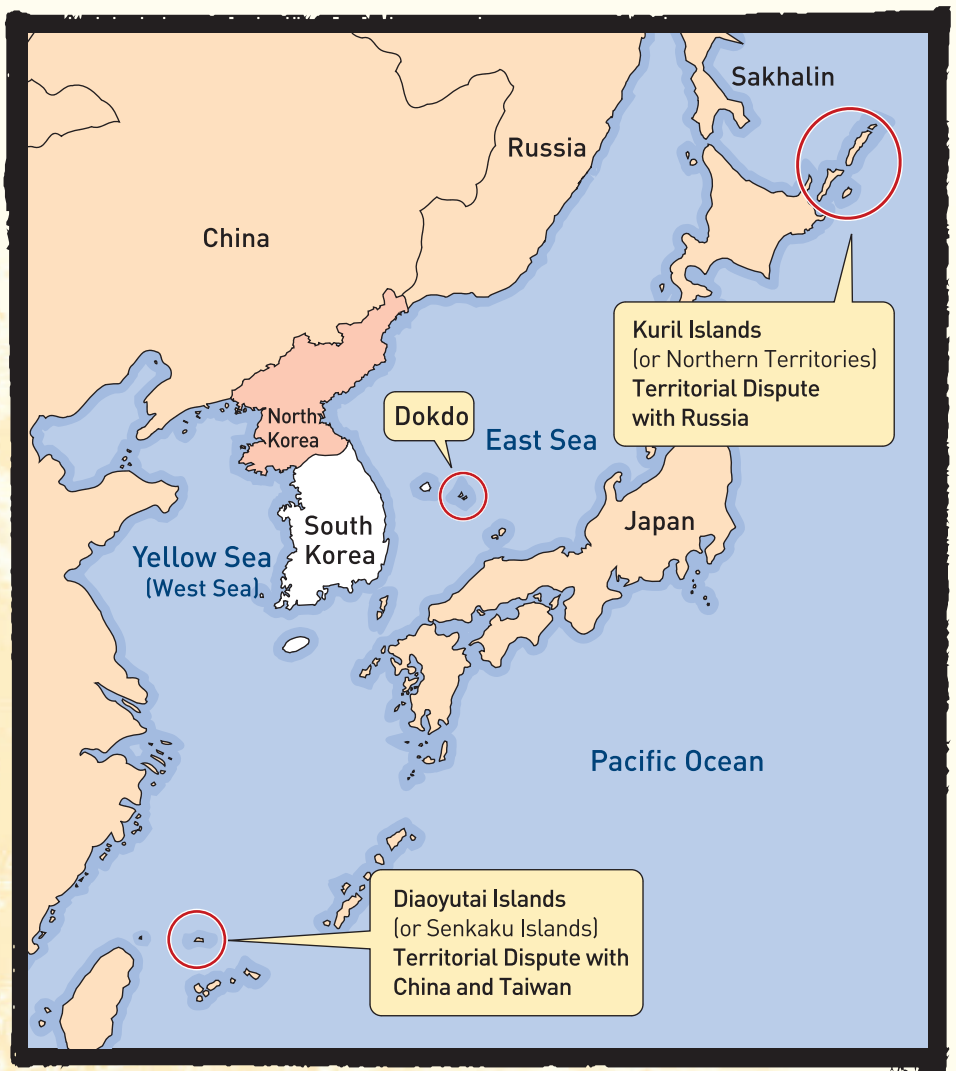
## 2. Response to Japan's Territorial Disputes With Surrounding Nations and Dokdo

For a better understanding of the Dokdo issue, we need to look at two other territorial disputes to which Japan is a party: the Kuril Islands (or Northern Territories) and Senkaku Islands. This is to say, in the three cases, Japan effectively occupies only the Senkaku Islands; in the case of the Kuril Islands, they - like Dokdo - are controlled by an opposing country, in this case, Russia. Accordingly, in the case of the Senkaku Islands, Japan stresses the legal and historic legitimacy of its effective occupation, while in the case of the Kuril and Dokdo Islands, it stresses the legal and historic illegality of the opposing powers' occupation.

Yet of all these territorial issues, it's only the Dokdo issue that Japan has offered to resolve at the International Court of Justice. Despite claiming that Russia's occupation of the Northern Territories is illegal, it has never called for an ICJ resolution. As of now, Japan is trying to resolve the North Territories dispute through diplomatic efforts only. Moreover, while Japan and Russia reestablished diplomatic ties in 1956, they have yet to sign a peace treaty. Japan, taking into account this complex situation, has not been able to raise the possibility of bringing Russia to the ICJ.

