

Impact of Japanese Rule

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Review

- How did Koreans react to encroaching Japanese rule in 1919? Why were there nation-wide large-scale protests against Japanese rule in 1919 when there had been no such demonstrations in 1910?
- How did Japanese rule influence Korean self-identity?
- Were there any religious responses to growing Japanese power in Korea?
- Can we say that Korea began to modernize during the time it was under Japanese rule?

Review: the fall of Chosŏn

- Your responses to the question “why did the Chosŏn dynasty fall?” tended to be tautological. (They answered the question by simply rephrasing it.—Korea fell because it was weak.)
- I wanted instead to see
- there was no financial surplus because Korea’s geography had not stimulated a large commercial economy. So Korea couldn’t afford to modernize.
- There was weak leadership in much of the 19th century because a series of child kings held the throne.
- 2 centuries of peace had led to neglect of the military
- 4 1/2 centuries of stability made it difficult to make the rapid changes necessary to adapt to a rapidly changing international environment.

Nationalism emerges

- What do you need for nationalism? Korea had in 1910
- A threat from another people or nation
- a pre-existing sense of distinctiveness and a common history
- a common government
- an elite teaching nationalism to the masses (Only at the end of the Chosŏn dynasty)
- **Korea began having from 1910:**
- technological and cultural developments creating a larger sense of a national community
- urbanization creating a sense of a national community.

Colonial Education

- Japan created universal public education--at the elementary school level. (5 years)
- That was followed by a more-difficult-to-enter secondary school (another five years)
- Subjects taught included ethics, Japanese language, Chinese, arithmetic, science, music, physical education, art, the manual arts, and basic agricultural and commercial skills.
- There was only one university-established in 1926. It was primarily for Japanese living in Korea.
- However, there were “specialized schools for higher education,” out of which Yonsei University, Korea University, etc. evolved after liberation in 1945.

Modern mass culture

- Growth of literacy led to increased publication of, and readership of, modern poetry and fiction.
- newspapers and magazines led to growing awareness of the outside world (Note what Korean newspapers did in 1936 when a Korean won the Olympic marathon.)
- radio led to not only a greater knowledge of the outside world, but the spread of traditional culture such as p'ansori as well as the birth of new forms of music, such as the bongjjak pop songs, and the spread of arigang. Also we see traditional music in new forms (more sanjo) and new venues (stages).
- modern theatre and movies, such as Arirang, expanded mass culture.
- In the cities, we see the birth of “tabang” and cafe culture.

Important colonial intellectuals

- Yi Kwangsu created modern Korean fiction yet later worked with the Japanese (Hwang pp.190-92)
- Ch'oe Namsŏn: another early nationalism who later worked with the Japanese (Hwang, pp.177, 190-192)
- Han Yongun A Buddhist reformer who remained a nationalist. (Hwang p. 177, Sources, pp. 329-30)
- Art for art's sake or art for the sake of liberation: the rise of leftist artists and intellectuals: Korean Artists Proletarian Association (KAPF) (Hwang, pp. 180-81)

Han Yongun's Silence of the Beloved

- You have gone. Ah, you have gone.
- Shattering the verdant brilliance of the mountain, hard as it might be, cutting off all
- ties, gone along the narrow path that opens out to the maple grove.
- The old vows, firm and splendid as flowers of golden metal, have turned to icy dust
- and flown off in the breath of a sigh
- Translated by Sam Solberg in David McCann, ed. Columbia Anthology of Modern Korea Poetry

Colonial Development

- ◆ Growth in agricultural productivity, along with a decline in Korean diet.

Why is agricultural growth important in the long run?

Provides a surplus for investment.

- ◆ Creating an infrastructure for development:
 - Banking
 - Railroads
 - Communication: the telegraph, radios, newspapers
 - Schools--Korea's first mass public education

Modernizing Society

- ◆ A public health system

A failed attempt to move from Oriental medicine to nothing but Western-style medicine

- Industrialization and the creation of Korea's first modern labour force.
- From animate to inanimate power (electricity): another sign of modernization

Changes for women

- Japanese promoted a new idea, which Christian missionaries also shared, of women as “wise mother and good wife.”
- Monogamy was now encouraged. However, free love also appeared among some educated young women.
- Japan also promoted education for girls, though not to the same degree it did for boys .
- Women had new occupational opportunities, particularly in low-wage factory jobs (Hwang, p.169)
- A few women, such as Na Hyesŏk and Ch’oe Sŭnghŭi, became famous in the realm of modern culture. (Hwang, pp.166-170.)

The legacy of colonial development

- ◆ Provided infrastructure for industrialization
- ◆ Provided public education and a modern public health system
- ◆ Provided a more efficient bureaucracy
- ◆ Provided a more productive agriculture
- ◆ Inadvertently created nationalism

Other long-term effects of Japanese colonial rule

- ◆ Enshrined a pivotal role for the state in economic development.
- ◆ Provided a model of concentrated economic power: from zaibatsu to chaebŏl
- ◆ Promoted an export-oriented economy
And a dependent economy
- Provided a model of what a modern government could look like: it could be authoritarian and militaristic, as long as it promoted economic development and governed in an intrusive but impersonal manner.