Sixteen Points for Understanding the Truth about Dokdo
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Shin Yong Ha
The Independence Hall of Korea was established in 1987 with funds raised by Korean citizens. The aim of this museum is to exhibit, research, and teach the proud history of Korea’s independence movement and to extol those who fought for freedom and peace as well as resisted against the imperialist Japanese aggression and colonization.

Dokdo was the first Korean territory to be incorporated as a Japanese territory in the early 20th century during Japan’s imperialistic expansion, but after Korea gained independence in 1945, the sovereignty of Dokdo reverted back to Korea. Despite this fact, Japan has brought this territorial dispute to the international arena to politicize it. If Japan had not colonized Korea, the island would not have been called or known as Takeshima in the international community.

Japan continues to justify historical occupation of Korea (1910-1945) as well as its unfounded territorial claims to Dokdo by rationalizing previous actions through logic and behind clever semantics.

In celebration of its 25th anniversary, the Independence Hall of Korea is publishing this booklet that summarizes why Dokdo is inherently Korean territory in Sixteen points to let the international community know the truth. Through this booklet, the international community will know a Korean “Dokdo,” not a Japanese “Takeshima.” It is also hoped that all people will gain a better understanding of the historical truth of the beautiful Korean island, Dokdo, located in the East Sea of Korea.

December 30, 2012
President of the Independence Hall of Korea
Kim Nung Jin
Korea had sovereignty over Dokdo as its inherent territory since 512 A.D. According to historical records, Korea had sovereignty over Dokdo during the Koryŏ Dynasty, and in the 15th century King Sejong ruled Dokdo as Chosŏn territory under the jurisdiction of Uljin County of Kangwŏn Province. During the 15th and 16th centuries, Korea declared within the Sinosphere that Dokdo was Korean territory. There is not a single record that proves Japan ever historically claimed Dokdo prior to the early 20th century. According to the oldest record from the 17th century presented by the Japanese government, Dokdo is shown as Korean territory. A map produced in Europe in 1737 also stipulated that Dokdo was Chosŏn territory. In January 1696, the Tokugawa Shogunate prohibited Japanese fishermen from entering Ullŭngdo, Dokdo, and surrounding waters since they were Chosŏn territory and those who violated were punished. In the late 19th century, the Meiji government reconfirmed in its official documents that Dokdo and Ullŭngdo were Korean territory. In 1877, the Meiji government’s Council of State and the Home Ministry reconfirmed that Dokdo and Ullŭngdo were indeed Chosŏn territory. In 1900, the Korean Empire issued the Imperial Edict No. 41, declaring that Dokdo was Korean territory and announcing it to the world. In 1905, Japan decided to incorporate Dokdo into Japanese territory on the premise that it was a terra nullius without informing the Korean Empire government. However, in the past the Japanese government had already acknowledged Dokdo as Korean territory and after reconfirming that Dokdo was not a terra nullius their attempt became naught. The General Headquarters Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers issued Directive SCAPIN-677 on January 29, 1946 confirming Dokdo as Korean territory and returning it to Korea. The General Headquarters Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers drafted the “Agreement Respecting the Disposition of Former Japanese Territories” before drafting the Peace Treaty, reconfirming that Dokdo was the Republic of Korea’s territory. Japan’s aggressive lobby to incorporate Dokdo as its territory failed when the San Francisco Peace Treaty was signed, and Dokdo was excluded from the Japanese territory and was confirmed as Korean territory. Since 1951, the UN Forces acknowledged Dokdo as Korea territory designated it as part of the Korea Air Defense Identification Zone. Korea rejected Japan’s proposal to take the Dokdo case to the International Court of Justice because historically and by international law as well Dokdo is clearly Korean territory.
1. The Romanization of Korean people’s names and titles follows the McCune-Reischauer system, with the exception of the name ‘Dokdo’ the spelling of which is already widely recognized.

2. In this booklet, English translations of all Korean and Japanese terms (as well as titles of works) are immediately followed by the original language in parentheses.

3. Korean and Japanese names are written following the norm in Korea and Japan: the family name appears before the given name without a comma.
Dokdo, together with Ullŭngdo, is situated in the East Sea of Korea and is inherently Korean territory.

Japan calls Dokdo by the name of Takeshima, claiming sovereignty over the island. The Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs produced an article entitled 10 Points for Understanding the Takeshima Issue (10 Issues of Takeshima) in December 2008 in Japanese, Korean, English, and ten other languages and displayed it on their homepage. The 10 Issues of Takeshima was published in pamphlet form and was distributed to many different countries to promote the Japanese claim to the island. However, the points that the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs presented in the 10 Issues of Takeshima clearly distort the truth.

This book corrects the distortions and fabrications by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the 10 Issues of Takeshima by using concrete evidence. It demonstrates that the Japanese name Takeshima is incorrect and that Dokdo is the correct name. In order to help the world to understand the truth of the Dokdo territorial dispute and to show that Dokdo is clearly Korean territory, I have prepared 16 points.
Korea had sovereignty over Dokdo as its inherent territory since 512 A.D.

1 Based on the historical records of the History of the Three Kingdoms (Samguk sagi, 1145) by Kim Pusik, Usanguk, or the State of Usan, was annexed to Silla Kingdom in 512 during the reign of King Chijŭng. Silla was one of the ancient kingdoms. As a result, Usanguk was incorporated into one of the provinces of Silla. This information was recorded in two separate sections of the History of the Three Kingdoms. Usanguk was a small kingdom in the East Sea which included the present day Ullŭngdo and Dokdo. Until the 19th century, Dokdo was called Usando. Korea recognized Dokdo as its territory before 512 A.D. and has had sovereignty over the island since 512. However, in December 2008, the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs published the pamphlet entitled 10 Points for Understanding the Takeshima

Issue (10 Issues of Takeshima) with point one, arguing that Japan had long recognized Dokdo as theirs on the basis of Nagakubo Sekisui’s “Revised Complete Map of Japanese Lands and Roads” (Kaisei Nippon yochi rotei zenzu) which was published at the end of the 18th century (1779).
Chosŏn’s Usando (Dokdo) was called Matsushima, and that Usando was part of Usanguk. Japan argues in the first of the 10 Issues of Takeshima that Nagakubo Sekisui’s map drawn in 1779 included Dokdo as Japanese territory, and there was no basis for Korea to claim that Korea had long acknowledged Dokdo (Matsushima, present day Takeshima) as its territory. However, it is clear from the Handbook of State Affairs that Japan’s argument is without claim.

