This seminar reflects on international relations and human agency by considering the case of Korea from 1864 to 1945. During this period, Korea, an independent East Asian kingdom with a long history, had no choice but to deal with the forces of imperialism, as one major power after another sought to impose unequal treaties on Korea. While making significant progress with an effort to build a modern nation-state and even declaring itself an empire in 1897, in 1910 Korea became a colony of Japan, which by then had defeated one rival after another while securing support from key powers such as the United States and the Great Britain. Korea's plight as a colony of Japan, the last country to use “empire” as a part of its official name, provides much material for discussing what modernity means for the majority of humanity which experienced colonial rule until the mid-twentieth century. Fulfills History major and minor’s East/South Asia, research (R), and seminar requirements as well as counting as a Diplomatic History Concentration course.

Instructor: Eugene Y. Park
Korea Foundation Associate Professor of History
Director, James Joo-Jin Kim Program in Korean Studies
College Hall 306E
Mobile number: 610-312-4387
Email: epa@sas.upenn.edu
Office hours: TBA

Class meetings: Mondays 2–4:50 pm
Location TBA

Office hours: TBA

Requirements: Active, informed discussion participation (25%)
Discussion leading (20%, once, including pre-discussion questions and post-discussion summary posting)
Research paper prospectus (10%, 5-10 pages)
Research paper, rough draft (20%)
Research paper, final version (25%, 15–20 pages; 20–25 pages with primary source citations for History majors)

Extra credit: Earned by attending a pre-announced Korea-related talk and submitting a page-long (single-spaced) write-up analyzing it

Readings:

Caprio, Mark E. *Japanese Assimilation Policies in Colonial Korea, 1910–1945*. Seattle:


Academic journal articles distributed by the instructor. Required

Absences, missed exams, and late submissions will be penalized, unless based on medical, religious, or family emergency-related reasons with documentation.

Academic dishonesty is not tolerated. Cheating, forgery, dishonest conduct, plagiarism, and collusion in dishonest activities erode the university's educational, research, and social roles. In line with university regulations, course instructor reserves the right to discipline any student found guilty of inappropriate conduct.

All marks are final, barring any calculation error. Absolutely no re-grading or re-reading, even when requested on the ground that the student wants to know what (s)he could have done better or needs a certain grade to graduate.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1 (Jan. 14): Introduction

Week 2 (Jan. 26): Korea and East Asia before Imperialism

Week 3 (Feb. 2): Imperialism in Korea’s Horizon, 1800–1864

• *Sources of Korean Tradition* 2:
  • “Yi Hangno: Sinify the Western Barbarians,” pp. 140–42.

**Week 4 (Feb. 9): The Taewŏn’gun’s Reform, 1864–1873**
- Eckert, pp. 192–98.
- *Sources of Korean Tradition* 2:
  • “Pak Chehyŏng: Conflicts with the West,” pp. 222–26.

**Week 5 (Feb. 16): The “Eastern Ways-Western Implements” Reform, 1873–1882**
- *Sources of Korean Tradition* 2:
  • “Ch’oe Ikhyŏn: Memorial Against Peace,” pp. 240–42.
  • “Yi Manson and Others: Memorial Submitted by Ten Thousand Men,” pp. 242–44.

**Week 6 (Feb. 23): The “Eastern Ways-Western Implements” Reform, 1882–1894**
- *Sources of Korean Tradition* 2:
Week 7 (Mar. 2): The Kabo Reform and the King Biding His Time, 1894–1897
- Sources of Korean Tradition 2:
  - “A Call to Arms Issued at Paeksan,” pp. 263–64.
  - “The King’s Fourteen-Article Oath,” pp. 275–76.

Spring Recess (Mar. 7–15)

Week 8 (Mar. 16): The Kwangmu Reform, 1897–1905
- Eckert, pp. 231–41.
- Sources of Korean Tradition 2:

Week 9 (Mar. 23): Korea as a Japanese Protectorate, 1905–1910
- Eckert, pp. 241–53.
- Sources of Korean Tradition 2:
*Nick Okrent’s overview of research tools and resources, 4 pm, Monday, 3/23.

**Week 10 (Mar. 30): The Military Rule, 1910–1919**
- Eckert, pp. 254–75.
- *Sources of Korean Tradition 2:*

*Paper prospectus due at the beginning of the class, Monday, 3/30.*

**Week 11 (Apr. 6): The Cultural Rule, 1919–1931**
- Eckert, pp. 276–304.
- *Sources of Korean Tradition 2:*

**Week 12 (Apr. 13): Preparation for War with China, 1931–1937**
- Caprio, pp. 141–45.
- *Sources of Korean Tradition 2:*
**Week 13 (Apr. 20): Forced Assimilation and Wartime Mobilization, 1937–1945**

- *Sources of Korean Tradition 2:*
  - “Provisional Government of the Korean Republic: Declaration of War on Japan (9 December 1941),” pp. 350–51.

*Research paper rough draft due at the beginning of the class, Monday, 4/20.*

**Week 14 (Apr. 27): The Colonial Legacy**

- Caprio, pp. 171–72, 198–212.

*Paper due at 5 pm on Monday, 5/4 (email submission only).*