

Research Article

Land of the Morning Calm Under the Rising Sun: The Japanese Empire's Efforts to Change Korea's Status from Protectorate to Annexation

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Abstract

After succeeding in two battles against the Qing Dynasty, China in 1895 and the Russian Empire in 1905, the Japanese Empire established itself as a powerful nation in the Far East region. After the war ended, the Japanese Empire creates peace treaty with China or the Shimonoseki treaty and Russia or the Portsmouth treaty. All of the treaties touched on the issue of the Korean Peninsula, in which it is clear that the Japanese Empire was making serious efforts for Korean hegemony under authority of the Japanese Empire. The purpose of this study is to describe the efforts of the Japanese Empire through several treaties that have been made to annex Korean Peninsula. This study used a historical research method consisting of four steps: heuristics, criticism, interpretation, and historiography. The result of this study shows that from 1904 or before protectorate treaty was signed, the Japanese Empire had violated the Korean neutrality declaration. The protectorate treaty was an attempt by the Japanese Empire to control the international relations of Korea, and in fact that this treaty was not supported by Korea. Meanwhile, in 1910 the Japanese Empire annexed the Korean territory by placing its Governor-General in Korea.

Keywords: Japan; Korea; Protectorate; Annexation

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1. Introduction

After the first Sino-Japanese war, the Shimonoseki agreement was signed, and the Japanese requested China to stop its control over Korea and give Korea complete independence (Curzon, 1896: 429; Paine, 2003: 265). Japan's request was not without basis because Japan has already had an imperialism agenda by using Korea. It can be said that Korea was a strategic area as a stepping stone to invade other regions in Asia. As a country close to Korea, Russia tried to take advantage of Korean independence by taking aggressive actions

against Korean territory (Drage, 1904: 722). It eventually provoked Japan to take serious action. The war between Russia and Japan occurred on February 6, 1904, and ended with the signing of the Treaty of Portsmouth on September 5, 1905 (Bigelow, 1907: 23). In the agreement, Russia recognized the position of the Japanese Empire over Korean territory (*Text of the Treaty of Portsmouth*, 1905: 208-209). After the peace agreement was agreed upon, Korea was a protectorate state under the Japanese Empire, but slowly by using a military approach, the Japanese Empire annexed

Korea in 1910 (Caprio, 2009: 82; Hurray & Pares, 1999: 69).

This study cannot be separated from previous studies. A review of previous studies is used as a benchmark for researchers to write and analyze a study. There were several studies on the Japanese occupation of Korea. First, a study by Seo Min-Kyo reported that when there was a conflict between Japan and Russia, the Korean Government declared neutrality. However, the Korean Government was pressured by Japan to sign the Korea-Japan Protocol on February 23, 1904. The 4th article in the protocol showed that there was Japan's unilateral attempt to control Korea. During the Japan-Russia War, the Japanese Empire stationed its troops in Korea in early April 1904 (Min-Kyo, 2005: 87-88). Second, the study by Kim Ji-Hyung focused more on the foreign aspect, namely the British attitude towards Japan in Korea. It also related to Russia's occupation of Manchuria, where it was a threat to Britain. Finally, Britain entered into a coalition with the Japanese Empire to stem Russia's power in East Asia. Under the Anglo-Japanese alliance, Britain agreed to the 1905 Japan-Korea Protectorate Treaty (Ji-hyung, 2011: 89-90). In addition to the article by Anthony Carty, one of the most critical points of diplomatic relations between Britain and Japan was obtaining international support in the final resolution of the conflict between Japan and Korea regarding the Korean Peninsula. The Japanese Empire emphatically stated that "the Korean peninsula formed Japan's natural outer defense zone and the Japanese government believed it was essential for the safety of Japan and the Japanese Empire must maintain its dominance over Korea" (Carty, 2005: 13). This article aimed to explain Japan's efforts in changing Korea's status from a protectorate to an annexed territory or colony. This article had two problem points to be discussed, namely: the impact of the Sino-Japanese War I and Russo-

Japan on the Korean Peninsula and the Japanese occupation of Korea.

2. Methods

The problems in this study were discussed using the historical method. The main points in historical research include heuristics, criticism, interpretation, and historiography (Kuntowijoyo, 2013: 69). At the source collection stage, document studies and literature studies were carried out. Document studies were carried out by examining primary sources. Meanwhile, a literature study was done by reviewing books or scientific articles relevant to the research. Both primary and secondary sources focused on the events of the attempted annexation of Korea by Japan. At the critical stage, the researcher verified the sources obtained, where the selected sources were sources that have authenticity and credibility. At the interpretation stage, the sources that have been selected were interpreted and then sequenced the facts found to get the complete story. In comparison, the last stage was historiography or writing history.

3. Result and Discussion

3.1. The Effect of the First Sino-Japanese and Russo-Japanese Wars on the Korean Peninsula

The war between the Qing Dynasty (China) against the Japanese Empire took place in July 1894. This battle proved that the Japanese military had superiority on land and sea. China also had to admit Japan's defeat and superiority. On April 17, 1895, the Shimonoseki Treaty was signed between the two sides, marking the first war between China and Japan. This agreement was not a *win-win solution*, but the Shimonoseki agreement was detrimental to China and benefited the Japanese Empire. The significant advantage that Japan had gained was that it strengthened Japan's status as a country that had great power in the East Asia region and was at the same time an embryo of Japanese imperialism

and colonialism. Related to this war, Ito Hirobumi stated that the war between Japan and China is the greatest event since the beginning of Japan's history (Jansen et al., 1979: 191), and many Japanese people believed that Japan's victory over China succeeded in becoming a modern state (Fukuchi, 1993: 469).

