UNDERSTANDING KOREA

2

HISTORY

PYONGYANG, KOREA
Juche 105 (2016)

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1. Origination of the Korean Nation

Koreans originated in the Taedong River Basin with the Pyongyang area as the centre in the initial period of human civilization–a million years ago.

2. Taedong River Basin

From olden times, the Taedong River Basin has had favourable conditions for human civilization–limpid rivers, wide and fertile fields, rich resources and warm climate.

Paleolithic and Neolithic relics including the Komunmoru remains of primitive men a million years ago are studded in this basin.

3. Komunmoru Remains

At Komunmoru in Hugu-ri, Sangwon County, North Hwanghae Province, stone tools made by men in the primitive age a million years ago and bone fossils of mammoth, woolly mammoth and flat magacerine deer were found.

These remains which belong to the stage of the dawn of human society prove that men lived there from the first age of human civilization.

4. Human Fossils

A considerable number of human fossils belonging to

the Paleolithic and Neolithic ages were found in Korea.

As for the Paleolithic men, there are the Ryokpho Man found in Ryokpho District, Pyongyang, Tokchon Man found in South Phyongan Province, and Hwadae Man found in North Hamgyong Province.

Fossils of Neolithic men are Sungnisan Man, Mandal Man and Ryonggok Man.

These fossils, together with the Komunmoru remains, show that Koreans have evolved going through primitive, Paleolithic, Neolithic and other subsequent ages.

Noteworthy is the fact that most of the human fossils have been unearthed in the Taedong River Basin with the Pyongyang area as the centre.

5. Taedonggang Culture

The Taedonggang Culture constitutes one of the five ancient civilizations of the world, four others being those of the Huang, the Indus, the Nile and the Mesopotamia.

The most representative of the Taedonggang Culture is dolmen.

Dolmens which are unique to the Korean nation and rarely found in any other parts of the world are concentrated in the Taedong River Basin. About 14 000 have been found.

The remains of large-scale villages in the basin

suggestive of towns are similar to those found in the centres of ancient civilizations.

Bronze relics including lute-shaped dagger and spearhead made by advanced bronze casting and processing techniques have been unearthed in a great number, proving the fact that the basin was the centre of lute-shaped dagger culture unique to ancient Korea.

Dolmens inscribed with a chart of 40 stars prove that the Taedong River Basin is the birthplace of ancient astronomy.

It has also been discovered that farming of five cereals based on advanced cultivation system was developed in this basin in the earliest period in the world.

6. First State of the Korean Nation

The first slave state in Korea was Ancient Joson which existed from the early 30th century BC to 108 BC.

Its original name was Joson but to distinguish it from the feudal Joson dynasty of the latter days, it is called Ancient Joson.

Joson means a land of morning calm.

Ancient Joson occupied a vast area of Northeast Asia with Pyongyang as its centre. As an advanced slave state, it had even a written law, Eight-Point Bans, and a well-regulated ruling system. Its economy was

developed; in agriculture, the major production field, five cereals including rice and even fibrous plants including jute were cultivated. With the introduction of bronze and ironworks such as lute-shaped dagger in daily life, it had a great influence on its neighbouring countries in metallurgical development. It was so highly civilized that it had its own alphabet, *Sinji* letters, the first of its kind for the nation, and carved-on-stone astronomical chart.

It existed for almost 3 000 years, divided into the periods of Earlier Joson, Later Joson and Man Joson.

7. Founding Father of the Korean Nation

The man, who established the first state and ushered in the period of civilization in the history of the Korean nation, was Tangun.

Born in Pyongyang 5 000 years ago, Tangun exerted himself to martial arts like practising archery and swordsmanship in his boyhood and youth.

As a son of the chief of a tribal federation, he sought a way out of the socio-political problems inherent to the primitive tribal system. After succeeding his father, he reformed the primitive political system into a more powerful one. He founded a regular army and worked out stipulations with regard to criminal punishment.

On the basis of such social reforms, he designated Pyongyang as the capital and founded in the early 30th century BC Ancient Joson, the first state in the East.

After building the national strength by readjusting the state political system and developing the economy and culture, he unified the neighbouring tribes and expanded the country's territory.

With the founding of a state by Tangun, the protracted primitive age was over in Korea, and the Korean nation finally entered the era of state administration, an era of civilization.

8. "Eight-Point Bans"

The "Eight-Point Bans" are a written law of Ancient Joson, a slave state.

Among the eight articles, only three still remain.

First: a person who has killed another person shall be sentenced to death.

Second: a person who has hurt another person shall pay the latter in cereals.

Third: a person who has stolen another person's property, shall be enslaved to the latter regardless of sex, and if the former wants to atone for his or her crime, he or she shall pay 500 000 of money.

The law reflects the reality of the then society where contradictions and struggle between two classes–slave

owners on the one side and slaves and commoners on the other–constituted the mainstream of social relations.

9. *Sinji* Letters

Sinji letters were used throughout the areas where the Korean nation lived in the days of Tangun's Korea.

The letters were found on the earthenware discovered in the old tombs and in old books including *Nyongbyonji*.

For the limited amount of remaining data, it is difficult to clarify their number and system, their sounds and grammar. But, in view of the characteristics of their order, it is clear that they are phonetic and syllabic letters.

Sinji letters were of significance not only in the development of the Korean language, written and spoken, and national culture but also in the history of alphabet in the East and the world.

10. Song *Konghuin*

Gujinzhu, a book from the times of Qin China, carries a song composed in the 2nd century BC by Ryo Ok, a female poet and musician of Ancient Joson.

I asked you so earnestly
Never to cross the river
But you are drowned to death
Where are you, my dear, and what would I become of.

The fact that a song composed by an ordinary woman was recorded in a history book of another country in ancient society when there were no such modern means of communications and transport as those of today, gives a glimpse of the level of development of culture in Ancient Joson.

11. Slave States in Addition to Ancient Joson

In addition to Ancient Joson, there existed such slave states as Puyo, Kuryo and Jinguk.

They were either tributaries of Ancient Joson or states separated from it. In the early 3rd century BC, a group led by Ko Jumong moved to Kuryo from Puyo and founded Koguryo. Thus, the ancient age was finished in Korea and the feudal age started.

12. Koguryo

Koguryo was the first feudal state in the history of Korea.

It was established on the basis of the feudal relations that developed in Kuryo (Jolbon Puyo), one of the ancient states.

Feudal relations developed early in Kuryo, and newly-emerging feudal forces resisted the old slave-owning forces. By relying on these newly-emerging

forces, Ko Jumong founded a new state in 277 BC and named it Koguryo.

Koguryo was a powerful state with a vast territory ranging from the Liao River area in China to most of the Korean peninsula.

Its people loved practising martial arts, and regarded it as their natural duty to rise as one in times of foreign aggression and defend their own home towns and their country.

Koguryo existed till AD 668, shining its brilliance as a thousand-year-old power in the East.

13. Ko Jumong

Ko Jumong was extraordinary from his childhood. He made a bow for himself and never missed a target. In Puyo a master archer was called *jumong*, hence his name Jumong.

The king's seven sons were jealous of his outstanding talent and martial art skills. The king and his sons even attempted to kill him.

He fled to the south with like-minded Oi, Mari and Hyoppo, getting out of reach of the pursuers.

After arriving in Kuryo, he consolidated his position and established a new country, Koguryo.

The founder of Koguryo was later called Tongmyong the Sacred.

14. Monument to the Mausoleum of King Kwanggaetho

The Monument to the Mausoleum of King Kwanggaetho was built in 414 in praise of the 17th descendant of King Tongmyong. The 6.34m-high monument is inscribed with the story of the founding of Koguryo by Ko Jumong, the line of succession to the throne and the exploits by King Kwanggaetho for exalting national strength and expanding its territory in chronical order of events.

As one of the oldest inscribed monuments in Korea and for the historical value of the materials inscribed on it, the monument is ranked as one of the most valuable cultural legacies in the East.

15. Site of the Anhak Palace

It is the site of the royal palace of Koguryo, situated at the foot of Mt Taesong, Pyongyang.

Koguryo pushed ahead with the policy of advancing southward to realize its far-reaching plan of national unification by annexing Paekje and Silla. In 427, it moved its capital to Pyongyang, a more favourable place, and built its royal palace in the current place.

A thick and square wall surrounded the palace, one side of the wall being 622m long and the entire wall

being as long as 2 488m in circumference. The palace occupied an area of about 380 000m^2.

Among the three streams flowing down the southern valley of Somun Hill of Mt Taesong, one was led to a pond in the palace and the other two, to the moats in the east and the west. The palace compound was beautifully laid out with big halls, corridors and artificial mountains and lakes.

16. Taesongsan Fortress

The Taesongsan Fortress was built to defend Koguryo's royal palace, Anhak Palace.

It is 7 076m in circumference, and the walls are 9 284m long.

Inside, there are numerous sites of grain storehouses, arsenals and barracks.

As it was built by making an effective use of the natural and geographical conditions, it was difficult for the enemy to attack it but favourable for defending it.

The walls were built by dovetailing processed quadrangular natural stones of certain sizes in the Mt Taesong and nearby areas. The walls had bastions on important positions.

In the fortress, many relics and remains of Koguryo including roof tiles and a stone box for gilt-bronze image of Buddha and the Buddhist scriptures were unearthed.

17. Walled City of Pyongyang

The Anhak Palace and Taesongsan Fortress were not adequate for the capital of powerful Koguryo.

By drawing on the lessons gained in the defence of the capital city and on the basis of the powerful national strength, Koguryo built walls around the central part of the present Pyongyang from 552 to 586.

The walled city had Mt Kumsu in the north and was surrounded by the Taedong and Pothong rivers in the east, west and south that served as natural moats. It was some 16km in circumference.

Combining the advantages of walls on mountains and in plain areas, it was an invention by the people of Koguryo.