Furthermore, Dokdo’s old name Usando proves that Usando belonged to Usanguk. When the name Ullŭngdo, Usanguk’s biggest island, became permanently fixed, the annexed island Dokdo became known as Usando in the 15th century. This clearly proves that Usando was Usanguk’s territory.

In the 10 Issues of Takeshima Japan alleges that there is no evidence to prove that Dokdo was Usando. However, many old Korean and Japanese maps refute their argument. For example, Korea’s first Catholic priest, Kim Taegŏn, accurately recorded Dokdo to the east of Ullŭngdo and designated it as “Ousan” in French on the map “Carte de la Corée,” which was used to report to religious orders.
1-1 Somezaki Nobufusa’s the Complete Map of Chosŏn (1873). In this map, Ullŭngdo and Dokdo are the same color as Kangwŏn Province and are next to Uljin. Dokdo is given the name Usando. This map clearly shows that Usando (Dokdo) is part of Uljin County, belonging to Kangwŏn Province, indicating that it is Chosŏn territory. (Seoul National University Central Library, National Museum of Korea)
According to historical records, Korea had sovereignty over Dokdo during the Koryŏ Dynasty, and in the 15th century King Sejong ruled Dokdo as Chosŏn territory under the jurisdiction of Uljin County of Kangwŏn Province.

According to the Gazetteer to the Annals of King Sejong, “The two islands, Dokdo (Usando) and Ullŭngdo, are situated in the middle of the East Sea near Uljin County of Kangwŏn Province. When the weather is nice and clear, Dokdo is visible since it is not too far. During Silla, it was called Usanguk.” King Sejong dispatched a special envoy by the name of Kim Inu to Dokdo (Usando) and Ullŭngdo, exercising sovereignty over the islands. This clearly proves that Dokdo is historically an integral part of Korea.
2-2 Left photo: From Ullŭngdo, Dokdo is visible to the naked eye. (Taken from Kakki-dong, Ullŭngdo on November 22, 2008, Northeast Asian History Foundation, Korea) / Right photo: Ullŭngdo can be seen from Dokdo. (Photographed by Kim Taehwan, courtesy of Yi Sang’ae)
During the 15th and 16th centuries, Korea declared within the Sinosphere that Dokdo was Korean territory.

1 In 1481 the Chosŏn government compiled and published the *Augmented Survey of the Geography of Korea* to define the territory of Chosŏn. Fifty years later in 1531, the *Revised Edition of the Augmented Survey of the Geography of Korea* was published. In the revised edition, each revision was clearly noted.

In the *Revised Edition of the Augmented Survey of the Geography of Korea* each local administration was assigned to govern a specific region and all areas included an explanation of that territory. With this survey, Chosŏn redeclared its sovereignty within the Sinosphere. This illustrates the boundaries of Chosŏn dating back to the 15th century.

The *Augmented Survey of the Geography of Korea* and the *Revised Edition of Augmented Survey of the Geography of Korea* explain that Dokdo (Usando) and Ullŭngdo are two islands in the East Sea, belonging to Uljin County of Kangwŏn Province. Using these two geography books,
the Chosŏn government proclaimed to the Sinosphere that Dokdo was Chosŏn territory. There is no record that Japan refuted Chosŏn’s inclusion of Dokdo (Usando) in this map, which means that Japan, which was ruled by the Ashikaga Shogunate, accepted this as a fact.

In the Revised Edition of Augmented Survey of the Geography of Korea, together with the explanations of the Chosŏn territories, there was another map of the entire country attached, the “General Map of Eight Provinces.”

In the second point of the 10 Issues of Takeshima, Japan argues that since Usando (Dokdo) is depicted closer to the peninsula than Ullŭngdo in the “General Map of Eight Provinces” in the Revised
Edition of the Augmented Survey of the Geography of Korea, Usando (Dokdo) is a fabrication and does not exist. This is similar to saying that Oki Island does not exist because it is not drawn in its exact location on the 15th century map.

Maps of the 15th century throughout the world were inaccurate due to the limited cartographic means available at the time. Old European and Japanese maps, of course, had similar problems.

In the “General Map of Eight Provinces,” it is more logical to reason that since Usando (Dokdo) is drawn closer to the peninsula than Ullŭngdo, Dokdo is clearly the territory of Korea.

In Korea, as the cartography became more advanced, in the 18th century Usando (Dokdo) was drawn more accurately in its actual geographic location. Therefore, this proves that Usando is Dokdo. The Complete Map of Korea (Tongguk chŏndo) produced in the 18th century by Chŏng Sanggi and its reproduction maps are additional examples that support this argument.
There is not a single record that proves Japan ever historically claimed Dokdo prior to the early 20th century. According to the oldest record from the 17th century presented by the Japanese government, Dokdo is shown as Korean territory.

In the diplomatic document the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan sent to the Korean government in 1960, Japan insisted that it had acknowledged Dokdo as Japanese territory by referring to the Records on Observations in Oki Province (Onshu shicho goki) which was compiled in 1667 in which Ullŭngdo was called Takeshima and Dokdo was called Matsushima.

However, when the Records on Observations in Oki Province are examined closely, the content of this historical record shows that “viewing Koryŏ (Korea) from Dokdo and Ullŭngdo is like viewing Onshu (Oki Island) from Unshu (present day Shimane Prefecture)”. Therefore, the two islands Dokdo and Ullŭngdo belonged to Koryŏ (Korea), clearly demarcating that Japan’s
northwest borderline was limited to Oki Island.

Japan’s first recorded document on Dokdo confirms that Dokdo is Korea’s territory and that Japan’s northwest territory is limited to Oki Island. This clearly illustrates Japan’s historical borders did not include Dokdo.

2 In the first point of the 10 Issues of Takeshima, Japan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs argues that Japan has long claimed Dokdo based on the Revised Complete Map of Japanese Lands and Roads by Nagakubo Sekisui a Japanese civilian cartographer, which was published in 1779.

According to Professor Hosaka Yūji at Sejong University in Korea, the original map of the Revised Complete Map of Japanese Lands and Roads that was produced in 1746 had no longitude or latitude. The two islands Ullŭngdo and Dokdo were drawn to indicate their positions, not to demark them as Japanese territory. When the revised edition was enlarged, there was a sentence next to the two islands, Ullŭngdo (Takeshima) and Dokdo (Matsushima) stating that “Viewing Koryŏ is the same as viewing Onshu from Unshu.” This note is the same passage found in the Records on Observations in Oki Province. Therefore, it shows that the two islands Ullŭngdo and Dokdo belonged to Koryo, not to Japan.

