



## Identity, Sovereignty, and Political Power: Japanese Names for Korean Places

“Although our country’s rituals, music, and literature are comparable to those of China, our speech and language are not the same as China’s.” from Chǒng Inji’s post script to the hunmin chǒngŭm (*Correct Sounds to Instruct the People*), 1446.

Since King Sejong commissioned the development of a distinct written alphabet in 1446, Koreans have taken great pride in their written language, viewing it as evidence of their distinct identity among East Asian nations. Their written language, place names, and family names manifested this distinct identity.

Korea has long struggled to establish its identity separate from its powerful neighbors China and Japan. Profoundly influenced by China and eventually conquered by Japan, Koreans suffered the humiliation of having their culture erased through Japanese efforts to impose Japanese names and cultural practices, including worship at Shinto shrines.

This lesson provides background for the Japanese annexation of Korea which resulted in the changing of Korean place names, including both cities and the country name.

### PURPOSE OF THE LESSON

This lesson is designed to examine the attitudes the Koreans and Japanese held concerning Korean identity and sovereignty. The lesson focuses on the period of time between the 1904 Protocol through the independence movement in 1919, using a selection of eight documents. The documents are included in Appendix A.

Each of the documents is accompanied by several questions designed to direct students to the essential features of the piece.

The lesson ends with a DBQ assessment, requiring students to write an essay using the documents to answer one of two questions. The students can choose either question but must use at least four of the documents in their essays.

The lesson also provides an opportunity for the students to learn exactly what annexation involves and to draw some comparisons between the Japanese annexation of Korea with other examples such as the Anschluss in 1938 or current day annexation of the Crimea by the Russian Federation in 2014.

**Appendix B** contains an article about annexation from *Encyclopedia Britannica* that can be used as a handout with students. Teachers may require students to research annexation and provide examples, but time is always an issue, so this document can serve to save time and keep the focus on Korea while making clear that annexation was not unique to this case.

## PROCEDURE:

Prior to the lesson, the students would be assigned to read all (or most) of the documents and answer the questions for each of the individual documents in preparation for discussion. Class time is always at a premium but the teacher may want to assign most of the documents as homework but reserve the *Declaration of Independence* and the reaction by Saito to read together as a class. That way, the class could examine what prompted the Korean protests and then look at the document in light of the charges against the Japanese government and Saito's defense of Japanese governance.

Depending on the reading level of the students and the homework typically assigned, the teacher could also assign small groups of students to each document, requiring them to answer the questions and prepare to explain the document and their answers to the larger group. This may be particularly appropriate for younger students.

The lesson is designed to be easily adapted to fit a variety of configurations of class time (block schedule, etc.) and methods of instruction (discussion, close reading, small group activity, etc.). Reducing the number of documents or the assessment would be other adaptations.

Suggestions for approach to documents:

- Upper level students should be able to grasp the meaning of the documents through a close reading and attention to the questions. The teacher may direct a discussion in which students explain what each document reveals and then analyze Japanese attitudes and actions, comparing them to Korean attitudes and actions.
- Another approach might be to offer students a single theme such as Japanese views on their relation to Koreans in terms of race and ask students to pull examples from the documents on that one topic. This could also be a way to adapt the essay question assessment to something more manageable for younger students.
- When analyzing the Japan-Korean Annexation Treaty, the teacher could use the document provided in Appendix B to instruct students about annexation and put the annexation of Korea in the broader context of global political actions.

## POSSIBLE LESSON EXTENSION: KOREAN IDENTITY AND NAMES

Using the novel *Lost Names* would offer an opportunity for interdepartmental/interdisciplinary work to extend and deepen the study of the period of Japanese occupation of Korea. The novel covers a later period than the documents used in this lesson (approximately 1932 to 1945) when Japanese efforts to control the Korean population included requiring Koreans to adopt Japanese names. **Not only were cities and streets renamed, erasing the distinct Korean identity of those places,** but individuals were themselves now subject to losing the names that connected them to the long lines of their families.

Following is a link to an essay in *Education About Asia* called "Teaching Lost Names in an American High School" by Susan Mastro. There are several other articles about teaching the novel in the EAA archive if you are interested, but this is a good one with which to start.

