

History of Dokdo

■ Ancient and Period of Three Kingdoms

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The story of Usanguk(known as Dokdo now) was reported in [Silla Bongji]-King Jijeung 13years of 'Samguksagi' by Gim Busik, and [Yuljeon] Yisabujo. According to these documents, Ulleungdo and Usando(Dokdo) made into one sovereign. In King Jijeung 13 years(512), Usanguk was conquered by Yisabu with Yichan position, using the wood dolls. Hereby Ulleungdo and Usanguk(Dokdo) became a part of Korea territory as a part of the history. After that, Usanguk devoted their products to Silla every year, and also offered them to Goryeo even after the ruin of Silla, Usanguk people seemed to live in a group by half fishing and half farming according to its geographical feature and soil condition. Also, in spite of a low culture level the people seemed to communicate with Silla people through visiting. When a military approached to the village, the people rejected a submission, moving to top of a mountain but Yisabu brought them to his knees with stratagem when he was a sovereign of Haseullaju(known as Gangneung now). Usanguk was an antient tribe country, located in Ulleungdo, and its territory reached to Small islets around Dokdo and Ulleungdo. For a long time, Dokdo was the part of the Usanguk, and was possessed with Ulleungdo by Silla in King Jijeung 13 years.

■ Goryeo Dynasty

Goryeo Dynasty

The record of Usanguk was not found From conquering Usanguk in King Jijeung to early Goryeo Dynasty. In King Taejo 13 years(the first king of Goryeo Dynasty), Ulleungdo people named as Baekgil and Taedu and gave their products to Goryeo according to Goryeosa. In this document, Usanguk belonged to Goryeo since giving the official rank of Jeongjo from the government. In 1015 (King Hyeonjong 9 years). In 1015 (King Hyeonjong) Usanguk people damaged in the farming because Yeojin invaded Usanguk, so administrator, Yi Wongu provided farming tools to the Usanguk. Even in 4 years, because of continuous invasion of Yeojin, the people left their country and administrator of Myeongju(Gangneung now) gave foods. In King Seongjong, Usanguk belonged to the part of Goryeo, as government changed district system to Gunhyeonje. Besides in 1031(King Deokjong 1 year) The government used the name of a lord to 'Bueonaedarang'(son of the Ureung) who provided the native products to Gyoryeo. In 1140(King Injong 19 years) The governor of Myeongju devoted an unique Ureungdo products to the king, thus Ureungdo transferred to district area that the governor of Myeongjo managed. According to 'Goryeosa, king Uijong 11 years(1156)' Ureungdo, located in the middle of East sea, has a rich land and the government has a plan to establish 'Juhyeon' 'so the king sent Gim Yurip (one of the Myeongju managers) to Ureungdo in order to research the area. However, it was resulted as the Ureungdo was not suitable to live because of so many rocks so the government stoped the plan. In this way, Goryeo government was concerned about living in Ulleungdo and Dokdo, by transferring these area to local government. According to Yeojiji of Jeungbomunheonbigo, The government had the plan to live in the Ulleungdo again because Choe chungheon (King Myeongjong 27years, 1197) said that Ulleungdo has the rich lands, unique trees and a lot of marine products. But

because of heavy wind and wave boats were overturned and people died, so the government stopped the plan (sending the people to the area for living). Due to invasion of pirate and unsuitable environment to live, the area became like manless island.

■ Joseon Dynasty

Joseon Dynasty

In Joseon Dynasty, the recognition of Dokdo was more clear and obvious. According to Taejongsillok, "in King Taejong 7 years (1407) Jong Jeongmu, the guardian of Daemado entreated the king to allow staying in Mureungdo of East sea." Through this, the government took an interest in Ulleungdo and was aware of existence of small island next Ulleungdo. King Taejong took 'Gongdo policy'(leaving the island) in order for provision against invasion of Japan. In spite of the strong action, Japanese fishermen kept fishing and some people escaped from the country. In King Sejong Dokdo was called as 'Usando'. In 1425(King Sejong 7years) the government appointed Gim Inu to official title-Usanmureungdeungcheoanmusa and let him manage Ulleungdo and Dokdo. According to Sejongillok, 'Dokdo located with Ulleungdo in East sea of Ullinhyeon and two islands saw each other in clear sky. it was called as Usan.' Practically in order to see Dokdo from Ulleungdo, it was seen in height 120m ground, Dokdo was seen up to 93mile in the top of 'Seonginbong' In 1493 (King Sejong 21years) "Jong Jeongmu, a guard of Daemado, devoted the products by sending Pyeong-Dojun and asked to migrate....." But it was rejected "there will be damaged surely"