18. Koguryo's Astronomical Chart on Stone

Koguryo had, from the days before Christ, observatories, astronomers and specialized observers who studied eclipses of the sun and the moon and the motions of meteors and comets. By collecting the results of observation, they etched a celestial map on a stone.

The stone, inscribed with constellation, was in the Walled City of Pyongyang, but it was lost as it was drowned in a river by foreign invaders in the closing years of Koguryo.

Later, an astronomical chart, a printed form of the original, was found. The map, *Chonsangryolchabunyajido*, has been handed down up to now.

This chart preserves almost all of the contents of the original. In the large circle in the middle of it, there are a constellation chart and various tables and explanations around it.

The globe is reflected on a plane with the North Pole at its centre, and 1 467 stars are positioned on 282 constellations. Also inscribed are the points of spring and autumn equinoxes, the coordinates of 28 fundamental stars, equatorial, zodiac, Arctic and longitudinal circles, and galaxy.

The astronomical chart is highly precise in content, and is the oldest one of its kind in the world.

19. Myongnimdappu

In Koguryo there was a 100-year-old man, called a minister in the administration and a general in the battlefield. He was Myongnimdappu (AD 67-179).

At the age of 100, he was appointed as the first-ever minister in charge of the overall military affairs in the capital city and local areas.

In 172, when the troops of Han China invaded Koguryo, at the age of 105 he commanded the army of

Koguryo, giving a telling blow to the aggressors, thus winning a great victory.

He died at the age of 112.

20. Great Victory in the Battle of Salsu

After the defeat in the first aggression on Koguryo, the emperor of Sui China drove his large troops to reinvade Koguryo in 612.

Koguryo's General Ulji Mun Dok went into the camp of the enemy troops all alone, learned their situation and mapped out an operation plan to annihilate them through luring tactic.

Lured by this tactic, the Sui troops made an exhausting, long-distance march to reach Koguryo's second capital, Ponghwangsong, which had already built up strong defences. Their situation became worse because of the shortage of supplies.

Sensing their circumstances, Ulji Mun Dok sent a sarcastic poem to the enemy commander, making the enemy troops feel disheartened and giving them an excuse to retreat.

When they were crossing the Salsu River (the present Xiaozi River in China) in their retreat, the Koguryo army ambushed them and dealt a telling blow to them. Among the 305 000 Sui men, those who fled as far as the Liaodong Fort 160 km away numbered only 2 700.

In history, this brilliant victory is recorded as the Great Victory in the Battle of Salsu.

21. Yon Kaesomun

Well-versed in military tactics and martial arts from his early years, Yon Kaesomun looked sturdy and dignified.

When the ruling circles of Koguryo took the road of making concessions under the pressure of foreign forces and attempted to kill him on the charge of taking a hard line, he staged a coup in October 642, deposed the king and grasped power, himself becoming *Mangniji* (de facto ruler).

In 644, when Tang China openly declared invasion of Koguryo, he fortified the defences of the country and threatened the home front of the Tang forces by establishing friendly relations with Tujue.

In 645, 647 and 648, when the Tang troops invaded Koguryo, he commanded the army and people to victory. He also defeated their aggression in the 650s and the early 660s.

22. Murals in Koguryo Tombs

To the memory of the deceased and in the belief that their souls were still alive, people of Koguryo painted pictures on the walls inside the tombs so as to create the living environment of the deceased.

The murals are various in form and rich in content. The monumental form of paintings portrays figures, living customs, landscapes, animals, still life, flowers, birds and other decorative and symbolic patterns.

They still preserve their original colouring, demonstrating the superiority of the Korean national culture of fine art. They are inscribed on the list of world cultural heritage.

23. Other Feudal States That Existed Together with Koguryo

Paekje, Silla, Kaya and other feudal states existed together with Koguryo.

24. Paekje

Paekje was founded by Onjo, son of Tongmyong, founder-king of Koguryo.

King Tongmyong had sons including Yuryu and Onjo. He chose his eldest son, Yuryu, as the crown prince.

Onjo, together with his brother, Piryu, and ten subordinates, went to the south. Many commoners followed him.

He chose Wirye Fort in Hanam as the capital city and named his country Paekje.

Founded as a small state in the mid-3rd century BC, Paekje annexed several small neighbouring states, and

became an independent feudal country in the late 1st century BC.

Paekje existed for hundreds of years till it fell in 660 due to the invasion by Tang China and Silla.

25. Silla

Silla, one of the first feudal states in Korea, can be divided into Earlier Silla and Later Silla.

Earlier Silla existed from the middle of the early 1st century, when Silla was founded, to the middle of the 7th century.

Later Silla existed from 676 to 935, when the dynasty of Silla became ruined.

Its capital was Wanggyong (the present Kyongju in North Kyongsang Province).

The ruling circles of Silla committed the treacherous act of inviting the aggressive forces of Tang China to realize their ambition for territorial expansion.

The allied forces of Silla and Tang overthrew Paekje in 660 and Koguryo in 668. Then Silla gained the control of the area as far as south of the Taedong River.

This brought about frustration of the process of unification of the three kingdoms by Koguryo.

26. Solgo

Solgo was a painter, who was active between the late 6th century and the early 7th century.

Though he was of lower caste, he was skilful in painting.

He painted an old pine tree on a wall of the Hwangnyong Temple. The rough barks of the thick trunk, drooping branches and rich leaves were portrayed vividly by means of excellent techniques and refreshing colouring.

The tree was so realistic that birds flew to the mural to sit on it, only to fall, it is said.

After Solgo died, the picture grew discoloured. So a monk in the temple repainted it. Birds did not come to the painting since then.

27. *Kayagum*

Kayagum is a musical instrument unique to the Korean nation. It was invented by Uruk, a musician who lived in the early 6th century in Kaya (Kumgwan Kaya).

It is called so for it originated in Kaya.

The instrument is resilient, its sound is soft and elegant, and when performing it, the performer looks rhythmic and elegant. This conforms to the emotions and tastes of the Korean nation.

Its structure is simple, and it is easy to adjust the sound by means of movable bridges; it is also easy to learn and varied in performing methods, so it has been a popular musical instrument loved by the people.

28. Koguryo's Successor

After Koguryo was ruined in 668 by Silla allied with foreign forces, its surviving people drove out the Tang invaders and established Palhae in 698. At the time of its founding, its capital was Tongmosan (near Dunhua, China).

To the south its territory was bordered with Silla in the middle of the Korean peninsula with the Taedong River in the west and the Ryonghung River in Kumya (once called Yangyang) in the east, and to the east with the whole eastern coastal areas as far as the Maritime Territory of Russia. It also occupied the whole area from the lower reaches of the Liao River to the areas of the Heilong and Songhua rivers in China.

Existing for 230 years, Palhae demonstrated itself as *Haedongsongguk*, or a "flourishing country in the East." Its first king was Tae Jo Yong.

29. Tae Jo Yong

Tae Jo Yong was a general of Koguryo.

After Koguryo fell, he moved to Yongju (the present Chaoyang) by the forced emigration policy of the Tang aggressors. In the summer of 696, he rose in revolt by enlisting the remaining military forces of Koguryo under his command, and annihilated the Tang occupiers.

In early 698, he ambushed and annihilated the Tang troops led by Li Haigao in today's Liaoning, China, and reflecting the unanimous desire of the surviving people of Koguryo to restore their country, he founded Palhae with Tongmosan (the present site of the Wudong Fort in Dunhua) as its capital.

He established a well-regulated ruling system and a powerful army as in Koguryo, and pursued a flexible foreign policy, ceaselessly building up the strength of the country.

30. Sanggyong Stone Lantern

The Sanggyong Stone Lantern is at the site of temple No. 2 in Sanggyong (the present Ningan County, Heilongjiang Province, China), the capital of Palhae. It was originally 6.3m high, built neatly as if it was made with a piece of dark, blue lava.

The lantern gives an impression that the octagonal pavilion on the islet in the pond in Kumwon, the royal palace, had been moved to the spot.

The stone lantern portrays elegant contrast by decreasing the sizes of the parts upwards, and distinguishing match by placing against each other the even under part and the open upper part. The lantern, organically combining fine architectural techniques and art of sculpture, is the oldest of its kind in the East.

31. First Unified State

The first unified state in Korea was Koryo.

Koryo, founded in 918 by Wang Kon, achieved oneness of the blood and culture of the Korean nation by annexing Silla and Later Paekje in the middle and the south of the Korean peninsula and embracing the surviving people of Palhae.

As a unified state, Koryo was widely known to the world for its strong national power and advanced culture.

The appellation of Korea originated from Koryo.

Koryo existed for about 500 years till it was overthrown in 1392.

32. Origination of the Appellation of Koryo

The appellation of Koryo came from Koguryo, the most powerful state in the history of the Korean nation.

It reflected Koryo's aspiration to succeed and realize Koguryo's desire of unification of the Korean nation and thus build a country as powerful as Koguryo.

33. Wang Kon

Wang Kon, a feudal magnate in the Songak (Kaesong) area in the middle of the Korean peninsula, collaborated with Kung Ye, leader of the rebel forces. In

918, he led a coup and overthrew Kung Ye, a tyrant, and established a new dynasty.

He named the new kingdom Koryo indicating that it was the successor to Koguryo, and pursued the policy of national unification.

He reconciled with Silla and took a hard line towards Later Paekje by intensifying military offensives. He pursued the policy of recovering the territory of erstwhile Koguryo in the north of the Taedong River and embraced the surviving people of Palhae who immigrated to Koryo.

In 935, he annexed Silla peacefully; in 936, he defeated Later Paekje by force of arms, thus achieving the cause of territorial unification.

34. Great Victory in the Battle of Kuju

Despite two rounds of defeat, King Chengzong of Khitan drove a 100 000-strong force in December 1018 to invade Koryo.

A battle decisive of the third Koryo-Khitan war took place in Kuju (Kusong) in the northwest of the Korean peninsula.

