

Part 1:

Introduction:

This paper will deal with the life and times of the Korean patriot of Ahn Joong Gun. It will thus be necessary to examine the final years of the Yi Dynasty and the Tonghak rebellion. The Tonghak rebellion is significant to this paper for two reasons: (a) Ahn Joong Gun was a member of Tonghak and participated in the rebellion and (a) the Tonghak uprising was central to the Japanese encroachment into Korea. The paper will also give a detailed examination of Ito Hiro Bumi, the first Japanese Governor General of Korea who was assassinated by Ahn Joong Gun.

Isolation Under the Yi Dynasty:

The Yi Dynasty (also called the Choson Dynasty) was the last and longest-lived imperial dynasty (1392–1910) of Korea. Founded by General Yi Song-gye, who established the capital at Hanyang (present-day Seoul), the kingdom was named Choson after the state of the same name that had dominated the Korean peninsula in ancient times. But the regime is also frequently referred to as the Yi dynasty, after its ruling family.

After the overthrow of the Mongols in China and the founding of the Ming Dynasty, a rebellion led by the former Koryo general, Yi Song-Gye purged Mongol influences in Korea and established the new Yi Dynasty in 1392. The Yi reign was characterized by a ruling ideology based upon Confucianism, and the relative suppression of Buddhism which had so characterized the Shilla Dynasty. There were numerous impressive cultural accomplishments during this period including the further development of Korean ceramics. Conflict with the Japanese marred this period, exemplified by the Hideyoshi invasion of 1592, during which Admiral Yi Sun-Shin's famous "turtle ships", the world's first iron-clad warships, inflicted great damage on the Japanese war fleet. During the Japanese invasions, many temples and palaces were destroyed, and a large number of intellectuals and craftsmen, especially the highly-prized ceramics experts, were kidnapped and taken to Japan, where they greatly influenced the development of Japanese art. Late in the 19th Century, the strategic location of the Korean peninsula again made the country an attractive target for neighbouring powers of Russia, China, and Japan. Japan emerged as the victor in this competition, defeating the Chinese Manchu Dynasty in the Sino-Japanese War of 1895 and the Russian Empire in the Russo-Japanese War of 1905. Helped by the dynastic decline of the Yi, which was weakened by factional bureaucratic feuds, the Japanese established a "protectorate" over the Kingdom in 1905, finally proclaiming outright annexation in 1910. Korea then fell under a hated Japanese colonial administration for 36 years, during which Korean culture and language were brutally suppressed.

Tonghak:

By the mid-nineteenth century, Choson was a nation with an uncertain future. Increased aggressiveness by the Western powers in China and Japan were already beginning to shake the very foundations of East Asian civilizations. Increasing visits by Western warships to Choson's waters and the approaching threat of foreign intervention contributed to a general atmosphere of unrest and fear among the population. Famines and epidemics plagued the country. Uprisings, peasant rebellions and yangban (the aristocratic landed class) protests made it clear that no government reform policy could ever salvage the growing moral decay and deeply rooted political, social and economic problems. The country was ripe for a major historic transformation. As happened in virtually every other great historic movement, including Christianity, the transformation took root in the very rubble of society.

The Choson Dynasty suffered from large-scale revolts of the peasant masses in the northwest (1811-12) and southwest (1862 and 1894-95). The revolt of 1894-95, known as the Tonghak Rebellion, had international repercussions. Like the Taiping rebels in China thirty years earlier, the Tonghak (literally, Eastern learning, an indigenous religious movement founded by Ch'oe Che-u in the early 1860s) participants were fired by religious fervour as well as by indignation about the corrupt and oppressive government. Tonghak "Eastern Learning" was, and still remains currently as a Korean religion which preaches the ideal of Eastern teachings and the removal of western culture and religion (Christianity) from society. The belief system strove to remove foreign influences from Korea and aid the peasantry in diminishing a corrupt government and class discrimination.