Dokdo was called as 'Sambongdo' in King Seongjong. On 1476(King Seongjong 7 years) 12 people including Gim Jaju arrived in Sambongdo, but they were afraid and did not land because there were 30 people in at the mouth of the island. They drew the map of Sambongdo, in 7-8 ri away from the island, and then came back. With this map, it was obvious that Sambongdo was a different island and this island was Dokdo (named as Usando)

Dokdo was called as Jasando in King Sukjong. In 1693(King Sukjong 19years). Japanese fishermen appeared around Dokdo and Ulleungdo, and so An Yongbok, fisherman of Dongnae crossed to Japan and asked the affirmation of ' Dokdo is Joseon territory'. After that, the fishing of japanese was prohibited around Ulleungdo and Dokdo. With this opportunity, the government told to investigate Dokdo thoroughly reported every 3 years After this happened, Makbu period perished in 1868 and, up to Meiji period, Japan did not make an objection about Ulleungdo and Dokdo, the part of Joseon territory.

Dokdo was called as 'Gajido' in King Jeongjo. Because Ulleungdo people named fur seals to Gaje and there were many fur-seals. That was why Dokdo was called as Gajido. In 1794(King Jeongjo 19 years). According to search report of Ulleungdo wandering people' by Han Changguk "While sailing to Gajido form Ulleungdo, four or five Gaje jumped in surprise around the island, and the form was like a water buffalo. An hunter shot and caught two of them. Since 1876 Japanese fishermen turned up to Dokdo and Ulleungdo, so Joseon government protested strictly in 1881 (King Gojong 18 years) and accepted an apology from Japan. In 1895(King Gojong 32years), the government dispatched Bae Gyeju (Ulleungdo person) as changing

'Dojang' to 'Dokam'. Even though the Joseon government was concerned about the protect of Ulleungdo area, Japanese kept illegal invasion and reckless deforestation in political and economical division. On Oct. 1899 based on Ulleungdo investigators, the government changed the names form 'Ulleungdo' to 'Uldo' and 'Dokam' to 'Gunsu' and took steps to deal with the situation. Dokdo in Joseon Dynasty belonged to certain administrative district, based on geographical recognition.

■ Before Liberation

Before Liberation

After changing to Daehan Empire (1898) the government dispatched investigators to Ulleungdo because of illegal invasion and reckless deforestation of Japan, and then realized that a group influx and the reckless deforestation were serious. In evidence of 177 people in 400 houses and 7700 patch of farming land, the government announced ' imperial ordinance No 41 on 25th Nov. 1900. The government changed its name from 'Ulleungdo' to 'Uldo' and from Dokam to Gunsu. This imperial ordinance No. 41 was reported in official gazette No. 1716. The government established Ulleunggun with Ulleungdo, located in Uljinhyeon of Gangwon province, and surrounding islets. And it reorganized administrative district system and let the Koon-head manage Ulleungdo and Dokdo. The order No. 2 said ' location of 'Koon' office was in Taehadong and the district named as 'Sa' covered Ulleung, Jukdo, and Sukdo. At this time, Sukdo designated Dokdo. Ulleungdo people called dol to dok, so they called dolseom to dokseom. The government was reported that the people called 'Usando' to Dokdo from investigators and inscribed 'sukdo' by translating 'Dokseom' freely. The name 'Dokdo' was used at first in Order No. 3 of 29th Apr. 1906 as Dokdo, the name of the present day. it said "it is groundless to say Dokdo is Japan territory". The government indicated to investigate and report the Dokdo's situation and Japan's action.

