

AH110 ASSIGNMENT

PRIMARY SOURCE ANALYSIS

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AH110: Global History

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Introduction

The mid-1950s in South Korea marks the nation's initial departure from the previous two wars, World War Two and the Korean War. South Korea regained long-awaited independence after decades of Japanese occupation in 1945 and began making peace after a ceasefire with North Korea in 1953. The first page of the Korea Times' publication on October 10th, 1956, highlights South Korea's post-war turmoil. However, one article on its front page sets itself apart from the rest of the paper: 510th celebration of Hangeul invention. Featuring hangeul invention amidst many transnational war-problems in the newspaper speaks for Korea's genuine pursuit for national identity and peace. 1956's Korea Times article on the 510th Hangeul anniversary reflects how global wars contributed to the invention of Korea's local quest for pride and peace, exemplifying Gerritsen's glocalization theory.

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THE KOREA TIMES

The Weather
Seoul and its vicinity.
Oct. 10—Clear and cloudy
at intervals with westerly
and northwesterly
winds.

No. 1850

Seoul, Wednesday, October 10, 1956

Price 20 Hwan

ROK CAN'T TAKE JAPAN TEAMS: KIM

Korean Minister to Japan Kim Yung-chik declared Monday that the ROK Government could not approve of the collateral condition unilaterally laid by Japan's Justice Ministry on release of Koreans held in Japanese Omura concentration camp and on repatriation of Japanese fishermen who had completed their Peace Line violation sentences at Pusan, the Donga News Agency reported from Tokyo yesterday.

Minister Kim made the statement in reference to a recent announcement by Japan's Vice-Minister of Justice Kashimoto that Japan may shortly release the Omura Koreans and permit legal Korean residents to stay in Japan for the ROK Government agreed to deportation to Korea of Koreans who commit criminal acts after their release.

Korea Can't Agree

The ROK Minister denied the report and said so long as Japan does not carry out the agreement entered into between the Korean Minister to Japan and Japanese Foreign Minister Mamoru Shigemitsu on last April 2, Korea could not agree to the collateral condition unilaterally laid by Japan's Justice Ministry. Minister Kim also said that the ROK stood on the issue remains the same and solution of the problem entirely depends on whether the Japanese Government would keep its pledge.

April Agreement

The ROK-Japan agreement on April 2 was as follows:

1) The ROK Government release some 800 Japanese (Continued on Page 3)

Ministry To Sell Captured Vessels

The Ministry of National Defense will put up 25 captured vessels for public sale by December, it was learned yesterday.

Prize money from the vessels which were seized from the enemy during the Korean War will contribute to development of the nation's marine transportation and fisheries, Defense officials said.

Police Probe Anew Seeking Assassination Instigator

Police and prosecution authorities were reported yesterday conducting renewed investigations to detect possible ringleaders behind Choi Hoon, the suspected principal under arrest in the assassination attempt on Vice-President Chang Myun.

The new development in

Korea Would Support Free China: Park

TAIPEI, Oct. 8—(UPI)—A south Korean legislator declared here today the Seoul government would fight side by side with Free China if war erupted in the Formosa Strait.

Park Yung-chol, leader of the Korean parliamentary mission to Formosa, said if the Chinese Communists attack Quemoy or Matsu the Republic of Korea would help defend the off-shore outposts.

Park told a dinner gathering the Nationalist-held off-shore islands were the first line of defense for all non-Communist nations in the world. The five-member Korean mission arrived in Taipei Sunday to attend Nationalist China's observance of Double Tenth Day, the country's national holiday, Wednesday.

Chinese in Korea Observe Double 10 Celebration Today

Some twenty-one thousand Chinese residents in Korea today observe the 45th anniversary of Double Tenth Day.

China's biggest national holiday, long won from their home land.

The outbreak of the Chinese Revolution in 1911 laid the foundation of Democratic China. The Revolution was led by Sun Yat-sen whom the Chinese today worship as pillar of the state.

The Chinese Embassy in Seoul today sponsors a commemoration ceremony at 10 a.m. and a cocktail party at 5:30 p.m. at the Embassy. An athletic meeting will also be held at the Chinese Middle School near the Embassy to commemorate the occasion. There are 21,012 Chinese in Korea according to the latest census by the Embassy.

the investigation from the bottom of the case was closely following reports that Choi Sunday had totally denied his previous confession made to the police.

