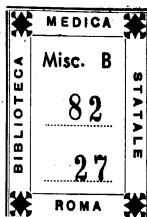


Korean report

VOLUME ONE, NUMBER THREE

AUGUST 1961





Statement by the Military Revolutionary Committee, May 16, 1961

fellow Countrymen!

After a long period of silence and perseverance the armed forces at last started action, in unison, before dawn and completely took over the three branches of government—administration, legislature, and judiciary, with the formation of the Military Revolutionary Committee.

The armed forces launched this action based upon the conclusion that in order to overcome the imminent dangers now facing the fatherland, the fate of the people and the state could not be entrusted any longer to the hands of the present corrupt and incompetent government and politicians.

The Military Revolutionary Committee will:

1. Uphold anti-Communism as our foremost national policy, and revitalize our anti-Communist stand which had heretofore been mere formality and empty words.
2. Continue our adherence to the United Nations Charter, and faithfully fulfill other international agreements, thus, strengthening our existing ties with the United States and other free nations.
3. Exert every effort to eradicate all corruptions and social evils and further create a fresh morale with a view to rejuvenate the demoralized national spirit.
4. By swiftly relieving the destitution of the people

on the verge of despair and starvation, concentrate on establishing a self-supporting economy.

5. Exert ourselves to the building up of adequate strength to effectively combat Communism for the ultimate realization of reunification which is our long-standing aspiration.

6. At any time upon completion of the aforesaid missions, turn over the control of the government to clean and conscientious civilians and return to our original duties.

Patriotic fellow countrymen! Please have wholehearted confidence in this Military Revolutionary Committee and continue on your walk of life in all peace of mind.

Our fatherland is from now on entering a new era of history—a new era full of hope and vigor.

Our fatherland requires our unity, perseverance, courage, and advance.

Long Live the Republic of Korea!

Long Live the Revolutionary Forces!

Do Young Chang
Lieutenant General
Chairman,
Military Revolutionary
Committee

IN THIS ISSUE: LAND OF KOREA



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NEXT ISSUE: Education in Korea

ATTENTION READERS!

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Readers not returning cards from either the April or August issues will be removed from our mailing list.

Korean Report comes to you free of charge under controlled free distribution. We hope to serve you in the best interests of Korean cultural and educational affairs. Contributions are always welcomed. EDITOR

Teacher's packet on Korea

The *Teacher's Packet on Korea* is available upon request from the Korean Research & Information Office for teachers and student-teachers.

Calligraphy

Calligraphy which appeared on the cover of the June issue and in *Life in Korea—3* (June, 1961) was written by Ki-sung Kim for *Korean Report*. Mr. Kim's calligraphy also appears on the cover of this issue.



EXPLORING KOREA'S SEASHORES

by **Harold W. Sundstrom**

KOREA IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREAT archipelago regions. Six hundred miles long, the Korean peninsula includes 6,000 miles of coastline and more than 3,700 contiguous islets and islands. This is a vast, important, and beautiful part of Korea.

The country, renowned as a land of massive mountain ranges and serene valleys, is justly famous for some of the most striking scenery in the Far East. Great rivers and sparkling fresh water streams bisect the landscape. Throughout are majestic peaks and terraced rice fields, the age-old setting for thousands of thatch-roofed farm villages. Moreover, in selected locales, lush national forests—filled with the fresh green of a nationwide reforestation program—hot springs, and seashore resorts offer the pleasure-seeker a pastoral magnificence in an exotic environment.

Korea's distinctive seaside beauty, which increasing numbers of tourists are discovering for themselves, is all around the mainland and in and about the numerous islands that hug the southern and southwest peninsula. From the cascading waterfalls and the high cliffs rising vertically from the sea at Cheju Island in the Korea Straits, to the clear blue water and white sandy beach of Kangwŏn Province's East Coast vacationland, Korea is blessed with a remarkable array of seaside scenery and relaxation spots. Shore-cast fishing, swimming, sun bathing, and boating and sailing are the chief summer sports. Hiking and touring to temples, pavilions, and interesting little fishing villages are other activities.

East of Seoul, along the mountainous backbone of the peninsula fronting the Eastern Sea, is the scenic wonderland of Kangwŏn Province. Free Korea's nature paradise, Kangwŏn is famous for miles of glistening sandy beach and tranquil, clear water. The best bathing areas extend northward from Kangnŭng City to Hwajinp'o, just south of the Military Demarcation Line which divides Communist North Korea and Free Korea. Kangwŏn is an ideal surf and sun playground. From its refreshing moun-

tain brooks to its wide beaches, scores of camp sites and resorts host the visitors who throng to the province during the summer season.

Hwajinp'o, one of Korea's finest beaches, is some two hours drive from Kangnŭng. Here is found a resort noted for good swimming, boating, and fishing. There is a comfortable and modern motel featuring rooms with private bath and kitchen facilities. As in most resort areas, the motel is operated by the Tourism Section of the Ministry of Transportation. Hwajinp'o's motel is situated on the seashore in the midst of a pine forest. On a nearby hillside with a choice view of the ocean is the summer residence of Korea's presidents.

Several stately pavilions are placed at strategically scenic intervals in an atmosphere of quietude along the Kangwŏn shoreline to afford fine views of the ocean. The ancient Kyŏngp'o-dae Pavilion, in the suburbs of Kangnŭng, is celebrated in song and story. Atop a small hill at the edge of a green sea of maturing rice, the pavilion presents an exquisite setting for the surrounding countryside and sea. Gnarled pines and clusters of pink and purple hyacinths, the national flower, frame the 600-year-old pavilion in summer's balmy weather. Kyŏngp'o-dae is famed for its excellent view of the Eastern Sea and the peaceful Lake Kyŏngp'o-dae which separates the pavilion from the coastline. The pavilion is a favorite rendezvous for poets, painters, and lovers.

Southward from Kangnŭng City is Songdo Beach, about five miles north of the Port of P'ohang. A good beach with white sand, its long shoreline is bordered by pine forest. Visitors are attracted by the region's countless days of fair weather, clean sand, and cool water. Situated on a broad three-quartered cove, P'ohang Bay is excellent for water sports, especially sailing, and is often used for amphibious training operations of Republic of Korea and United Nations defense forces.

Strangely enough, while there are ten major ports and at least 200 minor fishing ports ranging the southern Korean peninsula, the contemporary Korean is not a long

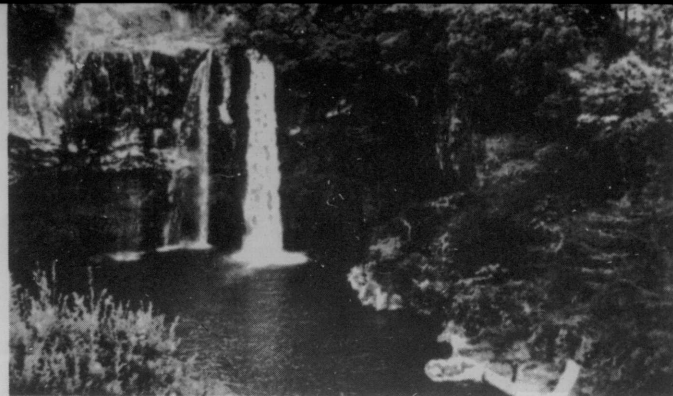
distance seatarer. Not since the merchant princes of the Silla Dynasty, who sailed across the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean to leave footprints in distant India and countries of the Middle East, have Korea's marine resources played a significant part in the nation's commerce. Under the isolation policies of the Yi kings, the Korean standard practically disappeared from the sea lanes around the peninsula. Since the late 16th Century, Korean seaman-ship has been relegated to its fishermen, who use the boats, sails and tackle of their forebears.

Approximately seven per cent of the nation's 16 million rural population earns its livelihood from sea harvests and fish products and processing. The 33,000-boat fishing fleet is undergoing an ambitious modernization and expansion program. This will require time, money, and skill. Still, using largely primitive methods, the fleet's catch is providing important protein to the nation's diet and promises increased production in the years ahead. The national flag has again appeared at international ports with the birth of the Republic of Korea. A young navy shoulders the responsibility of defending the Republic's immense coast. And a growing shipbuilding industry and small merchant marine has the objective of giving the country the masters, seamen, and ships needed as Korea develops its commerce.

Pusan, an industrial city in the southeastern corner of the peninsula, is the nation's southern gateway. As the largest seaport and with a superb natural harbor, Pusan was the funnel through which poured the American and United Nations men and material of war to help the young Republic stem the tide of Communist aggression washing southward in mid-1950. Today, the port receives thousands of tons of U.S. Mutual Security Program materials—from machine tools to powdered milk, from jet engines to trucks, weapons, and cotton.

Haeundae, a holiday resort 30 minutes from Pusan City, is famed for its beautiful private beach, natural hot springs, and many picturesque temples.