General Kang Kam Chan, commander-in-chief of the Koryo forces, stationed the main force on the field in front of Kuju and ordered them to check the retreating enemy troops.

On February 1, 1019, the main force of Koryo dealt telling blows at the enemy by showering on them arrows fired by powder. Koryo troops who were giving chase to the enemy pressed upon their back.

The ranks of the enemy became disorganized and fell down in crowds.

The Koryo forces gave hot pursuit to the enemy, and finally annihilated them. Only a few thousand escaped death.

In history the victory is recorded as the Great Victory in the Battle of Kuju.

35. Kang Kam Chan

From his childhood, Kang Kam Chan (948-1031) liked learning and was gifted, honest, simple and frugal.

The man of small build was decisive and stringent in everything. These dispositions of his were displayed fully when he was leading the struggle of the Koryo people against the Khitan aggressors.

In November 1010, Khitan invaded Koryo for the second time with a 400 000-strong force.

Kang Kam Chan resolutely rejected the capitulationist proposal by the ruling circles of Koryo, put into practice his own opinion that victory could be won if Koryo forces were rearranged properly, and contributed to the victory in the war.

When Khitan invaded Koryo for the third time in December 1018, he concealed his forces in ambush near Hunghwajin on the Amnok River and had a barrage built. When the main force of the enemy arrived there, he had the barrage removed and a general offensive launched.

According to the strategic plan of the general, the Koryo army gave the Khitan forces a devastating blow in Kuju through an encircling operation in February 1019.

Of the 100 000-strong forces, only a few thousand escaped death.

36. Sol Juk Hwa

Sol Juk Hwa fought bravely against the Khitan aggressors in the early 11th century. The story about this young girl is still told.

To take revenge of her father who fell in a battle, she learned martial arts from her childhood. When she heard that hundreds of thousands of the Khitan aggressors intruded, she burned her heart with a determination to enlist in the army, but hesitated because of her bed-ridden mother.

Seeing this, her mother told her to go out to the battlefield to defend the country like her father. She then killed herself.

Charged with her mother's wish, Sol Juk Hwa,

dressed in man's clothes, enlisted in the unit led by General Kang Kam Chan.

She would fight in the vanguard in battles. When she fell in a battle, people knew that the courageous soldier was a girl.

Encouraged by her, the Koryo forces redoubled their spirit and wiped off the invaders.

37. *Complete Collection of Buddhist Scriptures*

Complete Collection of Buddhist Scriptures is a library of the classified Buddhism-related books.

Printed in Koryo in 1251, it consists of 1 539 parts in 6 793 books, and 80 000 wooden blocks were used in printing it.

The printing blocks are made of *Machilus thunbergii*, oak and white birch. Each block, 69.6cm long, 24cm wide and 3.7cm thick, has 22 lines and 14 letters on each line. The four corners of the block are framed in brass belts, which are fixed by nails; wooden bars are attached to both ends to prevent twist. The surface is lacquered to prevent it from being rotten or eaten by moth.

Inscribed with Buddhist doctrines and their interpretation, biographies of well-known Buddhist monks and so on, the 80 000 blocks show the high level of the then printing techniques of Koryo. As one of the valuable cultural assets of the nation, they are kept in the

Pohyon Temple, Hyangsan County, North Phyongan Province in the northwestern part of Korea.

38. First Metal Type in the World

A general view is that it is between the late 11th century and the early 12th century that metal type was invented in Koryo. This is evidenced by the fact that copper type was unearthed in a Koryo royal tomb in Kaesong and *Nammyongchonhwasangsongjungdoga*, which was printed by metal types in 1076, remains to this day.

The bronze type of Koryo displayed in the Korean Central History Museum shows the level of techniques of casting metal types and printing of those days.

These techniques spread to Europe via China.

In 1466 Johannes Gutenberg of Germany invented moulds to get lead types and started printing in Mainz by using these types, 300 years after metal types were made in Koryo.

UNESCO informed its member states that *Paegunhwasangchorokbuljojikjisimchejolyo* printed in metal types in 1377 at the Hungdok Temple in Chongju, Korea, was the oldest book printed in metal types. In 1972, it displayed the book at the general exhibition of History of Books held in Paris, France, as an event of the International Year of Books.

39. Koryo Porcelain

Koryo porcelain occupies a conspicuous place in the medieval pottery.

In terms of colour, they can be divided into bluish green, white, black, putty and crimson celadon; in terms of decorating style, they can be divided into embossed, carved, open, scraped, inlaid and made-up celadon.

The one that has been made in the greatest number and known most widely is celadon. The celadon of mysterious bluish green as if being reflected on a white stone submerged in crystal-clear water was, for the world people, symbolic of Koryo porcelain.

For an organic combination of its outstanding colour and pattern and fresh shape the elegant and refined celadon is valued as a treasure all over the world.

40. Stone Sculptures at the Mausoleum of King Kyonghyo, or Kongmin

The Mausoleum of King Kyonghyo, or Kongmin (1330-1374), the 31st king of Koryo, is comprised of two tombs, Hyonrung (tomb of the king) and Jongrung (tomb of the queen).

From 1365 to 1372, the king personally supervised the building of the mausoleum.

There are various stone sculptures at the mausoleum,

and conspicuous of them are stone statues of civil and military officers.

The four statues of civil officers and the other four statues of military officers, differing from each other in conformity to the characteristics of civil and military officers, demonstrate their formative and artistic beauty.

Most superior among the old stone works of art that remain still today, they showcase the outstanding formative and artistic talents of the Koryo people.

41. Return of the Expeditionary Force from Wihwa Islet

In February 1388, Ming China attempted to establish a military and administrative unit in the Amnok River Basin in order to occupy the northwestern area of Koryo. To cope with this situation, the government of Koryo decided to send an expeditionary force to frustrate Ming's advance to the Liaodong area.

The then Prime Minister Choe Yong stayed with the king in Pyongyang in command of the expeditionary force. The combat forces were under the direct control of Jo Min Su and Ri Song Gye (1335-1408).

However, Ri Song Gye disagreed from the start with Choe Yong claiming that attacking a big country by a

small country was an act running against “moral principles” and that mobilizing military troops in summer was not appropriate in view of the season. He withdrew his troops on Wihwa Islet at the estuary of the Amnok River, and attacked Kaegyong (Kaesong).

This led to the end of the 500-year-long history of Koryo.

42. Jong Mong Ju

Jong Mong Ju (1337-1392) was a civil servant and Confucian scholar who lived in the last days of Koryo.

Even after Ri Song Gye grasped power after the return of the expeditionary force from Wihwa Islet in 1388, he was still a member of the Privy Council and then prime minister.

Unable to slight Jong Mong Ju’s political and social influence, Ri Song Gye tried to take him to his own side in the plot to usurp the throne.

However, Jong Mong Ju opposed the plot to the last.

Ri Song Gye had his fifth son Ri Pang Won (1367-1422) and his gang murder Jong Mong Ju in 1392, when he was crossing a bridge in Kaegyong (Kaesong).

After his death, a bamboo tree which represents loyalty and faith began to grow on the spot where he had been murdered. The bridge was renamed Sonjuk.

43. Feudal Joson Dynasty

Ri Song Gye ousted the last king of Koryo, King Kongyang, in July 1392, and ascended the throne. He named the country Joson.

The feudal Joson dynasty existed for about 500 years till August 1910.

It was the last feudal state in Korea.

44. First Rain Gauge in the World

The first rain gauge in the world was invented in Korea in 1441.

A round vessel placed on a stand collected rainwater to measure its amount.

Such a gauge was installed in the yard of every central and local official building. In the capital, it was made of iron or copper; in other regions, it was made of ceramics or earth.

In Italy, they measured the depth of rainwater in 1639, about 200 years after Korea established a system of setting up rain gauges and recording the rainwater nationwide.

45. *Hunminjongum*

In the middle of the 15th century, King Sejong (1419-1450 in reign) ordered talented scholars to make researches into new national letters.

Thus, in January 1444, *Hunminjongum*, or Correct Sounds to Educate the People, was invented.

It is superior to all other letters of the world. As a system of phonetic symbols, it can denote any sound, it is based on scientific principles, and it is easy to learn.

UNESCO designated *Hunminjongum* as an asset of the world, and advised nations without their own letters to introduce it.

46. Prize of Sejong the Great

Sejong the Great (1397-1450), the fourth monarch of the feudal Joson dynasty, enforced the policy of active cultural encouragement.

In 1420, he established *Jiphyonjon*, royal academy of sciences, by involving talented scholars and had them collect and study books. These scholars invented rain gauge for the first time in the world and measured the precipitation in the country. They also invented sundial, clepsydra and various astronomical observatory equipment to observe the universe. Under his direction, in January 1444 they succeeded in inventing *Hunminjongum* consisting of 28 letters.

UNESCO instituted the Prize of Sejong the Great, and awards it to those who have distinguished themselves in eliminating illiteracy and in the field of linguistics.

47. Three Major Books on Koryo Medicine

Hyangyakjipsongbang, *Uibangryuchwi* and *Tonguibogam* are the three major books on Koryo medicine.

Hyangyakjipsongbang, whose compilation started in 1431 and finished in 1433, classifies illnesses into 959 kinds and gives some 10 700 prescriptions, 1 500 methods of acupuncture and moxa cautery and 693 species of medicinal herbs.

Uibangryuchwi of 365 volumes compiled between 1443 and 1445, is a colossal collection of clinical experiences gained in the East up to those days.

Tonguibogam is an encyclopaedic book on Koryo medicine containing the abundant medical achievements made in Korea up to the early 17th century. It was written by Ho Jun in 1610 and published in 1613. Compared with the medical books of the same kind, it is more scientific and reasonable in its structure.

48. Imjin Patriotic War

In April 1592, Hideyoshi Toyotomi, the ruler of Japan, invaded Korea taking advantage of the latter's decline in military strength. The ground and naval aggression forces were some 158 700 strong.

Thus started a seven-year-long war against the Japanese invaders.