The Revised Complete Map of Japanese Lands and Roads clearly suggests that Dokdo and Ullŭngdo are Korean territories.
Japan’s foremost authoritative map of 1785 clearly stipulated that Dokdo is Chosŏn territory.

1. Acclaimed scholar Hayashi Shihei compiled the Illustrated General Survey of the Three Countries (Sangoku tsūran zusetsu) in 1785, and there was an attached map called the “Map of Three Adjoining Countries” (Sangoku setsujōzu) in which each country was designated with a different color.

According to this map, Chosŏn was colored yellow and Japan green. This map accurately placed Ullŭngdo and Dokdo in the middle of the East Sea and was colored yellow, clearly indicating that the islands were Chosŏn territory. In order to make it even more clear, “Chosŏn’s possession” was noted next to the islands. The Tokugawa Shogunate (1600-1868), Japan’s government, recognized Dokdo as Korean territory.
Hayashi Shihei’s 1785 map, the Illustrated General Survey of the Three Countries and its attachment “Map of Three Adjoining Countries” was translated into French by the German Heinrich Julius Klaproth and was published in 1832. The map shows that Ullŭngdo and Dokdo are colored in yellow, the same color used to designate Korea.
A map produced in Europe in 1737 also stipulated that Dokdo was Chosŏn territory.

1. The famous French geographer Jean Baptiste Bourguignon d’Anville drew the “Royaume de Corée” in 1737 and included Dokdo and Ullŭngdo as Chosŏn territory. In d’Anville’s map, he drew Dokdo (Usando) and Ullŭngdo in the East Sea closer to Korea, clearly indicating that Dokdo was Korean territory.
The English cartographer Emanuel Bowen’s map produced in 1752 was called “Carte du Royaume de Kau-li ou Corée.” He placed Dokdo and Ullŭngdo closer to the Korean peninsula, clearly illustrating that Ullŭngdo and Dokdo belonged to Chosŏn. Furthermore, it is important to note that the East Sea was written as Mer de Corée, meaning the Sea of Korea.

In other western maps produced in the 18th and 19th centuries, the islands around the Korean peninsula, Ullŭngdo and Dokdo, were denoted as Korean territory. This shows that members of the international community recognized Dokdo as belonging to Korea.
In January 1696, the Tokugawa Shogunate prohibited Japanese fishermen from entering Ullŭngdo, Dokdo, and surrounding waters since they were Chosŏn territory and those who violated were punished.

During the Hideyoshi Invasion (1592-1598), Japanese troops pillaged and slaughtered people in Ullŭngdo en route to Dokdo. In order to prevent further casualties, the Chosŏn government enforced the “vacant island policy” in which the island people were moved to the mainland leaving the island empty. After Toyotomi Hideyoshi’s death and once all the Japanese troops had returned to Japan, the island was deserted. During this time, the Tokugawa Shogunate received a request for permission of passage to Ullŭngdo from two families of Yonago of Tottori clan, Ōtani Jinkichi and Murakawa Ichibei.

The Tokugawa Shogunate issued a permission of passage to Takeshima in 1618 (some believed it was in 1625) and a permission of passage to Matsushima in 1656 (some believed it was in 1661). This permission for passage was issued for Japanese travelling overseas. In 1660, according to the round trip permission given to Ōtani and Murakawa, “Takeshima (was) within Matsushima” indicating that Dokdo was the part of the island of Ullŭngdo. Furthermore, the permission for passage to Dokdo illustrates that Dokdo was part of Ullŭngdo. Therefore, the permission for passage was issued to enter a foreign country.

Japan argues that Matsushima (Dokdo) was historically Japanese territory using the permission for passage to Takeshima and Matsushima as proof in the third point of the 10 Issues of Takeshima. However, the opposite is true. The permission for passage is similar to today’s passport and was needed to travel to a foreign country. Therefore, it proves that Matsushima (Ullŭngdo) and Takeshima (Dokdo) were not Japanese territory but “foreign” territory. In other words, the permission for passage to Matsushima and Takeshima does not prove that the islands were Japanese, but on the contrary confirms that Matsushima (Ullŭngdo) and Takeshima (Dokdo) were Korean territory.
In spring of 1693, An Yongbok led a group of fishermen who landed on Ullŭngdo and became involved in a conflict with Japanese fishermen. The Japanese fishermen suggested they negotiate a resolution so he got on their ship, but they kidnapped him and took him to Japan. An Yongbok explained in front of the Tokugawa Shogunate government officials that Ullŭngdo and Dokdo were Chosŏn territory. This incident was a catalyst in starting the territorial dispute over Ullŭngdo and Dokdo between Chosŏn and Japan. However, on January 28, 1696, the Tokugawa Shogunate finally acknowledged that Ullŭngdo and Dokdo were Chosŏn territory and prohibited their fishermen from landing on the islands.

The Tokugawa Shogunate rescinded the permission for passage to Matsushima and Takeshima that was issued to the two families.

In 1696 the Tokugawa Shogunate sent a letter to the Chosŏn government expressing their wish to continue diplomatic ties since they prohibited the Japanese fishermen from entering Ullŭngdo and Dokdo or from fishing in the surrounding waters.
In regard to this, Japan argues in the fifth point of the 10 Issues of Takeshima that An Yongbok’s testimony found in the Annals of King Sukchong has no credibility. Yet, looking at Japanese historical records such as the Shimane Prefecture Ōtani family’s “Excerpts from the Record on the Background of the Passage to Takeshima” (Takeshima tokai yuraiki nukigaki hikae), Murakami Sukekurō’s “One-Volume Memorandum Concerning the Korean Boat that Came Alongside the Pier in the 9th Year of Genroku,” “Chosŏn’s Eight Provinces” (Chōsen no hachidō), and a document such as the Council of State’s directive proves the credibility of An Yongbok’s statement.

In particular, in “Chosŏn’s Eight Provinces” it was written underneath the heading of Kangwŏn Province that, “Takeshima and Matsushima are included in this province,” illustrating that the Japanese considered Takeshima (Ullŭngdo) and Matsushima (Dokdo) to belong to Kangwŏn Province, and therefore Chosŏn’s territory.

In January 1696, Japan sent a letter to inform the Chosŏn government that it acknowledged that Ullŭngdo and Dokdo were Chosŏn territory and prohibited Japanese fishermen from entering and fishing. (“An inquiry concerning the compilation of the land register on Takeshima and one other island” was attached to the document on March 29, 1877; National Archives of Japan)
At the time, when subjects of the Tokugawa Shogunate inquired about acknowledging the fact that Ullŭngdo and Dokdo belonged to Chosŏn, one of the top shogunal officials Abe Masahiro said, “A permission for passage was issued because Yonago village’s fisherman requested to fish around the islands of Chosŏn. It is not correct to use the phrase returning the islands since Japan has never appropriated the islands. Therefore, it is sufficient to say Japanese fishermen are prohibited from entering and fishing.” This explanation was recorded in the *Documents on Friendly Relations with Chosŏn* (*Chōsen tsūkō taiki, 1725*).