## APPENDIX A – DOCUMENTS

THESE DOCUMENTS WOULD NEED TO BE EDITED TO BE SHORTER BUT THE ENTIRE DOCUMENT IS INCLUDED FOR THE TEACHER. THE LENGTH OF THE EDIT WOULD BE ANOTHER POSSIBLE ADAPTATION.

The following eight documents cover a period from 1896 through 1920 and focus on the contrasting attitudes of the Korean people with those of the Japanese, in regard to the identity, character, and sovereignty of Koreans.

After each passage there are several questions to be answered and following the last passage there is an essay question to be answered using multiple documents.

**Document A: The Independent (Tongnip sinmun), 7 April 1896 and 30 April 1896.  
Editorial on “Nation and Civilization”: A Periodical for the Korean People.**

*The time seems to have come for the publication of a periodical in the interests of the Korean people. By the Korean people we do not mean merely the residents in Seoul and vicinity nor do we mean the more favored classes alone, but we include the whole people of every class and grade.*

*To this end three things are necessary: first, that it shall be written in a character intelligible to the largest possible number; second, that it shall be put on the market at such a price that it shall be within the reach of the largest possible number; third, that it shall contain such matter as shall be for the best interests of the largest possible number. To meet the first of these requirements it has been put in the native character called theŏm-mun, for the time is shortly coming, if it is not already here, when Koreans will cease to be ashamed of their native character, which for simplicity of construction and phonetic power compares favorably with the best alphabets in the world. Difficulty is experienced by those not thoroughly acquainted with the ŏm-mun from the fact that ordinarily there are no spaces between words. We therefore adopt the novel plan of introducing spaces, thus doing away with the main objection to its use. We make it bi-literal because this will act as an incentive to English-speaking Koreans to push their knowledge of English for its own sake. An English page may also command the paper in the patronage of those who have no other means of gaining accurate information in regard to the events which are transpiring in Korea. It hardly needs to be said that we have access to the best sources of information in the capital and will be in constant communication with the provinces.*

*To meet the second requirement we have so arranged the size of the sheet as to be able to put it on the market at a price which will make it unnecessary for anyone to forego its advantages because of inability to buy. To meet the third requirement is a more difficult matter. What Korea needs is a unifying influence. Now that the old order of things is passing away, society is in a state which might be described as intermediate*

*between two forms of crystallization. The old combinations of forces have been broken up or are rapidly breaking up and they are seeking new affinities. The near future will probably decide the mode of rearrangement of the social forces.*

*It is at this moment when Korean society is in a plastic state that we deem it opportuno to put out this sheet as an expression at least of our desire to do what can be done in a journalistic way to give Koreans a reliable account of the events that are transpiring, to give reasons for things that often seem to them unreasonable, to bring the capital and the provinces into greater harmony through a mutual understanding of each other's needs, especially the need that each has of the other.*

*Our platform is—Korea for the Koreans, clean politics, the cementing of foreign friendships, the gradual though steady development of Korea, resources with Korean capital, as far as possible, under expert foreign tutelage, the speedy translation of foreign textbooks into Korean that the youth may have access to the great things of history, science, art, and religion without having to acquire a foreign tongue, and long life to HIS MAJESTY, THE KING.*

**Questions to consider:**

1. Explain the role that the author thinks language and reading must play in establishing a sense of Korean identity.
2. Identify the ways in which the author recognizes the changing times and the need for change in Korea.

**Document B**

"The World and Japan" Database (Project Leader: TANAKA Akihiko)  
Database of Japanese Politics and International Relations  
National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS); Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia (IASA), The University of Tokyo  
[Title] PROTOCOL. (Protocol between Japan and Korea, 1904)  
[Place] Seoul  
[Date] February 23, 1904  
[Source] Kyujoyakuisan, Dai 3 kan (Chosen, Ryukyu), pp.187-189.

