

## Summaries

### PROLOGUE

As part of our series introducing the world's geographical and cultural areas, our topical issue called 'Land of the Dragons' gives the readers a closer look on the countries of the Far East. The symbol in the title was chosen intentionally. On one hand, the symbol of the dragon – although with some differences – can be found in the world of myths and fables throughout the entire region. But the interlocking of the countries in that territory is not only visible in culture, religion and myths but also in history and recently in the fields of international economy and trade. On the other hand, China – the largest and most populated country in the Far East – has been described by experts (e.g. Huntington) in the past decades as a country that has returned to the international system as the 'Great Dragon'.

It is a unique fact that overlaps in the content among special fields can be observed when determining this geographical territory. Cultural geography defines the area as 'Far East' which contains six countries: China; Taiwan; Mongolia; North Korea; South Korea and Japan. Regional geography considers the same states as 'Inner (Central) and East Asia'. However, according to experts there are currently two great civilizations known in the Far East: the Chinese and the Japanese.

At the down of its history, Japan evolved under Chinese influence for centuries. From the 16<sup>th</sup> century, in the era ruled by the Tokugawa dynasty, Japan totally isolated itself from the rest of the world. Later, pressed by the USA, Japan was forced to sign a commercial treaty with the United States (Kanagawa Treaty, 1854). But the real opening towards other countries only started from 1868 when tsar Meiji was in power. These were the first steps that expedited the modernization of the Japanese society and fostered the opening of the country toward the Western social

and economic model. This led to the evolution of a specific Japanese social-economic system that is well-known today. It is important to mention that after the war failures and the successes in the economy Japan became one of the centres of world economy in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (alongside with the USA and EEC). This thematic issue gives the readers a preview of a book whose author – after living in Japan for decades – provides an introduction to the island's unique culture throughout personal experiences.

China, the largest and most populated country of the Far East, is one of the world's most ancient civilizations. Within its history of thousands of years it has had a huge impact on the improvement, development of the whole territory and its role is still dominant. The vast land's distinctiveness is a social frame called 'one country, two systems'. From a political point of view China is a communist state, and in terms of economy it is capitalist which can be portrayed with rapid economic improvement in the last decades. This also manifests in the fact that in the second quarter of 2010, the Chinese GDP surpassed the Japanese, which resulted in China becoming the second biggest economy in the world. In the following, we will present two specific studies (one is history-law and the other is religion-based), the country's blossoming relations with Taiwan (Republic of China), as well as the story of China's admission into the WTO and its free-trade agreement signed in 2008.

The more than 4,000-year-old Korea's story is tightly interwoven with the Chinese and the Japanese history (not always with pleasant memories). The peninsula's life has been defined since the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century by its separation into two parts (this parting became permanent in 1953): 'two countries, two systems'. In the north (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) we can contemplate one of the closest and strictest dictatorships in the history of communism. The North is ruled by a regime that cripples and terrorizes the everyday lives of people by political

and economic terror on false principles and ideology. This jeopardizes the safety of the entire area from a power-military viewpoint because North Korea is in possession of atomic bombs. South Korea – on the other hand – had gone through such amazing changes in the decades following World War II that some say it had outshone even the ‘Japanese miracle’. The country had focused mainly on agriculture before the partition and since then it had become one of the most dynamically improving industries of the world. There are two studies about the two Koreas in this issue: one is a general introduction into Korean history and the other is a specific analysis on the situation there (based on Christian standpoints).

The Mongol Empire’s birth and expansion (13<sup>th</sup> century AD) had had a huge effect on Asian history as well as it had an influence on East Europe. The golden age and fall of the Empire happened in a little more than 150 years. When Genghis Khan was ruling, under the aegis of ‘pax mongolica’, more and more territories fell in Mongolian hands. Within a short period of time the entire Far East (except for Japan) became a part of the realm (the Mongol army was defeated by the Japanese united forces both in 1274 and 1281). Mongolia – which is now 17 times bigger than Hungary – has gone through essential social and economic alterations (since 1989) after the peculiar decades of communism. After the era that was officially called ‘atheist’, nowadays the respect for tradition and history is being reborn alongside with the religious self-identity (the escalation of Buddhism). Our issue provides three interviews for the readers with reference to three guidebooks about Mongolia which were published in the 60’s and 70’s.

In 2008, a book called *Asia’s Regional Geography* was published by ELTE Ötvös Publisher, under the editorship of HORVÁTH-PROBÁLD-SZABÓ. This book contains the works of 12 authors and is more than 600 pages. The analyses about the countries of the Far East in it are very thorough and professionally outstanding and were written with the use of up-

to-date data. Although the editors only dedicate one chapter to the geographical region, that one chapter is still more than a hundred pages.

