



KOREA

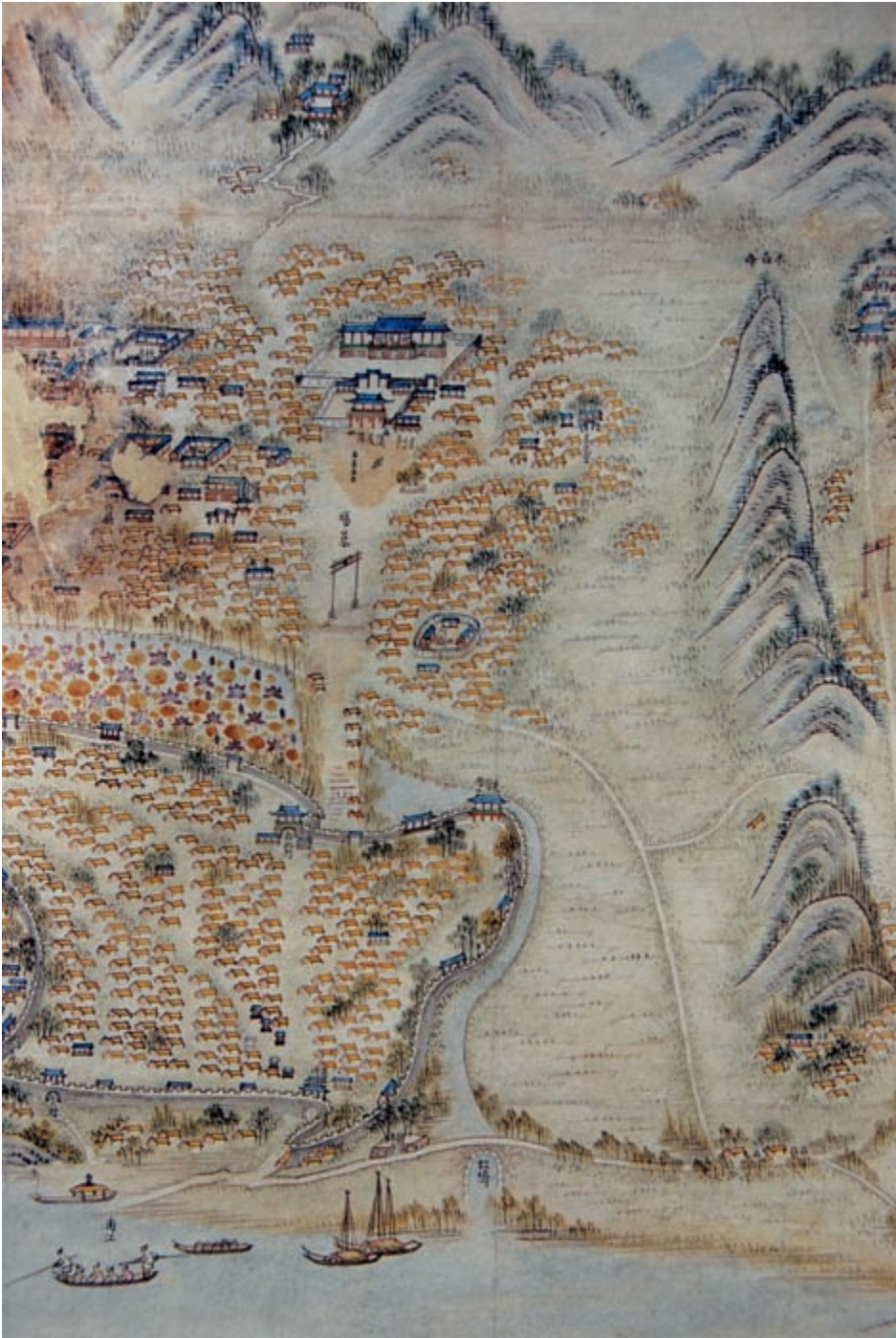
A CARTOGRAPHIC HISTORY

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2.1 JINJU COUNTY, nineteenth century. (Kyujanggak Archives, Seoul National University.)



2.4 KOREA, 1730. (Courtesy of the Library of Congress, Washington, DC: G7900 145-.C4 Vault.)



2.9 GWANGJU COUNTY, 1872. (Kyujanggak Archives, Seoul National University.)



3.4 JAPAN AND KOREA, 1596. (Abraham Ortelius, *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* [Antwerp: Plantiniana, 1596]. Courtesy of the Library of Congress, Washington, DC.)

Korea as a Peninsula

Korea was also correctly depicted as a peninsula. Diogo Homem, a Portuguese cartographer who worked in London and Venice, produced a number of maps and atlases. His manuscript map of 1588 shows Korea as a peninsula. João Teixeira, the son of Luís Teixeira, was also a map- and chartmaker who served for a time as the official cartographer and cosmographer to the Iberian authorities and thus was privy to both Spanish and Portuguese discoveries and maps of East Asia. His chart of the North Pacific done about 1630 correctly identifies Korea as a peninsula.

If Ortelius's 1570 atlas was *the* atlas of the sixteenth century, then Joan Blaeu's *Grand Atlas* of 1662 was *the* atlas of the seventeenth century. Willem Blaeu (1571–1638) was a mathematician, astronomer, and instrument maker. About 1605 he



4.4 MANCHURIA, 1733–1858. (Courtesy of the Library of Congress, Washington, DC: G7822 M2 1747.S5.)

tinct sense of the containment of territorial expansion and the loss of an extended national space (Schmid 2002).