Chinhae, 40 miles west of Pusan, is Korea's principal naval base. Used by the Russians at the turn of the Century, the advantage of the sheltered harbor also was recognized by the Japanese. A commemorative statue of Admiral Yi-Sun-sin reminds all that the greatest of Korean military heroes fought some of his most important battles in the sea off the coast of Chinhae. The celebrated admiral's genius saved the Yi Kingdom from Japanese domination in 1597. Admiral Yi's most remarkable feat was the invention of the world's first ironclad warship, a floating fortress with a scaly dome of iron that armored the decks from stern to bow. With his strange ships the admiral destroyed a thousand ships of Hideyoshi, the fearful warlord of feudal Japan. Admiral Yi's brilliant defense of his motherland smashed Japanese seapower and enabled Korea to shut-ter itself in peace as "The Hermit Kingdom" for three centuries. Mortally wounded in the moment of triumph Yi died



Ch'onji-yon Waterfall on Cheju Island, 60 miles off Korea's South Coast.

on the deck of his tortoise-shaped flagship, the ironclad *Göbüksön*.

The cherry blossoms of Chinhae are probably the most brilliant in Korea. Their blooming in early spring triggers the local populace into a festival mood. Gaily decorated tree stalls, colorful lanterns, and farmer bands help create a carnival atmosphere. With the beat of the drum and a little rice wine, everybody dances and shakes off the torpor of winter.

Cheju Island, a small dot of land which lends the final punctuation mark to the Korean peninsula, lies roughly 60 miles off the southwest Chölla coast in the Korea Straits. This volcanic island is some 45 miles long and 20 miles wide. Massive Mount Halla, 6,300 feet high, dominates the landscape. Deep within the mountain's crater is a clear lake, green in summer and blue in winter. On Halla-san's slopes are countless waterfalls, silver ribbons suspended against backgrounds of light and dark foliage. Broad, verdant pastures support a thriving livestock industry. Cheju horses have been known for their breeding qualities since the 14th Century when Mongols directed the islanders in the fine points of successful breeding techniques.

An ideal place for tourists, Cheju is steeped with well-preserved customs, language, and legends. The island's women divers who earn their living by gathering edibles from the bottom of the sea, are an attraction which leave visitors astounded. Long the center of Korea's seaweed and pearl fisheries, Cheju also has been the nation's banishment area. As recently as 1893, the Yi queen sent a male non-believer of spirit worship to the island.

Sögwip'o, mid-way on the southern coast, near acres of tangerine and orange groves, is Cheju's favorite touring center. Close at hand are wonderful cascades, excellent trout streams, and a white sandy beach, unique for high dunes and enchanting rock formations.

Just east of Sögwip'o is the Chongbang Falls. Famous throughout Asia, the falls plunge into the sea, little changed from the day hundreds of years ago that Mr. So, a Chinese traveler, inscribed his famous "Kilroy was here" message on a cliff. Although visitors won't find "Sögwip'o" written there today, legend has it that the ancient Asian wrote "Mr. So passed here!"

Southeastward from Sögwip'o is the one-acre unin-

habited San-do or Forest Island. Crowded with tropical and temperate zone plants and trees, this stepping-stone-into-the-sea is an object of botanical study by Korean and foreign scientists.

Mokp'o, at the extreme southwestern tip of the peninsula, has a fine harbor protected by a chain of islands between the port city and the Yellow Sea. Mokp'o's scenic attractions are three-fold: the ocean, Three-Cranes Island, and lofty Mount Yudal in the city's center.

Tachüksan Island, 60 miles west of Mokp'o, is the administrative headquarters of a cluster of 14 inhabited and 42 uninhabited islands. Most of the 12,000 people living in this island group earn their living by fishing. The sea around the steep-hilled islands is a veritable treasure of fish and seafood. Mackerel, sardines, shellfish, seaweed, and seabream make the islands a popular anchoring place for fishing boat skippers. Among Tachüksan's curious remains are a stone pagoda and lantern and an ancient shell mound. The islanders call the pagoda "old man" and the lantern "old lady," and use them as shamanistic objects of worship. Earthenware and bone and metal artifacts of bygone days also have been found in the area.

Pyönsan Peninsula, on the west coast of North Chölla Province, has established a reputation for its views of the sea and nearby islands, shade trees, and swimming and fishing. Its notable sights include Pyönsan Beach, Chökbyök and Chaeöl Cliffs, waterfalls, deep valleys, and mysterious rock formations. Close at hand, Paekyang-sa, a principal Buddhist temple, is noted for its aged pines, medicinal waters, and hillside maples. A tale is told concerning the origin of the temple's name: One day in olden times the sermons of Priest Hwansön Chösa were so widely known that a miracle occurred in which a flock of white sheep came down to the temple from the mountains. Since these animals are sacred to Buddhists, the name of the sanctuary was changed to Paekyang, the White Sheep Temple. A statue of the sublime teacher is contained in the temple's Taeun Chön, the room of the enshrined Buddha.

Nowhere is the water culture of Korea more apparent than in the southwestern twin Chölla Provinces. This is the nation's granary, a region of extensive lowland irrigation near the ocean and terraced slopes in the interior valleys. Korea, again a rice surplus nation, exported huge quantities of this Asian staple food to Japan before 1945. Much of the grain originated in the Chöllas, where it was transported by rail, truck, and oxcart to the seaports at Kunsan, Mokp'o, and Yösu. Destroyed during the Korean War, these ports have been rebuilt.

Fronting a long stretch of open water with big and little rollers on the Yellow Sea is Mallip'o Beach. This west coast playground is noted for thick forest, old Mount Chönlä Castle, several small temples, and charming fishing villages. Mallip'o annually attracts thousands of visitors from all parts of the country. Mallip'o's white sand beach is extensive and its shallow water is a boon to water safety

for swimmers of all ages. The area's special delicacies are the products of the Kanwöl Island oyster beds. While agriculture is the principal occupation of the people, salt bed farming and fisheries have been developed along the coast, which is dotted with more than 130 small islands, many uninhabited.

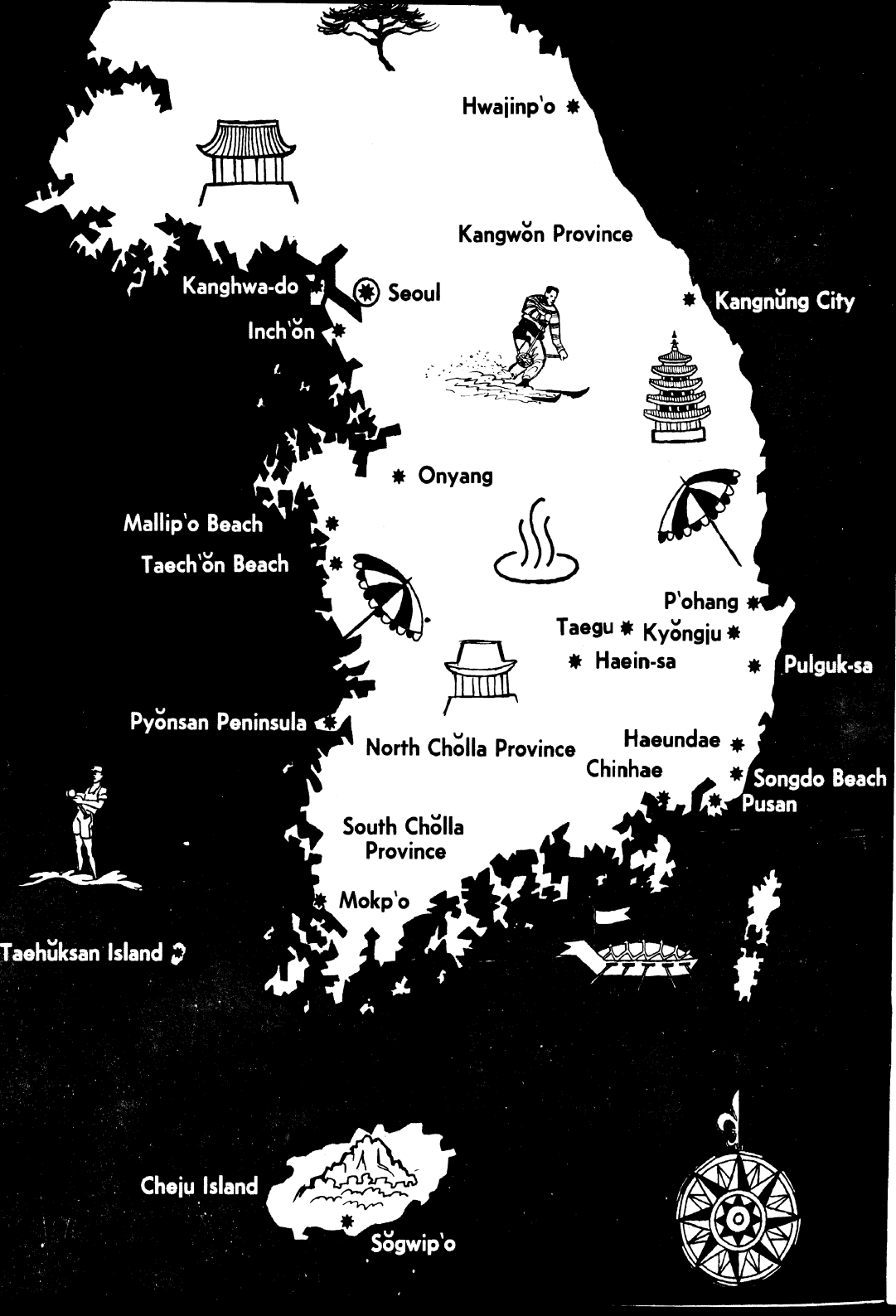
Southward and midway between Mallip'o and the Port of Changhang—Korea's only gold, silver, and copper refinery and smelter—is Taech'ön Beach. A crescent-shaped, two-mile long beach, Taech'ön also has shallow water. Taech'ön's fame is the foreign community which flocks to the area's cottages to escape the sweltering summer heat of the capital, some 125 miles distant.