As it started in the Year of Imjin (1592), it is called the Imjin Patriotic War.

Patriotic generals and people of Korea including Ri Sun Sin, Kwon Ryul, Kim Ung So and Abbot Sosan launched a vigorous armed struggle against the enemy. Among them were *kisaeng* girls like Kye Wol Hyang and Ron Kae, who, though underprivileged, sacrificed their lives for killing the Japanese generals.

In 1598, the Korean people finally drove the Japanese aggressors out of their country.

49. Ri Sun Sin

Ri Sun Sin (1545-1598) was a patriotic general who built *kobukson*, or turtle ship, the first armoured battleship in the world, and crushed the Japanese invaders.

In the naval battle off Hansan Island, the Korean naval force commanded by Ri Sun Sin sank around 60 enemy ships and killed thousands of enemy troops. In mid-September 1597, the 12 vessels under his command fought against 330 enemy ships off Myongnyang, destroying 30 of them and killing thousands. In the battle off Roryang in November 1598, which crowned the war, his fleet destroyed over 200 enemy ships and killed 10 000. During this battle, he was shot to death. Breathing his last, he said that

his soldiers should not be informed of his death till the battle was over.

In the early 20th century, Japan's Admiral Heihachiro Togo destroyed Czarist Russia's Baltic fleet. At a party celebrating his victory, when his colleagues praised him, saying that he was superior to Admiral Nelson, he said, "Nelson was not a prominent admiral. If there is a true officer, it's Korea's Admiral Ri Sun Sin. Compared to him, I am not better than a corporal."

50. *Kobukson* (Turtle Ship)

Kobukson, or turtle ship, is the first armoured battleship in the world built by the Korean people.

Already in 1413, they built and tested the ship. In 1592, prior to the Imjin Patriotic War, under the direction of Admiral Ri Sun Sin, they perfected the ship on the basis of their previous shipbuilding techniques.

The ship was 35m long, 11.8m wide and 5.2m high. It had ten oars on each side and 70 gun ports. Its sails could be unfurled or laid as necessary. Its roof, which looked like the back of a turtle, was made with large wooden panels, and the path on it was so narrow that its crew alone could barely walk through it. The other parts were all covered with pins to keep off the enemy.

Kobukson demonstrated its might to the full in several naval battles during the Imjin Patriotic War.

51. Great Victory in the Naval Battle off Hansan Island

Under the command of Admiral Ri Sun Sin, the Korean navy held the command in the South Sea of Korea in the initial period of the Imjin Patriotic War. As its attempt for simultaneous advance on land and on sea was on the verge of frustration, Japan formed three big fleets in late June 1592, and dispatched them to the waters of Korea.

Admiral Ri Sun Sin decided to lure the enemy fleet in the shore to the sea off Hansan Island. He had his main force hide in the northern shore of the island. When nearly all the enemy vessels appeared in the sea off the island, Ri Sun Sin ordered attack.

The main force of the Korean navy launched an instant attack sailing in the formation of a fluttering crane. With turtle ships in the vanguard, the Korean fleet laid siege on the enemy on the front and both sides.

In this battle 59 out of 73 Japanese vessels were sunk, and thousands were killed.

The Korean people are proud of this victory, calling it the Great Victory in the Naval Battle off Hansan Island.

52. Kwak Jae U

When the Imjin Patriotic War broke out, Kwak Jae U (1552-1617) was a scholar in Uiryong, Kyongsang

Province in the southern part of the Korean peninsula. In order to rescue his country and fellow people from crisis, he formed a righteous volunteers corps in late April 1592.

Leading the volunteers, he dealt telling blows to the Japanese invaders by employing tactics of luring, cheating and ambushing.

As he wore red clothes and rode a white horse, he was called "Red-Clad General." The Japanese would flee even at the mere mention of his name, and said that he was a heaven-sent red-clad general.

As a military officer after the war, he contributed to the building of the defences of the country.

53. Kim Ung So

Kim Ung So (1564-1624) was the commander of a garrison and defence commander in a region at the start of the Imjin Patriotic War.

In July 1592, he formed a combat unit by involving the patriotic people in the areas, including Ryonggang and Kangso, around Pyongyang in order to repel the Japanese invaders from the Walled City of Pyongyang. With the help of Kye Wol Hyang, who remained inside the city and was spying the enemy movements while pretending to be attending them, he boldly went into the enemy camp and killed the commander of a Japanese unit.

In January 1593, commanding the vanguard unit, he led troops into the city and displayed bravery in defeating the enemy.

54. Kye Wol Hyang

Kye Wol Hyang (?-1592) was a *kisaeng* girl attached to the Pyongyang government.

Witnessing the barbarous atrocities committed by the Japanese intruders during their temporary occupation of Pyongyang, she made a determination to devote her life to wiping out the enemy and tiding over the national crisis.

She would go into the enemy camp and, pretending to be attending them, she picked up information about their inner situation and sent it to the volunteers corps.

While watching for a chance, she succeeded in helping Kim Ung So, defence commander of Phyongan Province, slip into the city, disguised as her brother, and kill an enemy commander.

She then helped him go out of the walls in safety, before being arrested and killed.

55. Abbot Sosan

Abbot Sosan (1520-1604) was called so because he lived in Mt Myohyang, or Sosan.

During the Imjin Patriotic War, he appealed to the

monks across the country to turn out in the struggle as volunteers, and organized a monks unit some 1 500 strong.

Though aged over 70, he led the volunteers in the battle of taking back the Walled City of Pyongyang.

When the Japanese invaders, who had intruded deep into the country, retreated to the shores of the South Sea of Korea and the nation was rescued from a critical crisis, he handed the commandership to his disciples, Samyongdang and Choyong. He then went back to Mt Myohyang.

56. Samyongdang

After the outbreak of the Imjin Patriotic War, Samyongdang (1544-1610) organized a righteous volunteers corps with some 700 monks in the northeastern part of Korea in response to the call of his mentor, Abbot Sosan.

In support of his mentor, he led his unit in the battle of the Walled City of Pyongyang, and won victory by attacking the retreating enemy.

From the spring of 1594, he was engaged in diplomacy. He went into the enemy camp several times. He met the enemy commander Kato and frustrated his impudent demands by driving him into a tight corner.

When Kato asked him what was deemed a treasure in Korea, he answered, “Your head is.”

In 1604, after the Imjin Patriotic War, he went to Japan and held peace talks with Ieyasu Tokugawa, commander-in-chief of the aggressor forces, and brought back thousands of kidnapped civilians with him.

57. Monument to the Great Victory in Pukgwan

The Monument to the Great Victory in Pukgwan was set up in 1708 in today's Rimmyong-ri in the city of Kim Chaek, North Hamgyong Province, to the memory of the great victory by Jong Mun Bu-led volunteers who defeated the Japanese invaders in the areas of Hamgyong Province during the Imjin Patriotic War.

This victory, together with the victory in the battle in January 1593 to win back the Walled City of Pyongyang, constituted a turning point in the war.

Having occupied Korea in the early 20th century, the Japanese imperialists shipped the monument to Japan so as to obliterate the Korean people's patriotic, anti-Japanese sentiment. One hundred years later it was brought back and set up on its original site.

58. Kim Hong Do

Kim Hong Do was a famous fine artist in the 18th century.

He depicted life of those days realistically. His works are characterized by unique formation, deep description and idiosyncrasy.

The main characters of most of his works are the working people. Good examples are *Blacksmith's*, *Ssirum* and *Dance*.

He also showed outstanding talent in painting landscape and animals in such works as *Kuryong Falls, Moonlit Night in the Woods*, *Dog* and *Old Lion*.

59. *A Farmer and an Ox*

A painting that draws special attention of visitors to the Korean Fine Art Gallery in Pyongyang is *A Farmer and an Ox* by Kim Tu Ryang (1696-1763).

When one looks at the ox with fatty back grazing, one feels as if one may hear the ox bellowing, and the image of the farmer taking a nap under a pine tree with his belly uncovered makes one laugh in spite of oneself.

Some foreigners, who saw the painting, still ask jokingly in their letters, "Is the farmer still taking a nap?"

60. Pak Ji Won

Pak Ji Won (alias Pak Yon Am, 1737-1805) was bereaved of his parents when young, and grew up under the care of his grandfather. He was so weak that he

started learning later than other children, but he studied hard, thus acquiring a versatile knowledge.

He was outstanding in literature in particular. His typical works are *The Tale of Scholar Ho*, *The Tale of a Nobleman* and *Reprimand by a Tiger*, in which he laid bare the parasitic life of corrupted ruling circles and criticized them, and sympathized with the miserable life of the working people. He was widely known as a prominent advocate of the *Silhak* (Practical Science) School.

While touring China as an attendant of an envoy, he wrote a travelogue, *Rehe Diary.*

He made a great contribution to the ideological and cultural development of Korea in the 18th century by creating many excellent works that reflect the social and economic changes of the crumbling feudal society.

61. Jong Yak Yong

Jong Yak Yong (alias Jong Ta San, 1762-1836) entered government service since young, but in the twilight years of his life abandoned it and engaged in the academic study and writing.

He acknowledged the theory that the earth is round and rotates on its own axis, and explained that such natural phenomena as rain, snow, thunder and tidal waves were not something mysterious.

Stressing the need to develop technology, he conducted research into agriculture, weaving, ship and bridge building and construction of castles. He not only designed the Walled City of Suwon but also invented a crane which played a big role in building the walls of the city.

Talented in literature, he produced 2 000 poetic and prosaic works, typical of which are *Song of Starving People* and *Tiger Hunting*, in which he sympathized with the plight of the people and criticized the ruthless exploitation by bureaucrats.

62. Taedongyo Map

The Taedongyo Map is a map of Korea drawn by Kim Jong Ho (?-1864), a geographer, topographer and thinker of the *Silhak* (Practical Science) School.

