

# EARLY HISTORY OF KOREA-RUSSIA RELATIONS: THE MISSION OF KOREA OFFICIALS TO PRIMORSKY RUSSIA IN 1884-1885

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In August 1884 the France-China war was broken out. Japan used this situation for expanding its influence in Korea. There wasn't any doubt in aggressive intention of Japanese government towards Korea after the coup, which occurred in December 1884. Moreover, the influence of government officials, who came out in favor of opening of the country (*kehvapha* group), reduced. At the same time noticeably increased the profound effect of China towards Korea.

In this situation the Emperor Kwang-Mu of Great Han Empire (frequently referred to as King Kojong), bearing in mind to find out the alternative power which could help to protect the country from the encroachment of other mighty powers (Japan and China mainly) upon Korea independence, sent in the end of 1884 a mission of four high officials to Russia Primorsky Territory, Vladivostok, namely Kim Young Won (金鏞元), Kwong Dong Su (權東壽), Kim Gwang Hong (金光訓) and others.

Upon returning to Korea members of the mission submitted to King Kojong a map of Primorsky Russia with description of their journey written in Chinese language.

Analysis of the Map and its description is the subject of the present paper: "Early History of Korea-Russia Relations: The Mission of Korea Officials to Primorsky Russia in 1884-1885".

As it is shown in the manuscript, there were many Koreans, who inhabited at that time in Primorsky. That's why the main idea of the work of Korean officials was to describe to the King how the Koreans lived in Russia. The created Map consists of 10 big (A-3 format) folios. The places where Koreans were living are shown in it. Besides there are drawn up the disposition of Russia's military camps, its artillery fortification, cavalry disposition, and other military installations.

The Map of Russia Primorsky Territory and accompanied description assumed to be one of the first documents related to the early history of Russia-Korea relations.