

## **Korean Government Interference in Japanese Domestic Affairs Is Untenable**

On June 29, 2009, the Society for the Dissemination of Historical Fact posted questions submitted to Lee Myung-bak, president of the Republic of Korea and Kwon Chul-hyun, ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Japan, by the Japanese Society for History Textbook Reform and translated into English on its website ([http://www.sdh-fact.com/CL02\\_321\\_S1.pdf](http://www.sdh-fact.com/CL02_321_S1.pdf)). Additionally, the Society for the Dissemination of Historical Fact distributed its newsletter (Attachment 1) to representatives of the news media, scholars and politicians throughout the world. Those questions concern gratuitous interference, by political means, with respect to historical fact — interference that we cannot overlook, precisely because our objective is the unbiased dissemination of historical fact.

Subsequently, the Society for History Textbook Reform sent a written request (Attachment 2) to Chung Jin, president of the Korean Residents Union in Japan.

The Japanese Society for History Textbook Reform set a deadline of June 30, 2009 for responses from Messrs. Lee and Kwon; and July 10, 2009 for a response from the headquarters of the Korean Residents Union in Japan.

As of today, July 14, 2009, the Japanese Society for History Textbook Reform has not received a response from any of the aforementioned parties. We assume that those to whom the Society posed its questions failed to respond because they are at a loss to provide answers. In other words, they have not extended the courtesy of a response because they are unable to demonstrate proof that their arguments are valid or reasonable.

Specifically, we interpret the silence on the part of President Lee and Ambassador Kwon as their acknowledgment of the following statements:

1. The government of the Republic of Korea denounced a textbook that cleared the Japanese government's screening process — a textbook that they obtained in a dishonest manner, or judged without ever having examined its contents.
2. The government of the Republic of Korea has failed to find any accounts in *A New History Textbook: Revised Edition*, published by Jiyusha, that are based on a “misguided historical perception - one that, even today, both rationalizes and glorifies past errors.”
3. The government of the Republic of Korea deems that there are no accounts in *A New History Textbook: Revised Edition*, published by Jiyusha, that would justify placing it in the same category as “some distorted history textbooks.”
4. The government of the Republic of Korea is receptive to the opinion expressed by the Japanese Society for History Textbook Reform, i.e., that interference in Japan's domestic affairs must cease, and will refrain from such interference in the future.

Furthermore, we interpret the silence on the part of Chung Jin, president of the Korean Residents Union in Japan, as his acknowledgement of the following statement.

Demands issued by organizations subordinate to the Korean Residents Union in Japan to 15 cities, 10 towns and two villages in Okayama Prefecture; and to the school board of Suginami Ward, Tokyo Prefecture, to the effect that *A New History Textbook: Revised Edition*, produced by the Japanese Society for History Textbook Reform and published by Jiyusha, should not be used, as it will “jeopardize the deepening of relations between Japan and the Republic of Korea,” were inappropriate. In the future, the Korean Residents Union in Japan will refrain from interfering in internal Japanese affairs.

The Society for the Dissemination of Historical Fact strongly disapproves of those who ignore or fail to respond to questions whose answers might cast the respondent in a bad light, and we are convinced that the conventional wisdom of the world agrees with us. We intend to include this document in our next newsletter, which we will transmit to representatives of the news media, scholars and politicians throughout the world.

Kase Hideaki  
Chairman

<Attachment 1>

SDHF Newsletter No. 14: Questions to the President of Korea from a Japanese Citizen's Group

Dear XXXX,

In response to the Korean "Spokesman's Statement" which protests the Japanese government authorization of a middle school history textbook, the Japanese Society for History Textbook Reform submitted questions to President of Korea on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009, as below;

[http://www.sdh-fact.com/CL02\\_3/21\\_S1.pdf](http://www.sdh-fact.com/CL02_3/21_S1.pdf)

Since we are concerned with historical truth and accuracy, we cannot tolerate the Korean government's intrusive demand for revision of Japanese textbook contents. It is quite reasonable that the Society asks, in their questions to the Korean government, to point out specifically which portions of the textbook are "misguided" or "distorted".

We eagerly await the Korean President's response, requested to appear no later than June 30, 2009.

Any questions are welcome.

Sincerely,

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Note: Japanese names are rendered surname first in accordance with customs in Japan

<Attachment 2>

July 3, 2009

TO: Chung Jin, President  
Korean Residents Union in Japan

FROM: Fujioka Nobukatsu, Chairman  
Japanese Society for History Textbook Reform

SUBJECT: *A New History Textbook: Revised Edition*

We would like to express our appreciation for your efforts toward strengthening the friendship between Japan and the Republic of Korea.

According to media coverage of *Mindan Shimibun*, the newspaper issued by the Korean Residents Union in Japan, organizations subordinate to yours have issued demands to 15 cities, 10 towns and two villages in Okayama Prefecture; and to the school board of Sugunami Ward, Tokyo Prefecture, to the effect that *A New History Textbook: Revised Edition*, produced by the Japanese Society for History Textbook Reform and published by Jiyusha, should not be used, as it will jeopardize the deepening of relations between Japan and the Republic of Korea. However, in no instance does the textbook in question distort history. In fact, to cite only one example, it concedes, unreservedly, that the Korean people strenuously resisted their loss of independence as a result of Japan's annexation of Korea (pp. 172-173).

Currently, school boards all over Japan are involved in the decision-making process regarding the textbooks to be adopted for use in the middle schools. Misguided activities, such as those in which your organization is engaging, clearly constitute interference in domestic Japanese affairs, overt hostility toward Jiyusha and the Japanese Society for History Textbook Reform, and sabotage, all of which go against the desire to promote "neighborly relations," as professed by the Korean Residents Union in Japan.

The Japanese Society for History Textbook Reform strongly protests this malicious interference in Japanese internal affairs, and demands that it cease immediately. Kindly advise us of your intentions in writing, using the enclosed return envelope, no later than July 10.

In the event that the activities described above do not cease, the Japanese Society for History Textbook Reform will take appropriate action, without fail.

The textbook in question cannot at present be obtained, since the decision-making process has not been completed. However, its contents appear in *A History Textbook for the Japanese* in their entirety, and thus can be easily consulted.