

Considerations for Chosŏn Volume: Cambridge History of Korea
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In this portion of the roundtable discussion I will address a number of writing, editorial, and production issues we have or expect to encounter for the Chosŏn volume of the Cambridge History (CHK). Below, I will touch on only a few of the many issues I intend to discuss. To begin, Korea's absence from the Cambridge series is embarrassing. A Korea Cambridge series is long overdue. The expected publication date of the Korea series (2020) will be forty years after the publication of the first Cambridge History of China and thirty years after Japan. While the CHK series will be more modest than the China and even Japan series, fifteen volumes and six volumes respectively, the lengths of each of the four volumes we are producing will be substantial, most likely over 800 pages each. Especially for the Chosŏn volume, we intend to turn the late arrival of the CHK to our advantage. The volume will reflect new trends in history absent or underrepresented in the China and Japan series. Like these earlier volumes, institutional and political history will be addressed in a number of early chronological chapters. But we are encouraging authors to tap into new research areas. For instance, our volume (as well as the other volumes in the series, we hope) will cover such areas as: gender, cultural, literary, global history, and maybe even environmental. I will elaborate on the pros and cons of this approach. Another issue I will raise at the roundtable will be authorship of chapters. In the current version of the proposal, we have assembled scholars from North America, Europe, and a few from Korea, most of them at the mid-career to senior level. We have tried to reach out to scholars who can write on the Chosŏn dynasty for an Anglo-speaking audience. As much as possible, Korea-based scholars were contacted to bring into the project. Understandably, this has been a difficult process considering the differences in academic writing styles between Korea and North America and English-language requirements (reading, writing, and engaging English-language research). I will elaborate on this point, discussing also the impediment of Korea's tenure system on such projects as the CHK. My talk will conclude by raising other editorial and production issues such as: Romanization and standardization of Korean terms; editorial reaction to the reader reports; the process of production, including workshops and peer review; and expected reaction to the Chosŏn volume.

Cambridge history series. China and Japan wiki pages on the Cambridge series. Does Korean have one? When will Korea get one?? It should have a wiki page just for all the drama. China: 15 volumes. Conceived in late 1960s. Published 1978 onwards. Japan: six volumes, initiated in 1970s, first came out in 1988. Korea: modest four volumes. (Put by 2020)

Dealing with old chapters?

The history of it is important to understand. Some obstacles to consider when putting together the book proposal. Many older chapters completed or partially completed. Some of those involved have passed away. Others don't want to revise their chapters. Still unclear how Cambridge will resolve this one issue. Under contract. Maybe just a little extra legal work. Also true for modern volume. This volume was completed, but it did not move forward when Palais passed away. All those chapters have to be updated too. Also now, Cambridge requires the volumes come out at the same time.

Reconceptualizing chapter? New themes to consider?

CH series, mostly reflected the interests of the time: institutional and political histories. But historiography has changed. We can incorporate new directions in the field broadly. We are planning on such themes: gender, cultural, literary, maybe environmental. Of course, the themes are all restricted by authors working in Chosŏn history. The farther back we go, fewer people working on Korea. We recognize the necessity of reaching out to colleagues in South Korea and we have. But one problem has

been the target audience. Tenure system in South Korea interferes. Professors are in pursuit of research points yearly for articles and books. This dissuades scholars in Korea from investing years into producing a book chapter. A book chapter does not gain many research points. More points are allocated for scholars publishing in journals. There are more graduate students and junior scholars now working. But we've avoided approaching them because of their own tenure requirements. Generally, tenure requires a book-length project rather than a book chapter. Unless they are advanced in their manuscripts, they should be approached with caution.

We have a real chance to provide some updated scholarship on institutions, the political system and the economy. These are all vital for scholars, researchers, and students unable to read Korean but wish to incorporate these into their work, classes or studies. With the series coming out late, this also provides us with some opportunities. Unlike the Chinese and Japanese volumes, we can incorporate new research trends. This particular is an exciting time for Korean Studies, and can potentially make an impact broadly. One example is the incorporation of global history. Being last equals cutting edge. Late developer

The reviews for the volume proposal are positive with comments on how to improve the content. The editors are still working through these comments to make appropriate changes or not. But one thing is certain, there is excitement for this project at all levels.