*Signed at Seoul, in Japanese and Korean, February 23, 1904 (37th year of Meiji).  
Published February 27, 1904.*

Hayashi Gonsuke, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan and Major-General Ye-Tchi-Yong, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs ad interim of His Majesty the Emperor of Corea, being respectively duly empowered for the purpose, have agreed upon the following Articles:--

ARTICLE I.

*For the purpose of maintaining a permanent and solid friendship between Japan and Korea and firmly establishing peace in the Far East, the Imperial Government of Korea shall place full confidence in the Imperial Government of Japan and adopt the advice of the latter in regard to improvements in administration.*

ARTICLE II.

*The Imperial Government of Japan shall in a spirit of firm friendship ensure the safety and repose of the Imperial House of Korea.*

ARTICLE III.

*The Imperial Government of Japan definitively guarantee the independence and territorial integrity of the Korean Empire.*

ARTICLE IV.

*In case the welfare of the Imperial House of Korea or the territorial integrity of Korea is endangered by aggression of a third Power or internal disturbances, the Imperial Government of Japan shall immediately take such necessary measures as the circumstances require, and in such cases the Imperial Government of Korea shall give full facilities to promote the action of the Imperial Japanese Government.*

*The Imperial Government of Japan may, for the attainment of the above-mentioned object, occupy, when the circumstances require it, such places as may be necessary from strategical points of view.*

ARTICLE V.

*The Governments of the two countries shall not in future, without mutual consent, conclude with a third Power such an arrangement as may be contrary to the principles of the present Protocol.*

ARTICLE VI.

*Details in connection with the present Protocol shall be arranged, as the circumstances may require, between the Representative of Japan and the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Korea.*

HAYASHI GONSUKE, (Seal)

*Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary.*

*The 23rd day of the 2nd month of the 37th year of Meiji.*

Major-General YE-TCHI-YONG, (Seal)

*Minister of State for Foreign Affairs ad interim.*

*The 23rd day of the 2nd month of the 8th year of Kwang-Mu.*

**Questions to consider:**

1. Describe the position the document takes regarding the sovereignty of Korea.
2. Do you think the document is balanced in terms of Korean interests and Japanese interests? Why or why not?
3. Identify any point in the document which gives Japan an advantage over Korea.
4. Use the **World History Gazetteer** to locate Ryukyu, where this document was signed. Describe the location. What is significant about where this document was signed?

**Document C:** Goro, Arakawa. in 1906. 86-87 Quoted in Duus 1995, 398.

*"There is nothing especially different about them [Koreans]. They look just like the Japanese, of the same Oriental race, with the same coloring and physique, and the same black hair. Those who crop their hair and wear Western clothing, like railroad attendants and students, are not a bit different from the Japanese. If you...did not look carefully, you might mistake them for Japanese. Considering that the appearance and build of the Koreans and Japanese are generally the same, that the structure and grammar of their language is exactly the same, and that their ancient customs resemble each other's, you might think the Japanese and Koreans the same type of human being."*

*[But] if you look closely [at the Koreans], they appear to be a bit vacant, their mouths open and their eyes dull, somehow lacking...In their lines of their mouths and faces you can detect a certain looseness, and when it comes to sanitation and sickness, they are loose in the extreme. Indeed, to put it in the worst terms, one could even say that they are closer to beasts than to human beings."*

**Question to consider:**

1. How could the contradictions in the author's observations of the Koreans be reconciled in Japanese policy toward Korea?

**Document D:** Treaty of Annexation. 1910. *Annexation of Korea by Japan, August 22, 1910*

(August 22, 1910)

The Proclamation

*Notwithstanding the earnest and laborious work of reforms in the administration of Korea in which the Governments of Japan and Korea have been engaged for more than four years since the conclusion of the Agreement of 1905, the existing system of government in that country has not proved entirely equal to the duty of preserving public order and tranquillity; and in addition, the spirit of suspicion and misgiving dominates the whole peninsula.*