Inch'ön City, famed for the amphibious landing against the Communists on September 15, 1950, is Korea's second seaport. Located 24 miles west of Seoul, the port functions as the export-import gateway to the capital. In addition to the activities of the local fishing fleet and ocean steamers, Inch'ön offers a good view of the ocean. Off-shore are a number of beautiful islands. With quaint names from the past—such as Song-do or Pinetree, P'almi-do or Eight Tail, and Wölmi-do or Moon's Tail—the islands were very important during the recapture of Seoul by United Nations troops. Devastated during the fighting, Inch'ön is rebuilding to emerge as an important industrial center and commercial transshipping point.

Twenty-five miles northwest of Seoul in the triangle estuaries of the Han, Imjin, and Yesöng Rivers is the old fortress island of Kanghwa-do. A dangerous reef on the island's west side led to its selection as a natural defense line during the Koryö Dynasty. Isolated from the mainland during winter because of ice floes, large quantities of food and military stores were warehoused there by both the Koryö and Yi Dynasties. As a temporary Korean capital, many historical remains and relics are found on the island. Another of Korea's oldest temples—there are more than 1,500 on the peninsula—the Chöndüng-sa, is situated at the Castle of Samnang. Believed to have been founded about 400 A.D., the temple site is cloistered by deep valleys on a ridge dominated by three soaring mountain peaks. Set in a pine forest, Chöndüng-sa is close to the small fortress and commands scenic vistas of the valleys below, some of the most fertile in Korea. Used by communist guerrilla forces in the early days of the Korean fighting, Kanghwa Island is part of the Republic's northern defensive line.

Without doubt, the most rewarding aspect of Korea's seaside beauty is the spectacle of a local fishing fleet returning to port after a long day of hard work. The sight of sails casting rippled shadows beneath the large sky of red and gold in the sunset reflected on the shimmering water of the Yellow Sea captivates the heart and mind.

Exploring Korea's seashores can be an immensely satisfying and wonderful way to discover the beauty of the land and the friendly nature of the Korean temperament.



Hwajinp'o *

Kangwŏn Province

Kanghwa-do

Seoul *

Kangnŭng City *

Inch'ŏn *

Onyang *

Mallip'o Beach *

Taech'ŏn Beach *

P'ohang *

Taegu * Kyŏngju *

Haein-sa *

Pulguk-sa *

Pyŏnsan Peninsula *

North Chŏlla Province

Haeundae *

Chinhae *

Songdo Beach *

Pusan

South Chŏlla Province

Mokp'o *

Taehŭksan Island *

Cheju Island

Sŏgwip'o *



by Chan Lee

SEOUL TO CHEJU ISLAND

THERE ARE NO LARGE-SCALE tourist areas in Korea such as are found in the national parks of the United States. Foreign visitors would find no artificially-created comforts nor extensive resorts in Korea. So, tourists would probably study exotic, traditional scenes and would make attempts to understand the Korean way of life.

Western cultural influence in Korea has increased very rapidly since 1945, and particularly since the Korean War. Urban centers in Korea resemble Western cities; disregarding surface appearances, however, historical influences still dominate.

Seoul

Seoul, literally, "the capital," is the largest city in Korea. Its population is about two and one-half million people, one-tenth of the total population of South Korea. Seoul is one of the oldest towns established in 1396 by Yi T'aejo, founder of the Yi Dynasty. In its early days it was a small, rural market town situated several miles from the right bank of the Han River in a cup-shaped basin which afforded natural protection. Castles were built on the surrounding hills, and large gates were built facing each of the cardinal directions. The shape of the walls changed as the capital expanded yet these walls remain conspicuous features in the city today. Two large gates are completely preserved in their original forms; others remain only as street names, such as Sôdae-mun (West Gate) Street at the western end of the central business district.

The streets of Seoul were laid out in a square pattern similar to the plan used for Chinese cities of the same period. However, the shape of the basin forced a change in the basic pattern to some extent.

At the beginning of Yi Dynasty, the government built uniform shops so that merchants could develop a commercial center on what is now Chong-no (Bell) Street. The remains of the old-fashioned stores may still be seen along that street. Many believe that the present two-story tile and thatched houses are actually those built by the Yi

Government. The ground floor is used for commerce, the upper floor for storage. The store fronts may have changed, but the buildings themselves remain much the same as they were 500 years ago.

Outside the commercial district the city is packed closely with one-story houses. The Korean house is basically square or rectangular although L-shaped and square U-shaped houses are often seen. Houses are built with wooden beams and pillars. Walls are made of clay or clay-lime plaster over a wicker framework, or walls are made of stone or tiles. Although there were many thatched-roof houses in the city, most houses are now tile-roofed. The most outstanding characteristic feature of the Korean roof is that it curves up at the corners. Both ends of the ridge pole also are curved up. Such curved lines are said to be reflected by Chinese architecture.

During the Japanese occupation, Japanese roofing tile and galvanized iron roofing were introduced. Around Nam San, southern part of the main business district where most of the Japanese residences were situated, numerous Japanese-Western style houses were built in sharp contrast with the traditional Korean houses.

Development of the railroad system converging towards Seoul and the modern dock facilities of Inch'on, entry port of Seoul, accelerated the expansion and urbanization of Seoul. The construction of the Central Railroad Station, City Hall, Central Post Office, Bank of Korea, and modern department stores along the main streets introduced a new skyline. After the Korean War new, large buildings were built along the streets where most of the old buildings were destroyed. Just behind the new buildings remain wooden traditional one-story houses.

In Seoul, one may see various means of transportation from the primitive A-frame (chige) back carrier to hand-pushed carts, two-wheel or four-wheel ox-carts, trucks, and

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the latest model cars. After the Korean War automobile transportation developed very rapidly, and the old means of transportation is disappearing from the urban scene. In the outskirts of the city and in rural areas, however, the old means of transportation still play an important role.

Historical sites

More than five centuries old, Seoul has many historical sites to visit. Töksu Palace near the City Hall, built about 450 years ago for Prince Wölsan, is one of the great tourist attractions. After the destruction of Ch'angdök and Kyöngbok palaces by the Japanese invaders (1592) Töksu was the only palace. It served for 280 years as a royal home until the early part of the 20th Century.

Since 1933 Töksu Palace has been open to the public. In addition to traditional Korean houses, Töksu now has a beautiful Western-style building, the first foreign-style building in the country. The Western-style stone building contains over ten thousand works of sculpture, painting, and pottery, dating as far back as two thousand years. The treasures, recognized as world masterpieces, were moved during the Communist invasion for safekeeping. Some of them are now in exhibits in foreign countries.

The most important of the five palaces in Seoul is Kyöngbok Palace, the oldest and largest. It was originally built by Yi T'aejo, founder of Seoul. It was partly destroyed by fire in 1533, and restored in 1554. During the Korean-Japanese War of 1592, it was destroyed completely. Succeeding rulers did not attempt to restore the palace for the next 250 years. In 1865 Taewön'gun, rebuilt the palace on its former scale and grandeur. The main audience hall, Kunjöngjön, and the beautiful pavilion, Kyöngghwoeru, are noteworthy features for visitors.

Ch'angdök Palace was an auxiliary royal residence built by the fourth king of the Yi Dynasty in 1404. Here visitors see the grandeur of palace architecture. In the Secret Garden, a part of Ch'angdök Palace, tourists may spend a whole day appreciating Korean gardens. It is hard to believe there is such calm in the midst of the busy city. Sloping paths, and trails lead to pavilions and lotus-covered ponds enriched by centuries of history.

Rural Landscape

Korea is still essentially rural despite the recent increase in urban population. According to the 1940 census, the rural population of Korea was 88.1 per cent; the 1960 census of South Korea shows 72 per cent in the rural population. Agriculture is the most important vocation. Population distribution, therefore, follows closely distribution of arable lands, located mainly in the southwestern parts of the peninsula.

Villages are made up of a cluster of houses to several hundred, sometimes close to a thousand. The reason behind gregarious living in rural areas is still controversial. How-

ever, it seems that the traditional family system and the demands of cooperation necessary in rice culture are probably the cause of settlement agglomeration.

Visitors may note that most rural villages stand on foothills facing the plain and backed by hills. This pattern of village establishment is closely associated with the divination theory still influencing rural society. But besides tradition, actual benefits are still evident. Villages facing south with hills behind them give protection from the winter monsoon and northwestern winds. They also receive more sunshine during the long, cold winter season.

