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Title: The Formation of New Social Order in Early Koryo

The paper unveils the historical process through which the new Koryo social order, named the *songp'umje* () by this author, emerged while the old Silla aristocratic monopoly of power under the *kolp'umje* () of Unified Silla (668-935 CE) disintegrated during the societal transformation from Silla to Koryo (918-1392 CE). In particular, the paper examines the new power configuration, which had evolved out of the older aristocratic power alignment under the *kolp'um* order and had all the earmarks of a significant new socio-political development in the epochal transition from Ancient to Medieval Korea. Specifically, the paper takes up three aspects of this historic development, focusing on those factors that lent vital impetus to societal transformation, namely, diversification in the geopolitical power base of the aristocracy, change in the aristocratic marriage pattern, and reform in the ideological outlook of elite intellectuals.

First, the paper investigates the new regional centers created in Unified Silla as the bases of local governance to oversee the vast new territories acquired following the conquests of Paekche in 660 CE and Koguryo in 668 CE. The dispersal of Silla aristocratic officials to the new regional centers and their subsequent settlement there as local governing forces led to the creation of a regional replica of the age-old Silla central power structure previously limited to the capital Kumsong (Kyongju). This development, buttressed by the other two aspects of the historical development discussed below, resulted in a regional dispersion of the geopolitical power base of the Silla aristocracy that had evolved into the new alignment of power under the *songp'umje* of Koryo.

Second, the paper examines momentous changes in the Silla aristocratic marriage pattern, particularly among the resettled clans of the regional centers in order to unravel the nature of the transformation that had occurred in aristocratic marriage conventions in late Silla. A breakdown in the aristocratic marriage taboo across the *kolp'um* classes is evident in several known cases of inter-marriage between local elite families of Silla aristocratic background and of non-Silla aristocratic background, thus attesting to the process of disintegration in the hereditary base of the aristocratic monopoly of power under the Silla *kolp'um* order.