The Korean government's execution of Tonghak's founder Ch'oe Che'u in 1894 allowed for Ch'oe Si-Hyong to lead the Tonghak movement. Ch'oe Si-Hyong emphasized the importance of recruiting new converts and in turn appealed to the population of Korean peasantry. He intelligently focused his attention upon the peasantry who made up the majority of the Korean population and needed an alternative source to better their lives. Tonghak provided the peasantry a voice within their own country against the hostility of the yangban class and the presence of foreign powers within Korea. In a series of gatherings and public protests, the Tonghak forced the government to recognize its identity and aim. Tonghak followers acted as though a social reform organization rather than religious. The peasants amassed to a crowd of 20,000 to rally for the end of their suppression and the "crusade to expel the Japanese and Westerners." Such protests in Seoul and Cholla drew new members to the "faith" as word of Tonghak's power spread.

In 1894, the Tonghak peasantry broke out into their first violent protest in Kobu county, against the justice Cho Pyong-gap. Cho Pyong-gap suppressed the peasantry under his regime and extorted money from them through taxes and unpaid labour dues. The Tonghak took action as their forces took control of the county office, redistributed the collected taxes to the peasantry, and stole weaponry to fuel their crusade against unjust treatment. The Korean government received the information surrounding the Tonghak uprising and in turn detained and ended many of those who had participated in the unlawful actions. The Tonghak in response rallied its followers to take arms. The importance of equality to the peasantry was stressed here as they fought without formal training but with their ideals. Several thousands came to the aid of the Tonghak cause as its irregular army rose to a significant force. Armed with few rifles, this army's weaponry consisted mainly of bamboo spears and swords as its forces wrapped cloth about their heads and waists to signal unity. The Tonghak army fought under a yellow flag the words "sustain the people and provide for the people", as its commander Chon Pong-jun planned for battle.

The Tonghak rebels defeated, contrary to expectation, the government forces as their repeated victories allowed its forces to conquer several southern counties, while recruiting increasing numbers of soldiers. The government put forth a force of 800 elite officers to expel the Tonghak's infantry of 10,000, but failed to make an impression upon the rebels. Half of the elite soldiers deserted and lost their privilege to be known as a Korean. The Korean government recognized their inability to contend the Tonghak rebellion and looked toward China for foreign aid. Chinese forces acted without hesitation and amassed its forces in Korea. When Japan heard of the arrival of Chinese troops in Asan Bay they reacted by deploying their army to confront the Chinese presence. To justify their arrival, the Japanese designated China's actions as dissent from the Li-Into Convention.

The presence of the two competing countries created a hostile environment as their focus was not to assist Korea but to take control of the government's direction. Furthermore, the Tonghak rebels agreed to a treaty designed by the government to acknowledge the Tonghak's terms to end class discrimination and to remove the presence of foreigners. The peace treaty dispersed

the Tonghak forces yet the Chinese and Japanese did not. Both countries had economic issues in Korea as the two countries competed for the market to sell their goods. In recent years preceding the confrontation, Japan had lost its control over the Korean market to China. Their confrontation within Korea led to the Sino-Japanese War as the two forces battled for control of Korea. China needed the victory in order to re-establish their failing presence in Asia. After an earlier sequence of events, China lost its status among fellow Asian countries, as it was no longer the powerful state it had once been. In Chinese minds the defeat of Japan would quell their rising status as a modern world power, and raise the moral of the Chinese population. Japan could not be allowed to dominate Asia. The victory over the Japanese would provide a firm hold over the Korean market and increase Chinese revenue. However, Japan needed the victory in Korea to fuel its imperialistic mind set. By gaining control over Korea, Japan would be recognized within Western society as worthy of recognition. Korea was a crucial step in fulfilling Japan's aspirations to be a modern world power. Within Korea, Japan's failing presence in the economy, comparatively to preceding years, provided another motive to defeat China. Internally, the Japanese population looked upon itself as a superior to fellow countries which produced nationalism and large support of the government. These beliefs needed to be sustained by a victory. The Japanese defeated the Chinese forces and in turn established hegemony over Korea, in accordance to the Treaty of Shimonoseki. The Sino-Japanese War of 1894-95 also accelerated the demise of the Qing Dynasty in China.