But what about Dokdo? In fact, since the conclusion of the Treaty on Basic Relations between the Republic of Korea and Japan in 1965, Japan has never formally asked Korea to resolve the Dokdo issue at the ICJ. This is because one would never believe that after the conclusion of the Treaty on Basic Relations between the Republic of Korea and Japan, which was a de facto (in fact) peace treaty, there would be territorial issues still standing. On the homepage of the Japanese Foreign Ministry, however, it says that in 1954, Japan proposed to resolve the Dokdo dispute at the ICJ, and Korea refused. This hints how Japan, while not formally filing suit at the ICJ, has not abandoned that method as a solution.

In the end, if you compare Japan's attitude towards Russia and Korea, you'll discover a clear difference. To Korea, it calls for the Dokdo issue to be resolved at the ICJ, while to Russia, it is even now trying to resolve the Kuril Islands dispute through diplomatic efforts. Japan's duplicitous attitude can be explained by its relations with the United States. Japan's position is that in the case of Dokdo, it can receive the support of the United States, but in the case of the



● Senkaku Islands and Kuril Islands (Northern Territories)



Kuril Islands, US support cannot be expected. Accordingly, one cannot help but say that for Japan, territorial disputes are not a matter of finding the truth, but rather a very foul policy relying on the logic of power using dynamic political interests. The inner mind of Japan, which continues to hint at an ICJ resolution for the Dokdo issue and pressures Korea, can be seen in its attempt to first establish joint administrative control over Dokdo in the near future by playing the Dokdo issue as a diplomatic card.

Meanwhile, Japan, which effectively controls the Senkaku Islands, will refuse to accept ICJ jurisdiction, even if China or Taiwan move to bring the matter before the court. It is pursuing a strategy that is contradictory to the attitude it takes with Korea. Japan's claims can be summarized thus: "Japan's positions and claims are all correct, while those of the opposing states are all wrong." Japan's logic, which it uses not just with territorial disputes but also regarding its past wrongdoings such as its history textbook distortions, the Yasukuni Shrine issue and the "Comfort Women" issue, is simply very selfish.

### 3. Japan's Legal and Moral Responsibility for Colonialism and Its Understanding of International Law

As was said in President Roh Moo-hyun's address on Korea-Japan relations given in April, 2006, amidst the controversy that followed Japan's announcement of plans to carry out a maritime survey within Korea's Exclusive Economic Zone around Dokdo, Dokdo is not simply one of many islands that are part of Korea's territory, but rather the first piece of territory robbed of by Japan during its conquest of the Korean Peninsula and a symbol of the complete restoration of Korea's sovereignty. And as such, it is a touchstone pointing to the need for Japan to have a correct understanding of its past history full of colonialism and of the textbook distortion issue, and Japan's true intention to establish a Korea-Japan relationship for the future.

Currently, judgements by international legal bodies or mediation decisions do not exist for territorial disputes involving nations with the unique historical background existing between Korea and Japan, which is to say, a territorial dispute involving a colonized country and its



colonizer. This background is different from Japan's disputes involving the Kuril and Senkaku Islands, and is on a different level from other territorial disputes currently submitted to the ICJ. Japan is trying hard to confine the Dokdo issue to a territorial dispute, which is to say, a legal dispute. This is because if one handles Dokdo as a historical issue, it would be revealed that Dokdo was historically Korean territory and that documents exist showing that Japan thrice denied the islets were Japanese territory. Accordingly, Japan is trying to keep the Dokdo issue from becoming a historical one. On the other hand, Korea's position is that Dokdo is not just a territorial issue, but also a historical issue. Dokdo was historically Korean territory, a fact repeatedly confirmed by a succession of royal dynasties, yet in 1905, the islets became the first victim in Japan's invasion of the Korean Peninsula. Japan must not ignore this historical fact and must quickly abandon its aggressive ambition towards Dokdo by the way of making clever use of international law since 1905. **Dokdo**



● Trial of Koreans during Japanese colonial era

# Geonames Search Results

Total Number of Names in query :17

Records 1 through 17

Source: BGN(U.S.Board on Geographic Names)

Name	Country	ADM1	Latitude / Longitude	Feature Type
Liancourt Rocks (BGN Standard)	South Korea	South Korea (general)	37° 15' 00" N 131° 52' 00" E	Islands
Hornet Islands (Variant)				
<b>Tok-to (Variant)</b>				
Take-shima (Variant)				
Take Sima (Variant)				
Tōk-do (Variant)				
Dogdo Island (Variant)				
Dog-Do (Variant)				
Liancourt Rocks (BGN Standard)	Oceans	Oceans (general)	37° 15' 00" N 131° 52' 00" E	Islands
Take Sima (Variant)				
Take-shima (Variant)				
Tok-to (Variant)				
Tōk-do (Variant)				
Chuk-to (Variant)				
Hornet Islands (Variant)				
Dogdo Island (Variant)				
Dog-do (Variant)				

## Historical Association of Korea - Japan Relations

Address : 94-6 Iui-dong, Youngtong-gu, Suwon 443-760, Korea

Tel : 82-31-249-9170 / 82-10-7176-2548

URL : <http://www.hanilhis.or.kr>