North Korean History Education

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Introduction

Chosŏn ryŏksa chidoch'ŏp (Atlas of Korean History) (1956) and *Chosŏn ryŏksa chidoch'ŏp: kodae, chungse p'yŏn* (Atlas of Korean History: Ancient and Medieval Times) (1961) are rare materials that provide a glimpse into North Korean history education in the late 1950s and early 1960s. The atlases are a valuable tool to analyze the Korean history curriculum at the middle school (*chunghakkyo*) level. The two books are unlikely to be preserved in public DPRK collections, since many parts of their content (like the location of the Ancient Chosŏn state, etc.) has been revised. The books are also not found in libraries outside of the DPRK due to the general ban on any export of teaching materials and textbooks. The publications were acquired by Jaroslav Bařinka (1931–2020) while he was part of the Czechoslovakian embassy in Pyongyang from 1955 to 1959 and during his research stay at the Academy of Sciences between 1960 and 1961.

Source PDFs are available at 1956 Atlas PDF (`https://www.korean-histories.org/sources/1956_atlas.pdf`) and 1961 Atlas PDF (`https://www.korean-histories.org/sources/1961_atlas.pdf`).

1956 Atlas of Korean History

The 1956 *Atlas of Korean History* contains forty-five historical maps chronologically arranged from prehistorical times to the liberation of the Korean Peninsula in 1945. While most maps are full-page pictures, ten pages contain multiple maps or more detailed insets of certain areas (cities, ports, etc.). As the authors of the atlas indicate in their short introduction, the book presents maps showing the "distribution of material relics, territorial changes, wars, uprisings and strikes, administrative divisions, and international relations."

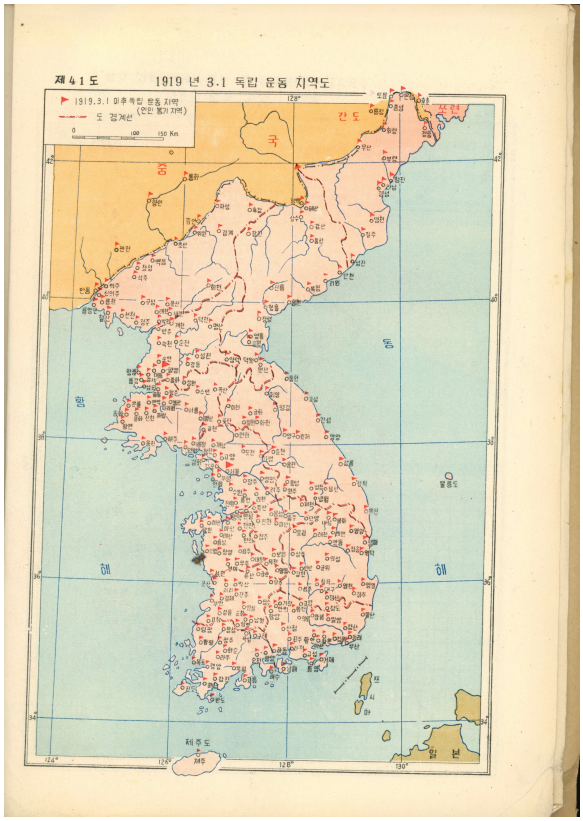

Figure 1: Plate from the 1956 *Chosŏn ryŏksa chidoch'ŏp*, showing the 1919 March First Independence Movement map (*Samil undong chiryŏkto*, 삼일운동 치역도).

Included Maps

1. Locations of primitive communal society material relics
2. Ancient states

3. Development of the Three Kingdoms at the end of the fourth century
4. Fourth and fifth century Three Kingdoms territorial changes
5. Three Kingdoms from the middle of the sixth to the middle of the seventh century
6. Koguryŏ repulsion of Sui and Tang invasions
7. Relics in the Pyongyang area and Ji'an Koguryŏ relics
8. Relics in Puyŏ and Kongju areas
9. Silla unification war
10. Silla administrative division during the eighth century
11. Silla international relations during the eighth and ninth century
12. Ninth century Parhae
13. Peasant uprisings and Koryŏ unification war
14. Relics in the Kyŏngju area
15. Locations of Three Kingdoms and Unified Silla material relics
16. Koryŏ ten provinces and twelve special counties
17. Koryŏ five provinces and two frontier regions
18. Koryŏ repulsion of Khitan invasions
19. Koryŏ, Song, Jin, Liao, Parhae and Western Xia international relations during the eleventh century
20. Peasants' uprisings at the end of the twelfth century
21. Koryŏ territory during the resistance against Yuan invasions
22. Relics in the Kaesŏng and Kanghwa areas
23. Repulsion of Red Turbans and Japanese pirate invasions
24. Administrative division of the later fourteenth and early fifteenth century
25. Establishment of Four Counties and Six Garrisons
26. Administrative division during the sixteenth and seventeenth century
27. 1467 Hamgyŏng peasants' uprising
28. Four Abolished Counties, Three Ports for trade with Japan
29. 1592–1598 Patriotic War (two plates)
30. Relics in the Seoul area
31. Old map of Seoul (around 1861)
32. 1811–1812 Peasant War in Pyŏngan Province
33. Mid-nineteenth-century East Asian international relations
34. 1862 Peasants' uprisings; incursions of foreign ships in the middle of the nineteenth century
35. Attacks of US and French fleets (1866–1871)
36. Areas of peasants' uprisings before the Peasants' War in 1894
37. Peasants' War in 1894
38. Anti-Japanese volunteers' struggle (1905–1907)
39. Anti-Japanese volunteers' struggle (1907–1910)
40. March First Independence Movement
41. 1921–1935 workers' strikes and tenant farmers' struggles
42. Anti-Japanese guerrilla war under the leadership of Marshal Kim Ilsŏng
43. Organisation and branches of the Fatherland Restoration Association (1935–1945)
44. Liberation by the Soviet Army