In the fourth point of the *10 Issues of Takeshima*, the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs argues that the Tokugawa Shogunate nullified permission for passage to Ullŭngdo, but not to Dokdo.
However, their claim is not true.

A Meiji government’s Home Ministry document of 1876 and the Dajōkan, the Japanese Council of State’s document from 1877 both acknowledged the Tokugawa Shogunate’s order banning the permission for passage to Ullŭngdo and one other island, meaning Dokdo.

With the Tokugawa Shogunate’s reaffirmation that Ullŭngdo and Dokdo were Chosŏn territory, the territorial dispute ended in 1696.

Until the Tokugawa Shogunate’s rule came to an end in January 1868, Japan honored and acknowledged Chosŏn’s sovereignty over Ullŭngdo and Dokdo. In 1836, the Tokugawa Shogunate executed Hachiemon when it was discovered that he went to Ullŭngdo en route to Dokdo in 1832 and came back without “permission for passage.” In the same year, the Tokugawa Shogunate erected warning signs to prohibit any crossing of the sea to a foreign country.

In the interrogation record of Hachiemon, the “Record of Circumstances of Trespassing Chosŏn’s Takeshima” (Chōsen Takeshima tokō shimatsuki), there was an attachment called “Takeshima Direction Map” (Takeshima hōgakuzu) which Hachiemon drew and the Tokugawa Shogunate confirmed. In this map, the Chosŏn territory was colored in red and the Japanese territory in blue. In the “Takeshima Direction Map” Dokdo (Matsushima) and Ullŭngdo (Takeshima) were colored red, clearly demarking them as Chosŏn territory. This also shows that the so called “permission for passage to Matsushima (Dokdo)” and “permission for passage to Takeshima (Ullŭngdo)” were revoked at the same time, clearly illustrating the nullification of the permission.

The Chronicles of the Passage to Takeshima, owned and stored at Tokyo University Library, has a similar inquisition record of Hachiemon showing that in the same “Takeshima Direction Map” Chosŏn was colored in red along with Dokdo and Ullŭngdo. This demonstrates that both “permission for passage to Dokdo” and “permission for passage to
Based on these facts, Japan’s argument in the fourth point of the 10 Issues of Takeshima that the Tokugawa Shogunate did not revoke the “permission for passage to Matsushima” proves to be groundless.
In the late 19th century, the Meiji government reconfirmed in its official documents that Dokdo and Ullŭngdo were Korean territory.

When the Tokugawa Shogunate collapsed and the Meiji government was established in January 1868, the Council of State and foreign affairs minister sent envoys from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to Chosŏn in December 1869 and instructed them to undertake secret investigations of fourteen items. One of them was “To investigate the particulars of how Takeshima (Ullŭngdo) and Matsushima (Dokdo) became Chosŏn territory.” This proves that the Meiji government’s Council of State and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs recognized that Ullŭngdo (Takeshima) and Dokdo (Matsushima) were part of Chosŏn territory in 1869.

The high officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ secret investigative report in 1870 resulted in the compilation of the official document by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Council of State confirming that Dokdo is Chosŏn territory in 1869-1870. (Documents of Japanese Foreign Policy, Book 3)
Report on the Confidential Inquiry into the Particulars of Chosŏn’s Foreign Relations (Chōsen kokō kosai shimatsu naitansho). This report was included in the third book of the 1930s publication Documents of Japanese Foreign Policy (Nihon gaikō bunsho) and was distributed to important universities all over the world.

The fact that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Council of State ordered this as one of the investigation items between 1869-1870 demonstrates that the Meiji government recognized Dokdo as Chosŏn territory.

2 That the Meiji government ordered a secret investigation of Ullängdo and Dokdo, even though it was known that they were Chosŏn territory, shows Japan’s territorial ambitions for these two islands.
In 1876, the Japanese Home Ministry ordered each prefecture to draw and submit its own map to create a modern map. From Shimane Prefecture, the issue of whether or not to include Ullŭngdo (Takeshima) and Dokdo (Matsushima) as part of Shimane Prefecture was raised. The Home Ministry conducted a five month investigation, culminating in the statement, “Since the incident where a Chosŏn person [An Yongbok] entered Ullŭngdo in 1693 and the Tokugawa Shogunate’s decision in January 1696, Ullŭngdo and one other island (Dokdo) have been viewed as Chosŏn territory and they have nothing to do with Japan.”

However, the territorial problem was an important issue, therefore it was necessary for the nation’s highest decision.

In 1877, the Meiji government’s Council of State and the Home Ministry reconfirmed that Dokdo and Ullŭngdo were indeed Chosŏn territory.
making body, the Council of State, to make the final decision. A request was made to the Council of State’s Vice Prime Minster Iwakura Tomomi to make the final decision whether to include Ullŭngdo and Dokdo in the map. Together with the request, the Tokugawa Shogunate’s decision of January 1696, and the documents explaining about Dokdo were attached.
After the Council of State, the Meiji government’s highest decision making organ, reexamined the Home Ministry’s request, it reconfirmed (based on exchanges of diplomatic documents between the Tokugawa Shogunate and the Chosŏn government after the An Yongbok’s incident in 1693) that, “Ullŭngdo (Takeshima) and one other island (Dokdo/Matsushima) belong to Chosŏn and have nothing to do with Japan.” As a result, on March 20, 1877 the Meiji government’s Council of State issued an edict to the Home Ministry declaring that, “Ullŭngdo (Takeshima) and one other island (Dokdo/Matsushima) have nothing to do with Japan.” The Meiji government clarified that Ullŭngdo and Dokdo were both Chosŏn territory.

On March 29, 1877, at the end of a directive issued by the Council of State, the Home Ministry added a note on April 9, 1877 that “Ullŭngdo and Dokdo are Chosŏn territory and have nothing to do with Japan.” Consequently, an order was issued to Shimane Prefecture stating that “Ullŭngdo (Takeshima) and Dokdo (Matsushima) have nothing to do with Japan (since they are Chosŏn territory), therefore remove them from the Shimane Prefecture map.”