While studying a large number of books on geography and maps published at home and abroad, he made a detailed field survey and measurement of every part of the country, from Mt Paektu to Jeju Island, for scores of years. On this basis, he drew the Taedongyo Map in 1861.

The map was as large as $33m^2$.

He divided the map into 22 parts and folded them into a book form. Every part is 30x20cm, which equals to 48x32km. The map's reduced scale is 1:162 000.

The locations marked on the map are correct, and a dot is marked once every 4km on the line indicating a road, helping readers to estimate a correct distance.

63. Incident of *General Sherman*

The intrusion by *General Sherman* was the start of the US invasion of Korea.

Armed with four cannons and carrying 90 combat personnel, it stole into the estuary of the Taedong River on August 16, 1866.

Having sailed up near Pyongyang, the aggressors raped women, looted people's wealth and kidnapped the Korean soldiers.

Enraged, the people and soldiers of Pyongyang turned out in a fight to repulse the ship.

On September 2, the people of Pyongyang sent fire boats towards the aggressor ship from upstream by using the low tide. At the same time the soldiers of Pyongyang garrison fired a volley of matchlocks and arrows.

Fire boats collided with *General Sherman* and it was enveloped in flames. Finally it submerged beneath the Taedong River.

64. Invasion by Western Warships in the Year of Pyongin

In early 1866, the Year of Pyongin, France committed

an armed invasion against Korea, picking a quarrel with the Korean government's suppression of Catholic believers and execution of French missionaries.

The commander of the French fleet dispatched to the Far East, who had gained fame in aggression on Vietnam and Qing China, intruded as deep as Yanghwajin and Sogang, gateways to the capital city via Kanghwa Straits with three warships. They beat a retreat in the face of tough resistance by the Korean people. The French aggressors reinvaded Korea by enlisting the whole fleet in the Far East–2 500 men and seven warships. The aggressors destroyed and stole historical relics including old architectural structures, and threatened the Korean feudal government that they would kill 9 000 Koreans for the nine executed French missionaries. They also presented brigandish demands that the government hand over to them the Korean officials who had been involved in the execution of the French missionaries, pay compensation for their death and conclude a "treaty" with France.

The indignant Korean people attacked the intruders both on the land and on the sea, killing many of them.

Having suffered repeated attacks, the French invaders retreated after sailing on the sea off Korea doing nothing.

65. Incident of *Shenandoah*

Far from drawing a lesson from the incident of *General Sherman* in 1866, the United States dispatched the aggressor ship *Shenandoah* into the territorial waters of Korea. In March 1868, commanded by a lieutenant colonel of the US Navy, carrying 230 men and armed with nine cannons including a large-calibre cannon, it sailed up and down the sea off Hwanghae Province and southern part of the Chongchon River, firing bullets and shells at random and watching for a chance to intrude into the Taedong River.

With a view to attack Pyongyang, the ship started sailing towards the estuary of the Taedong River on April 7.

The volunteers and soldiers, who had been defending the Tongjin Battery, fired a volley at the enemy ship.

Frightened by the sudden attack, the ship dared not to resist and fled.

Next day the aggressors landed on Piryon Island committing violence against the inhabitants and forcing them to convey their letters to their government, before fleeing.

66. Attempted Exhumation of the Tomb of Prince Namyon

When *Shenandoah* was committing military provocations and acts of plunder in the estuary of the

Taedong River, the United States dispatched some 300 gangsters aboard the aggressor ship *China* to the Asan Bay in the West Sea of Korea in accordance with an already-made operational plan.

The gangsters led by Jenkins, former interpreter for the US Consulate General in Shanghai, and guided by a French missionary and a German, stole into Kaya-dong, Hyonnae Sub-County, Toksan County, where the tomb of Prince Namyon, father of the Regent Prince Taewon, was situated.

Their scheme to unearth the tomb of the father of the regent, de facto ruler in Korea those days, encountered with strong resistance of the local people, and the gangsters took flight.

67. Invasion by US Warships in the Year of Sinmi

In early April 1871 (the Year of Sinmi) the US minister resident in Qing China and the commander of the US Asian Fleet intruded into the territorial waters of Korea with 1 230 men and 80 cannons aboard five warships. The feudal Korean government dispatched an official to them, reprimanding them for their aggression and demanding that they withdraw at once.

The aggressors acted arrogantly, trying to force the

Korean government to conclude a "treaty on navigation and trade."

The Korean people delivered annihilating blows at the aggressors at the battles fought in Sondolmok, Chojijin and Kwangsongjin.

The US invaders were compelled to withdraw on May 16.

68. Monument Inscribed with an Appeal for Repulsing Barbarian Invaders

The Korean people defeated several armed invasions by the United States and the Western powers which had continued since the middle of the 1860s.

Prince Taewon (1820-1898), the regent of the feudal government of Korea, pursued a closed-door policy. With a view to defending the feudal state and system from the invasion by the US and the Western powers riding on the crest of the people's elated spirit of opposing the aggression, he, on April 25, 1871, issued an order to erect monuments inscribed with an appeal for repulsing barbarian invaders in the capital and provinces across the country.

The monuments were inscribed on the front side with big letters, which read, "Not fighting the Western invaders is as good as advocating friendly relations with them and advocating friendly relations with them means selling out the country."

Its side was inscribed with small letters, reading, "This was written in the Year of Pyongin (1866) and inscribed on the monuments in the Year of Sinmi (1871) for the monuments to be erected in every part of the country. We seriously warn this to the coming generations."

69. Regent Prince Taewon

In December 1863, when foreign invaders were scrambling to occupy Korea, Prince Hungson, Ri Ha Ung (1820-1898), father of young emperor Kojong (1852-1919), was honoured with the title of Taewon and became the regent.

After seizing power he thought that closing the door of the country instead of conducting foreign activities adroitly was the only way to maintaining his feudal state.

In his pursuit of a closed-door policy, he first of all took the state measure of forbidding the infiltration of Catholicism and the expansion of its religious influence. Entering 1866, regarding Catholicism as a heresy and negation to Confucianism, the ruling ideology of the feudal Joson dynasty, he started an overall repression over French missionaries and Korean Catholic believers.

He rejected the demand by the capitalist powers to open up the country for foreign trade, and adhered to the policy of closing the country and resisting the foreigners'

armed invasion. When the US aggressor ship *General Sherman* intruded into the Taedong River in 1866, he took a hard-line stand towards the US invaders riding on the crest of the struggle of the patriotic people. In 1871, when the United States, demonstrating its huge armed forces, forced the feudal government to conclude a treaty, he answered it with a more thoroughgoing closed-door policy.

His policy gave some help to Korea, which had not carried on the bourgeois revolution, in checking the aggression by capitalist powers and defending the sovereignty of the country in a short term, but was unable to fundamentally resolve the basic contradictions of the feudal system which was on the brink of collapse. During his ruling period the crisis of feudal system and class contradictions grew more intense.

When Queen Min and her clique secured power after Prince Taewon resigned in late 1873, the foreign policy of the feudal government was changed into that of opening up the country for the foreigners.

70. Incident of *Unyo*

Having suffered from three rounds of defeat in its aggression on Korea, the United States used Japan in its scheme to invade Korea, providing Japan with large amounts of new-type weapons and munitions. On

August 21, 1875, the Japanese aggressor ship *Unyo* intruded into the waters off Korea's Kanghwa Island.

Artillerymen at Chojijin opened fire on the ship.

The Japanese aggressors, unable to resist the attack of the defenders, took flight. On the way of retreat they landed on Jongsan and Yongjong islands, murdering the inhabitants, irrespective of age and sex, and plundering them of their property.

71. Kanghwado Treaty

Following the *Unyo* incident, the Japanese militarists took the road of forcing the Korean government to sign an unequal treaty according to their scenario for aggression.

Kuroda, who was appointed as an ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary by Japan's emperor, led seven warships to the waters off Kanghwa Island via Pusan on December 19, 1875, and forced the Korean government to come to a negotiating table.

At the talks held in January 1876 Kuroda shifted the responsibility of the *Unyo* incident to Korea, forcing the latter to sign an aggressive and unequal treaty without any conditions attached.

Frightened by Japan's military intimidation, the rulers of the feudal government accepted its brigandish demand. As a result, the unequal Kanghwado Treaty,

known as the Stipulation of Korea-Japan Friendship, was signed on February 3, 1876. The treaty consists of 12 articles, the gist of which is the opening up of the ports of Korea, the conducting of the judgment of the Japanese, who committed crimes in Korea, in the Japanese consulate, and the securing of freedom of Japanese who engaged in measuring and drawing maps in the coastal areas of Korea.

72. Imo Mutiny

In June 1882, the Year of Imo, the soldiers and poor people in Hansong mutinied against the Japanese aggressors and feudal rulers.

The majority of the soldiers in Hansong hailed from poor families near by, and they were serving the army in return for some rations they received from the feudal government.

The supply of rations was delayed for 13 months, and even the rations for a month which they had been supplied with after a long interval were not only less than half of the fixed quantity but also mixed with rotten grains, bran, sand and grit.

The soldiers rose up against it. Min Kyom Ho, an official in charge of supply service work for the soldiers, far from apologizing for this, issued an order to arrest and execute the masterminds.

Upon hearing the news the soldiers burst their pent-up fury. The soldiers turned out in a mutiny under the command of Ryu Chun Man and Kim Jang Son on June 9, 1882. They raided and destroyed the house of Min Kyom Ho, attacked the arsenal and released the imprisoned soldiers.

They then raided the houses of Min's clique, killed their drill instructor Horimoto and other Japanese, laid siege to the Japanese legation and staged an anti-Japanese demonstration, shouting slogans, "Smash the Japanese legation!" and "Drive out the Japanese aggressors!"

A large number of poor people joined their ranks. Frightened, the Japanese minister, together with his legation staff, set the legation building on fire and fled to Inchon under cover of the night.