Rural houses are mostly straw-thatched with plastered mud walls. Walls are sometimes white-washed with lime. The structure of the house is basically that of urban houses, L-shaped, square U-shaped, and sometimes a rectangular shape with an inside courtyard. Very often the outbuildings are set off from the dwellings. Behind the house are kept numerous jars for preserved foods. Around the typical rural house is the vegetable garden for growing Chinese cabbage, radishes, spinach, and beans. Gourds, a climbing plant, are planted near the house and extend over the straw-thatched roof.

Fields are divided into tiny plots. Two types of fields are recognized: rice fields and upland fields. Rice is the most important subsistence and commercial crop in Korea. Rice culture is quite different from that of wheat and barley which grow without irrigation.

With a few exceptions, rice is grown on wet fields in two or three inches of water during the growing season. Fields are divided into tiny plots by field levees to hold irrigation water evenly. Sometimes farmers make terraces on the sloping lands. Rice is one of the oldest crops in Korea, and closely associated with Korean life. Therefore, wherever water is available rice is planted first.

The rice fields of Korea are quite different from those of the United States where rice is grown on large fields with modern farm machinery. In Korea rice is grown almost wholly by hand labor with a little animal power. Farmers make seed beds in the early spring and hand-transplant the young rice to muddy fields in the last part of May or June. When rice has ripened and the heads are bent under the weight of the grain it is harvested by sickle. Cut rice is laid on the stubble to dry for one or two days. Then it is tied in bundles and transported to the threshing grounds by ox-carts or A-frames. Rice bundles remain in stacks until threshing is done by hand.

High lands, where water is not available for irrigation, are used for crops like wheat, barley and millet. Upland fields are also divided into tiny plots, and means of cultivation is wholly by hand and animal labor. Millet in the north, barley in the south and soybeans which grow nearly everywhere are the three most important upland crops.

A rolling topography dominates the western part of the peninsula. In this section, the natural ground cover is grass. For three reasons, these fields are not used for pas-

ture: grasses are not fit for animal feed, farmers are not accustomed to raise cattle for human food, and there is strong competition between cropland and pasture land. Farmers keep draft animals for agriculture, but they do not graze animals to any appreciable extent. Milk, one of the most important foods in most parts of the world, has not been adopted as a human staple in Korea; it is generally given only to children and patients.

Places to visit

Three types of tourist attractions will be recognized in Korea: Buddhist temples and historical sites, hot springs, and beaches and islands.

Most of the Buddhist temples are situated in the mountain valleys, usually a considerable distance from the

crowded lowlands. Temples are well scattered over the country. Thick covers of pine forests and fine mountains together with the antiquity of the temples is what attracts tourists. Most mountain areas have no forest cover. Therefore, the thick cover of forest surrounding the temples usually stands out as an oasis in the desert of barren lands.

A most famous tourist area, combining temples and historical sites is Kyōngju area. Kyōngju was the capital of Silla Kingdom from 57 B.C. to 935 A.D. The Buddhist-influenced Silla culture left many remains: numerous tombs, one of the oldest observatories in the world, old stone ice chambers, and the famous bell of the Bongdōk temple. A fine museum exhibits earthenware, chinaware, tiles, tablets, a bronze Buddha, a stone sundial carved in animal image, and various stone age relics.

Looking north from Nam-san (trans., "South Mountain") one sees a panorama view of Seoul. The Capitol is in the center background.



Pulguk-sa, the most famous Buddhist temple in Korea is situated eight or nine miles south of Kyōngju. The original plan and stone works date as far back as 1400 years ago, the most colorful age of the Silla Kingdom. Masterpieces of stonework of the Silla period retain their original forms: Tabo Pagoda, Three Story Stone Pagoda, Sari Pagoda, Yōnhwa and Ch'ilbo bridges, Chōngun and Paegun bridges, and Sōkgul Grotto Cave.

Fine modern hotels and souvenir shops in both Kyōngju and Pulguk-sa also help to attract many tourists to visit this area, now planned as a national park.

Haiein-sa is famous for its collection of one of the world's most complete sets of wooden type-blocks. They were made in the 13th Century and used to print Buddhist scriptures. The temple is situated 72 miles south of Taegu where Mt. Kaya is located. The quiet temple atmosphere and natural scenery attracts many tourists, poets and novelists.

Tongdo-sa in South Kyōngsang Province, Pōpju-sa in North Ch'ungch'ōng Province, Sudōk-sa and Magok-sa in South Ch'ungch'ōng Province, Chōndūng-sa in Kanghwa Island near Inch'ōn, Pusōk-sa in North Kyōngsang Province, and Kūmsan-sa in North Chōlla Province are the well known temples besides those mentioned earlier.

Among the hot springs in Korea, Onyang is probably the most popular one. It is a relatively short distance from the largest population center—about two and one-half hours ride from Seoul by train. Onyang has well equipped resort facilities.

Probably the second busiest hot springs are Tongnae

and Haeundae situated in the eastern suburbs of Pusan, second largest city in Korea. Due to their southern location this area has milder weather during the winter season and attracts tourists in the cold season. Nearby Haeundae beach and temples near Tongnae also hold advantages for resorters.

Korea has more than three thousand islands distributed mainly on the south and west coasts. Most of them are closely related to the mainland both physically and culturally. However Cheju Island is quite different from the peninsula. Cheju, lying about 60 miles off the southwestern coast is a large volcanic island. Isolation and different historical background have given Cheju quite a distinct culture from that of the peninsula. Houses are surrounded by high stone walls, and grass-thatched roofs are tightened by thick ropes to protect them from the sea winds. The houses and villages are oriented in consideration of winds.

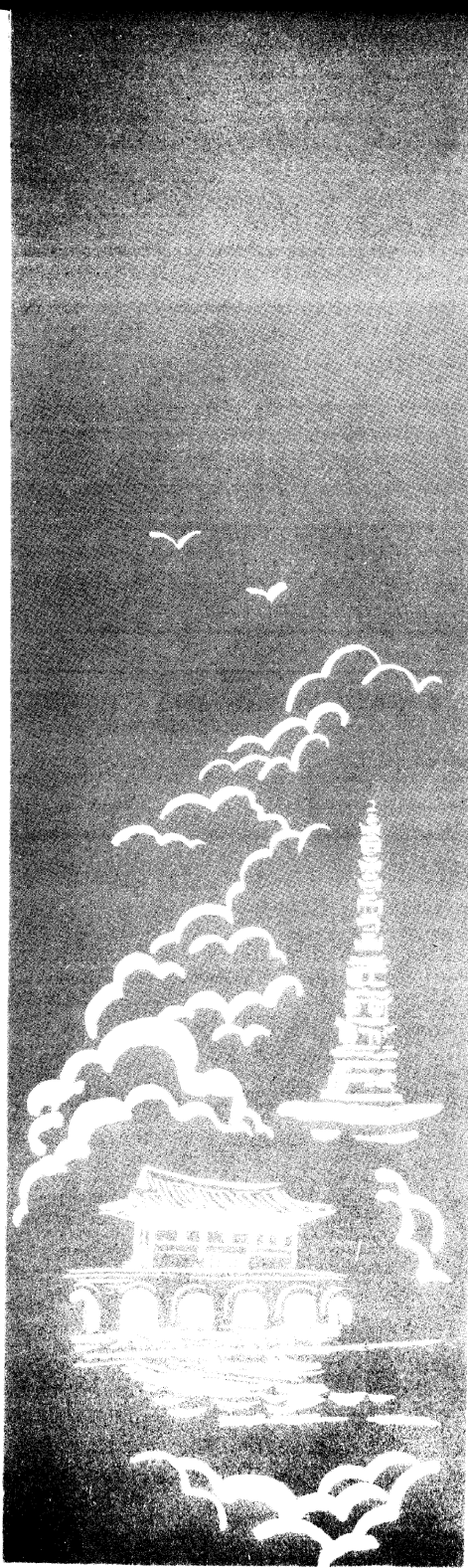
Cheju's land use pattern also differs greatly: very few rice fields are seen because there are no extensive alluvial lands where surface water is available. Subsistence crops are millet and barley instead of rice. Another striking difference is the presence of pasture lands which are almost lacking in the peninsula. Grasslands of today in Cheju were formerly deciduous forest cover. The forests were cut for ship-building timbers at the time of the Mongol invasion of Japan in 1274. The forests were never replaced, and islanders adopted a grazing economy from the Mongols on the cut-over uplands.

In addition, many well-preserved customs and traditions, attract many tourists to visit this remote island.

Poem by Kim Sam-hyon (fl. 1675-1700)

Having dozed amid the pines,
I awake, sleepy from drink.
The setting sun is over the river bank,
And look, seagulls fly in and out.
Yes, perhaps only I know
The beauties of these hills and waters.