In response to the Japanese victory and dominance, the Tonghak rebels regrouped in an effort to remove Japan's presence from Korea. Yet the modern army of Japan defeated the rebellion and ended the peasant army's aim to secure an independent nation.

The Growth of Japanese Influence:

With the arrival of Japanese and Western traders in the 19th century, the Korean rulers tried to prevent the opening of the country to foreign trade by closing the borders, earning Korea its nickname of the Hermit Kingdom. Beginning in 1876, the Japanese forced a series of Western-style trade agreements on Korea, leading to Japan's eventual annexation of the country in 1910. Due to growing anti-Japanese sentiment King Kojong declared himself to be emperor of the Taehan Empire (in 1897). However, during the Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905), Japanese forces moved onto the peninsula, despite Korean declarations of neutrality. The signing of the Japan-Korea Protection Treaty in 1905 gave Japan virtual control over Korea, and in 1910 a Korean royal proclamation announced the annexation by Japan. During its occupation, Japan built up Korea's infrastructure, especially the street and railroad systems. However, the Japanese ruled with an iron fist and attempted to root out all elements of Korean culture from society. People were forced to adopt Japanese names, convert to the Shinto (native Japanese) religion, and were forbidden to use Korean language in schools and business. The Independence Movement on March 1, 1919, was brutally repressed, resulting in the killing of thousands, the maiming and imprisoning of tens of thousands, and destroying of hundreds of churches, temples, schools, and private homes. During World War II, Japan siphoned off more and more of Korea's resources, including its people, to feed its Imperial war machine. Many of the forced labourers were never repatriated to Korea.

Part 2:

Ito Hirobumi:

In Japan Ito Hirobumi is regarded as one of the country's foremost statesman. He is famous for having resisted the conservatives and helping to modernize that country in the late 19th Century. The Japanese impression of Ito is a complete contrast the Korean one. In Japan he is viewed as an ally of Korea and a proponent of Korean development and modernization. Koreans recognise him as the key architect in the brutal Japanese annexation of their country.

Ito Hirobumi is often recognised as the outstanding figure in the modernization of Japan. As a young Choshu samurai, he was a xenophobe. In 1863 he visited Europe, studied science in England, and became convinced of the necessity of adopting Western ways. After the Meiji restoration Ito served in the ministries of foreign affairs, finance, and industry. He was a member of the mission sent abroad (1871) under Prince Iwakura to revise the unequal treaties with the Western powers and study Western technology. In 1873, Ito became a member of the ruling council and worked to modernize Japan and solidify the power of the oligarchs. By 1881 he forced Shigenobu Okuma to resign and thus became the foremost political power in Japan. In 1882 he headed the mission sent abroad to study foreign governments and "Western Constitutions" (many people believe he had already decided on the German model). Returning, he established a cabinet and civil service (1885) and a privy council (1888), which he headed (from 1888 to 1890 and 1903 to 1905).

Ito also supervised (1883-89) the drafting of the constitution of 1889 and was intimate adviser to the emperor. As prime minister (1892-96) he supported the Sino-Japanese War and negotiated the Treaty of Shimonoseki. After the Sino-Japanese War he became a supporter of party government, opposing Prince Yamagata. He was the first president of the Seiyukai party. He was again prime minister (1898, 1900-1901) and was involved in negotiations with Russia (see below). The resulting failure of these negotiations resulted in his push to increase military appropriations in Korea. From 1901 to 1913 the premiership alternated between his protégé, Kimochi Saionji, and Taro Katsura, a follower of Yamagata.

Ito Hirobumi and Korea:

Ito was to exert his influence on Korean affairs when he negotiated the 1885 Convention of Tienstin with the Chinese statesman Li Hung-chang. This treaty between China and Japan agreed a mutual troop withdrawal. The Japanese wanted to avoid a foreign war at this point until they had the opportunity to further develop their military establishment. When Emperor Kojong asked the Chinese court for aid in suppressing the Tonghak Rebellion of 1894, troops were sent to Korea. However, because Chinese troops were sent to Korea without informing Japan, the Japanese government claimed that the Convention of Tienstin was violated and attacked the Chinese on Korean soil. The resulting Sino-Japanese War of 1894-95 devastated Korea and with Japan's victory, Korea's traditional ties to China were severed.

