

[ABSTRACT]

**The Korean Society and the Mission of Russian  
Orthodox Church in the Priamurian Region of  
Russia**

“The story of Koreans in the Far East between the middle of  
the 19century and early 20century”

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This study was purpose to research the characters of mission of Russian Orthodox Church for Koreans in the Priamurian region from the question, that is, ‘Is it possible to ordain the mission of Russian Orthodox Church for Koreans, which accepted Caesaropapismic tradition of Byzantine church as well-known, in Priamur with national-political characters’.

In the beginning of this study, through the missions of Russian Orthodox Church in 19 centuries to other tribes in Siberia and Priamurian region, it was ascertained that Russian Orthodox Church had performed missions of national-political characters under subordinated position in administration and finance from the government instead of nation.

It was shown that there were same basic conditions in Korean policy from Priamurian government during the whole period. The same basic conditions were caused of performing development of Priamurian region and national security problems under the main stream in the policy of Russian

central government for East Asia and Korean peninsula. But there was divergences depend on periods in recognition to performance ways of Korean policy by Priamurian general-governor, and the changes of Korean policy influenced the mission of Russian Orthodox Church.

Also, the particularity of Korean people was serious variable to Korean policy. The excellent skill for cultivation was one of factors to have dual vision for Korean people and promote double policy for land system from Priamurian government. Namely, Priamurian government expected to use and develop lands by Korean people, having excellent skill for cultivation, for the developing Priamurian region, but they worried stable settlement by Korean people. Although, the prowess of Korean people was generally recognized, except the period of Unterberger, which took the anti-Korean policy. Finally, Priamurian government was under the circumstances they could not refuse to recognize Korean people to assimilate for developing Priamurian region and establishing security.

For the next step, this study researched the mission of Russian Orthodox Church for Koreans in Priamurian region.

Firstly, the mission of Russian Orthodox Church for Koreans in the Priamurian region had performed under the influences by the policy of Russian central government for East Asia and Korean peninsula. Secondly, the changes of cooperation between nation and church influenced the mission for Koreans around the October declaration in 1905. Thirdly, the educational activities had performed without withering in spite of October declaration in 1905. Fourthly, the mission by Korean missionaries and priests in whole areas of

Priamurian region from 1910's had contributed greatly to the mission of Russian Orthodox Church for Koreans. Fifthly, there was a serious change of attitude for Korean Orthodox faith around 1910's.

For the next step, this study researched the limitations in mission of Russian Orthodox Church for Koreans in Priamurian region.

Firstly, there were absolutely insufficient of churches to mission Orthodox doctrine, the communicational impossibility of missionaries to Korean people caused by lack of acquirement in Korean language, and the performances of field missions by missionaries who are not prepared for mission and had not enough consciousness for summon. Secondly, there were absolutely insufficient of main organizations to control religion and mission tasks as well as affiliated organizations to support those missions. Thirdly, there were lack of efforts and concerns from nation for assimilating Korean people with Russia. Fourthly, there were insufficient of transmitting the volition of Russian government to making Christianity and assimilating Korean people with Russia.

Those aspects had showed the total limitations of the mission for Koreans by Priamurian government and the guidance division of Russian Orthodox Church in the process of opposition to Presbyterianism, which appeared in Vladivostok around 1910's and begun to mission.

In conclusion, the mission of Russian Orthodox Church for Koreans in Priamur had performed under double policy as Priamurian government expected to use and develop lands by Korean people, having excellent skill for cultivation, for the developing Priamurian region, but they worried stable settlement by Korean people in political-economical situations, like as developing

Priamurian region and establishing security in Pacific regions. Therefore, the Russian government activities and the mission for Koreans of guidance division of Russian Orthodox Church did not effect on all Korean people having Korean nationality, but only those activities and mission had been performed to one-third of total Korean having Russian nationality.

Still, from the whole the period, it is possible that Russian government and Russian Orthodox Church had performed the mission for Koreans in the Priamurian region with thought Korean people as objects for comprehension as well as making Christianity and assimilating Korean people with Russia, furthermore, objects for national-political mission.