1961 Atlas of Korean History: Ancient and Medieval Times

The 1961 *Atlas of Korean History*: *Ancient and Medieval Times* covers Korean history from prehistorical times to the 1811–1812 Peasant War in Pyŏngan Province. It contains twenty-six plates with four pages containing multiple maps or detailed insets on particular areas or cities. The list of maps is as follows:

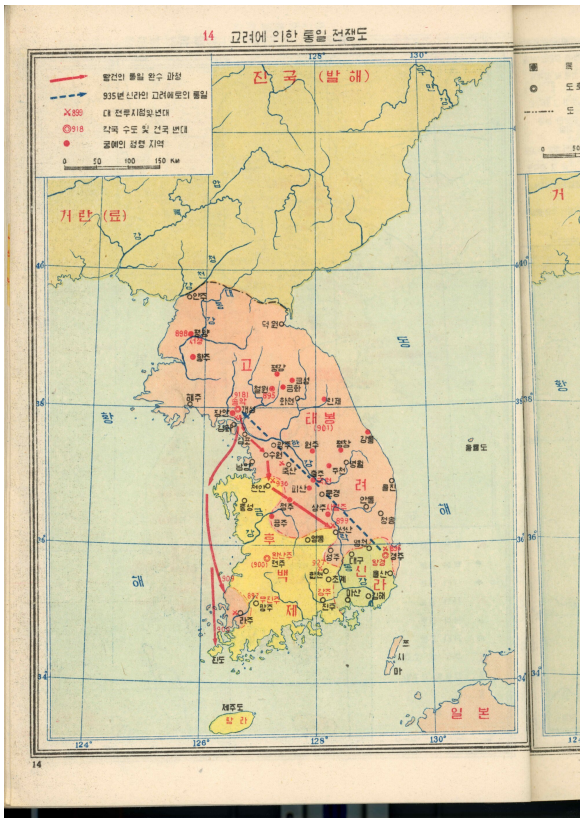

Figure 2: Plate from the 1961 *Chosŏn ryŏksa chidoch'ŏp*: *kodae, chungse p'yŏn*, depicting unification led by Koryŏ (*Koryŏ ŭihan t'ongil ch'ŏnjangdo*, 고려 의한 통일 천장도).

1. Locations of primitive communal society material relics
2. Ancient tribes (*chongjok*) and states
3. Development of the Three Kingdoms at the end of the fourth century
4. Three Kingdoms from the middle of the sixth to the middle of the seventh century
5. Koguryŏ repulsion of Sui and Tang invasions
6. Relics in the Pyongyang area
7. Relics in the Ji'an, Puyŏ, Kongju areas
8. Silla unification war
9. Silla international relations during the eighth and ninth century
10. Silla administrative division during the eighth century
11. Late ninth and early tenth-century peasants' uprisings
12. Relics in the Kyŏngju area
13. Locations of Three Kingdoms and Unified Silla material relics
14. Koryŏ unification war
15. Koryŏ five provinces and two frontier regions
16. Koryŏ repulsion of Khitan invasions
17. Peasants' uprisings at the end of the twelfth century
18. Thirteenth- and fourteenth-century resistance to Mongol invasions
19. Relics in the Kaesŏng area
20. Fifteenth- and sixteenth-century administrative division
21. 1467 Hamgyŏng peasants' uprising
22. 1592–1598 Patriotic War (1), 1592–1593
23. 1592–1598 Patriotic War (2), Yi Sunsin's fleet battles
24. 1592–1598 Patriotic War (3), 1597–1598
25. Relics in the Seoul area
26. 1811–1812 Peasants' War in Pyŏngan Province

Book Structure

1. Content form and media type area
2. Title and statement of responsibility area, consisting of:
   1. Title proper: *Chosŏn ryŏksa chidoch'ŏp* 조선 력사 지도첩
   2. Parallel title
   3. Other title information: *ch'ogŭp chunghakkyo mit kogŭp chunghakkyo yong* 초급 중학교 및 고급 중학교 용
   4. Statement of responsibility: Ch'ae Hŭiguk, Ri Yongjung, Kim Saŏk, Kim Kyŏngin

Bibliographic Entries

- **Chosŏn ryŏksa chidoch'ŏp** (Atlas of Korean History) / Ch'ae Hŭiguk, Ri Yongjung, Kim Saŏk, Kim Kyŏngin. Pyongyang: Kyoyuk tosŏ ch'ulp'ansa, 1956. ii, 45 pages: 45 illustrations; 30×22 cm. No ISBN; DPRK number ㄱ—30353; DPRK wŏn 91.00; 40 000 copies.

- **Chosŏn ryŏksa chidoch'ŏp: kodae, chungse p'yŏn** (Atlas of Korean History: Ancient and Medieval Times) / ??. 2nd edition. Pyongyang: Kyoyuk tosŏ ch'ulp'ansa, 1956. i, 26 pages: ?? illustrations; 25.5×18 cm. No ISBN; DPRK number 교—1215; DPRK wŏn 71.00; 66 000 copies.