

## Introduction

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## Introduction

In 2002, the Office of Research Exchange of Nichibunken organized its Fifth Annual Symposium for Scholars Resident in Japan. The first symposium concerned research on post-bubble Japan, the second, “Japanese Studies around the World 2001,” concentrated on the present status of Japanese studies in the Korean-speaking world while the third focused on Sino-Japanese relations in the twentieth century (*Ajia yūgaku* nos. 41 & 44). On each occasion, guest speakers from Korea and China were invited to participate. During the summation of the second symposium, there was a request that the theme of the conference be narrowed to allow deeper analysis, so we closed the conference with the promise that the next one should address the theme which attracted the most interest, namely “Korea under Japanese Rule.” This collection of papers is based on the symposium that resulted. Naturally, we invited researchers from Korea, but researchers in Japan, both “*zainichi*” and Japanese also took part in information exchanges and debates.

However, we did not simply ask the Korean-speaking researchers from the previous symposium to attend once again. With the organisational and practical support of Associate Professor Matsuda Toshihiko at the International Research Centre for Japanese Studies, we invited participants focussing on the field of historical studies. All the members are at the forefront of their respective fields, so the content of the presentations was extremely substantial and the discussions very searching. Those who attended returned home with the impression that it had been a very meaningful symposium. We were grateful for the very positive coverage in the newspapers.

There were numerous viewpoints and frameworks expressed, some individually, such as critiques of colonial modernisation debates, suggestions for overcoming the perpetrator/victim duality, and considering the Korean peninsula as part of the history of Imperial Japan. These new insights will become the foundations of subsequent research, many of which will overturn conventional approaches. There were, of course, many differences of standpoint and opinion, which made for very lively debates, but because the discussions centred on research methods and interpretations of

actual data, themes and approaches for future research were identified. It was an extremely significant symposium.

I would like once again to thank all the participants.

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