*In order to maintain peace and stability in Korea, to promote the prosperity and welfare of Koreans, and at the same time to ensure the safety and repose of foreign residents, it has been made abundantly clear that fundamental changes in the actual regime of government are absolutely essential. The Governments of Japan and Korea, being convinced of the urgent necessity of introducing reforms responsive to the requirements of the situation and of furnishing sufficient guarantee for the future, have, with the approval of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan and His Majesty the Emperor of Korea, concluded, through their plenipotentiaries, a treaty providing for complete annexation of Korea to the Empire of Japan. By virtue of that important act, which shall take effect on its promulgation on August 29, 1910, the Imperial Government of Japan shall undertake the entire government and administration of Korea, and they hereby declare that the matters relating to foreigners and foreign trade in Korea shall be conducted in accordance with the following rules:*

### *The Treaty*

*His Majesty the Emperor of Japan and His Majesty the Emperor of Korea, having in view the special and close relations between their respective countries, desiring to promote the common wealth of the two nations and to assure the permanent peace in the Far East, and being convinced that these objectives can be best attained by the annexation of Korea to the Empire of Japan, have resolved to conclude a treaty of such annexation and have, for that purpose, appointed as their plenipotentiaries, that is to say, His Majesty the Emperor of Japan Viscount Terauchi Masatake, Resident-General, and His Majesty the Emperor of Korea Yi Wan-Yong, Prime Minister, who upon mutual conference and deliberation have agreed to the following articles:*

**Article 1.** *His Majesty the Emperor of Korea makes the complete and permanent cession to His Majesty the Emperor of Japan of all rights of sovereignty over the whole of Korea.*

**Article 2.** *His Majesty the Emperor of Japan accepts the cession mentioned in the preceding article and consents to the complete annexation of Korea to the Empire of Japan.*

**Article 3.** *His Majesty the Emperor of Japan will accord to their Majesties the Emperor and ex-Emperor and His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince of Korea and their consorts and heirs such titles, dignity, and honor as are appropriate to their respective ranks, and sufficient annual grants will be made for the maintenance of such titles, dignity and honor.*

**Article 4.** *His Majesty the Emperor of Japan will also accord appropriate honor and treatment to the members of the Imperial House of Korea and their heirs other than those mentioned in the preceding article, and the funds necessary for the maintenance of such honor and treatment will be granted.*

**Article 5.** *His Majesty the Emperor of Japan will confer peerage and monetary grants upon those Koreans who, on account of meritorious services, are regarded as deserving such special recognition. Article 6.* *In consequence of the aforesaid annexation the Government of Japan assume the entire government and administration of Korea, and undertake to afford full protection for the persons and property of Koreans obeying the laws there in force to promote the welfare of all such Koreans.*

**Article 7.** *The Government of Japan will, so far as circumstances permits, employ in the public service of Japan in Korea those Koreans who accept the new regime loyally and in good faith and who are duly qualified for such service.*

**Article 8.** *This treaty, having been approved by His Majesty the Emperor of Japan and His Majesty the Emperor of Korea, shall take effect from the state of its promulgation.  
In faith thereof:*

*Resident General Viscount Terauchi Masatake  
Prime Minister Yi, Wan-yong*

**Questions to consider:**

1. What specific arguments and evidence does the document make to justify the annexation of Korea?
2. Identify two provisions of the document which seem to contradict the provisions of the 1904 Protocol and explain the contradiction.

**Document E:** From Komatsu Midori. (1912) "The Old People and the New Government," in *Transactions of the Korea Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society*, vol. 6(1), 1912: 3-4, 7-8 , 8-9. **Asia for Educators Columbia University** <http://afe.easia.columbia.edu>

**"The Old People and the New Government" By Komatsu Midori**

*It is stated in two famous Chinese histories, the Wei Chi (History of Wei) and the Hou Han Shu (Book of Later Han) that Korea is bounded on the east and west by sea and borders Japan on the south. If Japanese territory had not extended to the Korean peninsula over the sea in those days, such record would never have been written; but the sea would have been represented as circumscribing Korea not only on the east and west but also on the south. It is thus reasonable to infer that Japanese dominion extended to the Korean peninsula beyond the sea. In the reign of Emperor Ojin, son of Empress Jingo, as well as in the reign of Emperor Yuiyaku, who ascended the throne about two hundred years later, envoys were sent by the Japanese Court to China then under the Wu dynasty. These facts are recorded in a contemporary Chinese book, in which it is mentioned that one of the credentials presented by the Japanese envoys bore the signature of "King of Wa (Japan) and Great General giving peace to the seven countries of Wa (Japan), Packche, Silla, Mimana, Kala, Chin-Han and Ma-Han." The latter six are the names of the states in Korea at that time. Further it is mentioned in the same book that Japan subjugated northern countries beyond the sea to the number of*