■ After Liberation

After Liberation

Korea, Taking back a sovereignty with restoration of independence on 15th Aug. 1945, implement academic investigation about biology and geography of Dokdo, with Korea mountaineering club in 1947. On 18th Jan. 1952 the president, Lee Seungman announced 'president declaration of sovereignty of surrounding oceans' and the Peace line included Dokdo. On 20th Apr. 1953 Hong Sunchil organized Dokdo volunteer garrison (33 people) and beat off the Japanese landing to Dokdo. Also He handed over the mission after guarding until 1956. Dokdo beacon lamp lighted at the first on 15th Aug. 1954 and the government informed the establishment of Dokdo lighthouse, in the world. From 30th Sep. to 22nd Oct. Korea navy measured Dokdo and stored an original map in navy headquarters. On 1989 "Taking care of beautiful Dokdo" club was organized and planted trees in order to be acknowledged internationally (reference: there should be tree, water and man for international official recognition), so at present, 1994 1500 trees are growing in spites of contemptible environment. Besides, from Mar. 1992 to Apr. 1994 KBS Dokdo documentary productions stayed and recorded the precious Dokdo's ecosystem with video. They broadcasted it with title 'Dokdo's 365 days' on television.

On 1982 the Ministry of Environment designated 'a breeding place of Dokdo marine algae as a natural monument No. 336 and designated as preserved places of ecosystem. In addition, 'Dokdo museum was opened displaying a lot of materials of Dokdo in Yaksu park, Dodong, Ulleungdo on Aug. 1997. On Nov. 1997 'Dokdo pier facilities was built and it provided convenience to visitors and the guards in Dokdo.

■ Historical figure related to Dokdo

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Yi Chan/Yi Sabu

"If you don't surrender, I shall let you die with this wild lions" Yi Sabu was the 4th generation offspring of King Naemul had surname of 'Gim'. He became since the sovereign of Siljikju(Samcheok) in King Jijeung 6 years (505) the sovereign of Haseullaju(Gangneung) in King Jijeung 13 years and tried to conquer Usanguk. Yi Sabu realized that it was difficult to make them surrender with a force because Usanguk people were wild and touch, and he thought a certain trick. He made wood lions and then carried them in a ship. He treated near Usanguk shore by saying "If you don't surrender, I will let you die by these wild lions."

And then Usanguk people surrendered without resistance as he thought, and they devoted tributes every year. Yi Sabu, after that, became Yi Chan (2nd rank among 17ranks of Silla) in King Jinheung 2 years (541) and published the national history by Geochilbu, suggesting the importance of publish of the history to the king (King Jinheung 6 years).

An Yongbok, the pioneer of ocean sovereignty

"How dare you intrude our territory?" According to Sukjongsillok, An yongbok gathered 16 fishermen and went to Ulleungdo in 1696. Japanese fishing boats were at anchor in Ulleungdo. An yongbok seen this, shouted "Ulleungdo is our territory. How dare you violated. You deserved to tie up. Japanese replied "We came to catch fisheries by accident here and we will return to Songdo." But he shouted and scolded "Songdo is also our territory. How dare you say you live in there?" When going to Usando dawn of next day, Japanese fishermen cooked with fishes. He scolded and kick them out. An Yongbok followed them and went to Ohkido. The governor of Ohkido asked the reason to come there, and he answered loudly "Several years ago, I had visited to confirm 'Ulleung and Jasan are Joseon territory' and I had accepted a document from governor. How dare you invade our territory. How rude you are!" Governor of Ohkidoju said that he would report the protest of An Yongbok to his senior officer, Baek Giju. But There was no response from him. An Yongbok decided to negotiate with him in person directly, He negotiated with Taesu under the assumed name of governor of Uleung Jasan He said " If you continue to invade our territory, in spite of the document last time, I will appeal to the governor" Baek Giju allowed the offenses and at the same time, promised that If anybody here invades your territory, I will punished heavily. Baek Giju was together when Gwanbaek informed 'Ulleungdo and Jasado are the part of Joseon and sent 'Hyeongbudaebo' Activity of An Yongbok was successful. The governor of Daemado informed Gwanbaek's decision, by sending Hyeongbudaebopyeongseongsang to Joseon on Jan. 1697. In 1699 through the final diplomatic documents, all steps for confirming 'Ulleungdo and Dokdo are Joseon territory' were completed. At the end of 17th century, Japan's plan to put Dokdo into Japan territory, failed completely and two countries confirmed 'Ulleungdo and Dokdo were Joseon territory.

Yi Gyuwon

As an officer of Joseon Dynasty. in 1882(King Gojong 19yrs) Yi Gyuwon(governor of Ulleungdo) was mad about illegal invasion and deforestation of Japan, and sign saying 'Japan's territory'. He suggested that sending a protestation letter to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Japan, as well as protesting to Japanese representatives. Thus, king Gojong stoped his Gongdo policy (leaving the island) and started to develop Dokdo. The government keep protesting to Japanese government As a result of spot investigation of Ulleungdo (manless island) through the Gongdo policy of Joseon Dynasty, it was found that Japanese fishermen caught fisheries and deforested, so investigators censured them and kick them out. After that, the government sent the official documents and took strong actions migrating to Ulleungdo.