During the 1890s, the rivalry between Russia and Japan over Korea had acquired a new momentum. The Yi Dynasty was on its last legs. In the aftermath of the Boxer rebellion in north China the Russians sent over 150,000 troops (1900-01) to Manchuria (under the pretence of guarding their railway concessions with China). In 1903 Russian forces crossed the lower Yalu estuary and occupied Korean territory at Yongampo. This was done without Korean government approval. Japanese intensions in the peninsula were now threatened and two days after negotiations between the two powers broke down in Feb, 6th, 1904, Japanese war ships attacked the Russian fleet in Port Arthur. They quickly dispatched a force to Inchon and within a short time Seoul was occupied. The Korean government was forced to give Japan complete military freedom over the country. Japan also took over all telegraph lines and appointed advisers to all Korean ministries. There followed a number of major Japanese military victories over the Russians in 1905. This included the winning of control of Port Arthur in January, defeating the main Russian Far Eastern armies at Mukden, February and March, and the famous victory over the Russian Baltic fleet near Tsushima Island in the Korea Strait on 27 May. Japan now had regional ascendancy in North East Asia.

The fate of Korea for the next four decades was decided by this victory, along with the 'Protectorate Treaty' or Treaty of Portsmouth on 5 September, 1905 (in which Ito Hirobumi played the critical part). The Protectorate Treaty was debated by a Korean government

surrounded by troops from the Japanese garrison in Seoul and was eventually signed by both sides on 17 November 1905. Ito Hirobumi became the first Resident-General (1905) and was responsible only to the Japanese Emperor. Apart from the battalion for the Korean Emperor's security, the Korean Army was dissolved. An increasing number of Japanese colonists and settlers flocked to Korea and were now allowed to buy land.

This treaty formally gave Japan a free hand in Korea, for it specifically acknowledged that Russia had accepted Japan's paramount political, military and economic interest in Korea. Ito had forced the agreement making Korea a virtual protectorate of Japan. Korea was strategically indispensable to the maintenance of the new civil and military presence in Manchuria following the defeat of Russia. The essence of Korean sovereignty would pass to Japan. Outright control by Japanese thus began on February 1, 1906. Ito was invested with full authority in regard to Korea's diplomacy, domestic administration and military affairs. Through the Council for Improvement of Korean Administration, he pressed the Korean government to accept Japan's aggressive policy in the fields of finance, banking, agriculture, forestry, mining, transportation, education, culture, jurisprudence, internal security, local administration and the royal household.

In order to cover up their coercive actions, the Resident-General sent an American named D.W. Stevens (paid by the Korean government) to the United States to advance Japanese propaganda. Upon his arrival in San Francisco, Stevens, who was said to have received several tens of thousands of dollars from the Japanese, made a false statement that the Korean people in general welcomed the Korea-Japan treaty. Infuriated by this, Korean emigrants Chang In-hwan and Chon Myong-un assassinated him in March 1907. Many other political leaders were assassinated during this violent time, including Yi Wan-Yong, the man Ito had appointed as the premier of Korea after he had forced the Korean emperor to install a new pro-Japanese cabinet.

When Emperor Kojong dispatched an emissary to the Peace Conference at the Hague in June 1907 and exposed to the world Japan's aggressive policy, the Ito' office forced the monarch to abdicate the throne, and the third Korea-Japan Agreement of July was forced upon Korea. This provided the legal basis for Japan's appropriation of Korea. A large number of Japanese officials penetrated the executive and judicial branches of the Korean government, accelerating the Japanese scheme of complete Korean overrule. The Korean armed forces were disarmed and disbanded and the judicial system was reorganized to serve Japanese aggression. Moreover, in a secret memorandum attached to the Korean-Japan agreement, it was stipulated that Korean military forces would be dissolved and that courts, newly constructed prisons, and the police would be turned over to Japanese management. This enabled the Japanese to assume actual judicial and police authority.