No Instructions

Choi reportedly said during the hour-long interrogation by Prosecutor Kang Su-ryung, that he had never instructed Kim Sang-poong, perpetrator, to shoot the Vice-President.

Both Choi and Kim were turned over to the Seoul Prosecutors' Office Sunday by the police which pinned down Choi as the principal of the assassination plot and the instigator behind the attempt.

Renewed Probe

In the meantime, Attorney General Chung Soon-suk told reporters Monday afternoon that he had ordered his subordinates, including police, to make renewed background investigation of the attempt (Continued on Page 3)

Nation Celebrates Birth of Alphabet

The nation yesterday commemorated the 510th anniversary of the promulgation of Hangeul, the Korean alphabet, in colorful ceremonies throughout the country. In Seoul, more than 200 youthful boy and girl high and middle school students took part in the poetry composition contest at Duksoo Palace sponsored by the Federation of Korean Cultural Organizations, as one of the highlights of the commemoration events.

Officials of the three

\$13 Million Left Over in 56 Aid Funds

Some \$13,828,000 was left unspent in the allocated aid funds during the fiscal year 1956, statistics compiled by the UNC Office of Economic Coordinator revealed yesterday.

The money, officially known as the "deobligation fund," accrued mostly from the non-project programs, or importation of consumer goods, which were not realized during the last fiscal (Continued on Page 4)

ment and many other dignitaries assembled at the auditorium of Kyunggi Girls' High and Middle School yesterday morning to celebrate the occasion in a ceremony held under the auspices of the Korean Language Society, or Hangeul Institute.

Speaker Lee Ki-pyeong of the House of Representatives, Vice-Speaker Cho Kyung-kyoo and Education Minister Choi Kyu-nam were among those attending the ceremony.

Meanwhile, members of the Korean Language Society paid tributes to the tomb of the Sejong the Great, at Yaju, some 35 miles east of Suwon. The 4th king of Yi Dynasty ordered a panel of scholars to devise a Korean alphabetical system, and encouraged the use of newly invented simpler writing system in defiance of conservative scholars of the day who despised the "popular" system and preferred traditional Chinese characters.

NCOs May Get Pay Increase

The Ministry of National Defense plans to raise the present pay of non-commissioned officers to 20,000 hwan base for the coming year, simplifying the existing enlisted men's ranks into three categories, it was learned yesterday.

Ranking defense officials said that at least 70,000 professional soldiers are needed to maintain the present strength of the Armed Forces and the experienced soldiers who went to re-enlist will be paid proportionately with company grade officers.

Montague Shifted

TOKYO, Oct. 9—(AP)—The U.S. Army Tuesday announced the appointment of Lt. Gen. Robert M. Montague, Commanding General, I Corps, as commander-in-chief of the Carabang Command.

WITS AT WORK



POETRY CONTEST. Boy and girl students shown reaching their brains to compose a top prize poem in the poetry composition contest held at Duksoo Palace as one of the highlights of the colorful program to mark the 510th anniversary of promulgation of Hangeul. The contest was sponsored by the Federation of Korean Cultural Organizations. (Korea Times Photo)

Figure 1. The front page of the Korea Times, published October 10th, 1956.¹

¹The Korea Times. 1956. *The Korea Times*, October 10, 1956.

<http://cc1.idm.oclc.org/login?url=https://www-proquest-com.ccl.idm.oclc.org/historical-newspapers/october-10-1956-page-1-4/docview/1902449891/se-2?accountid=10141> (accessed February 5, 2021).