*ninety-five. The number given is evidently an exaggeration, but the reference seems to confirm the belief that prior to and after the Korean expedition of Empress Jingo, the southern part at least of the peninsula was in Japanese hands.*

*Judging from the facts so far pointed out in general outline it is not unreasonable to conclude that the Japanese and Korean peoples formed for a long time one and the same nation. The recent annexation of Korea by Japan is therefore not the incorporation of two different countries inhabited by different races, but, it may rather be said to be the reunion of two sections of the one and same nation after a long period of separation. Indeed it is nothing more nor less than the old state of things restored. ...*

*In developing the industry of an infantile nation, it is advisable to begin the work by undertaking the improvement of the agricultural industry, and this has been diligently carried on since Japan assumed the protectorate of the Korean Empire. This may be a task easy to accomplish in other countries. In Chosen, however, the improvement of agriculture must be accompanied by the afforestation as a preventive against floods as well for facilitating irrigation. But afforestation is not a work which can be accomplished within a short time. Moreover, in order that it may be successfully carried out it is not enough for a government to undertake it of itself, but the general public must be trained to appreciate its benefits and importance. The Governor General issued for that purpose an instruction to name the anniversary of Emperor Jimmu, April 3, as Arbor-day for Chosen. On that day, all students of schools are to plant young trees. The district magistrates were also enjoined to induce members of public organizations as well as individuals to cooperate in the plantation. Seedling nurseries will be established for the cultivation of young trees; but for the time being young trees or seedlings are to be distributed by the Provincial administration....*

*The wonderful new machinery, the command of new powers of steam and electricity, have produced a new era in Japan, bringing about a remarkable change not only in political and material conditions but also in the moral and intellectual spheres. In a territory like Chosen, of great distances, of great natural difficulties, high mountain chains, wide spreading forests and waste lands, and therefore of great obstacles to personal travel and the transportation of commodities; an industrial development of the same kind would be followed by the same results. Now, in Chosen, farmers living in distant places are obliged to resort either to pack horses or human carriers for sending their surplus products to distant markets. This entails much time and expense, and the proceeds raised often do not cover the expense so incurred. Under these circumstances farmers cannot be blamed for their reluctance to raise abundant crops by adopting improved agricultural methods. Such a state of things however is not confined to agricultural products alone. The same or rather more difficulty would be experienced in the trade of not a few manufactured articles as well as of heavy minerals such as coal, copper, iron and graphite. This accounts for the inactivity of not only agriculture but also of industry and commerce, except in places along the existing railways and the sea coast.*

### Questions to Consider:

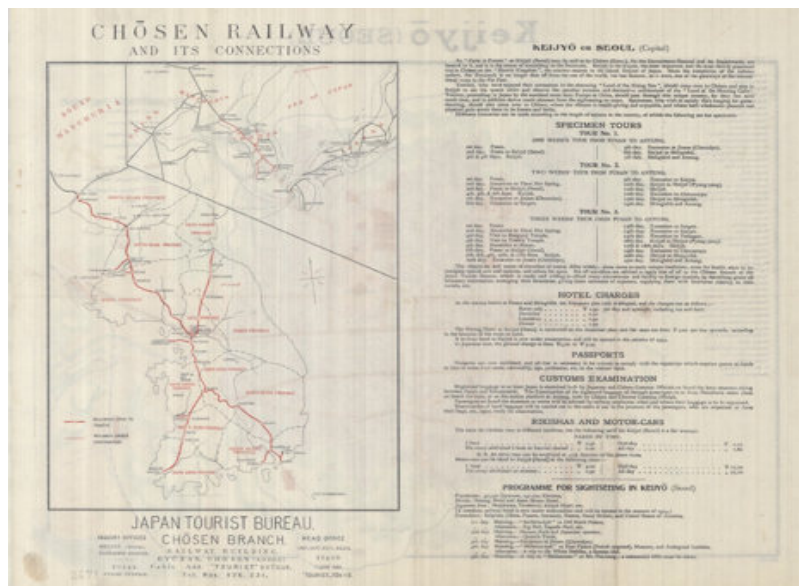
1. What points does the author make that reinforce the articles of annexation?
2. How does the author echo the point Goro makes about the same race?