The Council of State’s directive is important as it is an official Meiji government document, and it clearly states that “Dokdo and Ullŭngdo are indeed Korean territory.”
In 1877, the Council of State decided that Ullŭngdo and Dokdo were Korean territory, and this was recorded in its official documentation, clearly stating that “Ullŭngdo and one other island (Dokdo), have nothing to do with Japan’s territory.” (National Archives of Japan)

In the fourth point of the 10 Issues of Takeshima, Japan asserts that in January 1696 the Tokugawa Shogunate rescinded the permission for passage to Ullŭngdo (Takeshima), but the permission for passage to Dokdo (Matsushima) was still valid. However, based on the above mentioned document from the Home Ministry and the Council of State, it is clear that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ claim is not true. According to the documents from the Home Ministry and the Council of State, since An Yongbok went to Japan in 1693, the Tokugawa Shogunate and the Chosŏn government had diplomatic ties and reconfirmed that not only Ullŭngdo (Takeshima) but one other island (Dokdo/Matsushima) were Chosŏn territory. This clearly illustrates that the permission for passage to Dokdo (Matsushima) (if it existed) was cancelled, prohibiting crossing over to Dokdo.
In 1900, the Korean Empire issued the Imperial Edict No. 41, declaring that Dokdo was Korean territory and announcing it to the world.

During the late 19th century, in spite of the fact that Ullŭngdo was not an open port, Japanese people settled there, violating established laws. The Japanese government did not stop them but instead abetted them. Therefore, in June 1900 the Korean Empire dispatched a group of international inspectors, comprised of inspector U Yongjŏng of the Korean Ministry of Home Affairs, an Englishman of French heritage, E. Laporte, who worked at the Pusan Customs as a tax accountant, and Akatsuka Shosuke, Vice Consul of the Japanese Consulate in Pusan, to examine the situation.

After receiving the report by the inspectors, the Korean Empire issued Imperial Edict No. 41 on October 25, 1900, revising the local government’s control and making Ullŭngdo and Dokdo, which were part of Uljin County of Kangwŏn Province, administratively independent. Consequently, Ullŭngdo and the surrounding islands fell under the jurisdiction of Uldo County, including Ullŭngdo and Chukdo (Chuksŏdo) and Sŏkdo (Dokdo) by law. On October 27, 1900 this revised local government control
The Korean Empire’s Imperial Edict No. 41 was written in Kwanbo, the official newsletter of the Korean government on October 27, 1900. It proclaimed that Ullŭngdo and Takeshima, Sŏkdo (Dokdo) were under the jurisdiction of Uldo County.

It was declared to the world that Ullŭngdo and Dokdo belonged to the Korean Empire. At the time, Japan raised no objections.

At the time, Dokdo was not called by its original name Usando but was called Sŏkdo. The reason was that after the “vacant island policy” was rescinded, Ullŭngdo citizens, who legally entered the island in 1883, called stones “dok” in their dialect. As the educated people used the Chinese writing system, the word “dok” which was used by the common people was replaced by the corresponding Chinese character “sŏk.” Therefore, Dokdo became Sŏkdo, meaning the “Stone Island.” If the meaning was taken as it was written in Chinese, it was the “Stone Island,” but if the pronunciation “dok” was taken, as written in Chinese, it was the “Lonely Island” [Dokdo]. Therefore, on the Imperial Edict No. 41, the name was taken from the meaning of the island and was written as Sŏkdo the “Stone Island” in Chinese characters.

Furthermore, one of the international inspectors, E. Laporte who was well versed in international law knew that in the West, Dokdo was called “Liancourt Rocks.” It was also written as “Liancourt Sŏkdo” which explains why it was written as “Stone Island.”

In 1882, the Japanese Navy’s Hydrographic Department published...
the Map of the Distance of the Japanese, Chinese, and Korean Sealanes and Usando was written as Liancourt Rocks. At the time, when the islands were under the administrative rule of Uldo County of the Korean Empire, it was called “Liancodo” in Japan. At the time the Japanese Naval Bureau called Ullŭngdo as Matsushima and called Dokdo the Liancourt Rocks borrowing the Western appellation.

3 The sixth point of the 10 Issues of Takeshima stated that the name Dokdo was first mentioned in 1906 on a report by Sim Hāngt’āek, the county magistrate of Uldo County. This is not true. During the Russo-Japanese War, the Imperial Japanese Navy dispatched the battleship Niitaka to inspect the possibility of installing Japanese navy watchtowers on the islands. With the information gathered from Ullŭngdo, the navy reported on September 25, 1904 that “As for Liancourt Rocks, Koreans write it as Dokdo, and Japanese fishermen call it Liancodo.” This shows that Koreans living in Ullŭngdo used the name Dokdo before 1904.

4 When the Japanese government asked the Korean Empire government about the surrounding island of Ullŭngdo in 1906, the Korean government had already finished a conference on October 25, 1900 concerning this issue. It was written that the islands surrounding Ullŭngdo were “Takeshima (referring to Chuksŏdo) and Sŏkdo (Stone Island), and the combined distance between the two islands was approximately 80 kilometers.” From Ullŭngdo, the only island that was 40 kms or 80 kms in distance in the East Sea was Dokdo. Therefore, this proves that Sŏkdo was indeed Dokdo.
In 1904 Japan started the Russo-Japanese War, and when it was planning to install Japanese navy watchtowers on Dokdo, a fisherman from Shimane Prefecture named Nakai Yozaburo tried to submit a petition to lease Dokdo from the Korean Empire government, the rightful owner. However, the Japanese government pressed Nakai to change his lease request to an incorporation and lease petition and had him submit for territorial incorporation of Dokdo into Japan to the Japanese government. The Japanese government then formally accepted his request, and on January 28, 1905 at the Japanese Cabinet

In 1905, Japan decided to incorporate Dokdo into Japanese territory on the premise that it was a terra nullius without informing the Korean Empire government. However, in the past the Japanese government had already acknowledged Dokdo as Korean territory and after reconfirming that Dokdo was not a terra nullius their attempt became naught.

11-1 The Japanese Cabinet’s written decision on January 28, 1905 to incorporate Dokdo as Japanese territory since “There is no vestige of ownership by any other country” thus is the basis for terra nullius. Their decision is in principle unlawful and invalid if Dokdo is proved to have been owned prior to January 28, 1905. (Courtesy of Shin Yong Ha)
meeting, Dokdo was incorporated into Japanese territory and it was named Takeshima.

The Japanese government argued that, “There is no vestige of ownership of the island (Dokdo) by any other country,” which was the basis for claiming Dokdo to be terra nullius. When it was proved that Dokdo was not terra nullius in January 1905, but was owned by Korea, the Japanese Cabinet’s decision to incorporate the island as its territory should have been annulled according to international law.