Translated by Prof. Peter H. Lee
Columbia University



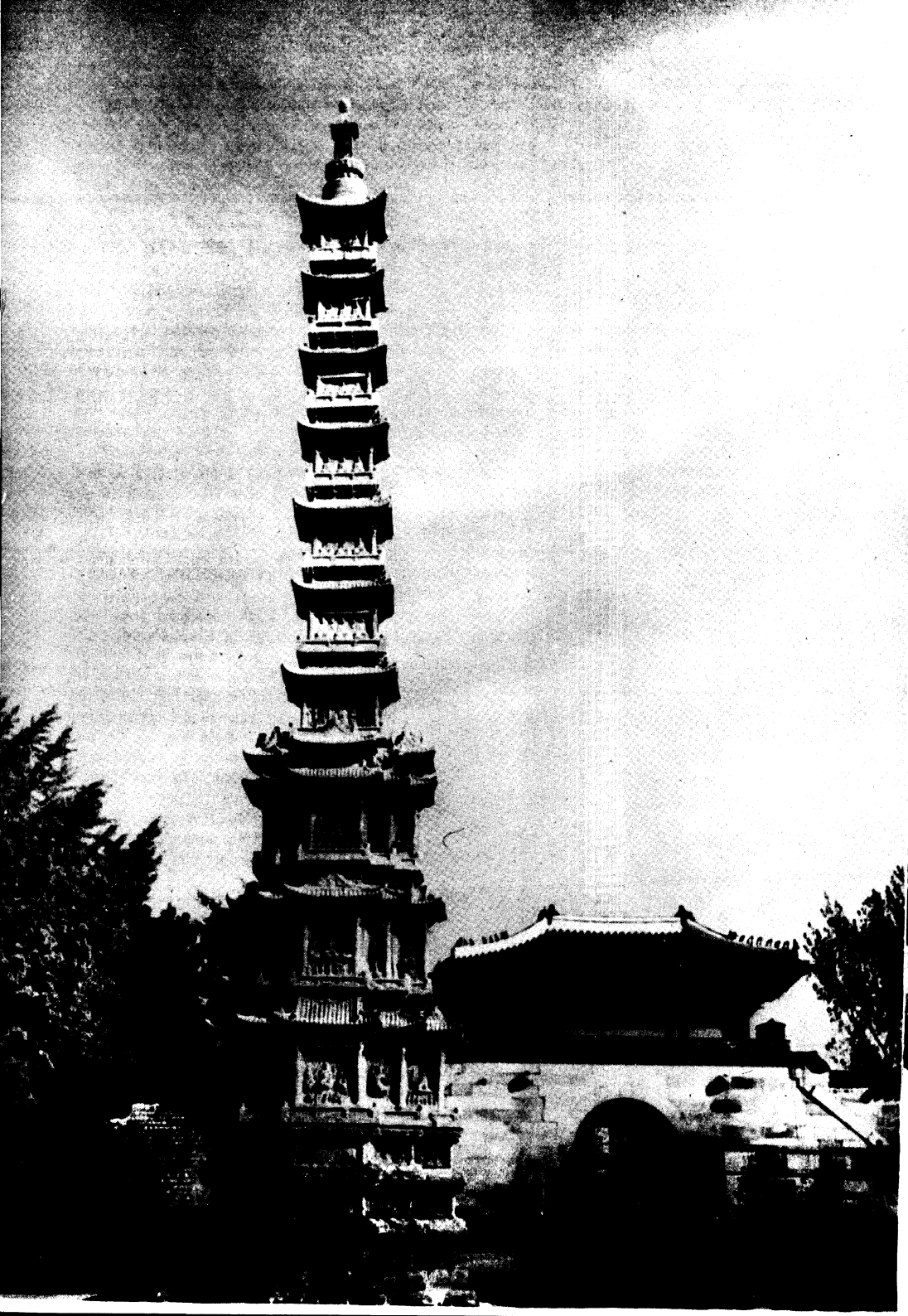
KOREAN ARCHITECTURE

KYŒNGCH'ÖN-SA PAGODA

This greyish marble pagoda was erected in the fourth year of King Ch'ungmok of the Koryŏ Dynasty (A.D. 1348) in honor of the kings of Koryŏ. It is forty feet high. On three star-shaped bottom courses are laid ten segmented tiers one on top of the other. Each face of each bottom course carries relief sculpture of Buddhas, human figures, flowers, plants, and twisted dragons. The body of the pagoda has an overall pattern of columns, eaves, verandahs, and roofs. This art form of the Koryŏ Dynasty shows a distinct Chinese influence. The pagoda once stood in front of Kyŏngch'ŏn-sa (Monastery of the Adoration of Heaven) near Kaesŏng. It was dismantled and recently re-erected in front of the Palace Museum in Seoul.

HWAHONG GATE

The unique gate shown in the picture on Page 13 was built over a stream in the city of Suwŏn. The name, Hwahong, literally means "rainbow." The gate, noted for its beauty, is inside a castle which is surrounded by a wall of granite blocks. The wall forms a half circle around Suwŏn. The gate was designed and built to blend in with both the castle and the surrounding landscape: it is a natural extension of a pavilion which lies near the gate. Built in 1794 during the reign of King Chŏngjo of the Yi Dynasty, the gate represents the beauty and great artistic skill characteristic of the Yi Dynasty.





Geographical Studies in Korea

by Yuk, Chi-su

Professor of Economic Geography

Seoul National University

GEOGRAPHICAL STUDIES in Korea advanced through similar patterns of development as in other countries. Development of topography followed old records of private tours until the introduction of Western civilization brought the Western way of thinking to the study of geography during the late Yi Dynasty (1392-1910).

Literature on geography is sparse in ancient Korea. However, during the Yi Dynasty numerous books on geography appeared with emphasis on topography, and through them we can understand the high standard of geographical studies undertaken in Korea in that period. This progress was soon interrupted for some time by the Japanese domination in Korea until the Liberation in 1945, when Korean scholars actively resumed geographical studies.

The first book of geography covering the entire country is the *Book of Geography* from the *Chronicle of King Sejong's Reign*, published about 500 years ago during the

Yi Dynasty. It is a compilation of topographical records edited in each province in the country by order of the king. Modern methods of geographical studies in Korea were influenced by the invention of a rain-gauge by King Sejong which lead to the study of geographical and seasonal distribution of rainfall throughout the country making a considerable progress in climatology based chiefly on rainfall. The rain-gauge presently used by all countries of the world is an improvement on the device originally used by the Italian, Benedetto Castelli, in 1639. The rain-gauge of King Sejong was invented in 1442, almost 200 years before the modern method of rainfall observation was practiced in the West. The invention of such a rain-gauge by King Sejong may have been inspired by the political necessity he saw as the ruler of the state, for Korean agriculture, mostly based on rice paddy fields, was invariably influenced by the amount of rainfall. During the reign of King Yōngjo (1725-1776) in the late Yi Dynasty, rainfall in the upstreams of rivers was studied by installing water-marks on the Ch'ōngge Creek in Seoul.

The development of modern geographical studies presaged in the *Book of Geography* from the *Chronicle of King Sejong's Reign* continued in the *Survey of Famous Scenery in the Eastern Country*, published during the reign of King Sōngjong (1470-1494), imitating the *Record of*

Unified Great Ming, published earlier in China. During the reign of King Chungjong (1507-1544) the book was supplemented and revised by Ro, Sa-sin and others, and appeared as the *New Supplemented Survey of Famous Sceneries in the Eastern Country*. It covered the entire territory of Korea. Since compilation of such a voluminous book of geography would never have been possible without co-operation among a large number of geographers, we can reasonably presume the advanced stage of the study of geography of the time.

The *Geography of the Eastern Country* by Han, Paek-kyŏm, published during the time of King Myŏngjong (1546-1567), was a culmination of the past publications. Together with many opinions expressed by the author, the book contains excerpts of articles on geography from such early works as the *Korea Volume of Former-Han Book* (*Chien Han Shu Chao Hsien Chuan*), the volumes on Koguryŏ, East Okjo, Puyŏ, three Hans, of the *Latter-Han Book* (*Hou Han Shu*) as well as those articles on the geography of Koguryŏ, Paekje, Silla and Koryŏ. This was the first step of exploration into the historical geography in Korea, and the opinion of the author may well be regarded as representing that of the Korean people on geography.

During the reign of King Chŏngjo (1777-1800), the *Study on the Territory of Korea* (*Taehan kungyŏkŏ*) by Chŏng, Ta-san was published. Later Chŏng, Ta-san published *Book of Korean Rivers*, a study of the Korean rivers mostly located in north Korea. It is substantially a book on historical geography with quotations from ancient Korean and Chinese books such as the *Book on Mountains and Oceans*, the *Geography of Han Book* (*Han Shu*) and others; but it is the first book of geography in Korea containing reference to the economic importance of rivers.

The *T'aekniji*, by Yi, Chŏng-hwan, also known as the *Palyŏkji* (*Book on Eight Provinces*), *Pokgŏji* or *Sansurok* (Records of Mountains and Rivers), may well be considered as the first book of political geography. The author served three consecutive kings, Sukjong (1675-1720), Kyŏngjong (1721-1724), and Yŏngjo (1725-1776), during the late Yi Dynasty. He discusses the entire territory of Korea from the standpoint of natural and political geography. In contrast to the heavy emphasis on topography by the past geographers, he shows a definite inclination toward clarifying the relationship between man and nature. Such an inclination is presumed to be a result of the influence of modern Western geography which, though it had not yet been introduced to Korea, must have made its influence felt somewhat through China. Small as this book was, it was the zenith of Korean pre-Western geography.

Besides these geography books covering the entire territory of Korea, there are many other books on local geography published during the time; and numerous maps, the most famous being *The Map of Eastern Country* by Kim, Chŏng-ho. In the meantime, *Essential Knowledge for*

Government Officials and the People (*Samin'ilji*), a translation from an English book, served as the first guide book introducing world geography to Korea during the late Yi Dynasty.