Hong Jaehyeon Family

Hong Jaehyeon was a minister of finance in Joseon Dynasty and settled down with grand father exiled to Ulleungdo. He drove the Japanese away and went to Japan to let them know 'Dokdo is Joseon's territory. After that, his son (Hong Jonguk) coped with continuous invasion of Japan. Also Grandson (Hong Sunchil) was a leader of 'Dokdo volunteer garrison'. Hong Jaehyeon family defended Dokdo over the period of 3 generation.

Hong Sunchil

3 years activity of 'Dokdo volunteer garrison' was told with legendary story. The reason why discharged soldiers with leader, Hong Sunchil (died in 1987) organized the garrison was because Japan built the sign of the 'Japanese territory' in Dokdo while the Korean War. Thus, Hong Sunchil(a residence of Ulleungdo) organized 'Dokdo volunteer garrison with a trench mortar. a heavy machine gun and M1 rifle from the chief of a Ulleungdo police station, and then was stationed in Dokdo on 1953. After that, 3 Japanese fleets treated them but the fleets were repulsed.

Choe Jongdeok

As Japan insisted the Dokdo's dominium, Choe Jongdeok showed his love about Dokdo by transferring his resident registration to Ulleung-eup, Do-dong, San 67, the edge of a precipice. He prepared an underwater storehouse and developed fertilizing method of an abalone and special fishing net. Also he excavated a spring water called as 'Mulgol in middle basin of Seodo. He past away in 1987.

Choe Jungi

As son-in-law of Choe Jongdeok, Choe Jungi who stayed in Ulleungdo, carried on wishes of father-in-law and took over the right for catching the fisheries in Dokdo on July 1986. He moved to Donghae of Gangwon province in 1992.

■ Dokdo Documents in Korea history

Dokdo Documents in Korea history

a. document of Samguksagi (512)

"On June in King Jijeung 13years (512) Usanguk surrendered and devoted their local products year after year. Usanguk, island located in the middle of sea in

Jeongdong of Myeongju, was named as Ulleungdo. The government appointed Yichan, Yi Sabu as a governor of Aseullaju and he caused Usanguk to surrender....."

b. document of Sejongsillokjiriji (1432)

"Usan, Mureung, two islands were located in the middle of Jeongdong in Uljinhyeon. Because two islands were located closely, they can see each other in clear sky. In Silla Dynasty, it was called as Usanguk."

c. document of Goryeosa Jiriji (1451)

"Ulleungdo located in the middle of East Sea, was called as Usanguk. Also it was named as Mureung or Usan..... According to another view it was said that Usan and Mureung were originally two islands located closely, so they could see each other in clear sky."

d. Sinjeungdonggukyeojiseungram (1531)

"Usando and Ulleung (Mureung or Ureung) were located in the middle of East sea..... According of another view, it was said that Usan, Ulleung were the same island."

e. Sukjongsillok (1728)

"At the end of 17 century An Yongbok, visited twice to Japan in order to settle the Ulleungdo dispute, said that Songdo, that is, Jasando was also our territory and Ulleungdo, Jasando were Joseon's territory."

f. Gojido

After 'Paldochongdo' of 'Sinjeungdonggukyeojiseungram' Usando was drawn exactly on the east of Ulleungdo(Dokdo location now) in 'Dongguk'map by Jeong Sanggi, Haejwajeondo (1822) and 'Joseonjeondo by Gim Daegeon (1846), and thus it is shown that Usando is Dokdo.

g. Imperial Ordinance No. 41 of Daehan Empire

Japan invaded Ulleungdo and deforested, so the Daehan government sent U Yongjeong to Ulleungdo for researching an actual situation in 1899. The government knew the reckless deforestation of Japan from the research result of U Yongjeong, made a protest to Japanese minister, and then promoted Ulleungdo to 'Gun' in Uijeongbu conference on 24th Nov.1990 in order to cope with Japan's invasion, the government promulgated this contents in Imperial Ordinance No. 41 on 25th Nov. and then reported in an official gazette. On this Imperial Ordinance No. 2, it said that district office was located in Taejadong, and zones covered Ulleungdo, Juk and Seokdo. At present Jukdo was the island located very close to Ulleungdo called as Juksu or Jukdo. The Seokdo was named as Dokdo. Dokdo, called as Dolseom or Dokseom, was written as Seokdo by translating in Chinese.