The Korean Empire was now a nominal one. The Japanese aggressors under the supervision of Ito exerted armed pressure upon the government through their military forces and police. Many leaders representing all walks of life committed suicide in protest of the forced treaty, and many attempts were made to assassinate ranking officials of the Korean government who had cooperated in bringing the aggressive treaty into being. Korean resistance to Japanese control intensified, but was ruthlessly suppressed by the Japanese military. Ito was the hated face of Japanese oppression and it was to lead to his assignation by a young Korean patriot, An Joong Gun at the Harbin Railroad Station on October 26, 1909. The assassination of Ito served as a pretext for annexation of Korea.

Japanese Exploitation Under Ito:

Between 1905 and 1908, Japanese control over Korea's currency was secured with the rapidly growing volume of Daiichi Bank notes. Supported by generous loans from their home

government, Japanese merchants could easily expand their activities and invade the Korean market. Japanese firms operated in Korea with a combined capital in excess of 10 million Won. The number of Japanese residents in Korea in 1908 totalled to 126,000, and by 1911 the number had risen to 210,000.

The number of Japanese residents engaged in farming also grew rapidly as Japan's seizure of Korean land gathered momentum. Korean farmers controlled by the usurious Japanese capital became an easy prey to expropriation. The Office of the Government-General enacted a series of laws concerning land ownership to the decided advantage of the Japanese.

In the meantime, large Japanese capitalists coercively purchased land, mainly in ChColla-do and Ch'ungch'eCong-do provinces, during the period from 1905 to 1910. The Honam Plain in ChColla-do province, long known as the Korean granary, was rapidly becoming a Japanese farm, and such land seizures quickly spread to other provinces. Intruding into fertile and well-irrigated lands on a nationwide scale, the Japanese advanced toward the north, occupying first the Taegu and Choch'iwon areas along the Seoul-Pusan railway and the Hwangju area along the Seoul-ShinCuiju railway.

In order to carry out land expropriation on a broader and more systematic scale, the Government-General began the practice of distributing to Japanese farmers unclaimed land and military farms of the Korean government. Having worked out a plan aimed at resettling Japanese farmers in Korea, he established the Oriental Development Company in 1908 and seized Korean land, reducing the royal property and its budget.

The Japanese plan called for the seizure of state-owned unreclaimed land, military farms cultivated by troops, and the mobilization of Korean labourers for their reclamation. Within a year, the company had seized 30,000 hectares (75,000 acres) of military farms and unclaimed land. By means of usurping the Korean government's control over its own financial management, the Japanese also removed property from the royal household. This policy was aimed at preventing Emperor Kojong from raising resistance fund.

Through the Office of the Resident-General, Japan assumed actual power over Korean education affecting reorganization of the educational system by imperial edict. The Japanese attempted to bring all schools under government management, reduce the number of schools, subordinate the content of education to their colonial policy, and retard Korean education by lowering the level of academic content. Through the decree for private schools promulgated in 1908, the Japanese strengthened their control over private schools and shut many of them down.

Part 3:

Ahn Joong Gun:

Very little is recorded about An Joong-Gun's life. He stepped in the spotlight of Korean history only briefly, but left his mark as one of Korea's most revered patriots. His story is best understood in the context of the turbulent political climate of the times.

Ahn Joong-Gun was born in Haeju in Hwanghae Province in 1879. Ahn's family moved to the town of Sin-Chun in Pyong-An Province when he was about ten years old. He was educated both in both traditional and modern studies, including Chinese, horsemanship and archery. For a while he directed a coal business but he decided to give it up as a result of his disgust due to the developing Japanese encroachment on his country. He became a well known educator and established his own school called the Sam-Heung (Three Success) School. His school, like

others at that time, was destined for hardships under the Japanese military Occupation of Korea and became enmeshed in a Japanese power play by virtue of its location.