Since 512 A.D. Dokdo had been recognized as inherently Korean territory and continued to be part of Korean territory. The historical truth is that Korea has sovereignty over Dokdo.

There are many Japanese documents, such as the Tokugawa Shogunate’s document of January 1, 1696, the Meiji government’s Council of State’s directive, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ document of 1869-1870, the Council of State and the Home Ministry’s document of 1876-1877, that proved Japan understood Dokdo to be Korean territory. In fact, even before the Cabinet’s decision in 1905, the Home Ministry first opposed incorporating Dokdo as Japanese territory stating that Dokdo was Usando, meaning Korean territory.

The Japanese government decided to incorporate Dokdo secretly at the Cabinet meeting, but as a convention it was required to announce this decision in the central government’s official gazette called Kanpo. However, it failed to do so. As a result, Japan could not satisfy the international law of territory incorporation at the time. The reason why they could not announce it in the official gazette was because of the Korean Consulate in Tokyo. If they had announced it in Kanpo, they could expect the Korean Consulate to immediately protest.

The Japanese government contemplated the issue for about one month and announced their decision in Shimane Prefecture’s official newsletter Kenpo on February 22, 1905. Since Kenpo was an internal document for government officials in Shimane Prefecture, the Korean government was unlikely to learn of this move. There was no way for the Korean government to know about this since it was a local Shimane Prefecture newsletter, and Korean residents in Japan or legation authorities did not subscribe or read regional newspapers. Their incorporation of Dokdo could be completely kept a secret.

The Korean Empire government found out about Japan’s incorporation of Dokdo on March 28, 1906. When County Magistrate Sim Hŭngt’ae of Uldo County reported to the governor of Kangwŏn Province that, “Japanese people are saying that Dokdo, which belongs
to this county, has become Japanese territory,” the Kangwŏn Province governor then reported this to the central government.

The Korean Home Ministry minister immediately reacted to the claim protesting that, “I am dismayed and angry at the unreasonableness of the Japanese claiming Dokdo as Japanese territory.” The acting head of the Korean State Council stated that “Japan’s claims to Dokdo as its territory has absolutely no basis,” strongly protesting and ordering his staff to closely examine the Japanese claim and report back to the central government.

These protests were not sent out as diplomatic documents to the Japanese government but ended up being stored in the Kyujanggak library at Seoul National University. The reason for this was that on November 18, 1905 Japan forced Korea to sign the Japan-Korea Protectorate Treaty, taking away Korea’s sovereignty. In January 1906, the Japanese Residency General took control over Korea’s diplomatic roles.
Nevertheless, the Korean government’s strong protests were left in documents as proof. These protests were reported at the time in Korea’s two important newspapers, the Korean Daily News (Taehan maeil sinbo) and the Capital Gazette (Hwangsŏng sinmun). On May 1, 1906, Korean Daily News used the headline “An Implausible Thing Is Taking Place” to explain the situation, quoting an internal directive that stated that “Saying Takeshima belongs to Japan is shocking.” Even in Personal Accounts of Maech’ŏn (Maech’ŏn yarok) by Hwang Hyŏn, there were writings of intellectuals protesting against Japan’s appropriation of Dokdo.

Since Dokdo was Korean territory, not terra nullius, Japan’s claim and subsequent surreptitious appropriation of Dokdo in 1905 was a violation of international law and was therefore invalid. At the time, the Japanese government knew Dokdo was Korean territory and that was why they could not publicize it in the official gazette Kanpo.

Japan’s appropriation of Dokdo in 1905 and every measure it took to acquire it is invalid. The explanation in the sixth point of the 10 Issues of Takeshima that Japan incorporated terra nullius legally is invalid.

Furthermore, Japan claimed that Dokdo was terra nullius and incorporated the island into its territory on January 28, 1905 and began using the name Takeshima. Japan’s decision to place Dokdo under the jurisdiction of Oki Island clearly shows that prior to January 28, 1905, Dokdo was not historically Japanese territory. If Dokdo were historically and inherently Japanese territory, there was no need to insist in January 1905 that the island was terra nullius and there would have been no need to give it a new name.

Korea was colonized by Japan in 1910, and the territorial dispute regarding Dokdo became a problem that needed to be dealt with after Japan surrendered and Korea regained its independence.

During the colonial era, the Japanese government recognized Dokdo as a colonial possession. The General Staff of the Imperial Japanese Army stationed in Tokyo, Japan in 1936 recognized Dokdo as part of the island belonging to Ullŭngdo in the Great Imperial State of Japan’s “Area Map Chart,” and excluded it from Japanese territory and listed it as Korean territory.
The Japanese Army General Staff Office published the “Land Survey Department District Summary Map” in 1936. Even the Japanese Army designated Dokdo as being part of Ullŭngdo in the territory of Chosŏn, excluding it from Japanese territory. (Seoul National University Central Library)
When Japan surrendered on August 15, 1945, the Supreme Command for Allied Powers, Douglas MacArthur, began the work of returning colonial territories the former Imperial Japan had occupied.

On January 29, 1946, General Headquarters Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers (SCAP GHQ) issued the SCAPIN (Supreme Command for Allied Powers Instruction) No. 677 returning Chejudo, Ullŭngdo, Dokdo (Liancourt) to Korea, removing these islands from the Japanese administrative authority. This decision by SCAP GHQ is legally binding under international law.
The SCAP GHQ issued Directive SCAPIN-1033 on June 22, 1946 prohibiting Japanese fishermen from approaching within 12 nautical miles of Dokdo clearly indicating the island as Korean territory. Until the SCAP GHQ was dissolved on April 28, 1952, Directives SCAPIN 677 and 1033 were not amended. SCAP GHQ confirmed and reconfirmed that Dokdo was indeed Korean territory.

The Allied Powers SCAPIN Directive No. 677. Clause 3 states that Dokdo (Liancourt, Takeshima) has been excluded from Japanese administrative authority and returned to Korea.

The Allied Powers SCAPIN Directive No. 1033. This directive prohibits Japanese vessels from approaching within 12 nautical miles of Dokdo or have any contact with it, emphasizing Dokdo as Korean territory.
On August 15, 1948, the Republic of Korea was proclaimed, and at the same time the jurisdiction of all Korean territories including Dokdo was reverted to the Korean government.