h. document in the General Headquarters of the Allied Forces

With unconditional surrender of Japan, the General headquarters of the Allied forces took a charge of the control of Japan. Also, on 29th Jan. 1946 it informed 'the note mentioned that separating some surrounding areas from Japan politically and administratively, to Japanese government, by restricting the their administrative areas. As Imperial ordinance No 3 said ".....And the exceptions are

Wotsuryo(Ulleungdo), Liangkureuam(Takesima), Kwelpalteu(Saishu or Jejudo)...."
Therefore, Dokdo was excepted from Japanese territory.

i. Peace Line Proclamation

The government announced 'president declaration about sovereignty of Korean oceans' as Notification No.2 of a minister of state on 18th Jan. 1952. Through this declaration (Eastern line of demarcation is up to 37° 1' 18" of the north latitude and 132° 50' of the east longitude) Dokdo located in 37° 1' 18" of the north latitude and 131° 52' 22" of the east longitude was obviously within jurisdiction. Dokdo belongs to Korean territory.

■ Dokdo with the change of the names

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a. Usando

Dokdo's history has the change of the names. Dokdo was conquered with Ulleungdo in King Jijeung 13 years of Silla. Some Japanese insisted that Dokdo was not conquered. However Ulleungdo people as fishermen caught the fishes in the closed island(Dokdo waters), so there was no wonder that Ulleungdo exercised the possessive right of Dokdo and Dokdo was the part of Usanguk obviously. After that, it was called as Ureungdo and Usanguk and then due to the ruin of Usanguk, the Usando was used as the name including Ulleungdo, Juksaedo and Dokdo. Even in this process, it was used together with Ulleungdo, Ureungdo, Mureungdo. But these (Ulleungdo, Ureungdo, Mureungdo) were used together and these names said Ulleungdo, that is, Ulleung areas including surrounding islands, not only Ulleungdo. At this time, the name of district was changed to the name of specific island (eg. Usando to Ulleungdo, Mureungdo to Dokdo). the name of the large island was called as Ulleungdo since Silla Dynasty, so it was known that Usando was Dokdo.

b. Sambongdo

The name of 'Sambongdo' appeared in Seongjongsillok. That is, since a government received a report from Yi Gyeson, the governor of Yeongando, the government appointed Bak Jongwon as Jyungchakwan of Sambongdo and asked him to recall the Sambongdo people. Also the government sent Jeong Manjong to Sambongdo for the investigation, but Gim Hangyeong and other people had to come back due to heavy seas.

c. Gajido

In Jeongjosillok(King Jeongjo 18 years, June), "while going to Gajido on 26th, there were four or five animals which were surprised like a rhinoceros. The hunters shot and caught two of them." So Dokdo was called as Gajido. Fur seals lived in Dokdo and they were called as Gaji. It seemed that Gaji was written in Chinese character. The first person who called Gajido to Dokdo was Choe Namseon.

d. Yodo

There is a phrase saying "nobody hasn't visited to island where is located in North of Mureungdo" on Gyeongjajo of Seongjongsillok (King Seongjong 4 years, Jan.). This island designated Dokdo because there was no island near Ulleungdo except Dokdo.

e. Dokdo

In modern times, Japan invaded Ulleungdo illegally and deforested, so Daehan government dispatched U Yongjeong to investigate the actual situations, and then proclaimed the Imperial ordinance No. 41 (promoting Ulleungdo to 'Gun', administrative district) on 25th Oct. 1900. This imperial ordinance No. 2 mentioned that Gun office was called as Seokdo officially including Ulleungdo, Jukdo and Seokdo. After that, when in 1904m the Japanese fleet, Niedeaka wrote in an action diary, that Korean people used the word of Dokdo. In 1905 Japan put Dokdo into Sinema-hyeon, and Kanjaleeyositaro team came to notify that Dokdo was a part of Japan, on 29th Mar. 1906. Through the notice said " Dokdo, the part of Japan, is 100 ri away from the country...." Japan used the name of Dokdo. Ulleungdo people called Dokdo as Dokseom or Dorseom, and it's Chinese characters were Seokdo or Dokdo.