### Document F: Japan Tourist Bureau (1913).

#### *Keijyo or Seoul (Capital)*

*As "Paris is France" so Keijyo (Seoul) may be said to be Chosen (Korea), for the Government-General and its Departments are located in it, and it is the centre of everything in the Peninsula. Keijyo is the largest, the most important, and the most thickly populated city in Chosen or the "Hermit Kingdom", the country nearest to the Island Empire of Japan. Since the completion of the railway system, the Peninsula is no longer shut off to the rest of the world, but has become, as it were, one of the gateways of the international route to the Far East.*

*Tourists, who have enjoyed their excursions in the charming "Land of the Rising Sun", should come over to Chosen and stay in Keijyo to see the quaint attire and observe the peculiar customs and distinctive architecture of the "Land of the Morning Calm". Tourists, proceeding to Japan by the overland route from Europe or China, should pass through this unique country, for they can save much time, and in addition derive much pleasure from the sightseeing en route. Sportsmen, who wish to satisfy their longing for game-shooting, should also come over to Chosen, where the climate is health-giving and enjoyable, and where both wholesome pleasure and physical gain await them in its forests and fields."*  
*Japan Tourist Bureau, Chosen branch 1913*



### Questions to Consider:

1. What attitudes about Korea and Koreans are revealed in the narrative of the tourist flyer?
2. What is revealed about Japan's objectives in Korea by the renaming of the capital and country with Japanese names?
3. The description of Korea's emergence as one of the "gateways of the international route to the Far East" hints at Japan's role in this development. What is Japan's inferred contribution to Korea?

**Document G:** From *Sources of Korean Tradition* (2000). Edited by Yŏng-ho Ch'oe, Peter H. Lee, and Wm. Theodore de Bary, vol. 2 (New York: Columbia University Press, 2000), 337-339. Columbia University Press. Reproduced with the permission of the publisher. All rights reserved.

### Declaration of Independence (March 1, 1919)

*We hereby declare that Korea is an independent state and that Koreans are a self-governing people. We proclaim it to the nations of the world in affirmation of the principle of the equality of all nations, and we proclaim it to our posterity, preserving in perpetuity the right of national survival. We make this declaration on the strength of five thousand years of history as an expression of the devotion and loyalty of twenty million people. We claim independence in the interest of the eternal and free development of our people and in accordance with the great movement for world reform based upon the awakening conscience of mankind. This is the clear command of heaven, the course of our times, and a legitimate manifestation of the right of all nations to coexist and live in harmony. Nothing in the world can suppress or block it.*

*For the first time in several thousand years, we have suffered the agony of alien suppression for a decade, becoming a victim of the policies of aggression and coercion, which are relics from a bygone era. How long have we been deprived of our right to exist? How long has our spiritual development been hampered? How long have the opportunities to contribute our creative vitality to the development of world culture been denied us?*

*Alas! In order to rectify past grievances, free ourselves from present hardships, eliminate future threats, stimulate and enhance the weakened conscience of our people, eradicate the shame that befell our nation, ensure proper development of human dignity, avoid leaving humiliating legacies to our children, and usher in lasting and complete happiness for our posterity, the most urgent task is to firmly establish national independence. Today when human nature*

*and conscience are placing the forces of justice and humanity on our side, if every one of our twenty million people arms himself for battle, whom could we not defeat and what could we not accomplish?*

*We do not intend to accuse Japan of infidelity for its violation of various solemn treaty obligations since the Treaty of Amity of 1876. Japan's scholars and officials, indulging in a conqueror's exuberance, have denigrated the accomplishments of our ancestors and treated our civilized people like barbarians. Despite their disregard for the ancient origins of our society and the brilliant spirit of our people, we shall not blame Japan; we must first blame ourselves before finding fault with others. Because of the urgent need for remedies for the problems of today, we cannot afford the time for recriminations over past wrongs.*