On December 12, 1948, at the UN General meeting, the Republic of Korea was officially recognized as the sovereign nation governing the country, including Dokdo. Since that day, no one was allowed to enter Dokdo without Korea’s permission. Dokdo became the exclusive territory of Korea and this was ratified under international law.
The General Headquarters Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers decided to restore Japan’s sovereignty on April 28, 1952 when Japan signed the San Francisco Peace Treaty in 1951. In conjunction with the peace treaty, the Allied Powers drafted the “Agreement Respecting the Disposition of Former Japanese Territories” before drafting the Peace Treaty, reconfirming that Dokdo was the Republic of Korea’s territory. 

In Article 3 of this agreement, the Allied Powers agreed to transfer islands surrounding the Korean Peninsula back to Korea. It stated, “that there shall be transferred in full sovereignty to the Republic of Korea” said islands, including “Chejudo, Kōmundo, Ullūngdo, Dokdo (Laincourt Rocks, Takeshima).” In this
agreement it was clearly stated that Dokdo was Korean territory agreed upon by, not just the United States, but all nation in the United Nations.

This agreement was prepared by the Allied Powers prior to the signing of the Peace Treaty with Japan to use in case there were ambiguous clauses in the Peace Treaty that may be open to different interpretations. This was an important agreement. Countries around the world signed the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties and in Article 32 (“Supplementary means of interpretation”) stipulated that in case questions arise from the treaty “the preparatory work of the treaty and the circumstances of its conclusion” were to be used as “supplementary means of interpretation.” Therefore, the San Francisco Peace Treaty that was signed in 1951 with Japan, the “Agreement Respecting the Disposition of Former Japanese Territories,” is the closest thing to “the preparatory work of the treaty.”

In Article 3 of the preparatory work of the treaty, Dokdo (Liancourt Rocks, Takeshima) is clearly stipulated as exclusively Korean territory.
Japan’s aggressive lobby to incorporate Dokdo as its territory failed when the San Francisco Peace Treaty was signed, and Dokdo was excluded from the Japanese territory and was confirmed as Korean territory.

In the process of drafting the San Francisco Peace Treaty, Japan aggressively lobbied but failed to claim Dokdo as Japanese territory. The Allied Powers in accordance with the SCAP Directive 677 left Dokdo as Korean territory and excluded it from Japanese territory.

On May 25, 1952, one month after Japan regained its full sovereignty, the Mainichi Newspapers Co., with the support of the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, published a 616 page long compendium entitled *The Treaty of Peace with Japan*. On its first page, it printed the “Japanese Territorial Map” that was approved in the San Francisco Peace Treaty, explaining clearly that Dokdo (Liancourt Rocks, Takeshima) was excluded from the
In the process of drafting the Peace Treaty, Japan aggressively lobbied the United States to take possession of Dokdo.

When the Allied Powers asked the United States to draft the peace treaty, in accordance with the agreement by the Allied Powers, the United States followed the rules returning territories that Japan colonized as part of their imperialist ambition after January 1, 1894. The United States included Dokdo (Liancourt Rocks) as Korean territory from the first to the fifth drafts.

When Japan found out about this, it aggressively lobbied the acting political advisor William J. Sebald, arguing that if he helped incorporate Dokdo as Japanese territory, Japan would then offer the island to America as a military radar and weather observation station. Dean Rusk, the United States Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs, received this report. James A. Van Fleet, the United States Special Mission Ambassador, also received the report but he tried to maintain a neutral position considering Korea’s position. As a result, in the sixth draft, the United States incorporated Dokdo as Japanese territory and circulated it to the Allied Powers soliciting their agreement.

However, Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, and other Allied Powers strongly insisted that Dokdo should be incorporated as Korean territory according to the agreement, and they did not agree to the sixth draft. Great Britain strongly protested America’s stance saying that they would draft their own version without relying on the United States. In the seventh point of the 10 Issues of Takeshima, Japan only explained the United States’ side that responded to the Japanese but did not explain the British opposition.

Consequently, the United States attempted to maintain a neutral position by being indifferent and in the seventh, eighth, and ninth drafts, the word Dokdo was not mentioned at all.

Even in the United States there were some people who objected to the neutral position and insisted that Dokdo should be incorporated as Korean territory. The US Department of State geographer Samuel Whittemore Boggs testified at the United Nations General Assembly on July 13, 1951 saying, “Dokdo is Korean territory and it is necessary to add a clause stating this.” He suggested adding the following sentence to the draft: “(a) Japan acknowledged Korea’s independence and renounced all rights, the ground of claim, and the right of petition to Chejudo, Kōmundo, Ullăngdo, and Dokdo included.”
The first draft of the Treaty of Peace with Japan states that Ulleungdo and Dokdo are Korean territory, limiting Japanese territory at the time of January 1, 1894.

This is the fifth draft of the Treaty of Peace with Japan that stipulates Dokdo as Korean territory in Article 6 of Territorial Clauses.
The written reply of the US Department of State geographer Samuel W. Boggs on July 13, 1951, in which he requested that Ullŭngdo and Dokdo be included in the Treaty of Peace with Japan in order to prevent territorial disputes.

Great Britain was not satisfied with the United States’ sixth draft and their neutral position and drafted their own first, second, and third drafts.

The Great Britain’s draft, complied with the Allied Powers agreement, states that Chejudo and Dokdo were Korean territory and Tsushima and Oki Islands were Japanese territory. In an attached map, Dokdo was excluded from Japanese territory and included in Korean territory.
The United States suggested that rather than submitting the American draft and the Great Britain draft separately, they should combine the two and submit a single document to the Peace Conference. The draft that was passed on took out all the names of small islands completely and in Article 2 in the Peace Treaty, it was stated that “Japan acknowledges Korea’s independence and that Japan renounces all rights, the ground of claim, and the right of petition of Chejudo, Kŏmundo, Ullŭngdo and all of Korean peninsula.”

In the San Francisco Peace Treaty the word Dokdo was deleted from Japan’s rights. However, this does not mean that the Allied Powers acknowledged Dokdo as Japanese territory. Because of Japan’s aggressive lobbying, it was decided to leave the Dokdo territorial problem as agreed formerly and not get involved. There are 3,000 islands around the Korean peninsula. Although not all of these islands are included in the San Francisco Peace Treaty as territory that Japan renounced, they are officially recognized as Korean territory. For example, there is an island called Udo located to the east of Japan. Udo is part of island of Chejudo. Therefore, even though the name Udo was not included in the Peace Treaty, Udo belongs to Chejudo and Chejudo is Korean territory. Therefore, Udo belongs to Korea.