It was in these circumstances that Ahn became part of the Tonghak religious movement (see above). In 1894 he was part of the Tonghak rebels that took up arms against the Japanese and the government. They were hopelessly outnumbered and outclassed. A Cholla army under Chon Pongjun and another in Chungchong under (Son Pyonghui (of which Ahn was a part) met at Nonsan and moved towards Kongju. In their ensuing defeat Chon was captured and later executed. Ahn, along with Son and Kim Ku escaped and all were to play prominent parts in the independence movement. It was at this point that Ahn was baptised as a Catholic (Thomas) in 1895 and was shortly to join the anti-Japanese Uibyeong (Righteous Army) in order to fight against the oppression. Uibyeong can be also translated as 'justice fighters,' 'partisan militia' or 'volunteers.' The euphemism was first recorded in the Han dynasty and in modern times is used to describe the bands of Korean loyalists active against the Japanese in Korea and Manchuria. The first modern manifestation occurred after the murder of Queen Min in 1895. As a result of his anti Japanese position Ahn was forced to flee Korea and stayed in Vladivostok (1905), Russia for a period. While there he actually organised and set up a volunteer army of about 300 (including his brother) and fought his way back into Korea, reaching Kyonghung. This guerrilla unit consisted mainly of peasants and former soldiers (who had lost their position in the Korean army following its disbandment in 1907).

The young patriot was strongly opposed to the Treaty of Portsmouth along with the increasing influence and control being exerted by the Japanese. This feeling was widespread throughout the country. Ito Hirobumi was the key Japanese negotiators in the treaty. The hated treaty also created the office of Resident-General, which came to control foreign and domestic affairs. Ito was then to become Resident-General of the Protectorate of Korea from 1905 to 1909. It was particularly difficult for Ahn Joong-Gun to accept this subjugation especially when Korea had been isolated for so long from the outside world under the Yi Dynasty. Korean nationhood was suppressed at the very time many sectors of society were developing a common sentiment of nationalism. This sentiment gave Koreans a sense that they themselves should be the rulers of Korea.

Resistance from the general Korean public continued for many years with many guerrilla groups operating out of south-eastern Manchuria. Small groups of patriots attempted assassinating several Japanese leaders and members of the Japanese-Korean government. Because of its proximity to Manchuria, the town of Kando in northern Korea became a hotbed of such activity. Ito Hirobumi decided to set up a significant Japanese military and police presence in the area. However, 20 percent of the 100,000 residents of Kando were Chinese. When the Japanese began to crack down on the population of Kando, these Chinese were caught in the violence. The situation caused considerable conflict between the Japanese and the Chinese.

In response to the increased Japanese activity in the Kando region, Ahn Joong-Gun led his guerrilla army on a raid there in June 1909. The raid was a success, resulting in many Japanese deaths. Despite such guerrilla activities, the Japanese finally arrived at an agreement with the Chinese. The treaty, signed on September 4, 1909, allowed the Japanese to build a branch line to the Southern Manchurian Railway to exploit the rich mineral resources in Manchuria. In return, the Japanese turned over to the Chinese the territorial rights to Kando. This brazen act of selling Korean territory to another country was the last straw for many loyal Koreans such as Ahn Joong-Gun. He set out for his base of operations in Vladivostok, Siberia, to prepare for his assassination of Hirobumi Ito.

Russia was becoming very nervous at the level of Japanese activity in the northern Korean area and Japan's obvious designs on Manchuria. Ito, who had officially become the president of the

Japanese Senate (an aristocratic government body), arranged to meet with Russian representatives at Harbin, Manchuria, to calm their fears over the Japanese intentions to annex Manchuria and invade China. The final plans for the meeting between Ito and General Kokotseff, a senior Russian government official, were set for October 26, 1909.

Prince Ito Hirobumi (1841-1909)

When Ito arrived at the Harbin train station at 9:00 a.m. on October 26, 1909, Ahn Joong-Gun was waiting for him. Knowing full well that he would never escape alive, and that torture awaited him if captured by the Japanese, Ahn Joong-Gun shot Ito after he stepped off the train. Following the assassination, Joong-Gun was captured by Japanese troops and imprisoned at Port Arthur. While in Japanese prisons, he suffered through five months of extremely barbarous torture. Despite this unbelievable treatment, it is said that his spirit never broke. Throughout the whole course of his trials in Japanese courts, he continuously protested against the colonial crime of Japan. He also wrote a thesis called "Oriental Peace" during this time. He was sentenced to death and the sentence was executed in Lu-shun prison on March 26, 1910, one year after his arrest.