*Our task today is to build up our own strength, not to destroy others. We must chart a new course for ourselves in accord with the solemn dictates of conscience, not malign and reject others for reasons of past enmity or momentary passions. In order to restore natural and just conditions, we must remedy the unnatural and unjust conditions brought about by the leaders of Japan, who are chained to old ideas and old forces and victimized by their obsession with glory.*

**Questions to Consider:**

1. What are the charges against the Japanese?
2. What points in the document identify problems with Koreans themselves?

Document H: Saito, Baron Makoto (1920) "**Home Rule In Korea?**" *The Independent*. January 31, 1920.

*"For nearly ten years since Japan annexed Korea, the latter has been the object of little attention by the world. The annexation was peacefully accomplished by mutual consent of the governments of the two nations; due to that memorable event, Korea ceased to be the storm center of the Far East, which it had been for many years prior to it; and under the efficient government of Japan the Korean people rapidly advanced in civilization and enjoyed the blessings resulting from the development of productive industry, as well as from the spread of education. In fact, all seemed to be going well in this peninsula. Such was also the feeling of both the Government and people in Japan proper. It was, therefore, a cause of great surprise when last spring what is now known as "independence demonstrations" suddenly broke out in many parts of Korea...in many instances Japan having been grossly and unjustly represented."*

**Questions to Consider:**

1. What is the essence of Saito's stated surprise about Korean opposition to Japanese governance?
2. How does Saito's description of Japan's role in Korea compare with Midori's previous description of Japan's efforts in Korea?

## Assessment: DBQ Options

Choose one of the following prompts to write an essay incorporating direct material from at least four documents. Be sure to identify the document from which supporting material is drawn.

1. Drawing from at least four of the documents, identify the justifications Japan offers for their annexation of Korea.
2. Drawing from at least four documents, contrast the attitudes the Japanese hold toward the Koreans with the view the Koreans hold about themselves and their right to sovereignty.

Appendix B - *Encyclopedia Britannica* on Annexation,  
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/annexation>

**Annexation**, a formal act whereby a state proclaims its sovereignty over territory hitherto outside its domain. Unlike cession, whereby territory is given or sold through treaty, annexation is a unilateral act made effective by actual possession and legitimized by general recognition. Annexation is frequently preceded by conquest and military occupation of the conquered territory. Occasionally, as in the German annexation of Austria in 1938 (see Anschluss), a conquest may be accomplished by the threat of force without active hostilities. Military occupation does not constitute or necessarily lead to annexation. Thus, for instance, the Allied military occupation of Germany after the cessation of hostilities in World War II was not followed by annexation. When military occupation results in annexation, an official announcement is normal, to the effect that the sovereign authority of the annexing state has been established and will be maintained in the future. Israel made such a declaration when it annexed the Golan Heights in 1981, as did Russia following its annexation of the Ukrainian autonomous republic of Crimea in 2014. The subsequent recognition of annexation by other states may be explicit or implied. Annexation based on the illegal use of force is condemned in the Charter of the United Nations.

Conditions may exist which obviate the necessity for conquest prior to annexation. In 1910, for example, Japan converted its protectorate of Korea into an annexed colony by means of proclamation. Preceding its annexation of the Svalbard Islands in 1925, Norway eliminated its competitors by means of a treaty in which they agreed to Norwegian possession of the islands. Annexation of Hawaii by the United States in the late 19th century was a peaceful process, based upon the willing acceptance by the Hawaiian government of U.S. authority. The formalities of annexation are not defined by international law; whether it be done by one authority or another within a state is a matter of constitutional law. The Italian annexation of Ethiopia in 1936 was accomplished by a decree issued by the king of Italy. Joint resolutions of Congress were the means by which the United States annexed Texas in 1845 and Hawaii in 1898. See *also* conquest.

The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica This article was most recently revised and updated by Brian Duignan, Senior Editor.