In accordance with international law, all annexed islands must apply the “mother land law.” Dokdo and other small islands were not recorded. Therefore, whether Dokdo’s mother island is Korea’s Ullŭngdo or Japan’s Oki Island, the second method is to apply the “1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties” and apply the preparatory work (“Agreement Respecting the Disposition of Former Japanese Territories”) for the San Francisco Peace Treaty to decipher the issue.

According to Article 32 of the 1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, it is stipulated that when a question rises in interpreting a treaty, “the preparatory work of the treaty and the circumstances of its conclusion” shall be used as a “supplementary means of interpretation.” In the San Francisco Peace Treaty, the preparatory work concerning the territorial rights was the “Agreement Respecting the Disposition of Former Japanese Territories” drafted by the Allied Powers, and this agreement stipulated that Dokdo was Korean territory.

In this case, even though Dokdo was not mentioned in the San Francisco Peace Treaty clause, Dokdo is historically part of the island of Ullŭngdo. Moreover, in the “Agreement Respecting the Disposition of Former Japanese Territories” it is stipulated that “Dokdo is completely and exclusively Korean territory.” Therefore, even though it is not stipulated in the San Francisco Peace Treaty that Dokdo is Japanese territory, it is Korean territory.

Soon after Japan regained its sovereignty on May 25, 1952, the
Mainichi Newspaper published the *Treaty of Peace with Japan*, in the “Japanese Territorial Map” that was approved by the Allied Powers. This map excluded Dokdo from Japanese territory, but instead demarked it as Korean territory for this reason.

5 The Japanese government complied with the provision of the SCAPIN No. 677, and Japan’s Prime Ministerial Ordinance No. 24 dated June 6, 1951 stipulated that Ullŭngdo, Dokdo (Takeshima), and Chejudo were Korean territory.

When Dokdo was officially recognized as Korean territory and excluded from Japanese territory in the San Francisco Peace Treaty, the Japanese government did not amend the Prime Ministerial Ordinance No. 24 until July 7, 1960 even though Japan regained its sovereignty in 1952. This fact proves that the Japanese government understood very well that Dokdo was officially recognized as Korean territory in the San Francisco Peace Treaty and was excluded from Japanese territory.

6 On June 22, 1965, the Republic of Korea government and the Japanese government signed the Treaty on Basic Relations between Korea and Japan. In this agreement Dokdo was left as an unsolved problem and was not mentioned. This fact illustrates that Japan had no objection but acknowledged the Republic of Korea’s territorial rights to Dokdo in accordance with international law.
Since 1951, the UN Forces acknowledged Dokdo as Korea territory designated it as part of the Korea Air Defense Identification Zone.

1. When the Korean War broke out on June 25, 1950, the UN Forces (the US Air Force included) and the US Pacific Air Forces designated a Korea Air Defense Identification Zone (KADIZ) in 1951 which included Dokdo. This reaffirmed that Dokdo was Korean territory. Dokdo was excluded from the Japanese Air Defense Identification Zone and this situation continues until the present day. This clearly proves that the US Air Forces together with the UN Forces had confirmed that Dokdo has been Korean territory since 1951.
In the eighth point of the *10 Issues of Takeshima*, it is stated that the Commander of SCAP GHQ issued SCAPIN 2160 in September 1950, designating Dokdo as a bombing range for the US military. In July 1952, in accordance with the Treaty between the United States and Japan, the United States-Japan Joint Committee selected Dokdo as a military facility to practice tactical bombing but in March 1953 this designation was removed. Japan argues that the reason Dokdo was included as a bombing range was because the US Forces regarded the island as Japanese territory. However, this claim has no basis.

The US Forces complied with Japan’s request and used Dokdo as a bombing range. However, the Korean government strongly protested against this to the US Army Forces in the Far East upon finding out. Then on February 27, 1953, the US Army Forces in the Far East sent an official letter to the Korean government stating that Dokdo would be removed from the projected bombing range, reconfirming that Dokdo was indeed Korea territory.

After the US Air Forces sent the letter stating that Dokdo had been removed from the bombing zone, a month later in March 1953 they notified Japan of the decision. This clearly proves that the US Air Forces conducted an investigation into Dokdo’s ownership after receiving a protest from the Korean government and reconfirmed Dokdo as Korea territory. The eighth point of the *10 Issues of Takeshima* is false.

Up to the present day, the UN Forces including the US Air Forces and foreign airlines are required to contact Korea before flying into the Korea airspace (KADIZ) which includes Dokdo. This again reconfirms that the international community recognizes Dokdo as Korean territory.
Korea rejected Japan’s proposal to take the Dokdo case to the International Court of Justice because historically and by international law as well Dokdo is clearly Korean territory.

1. Dokdo is historically and officially recognized as the Republic of Korea’s territory by international law. Furthermore, when Korea regained sovereignty on August 15, 1948 SCAP GHQ reverted the sovereignty of the islands surrounding the Korean Peninsula to Korea. Since December 12, 1948 the Korean government has been formally recognized as a sovereign nation by the UN, exercising its legal right to govern its people and territory.

2. The Japanese government proposed to take the Dokdo case to the International Court of Justice in an attempt to claim sovereignty over the island. However, the Foreign Minister of Korea at the time rejected this proposal and sent the following on October 28, 1954:

The proposal of the Japanese Government that the dispute be submitted to the International Court of Justice is nothing but another attempt at the false claim in judicial disguise. Korea has the territorial rights ab initio over Dokdo and sees no reason why she should seek the verification of her rights before any international court of justice. It is Japan who conjures up a quasi territorial dispute where none should exist. By proposing to submit the Dokdo problem to the International Court of Justice, Japan is attempting to place herself on the equal footing, even provisionally, with Korea in relation to the so-called Dokdo territorial dispute, thus establishing quasi claims to Dokdo when, in fact, Korea has the complete and indisputable territorial rights to the island.

The Korean Foreign Minister’s reply in 1954 is still legitimate. In the ninth and tenth points of the 10 Issues of Takeshima, Japan’s repeated attempts to
In response to the Japanese government’s suggestion to take the Dokdo territorial dispute to the International Court of Justice on September 25, 1954, the Korean government rejected this proposal on October 28, 1954 by stating that there is no territorial dispute because Dokdo is completely and exclusively Korean territory. It also pointed out Japan’s attempt at false claims, trying to be on par with Korea. (Korean Foreign Ministry Document)
지리적, 역사적, 국제법적으로 
한국의 고유영토라는 
명백한 진실을 이해하기 위한 
대국민 교양서

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진실 이해를 위한 16포인트’와 
‘독도의 진실 이해를 위한 
150문 150답’으로 
재조명한 한국의 고유영토 독도

독도영유의 진실 이해 
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