

How Takeshima got into trouble.

Properly speaking,

A peace treaty (*1) was signed after the Pacific War ended. The Republic of Korea (ROK) insisted that Takeshima was its territory and requested the United States to amend the draft treaty. However, the United States refused that claim (*2), and the peace treaty confirmed that Takeshima was Japanese territory.

- ※1 **The San Francisco Peace Treaty** was signed on **September 8, 1951** and took effect on **April 28, 1952**. Article 2 (a) Japan, recognizing the independence of Korea, renounces all right, title and claim to Korea, including the islands of Quelpart, Port Hamilton and Dagelet.
- ※2 **The U.S. reply (the Rusk Note)**
“As regards the island of Dokdo, otherwise known as Takeshima or Liancourt Rocks, this normally uninhabited rock formation was according to our information never treated as part of Korea and, since about 1905, has been under the jurisdiction of the Oki Islands Branch Office of Shimane Prefecture of Japan. The island does not appear ever before to have been claimed by Korea.”

But...

Then, before the peace treaty entered into effect, the ROK's President Syngman Rhee suddenly declared the “Syngman Rhee Line” (declaration concerning maritime sovereignty) and the ROK incorporated Takeshima into the ROK side of the line. That was the genesis of the Takeshima controversy.

Takeshima was enclosed within the Syngman Rhee Line.

Even after the Syngman Rhee Line was abolished, the ROK has continued to unlawfully occupy Takeshima by force and prevent Japanese from approaching.

What is the Rusk Note?

This Note, dated August 10, 1951, was the formal reply to a written request presented by the ROK government to the U.S. government about the draft peace treaty. Since it was signed “for the Secretary of States” by the Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs Dean Rusk, it is referred to as the “Rusk Letter.”