With the annexation of Korea by Japan in 1910, the study of geography was impeded, because all studies about Korea itself were suppressed by the Japanese. Only a few theses were published by Koreans on Korean geography during those years, and it would hardly be an exaggeration to say that during the 36 years of Japanese rule over Korea, there was almost no contribution to the study of geography by the Korean people. But the survey of Korean geography by the Japanese was relatively active. Since the Japanese geography students were then using the methodology of such European geographers as Ratzel, Paul de la Blanche, and Hettner a new trend appeared in the study of Korean geographical facts. Although the 36 years of Japanese domination failed to produce an extensive geography book comparable with the *Book of Geography from the Chronicle of King Sejong's Reign*, or the *New Supplemental Survey of Famous Sceneries in the Eastern Country*, covering in detail the entire territory of Korea, the new method furnished strong impetus to the geography students of Korea.

One important project completed during the period of Japanese domination was a 1/50,000 scale map of Korea composed of more than 700 sheets covering the entire territory of Korea. It was a tremendous contribution to Korean geography, and presently the map is utilized extensively by the Korean geographers in their research work.

Immediately following the Liberation, the Korean Geographical Society was founded in October 1945. However, it has not been an easy task to fill the gap in study and research caused by the 36 years' interruption of Japanese domination. Generally speaking, geography in Korea is leaning heavily to natural geography with a negligible number of students studying political or economic geography. Korean geography, therefore, has not yet reached the stage where geographers can cooperate for the improvement of land by participating in programs for overall development of the land. It is regrettable that during the 15 years since the Liberation, geography in Korea has failed to produce either a unique work comparable to Yi, Chŏng-hwan's *T'aekniji* or a geographical compendium based on recent methodologies. However, Korean geographers are now able to import the achievements of geographical progress from advanced foreign countries. Currently the German school is the most powerful in the study of geography in Korea, due mostly to the influence of Japanese geography. The influence of the theory of environment by the Ratzel School has, of course, passed out of fashion, but the influence of Hettner and Dietrich continues. Dietrich's theory of mutual relation between man and nature has left an especially deep impression on many geographers. The theories of the Huntington School.

have extensive plains on which they deposit material when in flood stage.

These mountains and streams are dominant in the terrain of Korea. The name Korea, which is used by Westerners for the peninsula, is derived from the name of an old kingdom, Koryŏ, which may be poetically translated as "The Land of High Mountains and Sparkling Streams," an apt epitomization of Korea. As a consequence of the distribution of the mountains and rivers, there is a considerable diversity of land forms in the peninsula. The northern interior, furnishing a solid continental base, is a mountainous land, dominated by volcanic Paektu-san and associated mountain ranges, in which the Yalu and Tuman Rivers and their tributaries are deeply entrenched. Around the margins of this land are plains and hill lands, a relatively narrow ribbon along the Sea of Japan, a broader expanse on the west, drained by the Ch'ŏngch'ŏn and Taedong Rivers. South of a distinctive valley or depression which trends across the peninsula northeastward from Seoul is the T'aebak Range which parallels the east coast, squeezing a narrow strip of plains and hills along the Sea of Japan. West of the T'aebak Range are the drainage basins of the Han and Kum Rivers; these rivers have developed extensive and fertile plains along their lower courses. Trending southwest from the T'aebak Range is another range, the Sobak, which culminates in massive Chiri-san. The Nakdong River basin is thus segregated in southeastern Korea.

Both a close relation and a sharp contrast exist between the uplands and lowlands of Korea. The sharpness of detail and the lack of a solid vegetation cover on many hills give them an exaggerated appearance of height and ruggedness, an effect accentuated by the characteristics of the narrow, flat-bottomed valleys beside them. It is out of the uplands that most of the plains have been carved; it is from the uplands that the alluvial material which covers some of the plains has been derived. The map of uplands and lowlands which accompanies this article appears to make their differences as sharp as black and white, though in actuality they do grade into each other since they are the result of a common geologic history.

The terrain of Korea naturally has a profound influence on the daily lives of the Korean people. It has played a significant role throughout their history. Certainly in the recent hostilities in Korea the bitterly contested struggles for significant hill summits and ridge crests have emphasized the importance of terrain. It was on the strategic hill crests overlooking the southward trending corridors in central Korea that some of the most severe fighting took place. Though in times of war the terrain appears as a dramatic factor, in times of peace it is no less important a factor, for it controls the distribution and types of fields, the location of villages, and it handicaps or aids the development of transportation between centers of economic activity. This unusual diversity of land forms in Korea thus constitutes a permanent stage on which is played the Korean

drama, whether in peace or war, in prosperity or adversity.

The climate of Korea is a quiet and eternal dictator over the lives of the people. The Korean's choice of crops, his round of labor, and his daily activities are influenced by the weather of the peninsula. The natural vegetation, soil characteristics, many of the regional diversities, as well as the population distribution and the number of people who can live off the land are conditioned as much by the climate as by the terrain.

Korea has a humid, mid-latitude, monsoonal climate. In the winter the average monthly temperature generally is below freezing. The summers are hot. The range of temperature is much greater in the north and in the interior than in the south and along the coasts. The average annual precipitation varies from twenty inches in the northern interior to more than sixty inches on the south coast, most of the rainfall coming in the summer months, when cyclonic storms, convectional activity, and occasional late summer typhoons cause disturbances in the warm, moist air drifting inland from the ocean. In winter the cold, dry air masses drifting outward over the Korean peninsula from the interior of the continent of Asia yield little precipitation. These seasonal climatic differences are due to the continentally-induced monsoon system. The passage of cyclonic storms gives diversity to the daily weather. Significant climatic variations are caused by differences in elevation and by proximity to the coastal waters as well as by latitudinal differences in Korea.

The most distinctive climatic season in Korea is the summer. In July all of the lowland areas, particularly the western plains and the Nakdong River basin, are hot. Average monthly temperatures are in the 70°s and 80°s. The temperatures in the high elevations of the mountain areas and along the northeast coast where the cool Liman Current prevails are slightly lower. Warm, moist air moves across Korea from the maritime regions to the south toward the interior of the continent. When these air drifts blow steadily, large amounts of rainfall do not occur, but if they are forced to rise over colder air masses, or if convectional updrafts (due to the heating of the land surface and the subsequent heating and rising of the air) are strong, heavy rains fall. Hence in Korea the summer season is marked by many rainy days. In addition, convectional storms, characterized by thunder and lightning, bring heavy downpours, and passing cyclonic storms add still more. The pattern is one of clear and less cloudy days interspersed with rainy days.

As the season progresses into August, the rainfall lessens, except in the northern interior and northeastern coast, where the peak of the rainy season lags into August. During the summer "rainy season," throughout Korea the rivers and streams are filled with run-off water, often causing floods, and roads and courtyards turn into seas of mud, and the rice thrives under such circumstances. Occasionally, however, when the rainfall is limited or late, or when it is