Body

The Korea Times is South Korea's most reputable international newspaper, founded in 1950. The front page of the October 10th, 1956 publication is mostly populated with war-related news such as Korea's disagreement with Japan's post-war reconciliation, assassination attempt of a democratic politician, an anti-communist statement against newly born China (fig.1). Despite these articles reminding Korea's struggle, the right half of the front page marks the 510th anniversary after the birth of Hangeul with a photo of children sitting under the warm sunshine. The article highlights Sejong the Great, who is the most respected historical figure in Korea. This article was published three years after the Korean War, which divided the peninsula into two nations—featuring Korean tradition with their great historical figure archives to heal the sense of loss and remind the national identity. Furthermore, the photo captures nothing but peace, showing children bathing in the autumn sunshine. The celebration of the invention on the 510th anniversary, not on the precise half-millennium, speaks to the nation's eagerness to mark their identity. The 500th anniversary would have been difficult to celebrate in 1946 when the country just began facing the second world war ruins. No trace of war agony is visible in the photo. Therefore, this article speaks for Korea's earnest pursuit of peace after getting back up from the destructive wars.

Marking Hangeul's invention in the international newspaper reflects Korea's creation of the local identity in response to the global war reconciliation and peace formation. Gerritsen quotes that globalization is not a story of homogenization but a localization process by connecting the world

through space and time.² The 1950s was when many nations in the world were recovering from the ruins of World War Two, sometimes paving their paths to peace, and other times breaking up to fight for a new nation. Korea at that time experienced both: it benefitted from the global pursuit for peace by the aid from the Allied Powers, but also faced proximate threats from newly born North Korea and China.³ The Korean article certainly echoes the global craving for peace, but it also ensures that Korean identity does not get blended. It achieves so by symbolizing peace in Hangeul. During the previous wars, the Japanese assimilation policy suppressed Korean culture.⁴ The article's marking Hangeul represents the long-awaited freedom from the suppression. The global strive for peace encouraged Korea's independence, and it also helped Korea remind itself of its own culture to symbolize peace.

Conclusion

1956's article on the Hangeul celebration in South Korea's most reputable newspaper speaks for the nation's reestablishing its own identity in response to the global post-war reconciliation. This exemplifies how globalization introduces global historical events to local regions and helps those regions establish their own identities. Our uniqueness stands out when there is a commonality. After World War Two, the world found peace as a common ground and

² Gerritsen, A. 2012. Scales of a local: The place of locality in a globalizing world. In D. Northrop (Ed.), *A companion to world history*. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell. 216.

³ Jervis, Robert. 1980. "The Impact of the Korean War on the Cold War." *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* 24, no. 4: 563-92. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/173775>. 28.

⁴ Henry, Todd A. 2014. *Assimilating Seoul : Japanese Rule and the Politics of Public Space in Colonial Korea, 1910-1945*. Asia Pacific Modern, 12. Berkeley: University of California Press. <https://www-jstor-org.ecl.idm.oclc.org/stable/pdf/10.1525/j.ctt5hjhxq.7.pdf?refreqid=excelsior%3A4f7ab4cfb03f27d5cf02678957c38ae6>. 37.

reinforced local identities like in Korea. This Korean case study exemplifies how global history is a reciprocal relationship between the local and the global.

Word Count: 617 words

HC/LO Appendix

#primarysources: I closely infer meaning from an article in a newspaper. I contrast the content of the article from the rest of the page to analyze how it reflects Korea's post-war emotions. This helped me to understand how Korea strives to generate a sense of identity in response to the global war reconciliation and peace formation. My seemingly localized analysis of the article later helps me to argue how this local identity was created exactly in the process of post-war glocalization.

#evidencebased: I weave nuanced arguments by basing my premise on Gerritsen's glocalization explanation. I extract key points of Gerritsen's writing to contrast how the author's description is exemplified in Korea's pursuit for peace.

#globalpast: I reference Gerritsen's glocalization argument to infer how the global post-war events encouraged Korea to follow global peace formation and also reestablish local Korean identity. I base this critique on the Korean article with reference to the global historic movement in the 1950s.

#historicalargument: I construct a research question that is answerable in many ways, opens windows to connect Korea's past and present peace, and connects to the broader theme of glocalization. I was motivated by this question as I lived in Seoul this semester.

#composition: I make sure to communicate clearly by using active verbs, plain terms, and simple syntax. I avoid technical jargon when possible and keep sentences concise. I also checked for obvious typos and grammatical errors not to lose my audience.

#sourcequality: I reference scholarly secondary sources to justify my argument. They are written by historians that are specialized in Korean studies which helped me to provide credible historic context to my argument. I also retrieved my primary source from the Claremont College Library as prompted in the assignment instructions.