On June 10, thousands of mutineers went to the Changdok Palace to punish Queen Min, the mastermind of the political domination by powerful Min's family. There they executed Min Kyom Ho and the governor of Kyonggi Province, and rummaged through the imperial palace to find the queen, but she fled in the garment of a lady-in-waiting.

A unit of mutineers went to Inchon to kill the Japanese who escaped from the legation.

Meanwhile, the patriotic soldiers and people in Inchon rose up in mutiny.

The masses of the mutineers joined their forces, and besieged and attacked the government building of Inchon, killing several Japanese.

The Japanese minister narrowly escaped to his country on board a British warship.

The regime of Min's family crumbled, and the Japanese living in Korea were driven out or killed.

On June 10 Prince Taewon assumed power again on the order of the king.

Japan dispatched its naval vessels to the sea off Inchon on the pretext of protecting its citizens resident in Korea. Prior to this, Qing China sent 3 000 soldiers aboard four warships and 13 troopships to Korea on the excuse of containing the aggression by the Japanese forces. Qing soldiers captured Prince Taewon, who was paying a courtesy call on their barracks, and took him to Tianjin, while mercilessly suppressing the mutineers.

As the regent was eliminated in the government and the mutiny was put down, the political domination by Min's family revived, and their sycophantic and capitulationist policy continued.

73. Kapsin Coup

In the mid-19th century, capitalist relations began to develop in the feudal Korean society.

Representing the situation, the Kim Ok Gyun-led

Enlightenment Group was formed in the early 1870s as a new political force.

On the occasion of the inauguration of the Postal Service Office on October 17, 1884, the Enlightenment Group staged a coup. After taking power, the reformists declared the formation of a new government on October 18 and notified it to the foreign missions in Korea. The next day, they promulgated a 14-point political programme of the new government.

The programme advocated reforming the old feudal system along capitalist lines in the political, economic, cultural, military and all other fields of socio-political life. When the bourgeois reform was in full swing, the conservatives invited the army of Qing China.

Japanese troops who had been enlisted to defend the royal palace betrayed their promise with the reformists, and abandoned their positions.

The Enlightenment Group put up a strong resistance, but was defeated.

Thus, the bourgeois reform in 1884 (the Year of Kapsin) ended within three days of its proclamation.

74. Kim Ok Gyun

Kim Ok Gyun (1851-1894) had been sympathetic with the ideals of enlightenment from his youth. He made a determination to renovate the feudal system

and realize modernization of his country.

Having risen as the kingpin of the Enlightenment Group, he formed Chungui Association, a secret organization, and rallied behind it like-minded people from all walks of life, including civil and military officers, merchants and even court servants such as ladies-in-waiting and eunuchs.

In order to bring up talented personnel needed for carrying out a reform, he took measures to send young men abroad to learn politics, the economy, culture and military affairs of modern times.

He succeeded in persuading the king to support the reformists, though temporarily. He pushed ahead with socio-political reforms, like training a modern army, setting up the Postal Service Office, Road Construction Department, Police Department and Publishing Department, and launching the newspaper *Hansong Sunbo*.

The conservatives placed obstacles in the way of the reformists, and even attempted to murder Kim Ok Gyun and other leading reformists.

With the way of peaceful reform blocked, the reformists staged a coup.

After its failure, Kim Ok Gyun managed to find asylum in Japan with some of his colleagues. Owing to the persecution by the Japanese government, he moved

to Shanghai, China, in February 1894, where he was soon murdered by an assassin dispatched by the ruling circles of Korea.

75. Kabo Peasant War

On February 10, 1894, under the command of Jon Pong Jun, peasants in Kobu County, Jolla Province in the southern part of the Korean peninsula rose in revolt against forced confiscation of taxes.

The revolt developed into a large-scale peasant war, shaking the whole country.

As the peasant army achieved victory after victory by defeating the government forces, the government asked Qing China to dispatch troops. It was an act of treachery to the nation.

As Qing forces advanced into Korea, Japan, on the pretext of protecting its residents in Korea, hurled its aggressor troops into Korea.

In order to prevent military interventions by the foreign forces and have the internal affairs of the nation resolved by the nation itself, the peasant army made peace with the government in Jonju on June 11 after the latter accepted their 12-point programme for remedying misgovernment.

After that, it set up its representative organ, *Jipkangso*, and started to carry the programme into effect. As the

Japanese aggressors had brought the corrupt and incompetent feudal government of Korea to its knees and kept on pillage, committing acts of aggression, the peasant army rose again in the armed struggle under the slogan, "Drive out Westerners and the Japanese."

The flames of national salvation struggle swept the whole country–Jolla, Chungchong, Kyonggi, Kangwon, Kyongsang, Phyongan and Hwanghae provinces.

Prior to the advance towards Seoul, the main force of the peasant army attacked the town of Kongju, a stronghold of the "punitive" forces of Japan and the government.

Before and after the battle of Kongju, the peasant army launched attacks on Japanese troops in several places. But, it suffered a great loss and had to beat a retreat owing to the imbalance of forces.

Though it failed, the Kabo Peasant War demonstrated the ardent patriotism, resolute fighting spirit, bravery, self-sacrificing spirit and national unity cherished by the Korean people, and had a great impact on the subsequent struggle against the feudal forces and foreign aggressors.

76. Jon Pong Jun

Jon Pong Jun (1854-1895), who was a village school teacher in his youth, led the revolt of the peasants in Kobu County and developed it into a peasant war.

As commander-in-chief of the peasant army, he led

several battles to victory, thus seizing the Walled City of Jonju.

During peace talks in Jonju, he made the demands of the peasants accepted by the feudal government. He then saw to it that *Jipkangso*, a representative organ of peasants, was set up in every county in Jolla Province and autonomy by peasants enforced. With the start of the military invasion by Japan, he roused the peasants again. He dealt telling blows to the enemy in many battles. Betrayed by a turncoat, he was arrested and sent to Hansong. Though subjected to inhumane torture, he remained faithful to his principles, before being executed.

77. Kabo Reform

The Kabo Reform, a bourgeois reform in 1894 (the Year of Kabo), was conducted by progressive civil servants when the feudal system was undergoing a severe crisis, the country was thrown into a danger of being reduced to a colony of Japan, and the peasants fighting the Kabo Peasant War demanded political reform.

Reformists like Kim Hong Jip (1842-1896) and O Yun Jung (1848-1896) planned to push ahead with a bourgeois reform by taking advantage of their high ranks in the government. In this way, they tried to overcome the prevailing national crisis.

On July 27, 1894, they instituted *Kungukgimucho*, an organ in charge of bourgeois reform, and established a reformist government with Kim Hong Jip as its prime minister.

From July 30, the reformist government passed many bills to facilitate the modernization of the country. To reform the central political machinery and socio-political fields, it deliberated on and adopted a 12-point socio-political reform programme. The programme set forth measures for recognizing elementary bourgeois political freedom, eliminating the feudal caste system by doing away with the differences between noblemen and commoners and the bond-servant system, transforming the feudal social system along modern lines, and putting other feudal practices to rights.

On December 17, 1894, owing to Japan's intervention in the internal affairs of Korea and the traitorous acts of pro-Japanese stooges like Pak Yong Hyo, *Kungukgimucho* was forcefully dissolved and the Kabo Reform was frustrated.

78. Sino-Japanese War

The Sino-Japanese War (1894-1895) was an aggressive war fought between Japan and Qing China for hegemony in Korea.

Taking advantage of the request by the feudal

authorities of Korea to quell the Kabo Peasant War, Qing sent its troops in June 1894. And Japan had its 7 000-strong force landed in Inchon claiming that balance of forces should be maintained.

On July 25, 1894, Japan launched a sudden strike on the Chinese fleet anchored at the sea off Phung Islet in Asan Bay.

In September, the ground and naval forces of Beiyang were defeated by Japan near Pyongyang and in the West Sea of Korea.

In late October, part of the Japanese forces crossed the Amnok River and rushed to Northeast China while other forces landed in the Liaodong peninsula, occupying Dalian and Lushun.

In early 1895, Japanese troops landed in the Shandong peninsula, occupying Weihaiwei, base of the Beiyang Fleet, and other places.

Having committed barbarous atrocities in Korea from the beginning of the war, the Japanese soldiers did the same in China.

The defeated Qing signed the humiliating Shimonoseki Treaty on April 17, 1895.

According to the treaty, Japan took Taiwan, Penghu Islands, Liaodong peninsula (the peninsula was later returned to Qing by the intervention of three powers), and 200 million *liang* of money from Qing. Japan now

took favourable position in the contest of powers for influence in Korea.

79. Ulmi Incident

In 1895 (the Year of Ulmi), the Japanese aggressors raided the royal palace of Korea and murdered Queen Min (honoured with the title of Empress Myongsong posthumously).

After the Sino-Japanese War, the Mins, ruling circles of Korea steeped in the worship of big countries, including Queen Min herself, calculated that if they took the side of Czarist Russia it would be more favourable for them to secure their safety and luxury. So they inclined towards Russia.

The Japanese imperialists, who were scheming to achieve exclusive domination of Korea, plotted to murder the queen and eliminate the pro-Russian forces so as to create favourable conditions for their aggression on Korea.

The Japanese government dispatched Lieutenant General Miura, former brutal warlord, to Seoul in July 1895 as its diplomatic minister. He was to write a scenario for the plot.

From the night of August 19 to dawn the next day, under his command, the 18th Battalion of the reserve infantry force of a Japanese garrison unit, a police

contingent attached to the Japanese Foreign Ministry, civilian hooligans and spies, all numbering hundreds, raided the royal palace. They shot to death ministers of the feudal Korean government and intimidated the king, saying he must hand over the queen, and detained him. Then they broke into the queen's bedroom, dragged her by the hair to a hall, and stabbed her to death. They put her dead body on a pile of wood, poured oil and set fire on it.

80. Royal Moving to the Russian Legation

In 1896, the Czarist Russian forces moved King Kojong to their legation. This incident is called Royal Moving to the Russian Legation.