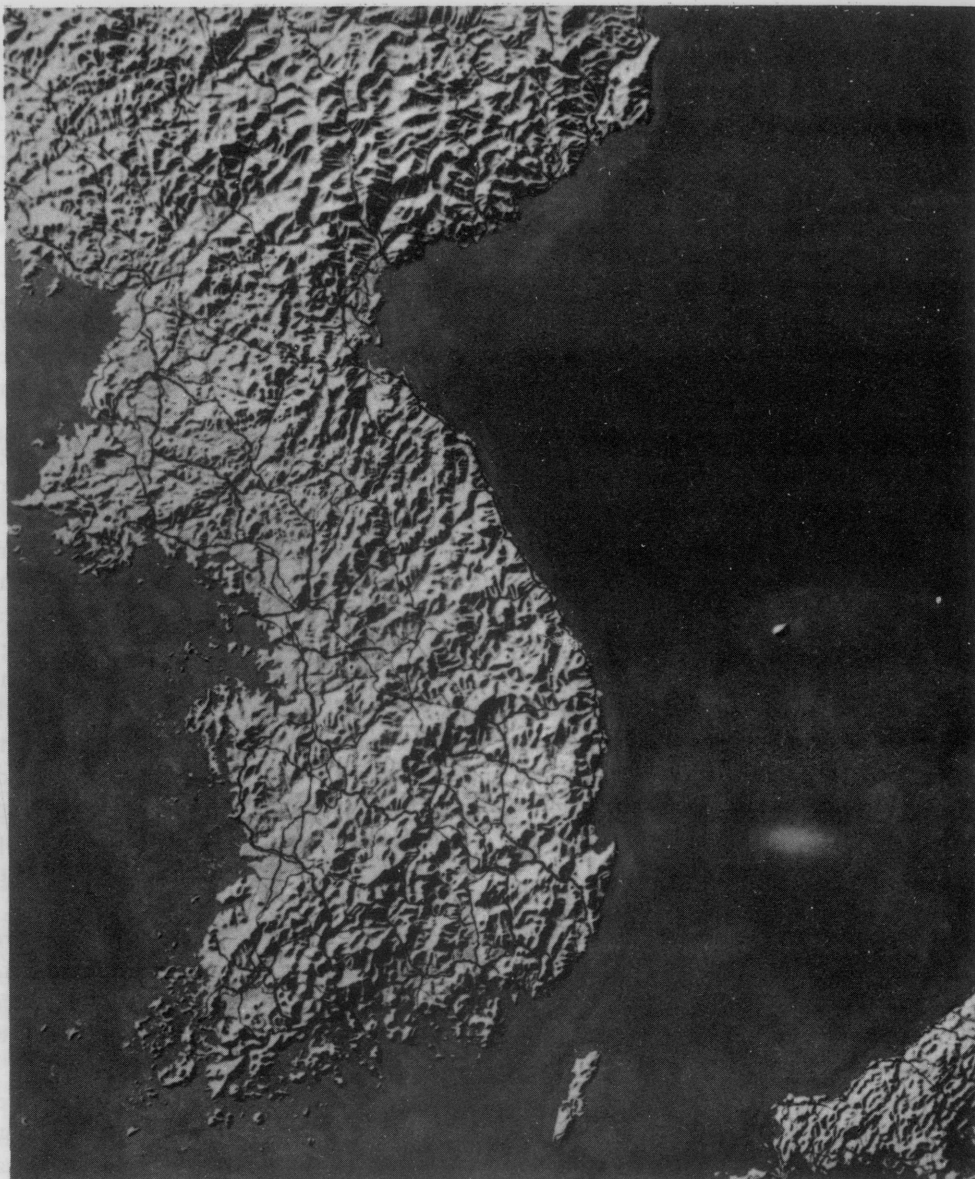


Photo of a scale relief map showing the topography of the Korean peninsula.

concentrated in only a few very heavy downpours, the crops may fail and the Korean farmer faces famine.

September is marked for most of Korea by a less steady flow of warm moist air and less humidity, though the southern coastal regions may be struck by typhoons, with their heavy rains and violent winds. These storms may cause great damage to the crops, for during this month, which is generally drier there, the rice fields are usually drained and the harvest begun.

October brings a decided shift in air mass movements; the dry, continental air beginning to move in more steadily, brings clearer weather. Nights are cool particularly in the north, where frost commonly occurs. These clear fall days are the most pleasant of the year. By November winter has begun in the north, with occasional light snowfalls

in the interior. In the south the days are still warm, and farmers may plant winter crops. By December there is little precipitation, although cyclonic storms may bring enough snowfall to provide a snow cover throughout North Korea. The northern rivers begin to freeze over.

It is during the winter season that the climatic contrast between northern and southern Korea is most apparent. For in the south, though nights may be cool, the days are still warm and the farmers can work in the fields and their children can gather twigs and leaves on the hillsides. By January, the dry, cold air from the continental interior brings severe cold waves, particularly in the north and in the interior. Precipitation is slight. The winds are usually not severe in velocity but are severely cold. The temperatures average below freezing during the month in all but

the extreme southern coast, where the temperature is only slightly above freezing. In the northern interior and in the northwest part of Korea the temperatures are bitterly cold. This severe winter continues on into February, though that month is slightly warmer.

In March, the dry continental air drifts begin to abate, temperatures rise, and in the south, when maritime air begins to drift in, warm days are common. By April, thaws set in, particularly in central and northern Korea. The streams swell as the ice breaks up, and travel becomes difficult. In southern Korea there may be a slight increase in rainfall. This is very beneficial for the preparing of the rice seedbeds and paddy fields. The farmers begin their busy season. The flowering shrubs and trees add bright colors. Occasionally, though, the winds are gusty and variable in direction, and cyclonic storms add variety to the daily weather.

By May the approach of summer is evident. Warm, moist air begins to drift in from the south with more regularity, and rainy days occur frequently. Hot days are common in June, when the whole country is green and the growing rice takes on a vivid emerald shade. Convictional thunderstorms come often—the precursors of the heavy rainy season of summer. The warm, moist, tropical maritime air masses now dominate the weather and the Koreans forget winter's cold blasts, though an occasional north wind still blows with mild force. Summer has arrived.

The variation of climate from place to place plays a dominant role in the geography of Korea. In winter the fields of southern Korea are green with barley, while among the spruces and larches of the northern interior the snow lies deep. In summer the farmer in the far north goes out on a mild sunny day from his isolated, shingle-roofed log cabin to work the field he has cleared by fire on a steep mountain slope; by contrast, the southern countryman leads his cow out from his thatch-roofed, mud-walled farmhouse in the village to plow his water-soaked paddy field in a falling rain.

The winter temperatures are very important to the agriculture and economy of Korea and constitute a dominant climate characteristic. If the cold is not overly severe, two crops may be grown in a year. Therefore, winter temperature differences are of obvious importance in characterizing climatic contrasts. The northern interior is extremely cold, having five months (November to April) with average temperatures below 32°F. In contrast, southern Korea, including a fringe northward along the Sea of Japan, has mild winter temperatures, January temperatures averaging above 26.6°F (-3°C.). Southern Korea, therefore, should be set aside as a major climatic area; local differences are, however, important, and thus this area may be logically subdivided. The central and northern areas of Korea have considerable climatic contrasts from the two areas already delineated: the bitterly cold northern interior and the mild-wintered south. Maritime influence

is especially strong in the northeast along the deep Sea of Japan, so this area may be set off as a separate area distinguished from western Korea by a milder winter, January temperatures averaging above 17.6°F. The western part of central and northern Korea has cold winters, though not so cold as the interior, and hot summers. Within this area are variations in the degree of winter cold, and it may therefore be logically subdivided on the basis of average January temperatures.

Because of its humid continental climate, Korea has conditions favorable to the growth of extensive forests. Three-fourths of the total area of the peninsula is classified as forest land. However, in 1940, of this forest land only seventy per cent was classified as standing trees. In recent years this ratio of nonforested land to forest land has increased. Three factors have done much to change this phase of the geography of Korea. The first is man, who, in his need for fuel, building material, and arable land, has thoughtlessly destroyed much of his heritage. The second is an insect, a pine bug, which has wrought havoc on the pine forests. The third is forest fires which have gotten out of control. Today the only true natural forests to be found are in the far north and on the higher mountains or around a few temples. Many of the forested areas are really second growth stands, some areas having been carefully reforested, sometimes with imported species of trees. Though a complete and detailed study of the natural vegetation is not possible, certain general plant associations can be noted. For example, in the cold north are extensive areas of larch and spruce; in the central part of Korea are oaks and elders, along with some conifers; in the warmer south are scattered patches of bamboo and pine, though the vegetation here is generally deciduous.

The soils of Korea, which furnish the bases for most of the human life in the peninsula, are not true soils; they are immature soils which have been greatly changed by man's activities through the centuries. Because of the diverse geologic structure of Korea, a great variety of physical types of soils prevails. The eroded, alluvial materials in the lowlands of Korea can be more easily cultivated than the residual weathered rocks of the uplands, so on the lowlands are found most of the productive agricultural lands of Korea. As the topographical map shows, they fringe the coast line and go deep into the interior up some of the river valleys. In general the soils of Korea are not too fertile. In the densely settled portions of Korea, where farm boys rake leaves and brush, no opportunity is given for humus to develop. The working and reworking of the soils of the land used for crop cultivation has produced manmade, rather than natural soils.

The climate, vegetation, and soils give distinctive character to the land of Korea. They are factors which both aid and limit the activities of the Korean farmer. They, along with the terrain, should be thought of as an integral part of Korea's heritage.

NEWS & AIMS *views*

SCNR reorganizes its structure

On June 8 the SCNR reorganized its structure to include the establishment of a standing committee, seven special committees and six subordinate groups. The seven special committees are steering, judiciary and legislative, home affairs, foreign affairs and national defense, finance-economy, transportation-communications, and education and social affairs. The standing committee will be comprised of the chairmen of the special committees and will be headed by the vice-chairman of the SCNR.

Reorganization will also place under the SCNR the following agencies: office of general affairs, office of public information, central intelligence bureau, the planning committee, headquarters of the national reconstruction movement and the capital defense command.

Korean teachers in Japan to be retrained

Korean teachers who live and teach in Japan will be invited to return to Korea for instruction. A recent Cabinet session decided that the teachers should be oriented on the military revolution and on anti-Communist measures. There are about 500,000 Koreans living in Japan at the present time.

Books-to-Korea program established

An annual books-to-Korea program was recently instituted by the R. R. Bowker Company, publishers. The New York City firm launched their program with a donation of 200 books on business management, finance, literature, government, and technical subjects. The shipment will be distributed to schools, colleges, and libraries in Korea. The program was conceived by a Bowker executive and implemented by the American-Korean Foundation which arranged for shipment of the books.

In celebration of Farmers' Day, Vice Chairman of the SCNR, Chung Hi Pak, and members of the SCNR transplant rice in Suwon, June 9. Farmers day is a national holiday in Korea.



President signs omnibus law giving powers to Supreme Council

On June 5, President Posun Yun signed a law which prevails over the Constitution of the Republic of Korea and which gave legal grounds for reform of the Korean government.

