



Special Review

Ten Years in the Making:
The Korea History Society's
History Series

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Editor's Note

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Over the past half century, the field of Korean historical studies has continued to evolve. Old agendas were replaced by new perspectives, while fresh ideas led to a deeper digging of the historical truth. Newly revealed were layers that were previously unknown yet had nonetheless existed all along, beneath the surface of historical events and behind the lives of people in the past.

The Korean History Society's history series is a monumental achievement, which epitomizes such evolution with its own ten-year history since its conception. It is a testament to the Society's academic devotion and tenacity, and, of course, is the culmination of 30 years of effort from numerous historians. It will also serve as an indicator of what we historians need to do and try from now on, as this publication aims to set standards in some aspects. However, this project is also not without limitations, and has left some issues untouched for future projects.

The *Review of Korean Studies* (hereafter, the *RKS*) acknowledged this project for being a true group effort with a scope that required ten years in its making, and deemed it worthy of special review that would aid foreign readers' appreciation of Korean historical studies' accomplishments over the past few decades. As a fellow historian, I would also like to mention that the more than fifty contributors to this project are only a small portion of countless other historians who have dedicated their lives and professions to Korean historical studies. In other words, there are so much more in terms of what has been touched upon, studied, and revealed in Korea. Readers are thus encouraged to continue to look out for other outstanding accomplishments of Korean historical studies as well, and of course the historians who made them possible.

Five of them willingly agreed to contribute their reviews. They are generally young, but their studies are emerging on the horizon and promise to be outstanding.

Kang Jinwon serves as an Assistant Professor at Kyonggi University. His expertise is Korean Ancient History. He is deeply interested in social

phenomenon, culture and rituals, and of course reality of the time reflected in those elements.

Yun Jung Kim is a Postdoctoral Researcher at University of Seoul, specializing in Korean foreign relations in the Goryeo period. She is also immersed in studies of the cultural aspect of Goryeo, and has been engaged in the task of determining the nature of cultural identity.

Yi Minu is a Research Officer at the Kyujanggak Institute for Korean Studies at Seoul National University. He is currently involved in several digitalization projects of Korean historical sources, and is mainly interested in examining the landlord system of agricultural economy in Joseon's early half.

Park Junhyung is an Assistant Professor at University of Seoul. His area of focus is Korean modern history. He has been studying open ports and marketplaces established there, as he sees them as an example of space being isolated and redefined with colonial interference. He explores such issues more in terms of colonial historiography.

Han Bongseok is at the History and Culture Institute of Ewha Womans University. His areas of focus include Korean contemporary history, and specifically the U.S.' technical support of Korea in the 1950s. He is primarily interested in defining the nature of such support, and the cultural and social changes it caused in Korea at the time.

These five reviewers have truly made this special review possible, with their dedication to the task, and not to mention their extraordinary talents. The *RKS* is happy to present what they have to say of their fellow historians' recent accomplishments.