In this thematic issue we do not intend to repeat or ‘overwrite’ the above mentioned volume’s chapter regarding ‘Inner and East Asia’. Instead, these analyses give some interesting points of view and guidance to those who would like to familiarize themselves with this gigantic geographical region and its social-geographical and historical characteristics.

Also, our purpose was to give a chance to authors who – beyond a serious professional calling – have personal experience of the above introduced areas.

We sincerely hope that the information in this issue will not be useful for students and experts only but also for laymen who’d like to get an insight into the unique world of the Far East, also known as the ‘Land of the Dragons’.

*Gábor Molnár, editor of the thematic issue*



## COLLECTING INFORMATION ON CRIMINAL AFFAIRS IN EARLY IMPERIAL CHINA

Maintaining order has always been one of the main priorities of all states, including early Chinese empires and modern China. For this aim, it is necessary for a state to get information on crimes as early as possible in order to be able to combat them and punish those responsible. The present paper investigates the methods the first Chinese dynasties, Qin and Early Han used to collect information on transgressions. There were two ways they did that. First, the Chinese state developed a network of offices and officials to check and supervise the population. Second, laws were made to force people to inform the officials on criminal cases in their neighborhood. The two systems complemented each other. The state, however, had to ensure that no false information will overload its officials, so special laws

were made to deter people from making false accusations.

*Gergely Salát PhD, Assistant Professor,  
ELTE, Department of Chinese Studies*



## PRELUDES AND CONSEQUENTS OF WTO-MEMBERSHIP OF CHINA

The negotiation of the access of China to the WTO was completed in 17. September 2001. Later, in the Doha Conference, China definitely takes part of the organization, what meant the adhesion of one of the biggest country and economy of the world. From the date, China could joint to - through the application of several conditions of trade – in the worldwide organization. The objectives of the present study are to realize a short presentation about the circumstances of the “Return of Dragon” in the world trade system. Moreover, we are paying special attention to some aspects of the changes in the export-import relations with the rest of the world (as the centres, like the periphery) and the perspectives for the future.

*Gábor Molnár PhD.*



## INTRODUCTION TO HISTORY OF KOREA

North Korea is seen as one of the countries where human rights are completely disregarded. Government action focuses in particular on the suppression of public and private religious activities. The number of Christians imprisoned is unknown.

During the period 1948–1994, the government destroyed at least 1500 churches. Simply carrying a Bible is an offence. According to an estimate by the “United States Commission on International Religious Freedom”, there are at least 6000 Christians imprisoned in the country – in camp no. 15.

It is said that some 30 000 Christians disappeared since 1953. Anyone found with a Bible can be shot on the spot. Some 400 Christians are said to have been executed in 1999 alone.

This article is an authentic summary of Christian persecution occurred during the last some years.

*Csaba Komáromi, teacher Szeged*



## VIOLENCE AGAINST THE CHRIS- TIAN IN NORTH-KOREA AND CHINA

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*Gyula J., Orbán*



## RAPPROCHEMENT BETWEEN TAI- WAN AND MAINLAND CHINA

As it is well known, the People’s Republic of China and Taiwan has a relationship burdened with tension, conflict and enmity. Recently, however, signs of rapprochement appeared between

the two sides of the Taiwan Strait. In democratic Taiwan, there are two big political parties competing for power. DPP considers independence from China as a possible and desired option; KMT is pro-unification, and wants to improve ties with the PRC. Since the 2008 presidential elections, under the leadership of president Ma Ying-jeou, Taiwanese reached a series of important agreements with the PRC. Of all these, the free trade agreement of June 2010 is the most important, as it will form the basis of an economic community of the two sides.

*Gergely Salát PhD, Assistant professor,  
ELTE, Department of Chinese Studies*

### COMITAT BESZTERCE-NASZÓD

Beszterce-Naszód was one of the comitat of the historical Hungarian Kingdom. This article summarized the history of this comitat.

*Kiss Gábor Ferenc, editor in chief*



### THREE BOOKS ABOUT MONGOLIA IN THE 60'S AND 70'S.

Althought Gábor Molnár is well known by his books on Brazilian hunter experiences between 1930-1932, later he also published three books on Mongolia. One of these books was written with his wife, Margit Hegyi, as a co-author. Both of the authors have been in Mongolia three times during the second part of XX. Century. The next interview realized with Margit Hegyi about the experiences, hardships, and the interesting Mongolian culture of that time.

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