JAPAN

Maps played an important role in traditional Japanese society both as decorative pieces and as practical tools in a centralized hierarchical system of control and surveillance. In the eighth century the central government of Japan ordered maps to be made of the various provinces. These maps, drawn in a distinctive style, are known as the *gyoki* maps after a Buddhist priest named Gyoki (668–749). *Gyoki* maps generally show provinces, roads, and cities. They dominated Japanese cartography from the eighth to the nineteenth century. When the central authorities



5.5 CHEONHADO MAP, c. 1700. (Courtesy of the Library of Congress, Washington, DC: G3200 17— .C5.)

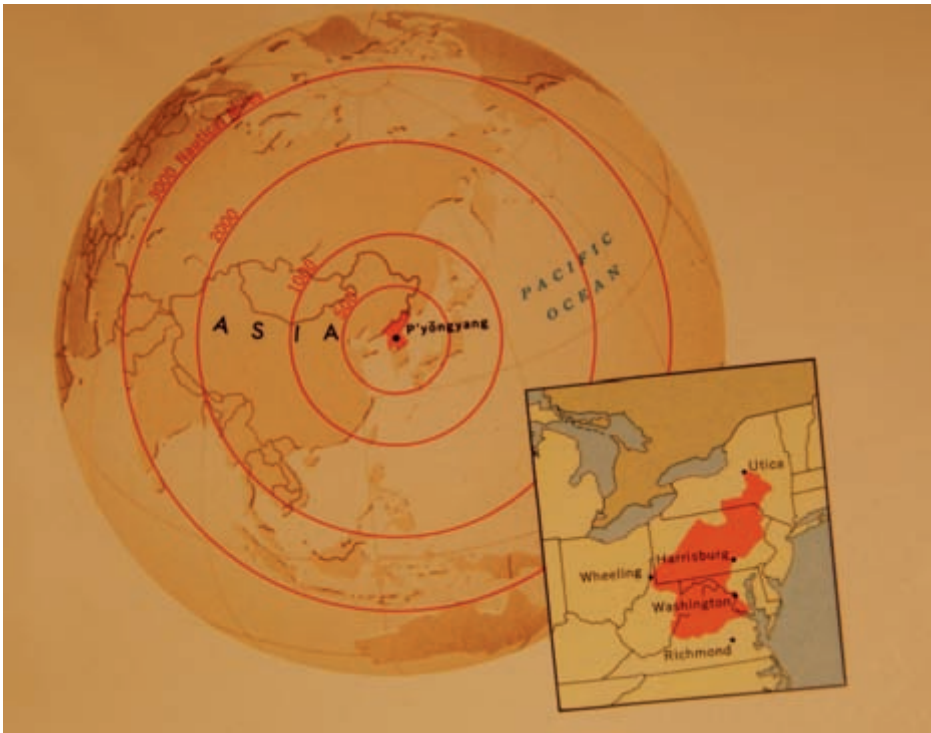
by Oh (2008), who draws together a number of strands. The first is that these maps firmly reflect the Sinocentric view of round sky, square earth. The circularity of the maps represents the heavens, not the earth. In many *cheonhado* maps, star constellations are shown outside the circular border, reinforcing the conclusion that the circularity represents the celestial. Look again at figure 5.5. Inside the circular heavens the squareness of the earth is more obvious. The second strand is that the maps draw on much older Chinese scholarship. The names on the map



5.13 GANGWHA PROVINCE, 1870–80. (National Museum of Korea.)

Western power, then experienced subsequent attacks and defeats. Although I cannot be sure, I have a sense that these buildings and lines of fire were added to an existing map. They seem jammed in, not in scale with the rest of the map, as if they were put in later.

The Joseon kingdom maintained a policy of seclusion, but by late nineteenth century the Western powers and resurgent Japan were keen to break into Korean markets. This was the era when treaty ports were forced on China and Japan. Although contact between Korea and the West was severely limited, there was some missionary activity. Catholic missionaries traveled there from China, and by 1860 there were about eighteen thousand converts. In 1866 the Joseon regime rounded up the priests, most of them French, as well as native converts, and executed them. When news reached French forces in China they decided to launch a punitive mission, but they had no accurate geographical information. In September



7.2 NORTH KOREA, CIA, 1969. (Courtesy of the Library of Congress, Washington, DC.)

to decouple economic and military aid from explicit support for either side. While some of the North Korean domestic polices emulated those of China under Mao Tse-tung, the North Koreans maintained relations with both countries. The country's geographic position necessitated a pragmatic response of careful diplomacy reflecting the country's vulnerable political geography.

The country was extensively mapped by both superpowers. Figure 7.2 is a detail from a CIA map made in 1969 that situates North Korea in absolute space and also compares its size with that of the United States. It is perhaps not incidental that the country's superimposed outline touches on Washington, DC, perhaps suggesting its importance to American geopolitical strategy in the cold war. Since 1989 the cold war has ended, but not in the Korean peninsula. No formal peace treaty has yet been signed, and North Korea continues to remain a thorny problem for the United States as guarantor of South Korea's security. There has been extensive military and civilian mapping by the West of North Korea's economic, political, and