In 1962 Ahn was awarded posthumously the Order of Merit for National Foundation in the Republic of Korea. The Ministry of Communications also issued a stamp in order to commemorate his patriotism.

Ahn Choong-Kun shooting Hirobumi Ito

Harbin train station in recent times

The sacrifice of Ahn Joong-Gun was one of many in this chaotic time in Korean history. His attitude and that of his compatriots symbolized the loyalty and dedication of the Korean people to their country's independence and freedom. Joong-Gun's love for his country was forever captured in the calligraphy he wrote in his cell in Lui-Shung Prison prior to his execution. It simply said, "The Best Rivers and Mountains." This implied that he felt his country was the most beautiful on earth. Although his roles spanned from educator to guerrilla leader, he was, above all, a great Korean patriot.

Part 4:

Korea Immediately After 1910:

The resident-governor of Chosen (the new name of the colony) had absolute power. Under the first governor-general, Terauchi Masatake, Koreans suffered great oppression. He was the first of many to attempt the forced acculturation of Koreans and the systematic destruction of the Korean identity.

Terauchi first tried to justify colonialism by proclaiming that because of the deep historical and cultural ties between Korea and Japan, there was a natural "affinity" between the two countries. His goal was the complete assimilation of Koreans into the Japanese mainstream.

Terauchi implemented policies that targeted all forms of organized opposition. All newspapers were suspended, political organizations were disbanded, and the right of assembly was banned. In one fatal swoop, political opposition was stymied. Despite these efforts,

underground movements sprang into action and abroad, nationalist organizations rallied for international support of the Korean cause.

The next major target was the education system. During this period, hundreds of schools were built. However, the system was skewed to discriminate against Koreans. For Japanese children, the quality of the facilities and curriculum was much higher. For Koreans, the purpose of an education was simply to mold students into loyal Japanese subjects. Higher education was severely limited and even then, the emphasis was on vocational training. However, some yangban elite, as well as their children, were collaborators within the new system since many could already speak Japanese (due to their prestigious education received before annexation). However, the new education policies created many problems for the younger generation for the Korean identity was being warped by a Japanese sensibility. In fact, many underground movements strove to preserve the Korean culture by promoting the use of the language and tradition.

Another aspect of Korean society that was restructured was land. Traditionally, land was the symbol of wealth. As such, a complex system of absentee landlords, partial owner-tenants, and cultivator-labourers developed whereby legal proof of land rights was not necessary to work or own land. Unfortunately, Terauchi's new Land Survey Bureau conducted surveys that re-established ownership by basis of written proof (i.e. deeds, titles, and similar documents). For those who could not provide such documents, like the lower class and partial owners, land could not be claimed by traditional "cultivator rights" alone. Consequently, the majority of Korean land was bought up by Japanese developers. One of the most infamous corporations that bought land was the Oriental Development Company which came to own almost 300,000 acres of land. The company's goal was to resettle Korea with Japanese emigrants. Although the plan did not succeed, it added tremendously to the bitter and hostile environment of the time.

Part 5:

Conclusion:

The assassination of Hirobumi Ito by Ahn Joong Gun, like so many other actions by Korean patriots, seemed to only serve to fuel the fires of Japanese oppression. In 1910, the office of resident general, with Ito's successor now in charge, was changed to governor general to allow a more dictatorial approach to the total control of Korea. Akashi Genjiro was named as the commander of the Japanese military and police superintendent in Korea. He launched an extremely harsh campaign to harass the Korean population. He closed all newspapers, disbanded all patriotic organizations, arrested thousands of Korean leaders, and enforced a strict military rule of the capital city of Seoul by crack Japanese combat troops. This type of rule under the Japanese continued in Korea until Japan surrendered at the end of World War II.