King Kojong grew dissatisfied with and fearful of the Japanese after the Ulmi incident. Taking advantage of this, Czarist Russia plotted to move the place of his residence to its legation. It could then form a pro-Russian government and win more concessions in Korea. To ensure the conspiracy a success, the Russian marines in Inchon entered Hansong.

On the evening of February 11, 1896, under the command of the Russian minister Weber, the pro-Russian faction including Ri Wan Yong, Ri Pom Jin and Ri Yun Yong persuaded in a conspiratorial way King Kojong and the crown prince to move to the Russian

legation. Later, a pro-Russian government was formed.

By manipulating the government, Russia won several concessions including the rights to mining in the areas of the Amnok River, Kyongsong and Jongsong and installing a telegraphic line between Seoul and Wonsan. It even stripped Korea of its military and financial rights.

The Korean people viewed the staying by the king, representative of their country, in a foreign legation as a great shame hurting their national dignity.

Owing to the mounting dissatisfaction and pressure of the people, King Kojong returned to the royal palace on February 20, 1897.

81. Russo-Japanese War

The relationship between Russia and Japan over supremacy in Korea and Northeast China developed into a war.

Japan, which had stepped up preparations for a war with Russia after the Sino-Japanese War, attacked without declaration the Russian fleet anchored in Lushun, China, on the evening of February 8, 1904. Next day Japan sunk two vessels of the Russian Navy.

The Japanese forces secured command in the Korea Strait and the West Sea of Korea through sudden strikes. With Korea as its military bridgehead, Japanese troops

defeated the Russian forces in the Amnok River area in May and invaded Northeast China.

In June they landed in the Liaodong peninsula and defeated the Russian forces which had come southward to defend the Port of Lushun.

In late August they routed the Russian forces in Liaoyang, and in January 1905 captured the fort in Lushun at the cost of 60 000 lives.

In March 1905, the Russian forces suffered a decisive defeat in the battle of Shenyang (Fengtian), and the Baltic Fleet which was dispatched to the front was also defeated in the Korea Strait in May.

The very factor of Japan's victory in the war was the support by the United States and Britain. Before the outbreak of the war, the United States had promised that it would follow a friendly policy towards Japan if the latter unleashed a war against Russia. The United States, together with Britain, provided Japan with 1.5 billion yen during the whole period of the war. Japan's total war expenditure was 1.7 billion yen.

On September 5, 1905, peace between Japan and Russia was concluded in Portsmouth under the US arbitration. By this, Japan seized the Liaodong peninsula including Lushun and Dalian, the south Manchurian line (Changchun-Lushun) of the East China Railways, parts of Sakhalin below N. 50º, and the right to fishing in seas

off Russia like the Okhotsk and Bering. It also won its political, economic and military "supremacy" in Korea and the "right to guide, protect and supervise" Korea.

82. Katsura-Taft Agreement

The agreement was concluded in a secret talk in Tokyo between the Japanese Prime Minister Taro Katsura (1847-1913) and the US Secretary of War William Taft (1857-1930) on July 29, 1905.

The agreement stipulates that Japan shall recognize the US colonial rule in the Philippines and in return the latter shall collaborate with the former in its invasion of Korea and recognize its "protection" in Korea, that the United States shall join the British-Japanese alliance, and that the United States, Japan and Britain shall take joint action in their invasion of the Far East.

The secret agreement, declassified in 1925, proves that from a historical point of view the United States and Japan conspired with each other to invade Korea and they are the enemies of the Korean people.

83. Ulsa Five-Point Treaty

The Ulsa Five-Point Treaty was concluded on November 17, 1905, the Year of Ulsa, with Japan bullying the feudal Korean government into signing it.

In order to achieve colonial domination of Korea,

Japan dispatched Hirobumi Ito to Korea as its special envoy. Ito was carrying a draft treaty.

As Emperor Kojong was not willing to agree, Ito had Japanese troops and gendarmerie in Korea besiege the imperial palace and the meeting hall, and blackmailed the ministers one by one. He had the disobedient ministers taken out and obtained consent of the traitorous ministers, who are called Five Traitors of Ulsa.

Then, he declared that the illegal "treaty," devoid of the consent and signature of the emperor and the seal of the state, was concluded.

The first article of the treaty stipulates that Japan shall control Korea's diplomatic relations and related affairs through its own Foreign Ministry. The second article stipulates that the Korean government shall not conclude any treaty or agreement of international character with other countries without the arbitration by the Japanese government. The third article stipulates that the Japanese government shall have a "resident-general" in Korea as its "representative" and have him deal with diplomacy and all other necessary affairs.

84. Emissary Incident at The Hague

Emissaries from the Korean government appeared at the Second International Peace Conference held at The Hague in June 1907.

Panic-stricken by the mounting anti-Japanese sentiments among the people and usurpation of national rights one by one by the Japanese imperialists, Emperor Kojong had sent the emissaries to the conference to restore the national sovereignty with the help of the international community.

The three patriots including Ri Jun presented their emperor's secret message to the conference and asked it to allow their attendance as delegates from Korea. However, the big powers declined their request on the excuse of the contents of the Ulsa Five-Point Treaty.

This being the case, they, through the International Journalists Society and publications, laid bare the Japanese imperialists' criminal acts of aggression on Korea and called for support to the Korean people's struggle.

However, the US and other imperialists took the side of Japan.

Ri Jun ripped his own belly open at the venue of the conference as an expression of resentment.

85. An Jung Gun

An Jung Gun was born in 1879 in Haeju, Hwanghae Province in the midwest of the Korean peninsula. Since young, he had a strong sense of justice, trained his

marksmanship and studied the military science.

In 1905, he went to Shanghai, China, where he waged patriotic activities. After returning home he started teaching at a private school, engaging in the enlightenment work.

He then embarked on the road of the anti-Japanese righteous volunteers struggle. In June 1909, as the chief of the general staff of the volunteers' unit, he led the unit in an attack on the Japanese garrison stationed in a northern border area, thus delivering a heavy blow at the enemy.

He shot to death Hirobumi Ito, mastermind of Japan's occupation of Korea, at the Harbin Railway Station on October 26, 1909, demonstrating the patriotic mettle of the Korean people to the whole world.

Even though he was arrested by the Japanese imperialists, he held fast to his patriotic principle until he was executed on March 26, 1910.

86. Korea-Japan Annexation Treaty

The Korea-Japan Annexation Treaty, concluded on August 22, 1910, legalized Japan's occupation of Korea after the Ulsa Five-Point Treaty in 1905.

That day the Japanese imperialists created an atmosphere in Hansong as if martial law had been declared by massing huge troops in it and organizing a

threatening military demonstration by warships. Then they railroaded the treaty through by blackmailing the ministers of the feudal Korean government.

Consisting of eight articles, the treaty stipulates that the ruling rights in Korea shall be completely and eternally handed over to the Japanese emperor and Korea be annexed to Japan.

For fear of strong protests by the Korean people Japan tried to keep the treaty secret at first and made it public as an "imperial decree" by the Japanese emperor on August 29.

In accordance with the treaty the feudal Joson dynasty, which had existed nominally, was completely ruined.

87. *Chronicles of the Feudal Joson Dynasty*

Chronicles of the Feudal Joson Dynasty is a document recording the historical facts of over 500 years of the feudal Joson dynasty that existed from July 1392 to August 1910. Written in the form of diary, it is the greatest of its kind in the world.

The original texts are of 1 763 books and the number of volumes are nearly 900.

It not only records domestic and foreign policies concerning politics, the economy, culture and military affairs but also comprehends music, dance, fine arts,

handicraft, and such natural subjects as astronomy, weather conditions, earthquake and tidal waves.

As it records without missing even a day the detailed events that took place in the country for over 500 years, it constitutes a very precious wealth in studying the astronomical and meteorological data as well as the policies and history of the government.

88. Ryu Rin Sok

Ryu Rin Sok (1842-1915) was a Confucian scholar. When the Japanese imperialists started an armed invasion against Korea in 1894, he issued an appeal and aroused the people to the struggle against the Japanese aggressors. From late 1895 he fought as the commander of an Anti-Japanese Righteous Volunteers unit.

His unit advanced to Chungju, the hub of Chungchong Province, defeating the Japanese aggressors and killing pro-Japanese stooges in several counties.

As Japan unleashed the Russo-Japanese War in early 1904 and intensified its aggressive moves towards Korea, he rose up again in the righteous volunteers struggle in North and South Phyongan provinces, dealing a heavy blow at the Japanese aggressors and their stooges.

When the repression by the Japanese imperialists became aggravated, he went to the Maritime Territory of

Russia in the autumn of 1907. There he compiled several books dealing with norms of activities of the righteous volunteers, and had them published.

Having become the commander-in-chief of the volunteers from 13 provinces in May 1910, he moved to Kuandian County in south Manchuria, China, in 1914, where he conducted the anti-Japanese activities before dying from illness.

89. Hong Pom Do

Hong Pom Do (1868-1943) organized a Righteous Volunteers unit early in November 1907 by enlisting the hunters who turned out in the anti-Japanese struggle, and launched military activities by relying on northern mountainous areas in Korea including Phungsan, Kapsan and Samsu.

His unit struck terror into the hearts of the Japanese aggressors through battles fought in Phabal-ri and on Huchi Pass.

Owing to the harsh "punitive" operations by the Japanese imperialists, he went to the Jiandao area in China in the autumn of 1910 and then to the Far Eastern area of Russia to make preparations for a fresh struggle.

Having returned to Jiandao in 1919, he formed the Korean Independence Army.

With Yanji and Wangqing areas in Jiandao as its

base, his unit conducted military activities, advancing to Korea and delivering a considerable blow at the colonial rule by the Japanese imperialists.

In the battles of Fengwugou in June 1920 and Qingshanli in October the same year they routed Japanese troops, and moved the theatre of their activities to the area bordering the Soviet Union and Manchuria.