The first article of the law provides for the establishment of the Supreme Council for National Reconstruction . . . to safeguard the ROK against Communist aggression and to overcome the national crisis which resulted from corruption, injustices, and poverty.

Consisting of four chapters, 23 articles, and supplementary provisions, the law states that the basic rights of the citizen under the Constitution shall be guaranteed so long as there is no conflict with the fulfillment of the tasks of the revolution.

Other important provisions are that the authority of the national assembly under the Constitution will be exercised by the SCNR, that the SCNR will be composed of 20 to 32 councilors elected from among loyal officers on active duty with the armed forces, and that the Supreme Council will appoint the head of the Cabinet, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, heads of the four armed services, recommend justices of the supreme court, and may enact special ex post facto laws.

Two professors get foreign policy posts

The Foreign Ministry has appointed Prof. Byōng Ki Min of Korea University and Prof. Il Yōng Chung of Seoul National University as members of the Foreign Policy Advisory Commission. The two appointments were made after 33 members of the Commission were officially relieved of their duties.

Remarks by Foreign Minister Hong-il Kim at press conference on May 22

"First, I wish to take this opportunity at my first press conference for foreign and domestic newspapermen to express my deep gratitude to you, ladies and gentlemen, for valuable cooperation extended towards the military revolution, for which our whole nation has rendered their unreserved support.

"I am fully aware of various inconveniences the entire press corps had to undergo, along with average citizens, during the initial stage of the revolution. However, I am sure that you all realize in this critical time involving national security and reconstruction such inconveniences were inevitable.

"I do not think it is necessary for me to explain to you the reason why the revolution was imperative, ladies and gentlemen, who had in the past unreservedly criticized the deposed regime of corruption and incompetence. I particularly wish to point out that the corruption and incompetence of the former regime paved the way for the Communist infiltration and subversion. This situation, if left unchecked, would have resulted in losing the entire country without waging a single battle. Inasmuch as it is the sacred duty of our armed

forces to defend the nation, they deemed it imperative to rise at this time so as to save the nation from indirect aggression and safeguard the security of the nation and welfare of the people.

"As Foreign Minister of the new Government, I consider it my essential duty to do my utmost in enlisting international support and understanding of our course of action and also strengthen our friendship with all the free nations of the world. We have already announced our public pledges regarding foreign policy. It is our duty to forcefully translate them into concrete actions, I count on your continued cooperation and friendly advice."

Poll indicates military government is popular

More than 70 per cent of 1500 Seoul residents support the revolutionary government, according to a recent public opinion poll sponsored by the Ministry of Public Information. The survey was taken by women university students. They asked 24 questions on various issues.

Some of the results . . . 50 per cent rated the military rule as excellent, 8.4 per cent stated they disliked it, and ten per cent said they feared it. On the mat-

ter of priority issues for the new government to work out, most people favored the creation of job opportunities for unemployed over price stability and anti-Communist preparedness. A majority hailed the government ban on political parties, dissolution of the National Assembly, the clean-up of the press, measures to punish illicit fortune-makers, and favored the post-military establishment of a unicameral legislature. 100 was thought to be about the best number of legislators.

First Korean graduates from American college for the deaf

On May 29, Kyong Koun Chough received his Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology at Gallaudet College, Washington, D. C. Gallaudet is the world's only college for the deaf.

"Steve" Chough, deaf for 28 of his 31 years, was a 1950 graduate of the National School for the Deaf in Seoul where he studied English. He taught third grade in a school for the blind and deaf for a short time before the Korean War broke out. After the war he was chosen vice-president of the Korean Association for the Deaf.

Steve heard of Gallaudet College through an American Army friend. The friend's mother sponsored Steve so he could come to the United States to study. He plans to continue his studies in sociology at Michigan State University.

AFAK-sponsored doctors aid islanders

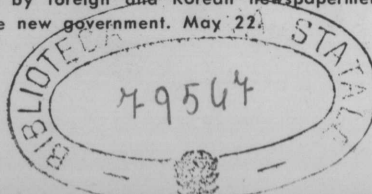
Three Korean doctors, under the sponsorship of the U.S. Armed Forces Assistance to Korea (AFAK) program, recently spent two weeks administering specialized medical aid to needy Paengnyŏng Island.

Far removed Paengnyŏng Island is the apex and population center of a group of islands just west of Korea's 38th Parallel in the China Sea. Located some 700 yards from Communist North Korea, the area has been given special AFAK emphasis because of its dire needs.

Working virtually around the clock in the barely adequate facilities of the fledgling Paengnyŏngdo hospital, the doctors successfully performed 80 difficult orthopedic operations, made possible by recent AFAK medical supplies furnished specifically for the purpose. Assisting the team of doctors were full-time medical assistants and Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Sacrament who serve as nurses at the hospital.



Foreign Minister Hong-il Kim answers questions raised by foreign and Korean newspapermen at his first news conference on the foreign policy of the new government. May 22



Recent Population Patterns and Trends in the Republic of Korea

by CHUNG MYUN LEE

University Microfilms, Inc.

*A doctorate dissertation from the University
of Michigan, 1961, 217 pp.*

"Korea is . . . involved in the process of economic development, an attempt to substantially raise her standard of living." "The population problem is the central problem of the developing Korean nation." From these two basic observations, Dr. Chung Myun Lee investigates populations statistics from various Korean historical documents dating from the 14th to the 19th Century, from Japanese writings and records since the turn of the century to 1945, and from various international sources including the most recent population census in 1955 by the Republic of Korea. He then analyzes the mass of conflicting data and skillfully evaluates contradictory multilingual descriptions and analyses which required correction for statistical and political biases. He emerges with a clear picture of population patterns, compositions, growth and movement which places the problem in perspective and shapes the broad outlines of his possible solutions.

Dr. Lee carefully points out that his approach is geographic which deals with the distributional aspects of population as expressed by number, density, distribution pattern and movements. However, from this narrow definition he expands his task as a geographer to include a broad comprehensive survey of the whole economy. He says that "in many ways this geographic treatment of Korea's population problem is only an introduction; but at the same time, it places the problem in perspective. This study stresses the relation of the distribution of population to the natural environment and resources of Korea, and it also introduces and discusses aspects of the problem which should be studied in detail by various specialists. It is thus a study of crucial basic problems and forms the intellectual common denominator for many different disciplines."

What is the Korean population problem? Dr. Lee believes it is twofold. On the one hand, the death rate declined from 1.19 per cent in 1946 to .93 per cent in 1948; on the other hand, the birth rate for the same years increased from 1.61 to 1.86. The result is a sharp rise in the rate of natural increase from .42 to .93. Furthermore, Dr. Lee fears that if the temporarily depressed birth rate tends to return to its historic trend, then an average birth rate of about 3.4 per cent is expected to prevail over a declining death rate estimated to be .93 or resulting in

a natural rate of increase of 2.5 per cent. Since the present (1955) rate of about 1.7 is considered excessive, the additional increase would cause a Malthusian population explosion.

What is the solution to the Korean population problem? Dr. Lee believes that the most important immediate solution is birth control. Second, he would urge increases in agricultural productivity prior to an expansion of industrial production, through the introduction of advanced scientific techniques. Realizing that effective birth control is primarily the responsibility of the individual, Dr. Lee feels that a national population policy is needed to inform the people of the urgent nature of the population problem. Specifically he would have the government provide and distribute inexpensive contraceptive devices through family planning clinics.

What are the chances that the birth rate will tend to return to its higher historic trend and the chances that the death rate will fall further? Dr. Lee believes the death rate will tend to decrease at a declining rate mainly because further decreases depend on a much higher standard of living and because the major medical and sanitation programs have made as much progress as can be reasonably expected under current conditions in Korea. Therefore, says Dr. Lee, the birth rate is the main factor which will determine the rate of natural increase. In the absence of an intensive population policy, the birth rate will tend to rise with increases in food production such that it will obliterate any attempts to substantially raise the standard of living in Korea by massive economic development programs.

While Dr. Lee painstakingly stresses the desirability of an overall balanced program of migration, resettlement and redistribution of the population, agricultural improvement, industrialization and urbanization and birth control to solve the Korean population problem, he primarily emphasizes the negative solution of birth control through which gains from all other measures may become effective. In this reviewer's opinion, Dr. Lee has overstated his case. While it is true that the population problem is basic and "forms the intellectual common denominator for many different disciplines," the central aim is to raise the standard of living or per capita real incomes.

Dr. Lee would have stood on firmer academic ground if he had elected to confine his scope of investigation and analysis explicitly to the population problem and its probable effects on other relevant areas. Instead, the reader is presented with "possible solutions to the population problem" which contain sweeping policy programs and exhortations at a different level of discourse—which detracts academically from his comprehensive historical survey of the population problem.

Although further comments could be made about some of his specific solutions to the Korean population problem, this reviewer believes, nevertheless, that Dr. Lee has given us a comprehensive survey of the Korean population problem which will become a necessary reference for future researchers. Those seeking simple, quick solutions to the grave, complex problems connected with population control and standard of living will not find in Dr. Lee's prescriptions, an easy cure. His analysis of the population problem indicates a deep understanding of his subject and his proposed solutions bespeak of his compassion for his country and its complex problems and for his countrymen, on whom he places his confidence for the successful solution of the population problem.

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