Later Hong Pom Do, commanding his unit, moved to Irkutsk in Siberia, where they fought, shoulder to shoulder with the Soviet Red Army, against the Japanese aggressors and the White Army until the armed intervention by the imperialist powers in the Soviet Union was terminated.

During his stay in Moscow from November 1921 to February 1922 as a representative of the Korean Independence Army, he met Lenin.

90. March First Popular Uprising

Having occupied Korea, the Japanese imperialists enforced "sabre rule," the most bestial colonial rule unprecedented in the world.

In protest against it, the Korean people turned out in a nationwide uprising on March 1, two days before the funeral ceremony of Kojong, emperor of the feudal Joson dynasty.

The flames of the uprising kindled in Pyongyang

rapidly spread to Kyongsong, Nampho, Uiju, Sonchon, Wonsan and other cities and rural villages, the whole country shaking with cheers for independence.

Japan enlisted its ground and naval forces, gendarmerie and police in Korea, as well as the troops in Japan, committing barbarous repression and slaughter in various parts of Korea. The Korean people thus killed numbered more than 100 000.

With the March First Popular Uprising as a momentum, an end was put to the era of the bourgeois national movement in Korea and the national liberation struggle of the Korean people entered a new stage.

91. June 10th Independence Movement

Taking advantage of the anti-Japanese spirit of the masses that mounted with the death of Sunjong, the last emperor of the feudal Joson dynasty, on April 25, 1926, independence campaigners planned to stage a nationwide anti-Japanese demonstration on the day of his funeral ceremony, June 10, and secretly pushed ahead with preparations for it.

However, the secret was betrayed to the Japanese imperialists by factionalists who had found their way into the preparatory committee for the demonstration.

The Japanese imperialists not only enlisted police force and military troops in every province to throw a cordon around Kyongsong but also landed the seamen of the four cruisers anchored in Inchon. In addition, they made a sweeping arrest of persons on the blacklist, including those of the preparatory committee for the demonstration.

However, workers, young people and students did not hesitate but turned out in the demonstration.

On June 10 when the imperial bier that left the Changdok Palace was passing through Jongno, tens of thousands of people launched a mass demonstration, shouting, "Long live the independence of Korea!" "Japanese troops, get out!" and "Fighters for Korea's independence, unite!" Similar demonstrations took place in several other places including Inchon.

Through this movement the Korean people demonstrated their indomitable will to win back their country and defend their national dignity.

92. Korean National Association

The Korean National Association was organized by Kim Hyong Jik at Haktanggol, Pyongyang, on March 23, 1917.

It was a secret organization with the aim of achieving national independence and establishing a truly civilized

state through the concerted efforts of the Korean nation. Its fighting task was to enlist the broad sections of the masses in the anti-Japanese national liberation struggle by rallying them, firmly build up its organizations and drive the Japanese imperialists out and achieve the independence of the country on the strength of the Korean people themselves by taking advantage of the rivalry between the US and European forces and Japan for hegemony in the East in the future.

It drew its membership from among people from all walks of life including workers, peasants, teachers, students, soldiers (of the Independence Army), merchants, religious believers and artisans.

Its organizational network spread throughout the country–North and South Phyongan, Hwanghae, North and South Jolla, North and South Kyongsang and Kyonggi provinces–and even reached Beijing, Shanghai, Jilin, Fusong, Linjiang, Changbai, Liuhe, Kuandian, Dandong, Huadian and Xingjing in China.

At the same time as expanding its organizations, it vigorously launched information and publicity activities aimed at rousing the broad sections of the masses to the anti-Japanese struggle, and gave a strong push to raising funds and obtaining weapons needed for an armed struggle and training military cadres.

Some organizations were exposed in the autumn of

1917, and over 100 members of the association were arrested, but it was restored rapidly thanks to the energetic activities of Kim Hyong Jik.

It held a meeting in November 1918 and then in July 1919 at Chongsudong in Korea, and a meeting in August 1919 in Kuandian and a meeting in August 1925 in Fusong, China. At those meetings it advanced new fighting policies and tasks for its subordinate organizations and their members. To implement these tasks, it organized and launched enlightening of the masses and military activities by armed corps.

It was one of the largest underground anti-Japanese, revolutionary organizations at home and abroad which the Korean patriots formed before and after the March First Popular Uprising.

93. Kuandian Meeting

The Kuandian Meeting was held in Hongtong District, Kuandian County, China, in August 1919. At the meeting Kim Hyong Jik set forth the strategic policy of developing the Korean anti-Japanese national liberation movement onto a new high.

Attending the meeting were the heads of various districts and liaison agents of the Korean National Association and chiefs of the organizations for independence.

At the three-day meeting he put forward a new, strategic policy of shifting the anti-Japanese national liberation movement from a nationalist to a proletarian movement.

For this, he stressed that members of the association should be equipped with the communist ideology, firmly build up the revolutionary ranks with workers and peasants as the main force by giving wide publicity to this ideology among the masses, and conduct vigorous armed activities.

With the Kuandian Meeting as a momentum, a struggle was waged to shift the anti-Japanese national liberation movement from a nationalist to a proletarian movement.

94. Kim Hyong Jik

Kim Hyong Jik (1894-1926), an outstanding leader of the Korean anti-Japanese national liberation movement, was born as the eldest son of Kim Po Hyon and Ri Po Ik, ardent patriots, in Mangyongdae, Nam-ri, Kophyong Sub-County, Taedong County, South Phyongan Province (the present Mangyongdae-dong, Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang).

He grew up receiving patriotic education and revolutionary influence from his parents, and set out on the road of struggle for national liberation in his early years.

While studying at Pyongyang Sungsil Middle School he organized a students' strike. He also went to the areas of North and South Phyongan provinces and Hwanghae Province, to say nothing of Pyongyang, rallying like-minded people and conducting a vigorous anti-Japanese information campaign among the broad sections of the masses.

After leaving the middle school in mid-course, he became a career revolutionary. As a teacher at Sunhwa School in Mangyongdae, he conducted patriotic educational activities on the basis of the idea of Aim High. He applied himself to rallying like-minded people and enlightening the masses in several parts of Korea, and went as far as Jiandao and Shanghai in China to make contact with the independence campaigners and get acquainted with the situation of the independence movement there.

With an ambitious plan to launch the anti-Japanese national liberation movement more positively, he moved the theatre of his revolutionary activities to the present Ponghwa-ri, Kangdong County, Pyongyang. Teaching at Myongsin School there, he applied himself to educating the younger generation and making preparations for forming an underground revolutionary organization.

On March 23, 1917 in Pyongyang, he formed the Korean National Association. While expanding its organizations, he founded such lawful mass organizations

as the School Association, Village Association and Stone Monument Association, thus laying firm mass foundations for his anti-Japanese struggle.

Arrested by the Japanese police in the autumn of 1917, he was imprisoned with 100 other members of the Korean National Association at the Pyongyang gaol, where he groped for the way of further developing the anti-Japanese national liberation struggle in the future.

And released from the gaol in the autumn of 1918, he moved to Junggang in the northern border area of Korea and then to Linjiang, Badaogou in Changbai County, and Fusong, China, and worked energetically to bring about a new upsurge in the national liberation movement.

As a result of his devoted efforts, the anti-Japanese national liberation movement developed from a nationalist to a proletarian movement, armed struggle was further intensified, and unity of the independence movement organizations which had been fighting separately in different places was achieved.

He passed away on June 5, 1926 from the aftereffects of torture by the Japanese imperialists and the illness he had contracted during the arduous struggle.

95. Heritage Bequeathed by Kim Hyong Jik

Even though Kim Hyong Jik passed away without realizing his ambition for national liberation, he left

valuable heritage for its realization. The heritage is the thought of Aim High, being prepared for three contingencies, the idea of gaining comrades and two pistols.

96. Thought of Aim High

Aim High is a patriotic and revolutionary idea Kim Hyong Jik advanced when he set out on the road of national liberation struggle in his early years.

The idea has nothing in common with worldly preaching about personal glory or a successful career; it implies a revolutionary outlook on life in which genuine happiness is sought in the struggle for one's country and nation, and an unbreakable revolutionary spirit to liberate the country by fighting through the generations.

97. Preparedness for Three Contingencies

Bed-ridden, Kim Hyong Jik told his young son, Kim Il Sung: Wherever he may go, a revolutionary must always be prepared for three contingencies; he must be prepared for death from hunger, death from a beating and death from the cold; yet he must stick to the high aim he set himself at the outset.

Preparedness for the three contingencies contains a do-or-die determination and unyielding stamina that even though the revolutionary road is not smooth a

revolutionary should staunchly fight to liberate the country, being prepared for everything including death.

98. Idea of Gaining Comrades

Kim Hyong Jik said to his son, Kim Il Sung:

Good comrades will not fall from heaven nor spring out of the earth. They must be looked for at great cost by oneself just as gold or precious stones are prospected for, and must be fostered. If you have a true heart that is dedicated to the country and the people, you can obtain many good comrades. What matters is the mind and the heart. Even without money people can be comrades if they are like-minded. Only he who will die for the sake of his comrades will find good comrades.

99. Meaning of Two Pistols

Breathing his last on June 5, 1926, Kim Hyong Jik handed over to his wife Kang Pan Sok the two pistols he had always carried with him, saying that she should give their son, Kim Il Sung, when he grew up and started on the road of struggle.

The two pistols carried a deep meaning that the imperialist aggressors can be defeated and the independence of his country achieved only by force of arms.

100. Kim Hyong Jik's Last Injunction

Kim Hyong Jik gave his sons his last injunction:

"I am departing without attaining my aim. But I believe in you. You must not forget that you belong to the country and the people. You must win back your country at all costs even if your bones are broken and your bodies are torn apart."

Bearing deep in mind his father's instructions, Kim Il Sung embarked on the road of the revolution to liberate his country, thus ushering in the new era of Juche Korea, Songun Korea, which shines most brilliantly in the 5 000-year history of Korea.

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