This agreement was signed by Ito Hirobumi, the representative of the Japanese Empire, and Li Hung-chang, who was the representative of China. In the Shimonoseki agreement, China must end its power over Korea. The end of the power over Korea gave complete independence to Korea as an independent country. In addition, in the agreement, Japan also got the territory of Taiwan (Formosa). Taiwan had declared its independence in 1895. The independence was initiated by a group of Taiwanese leaders and assisted by the rebels of the Qing Dynasty (China). However, the independence did not last long because Japanese troops managed to eradicate the independence movement within a few months. The following were some essential points in the Shimonoseki Agreement: 1) China recognized Korea's independence; 2) China ceded the Liaodong Peninsula, Taiwan (Formosa), and the Pescadores Islands; 3) China would pay Japan for damages; 4) China would open four cities to Japan, namely Hangzhou, Suzhou, Chongqing, and Shashi; and 5) China would sign a trade and shipping agreement.

Several other areas obtained by Japan are Pescadores Island and the Liaodong Peninsula. Japan's control of the Liaodong Peninsula led to three-nation protests against the Japanese government. One week after the signing of the Shimonoseki treaty on April 23, 1895, envoys from Germany, France, and Russia visited their respective Foreign Ministers in Tokyo to request the relinquishment of Japanese ownership of the Liaodong Peninsula. The request submitted by the three countries was because they considered the security of Beijing as the capital of China so that it

would endanger the stability of peace in the East Asia region.

The pressure exerted by Germany, France, and Russia was called the *Triple Intervention*. The Japanese government was worried that if the requests of the three countries were not granted, the three countries would use military force. The Japanese government did not want to risk if the three countries used their military power simultaneously to pressure Japan. The Imperial Japanese Military Strength in the Meiji Era was a newly built modern military force so that it was felt that it would not be able to face all three countries at once. Furthermore, the west side (including Germany, France, and Russia) thought that Japan still required western countries to develop its military power and become a nation on par with western powers (Makito, 2009: 157).

Not wanting to take the risk; finally, the Japanese government discussed and seriously considered the request on April 24, 1895. After holding internal discussions carried out by the Government of Japan, they finally achieved two results. The first result was holding an international conference to negotiate the return of the Liaodong Peninsula. Then, the second result was seeking cooperation support with Britain and the United States to withdraw the request of the three countries. However, the plan for cooperation with Britain and the United States failed to build, so finally, the Japanese government approved the return of the Liaodong Peninsula to China on November 8, 1895.

Regarding Korea, it was clearly written in Article I of the Shimonoseki Agreement that China recognized the independence and complete autonomy over Korea. Article I states that China's Qing Dynasty, which has long controlled the Korean Joseon Dynasty, must be willing to let it go and recognize the independence of Korea and abandon all claims to the territory. The end of the rebellion that

occurred in Korea was the beginning of the rise of the Japanese Empire in Asia.

China's Qing dynasty was required to relinquish all of its rights over Korea as a Japanese strategy as a stepping stone to invade areas around mainland Asia. Korea, whose territory is a peninsula, has a strategic position that is close to Japan as well as the Korean region borders the Manchuria region, which is rich in natural resources.

The independence of Korea that Japan fought for was not for no particular reason. It is based on politics as well as trade and industry in Korea. In 1902, the General Staff of the Japanese Army stated that "as a long-term plan it was necessary to make Korea part of the Japanese Empire" (Livingstone et al., 1973: 226). Therefore, the Korean Peninsula had a vital role for Japan which was growing into an industrial country.

Russia, one of the big countries, felt that it also had the right to spread its influence in Korea because this region was not far from Russia. On the other hand, Korea itself has just become a sovereign country after the decision of the Shimonoseki Agreement; therefore, Russia felt there was nothing wrong if Korea became a region to exert its influence. Japan finally responded to this to take firm action. Japan reacted because Japan also had an interest in the region. Japan had been worried about Russia since the conflict between Japan and China because, in that event, Russia provided military support to the Qing Dynasty (Russo-Japanese War, 2021).

For Russia's action, the Japanese filed a protest, but the protest was not taken seriously by Russia. Japan offered Russia a deal to exercise control over Manchuria, while Korea remained a sovereign nation. Russia rejected Japan's offer and asked that North Korea be a neutral zone with a *39th Parallel*. Negotiations did not result in an agreement because Russia did not accept the offer that Japan had given.

Japan itself was still not convinced to attack Russia. However, Britain, as an ally of Japan at that time, offered to help with the signing of the *Anglo-Japanese Treaty* or better known as the *Anglo-Japanese Treaty of Alliance*, in 1902. The existence of this alliance made Japan harder to criticize Russia for reducing and limiting the movement of Russia. Russia still ignored it. Seeing Russia was very threatening, Tokyo finally decided to war with Russia (Beasley, 2003: 305). The Japanese Military Main Fleet commanded by Admiral Togo Heihachiro was sent to carry out a surprise unannounced attack on the Russian Squadron at Port Arthur on February 8, 1904.

The Japan-Russia War took place in 1904-1905, and this was Japan's second war in the Meiji Era and Japan's first war using modern military force against western countries. The war between Japan and Russia did not only occur in the Port Arthur area; however, it also took place in the Manchuria (Mukden) region (currently Mukden is the Shenyang region, which is in Liaoning Province, China) and Korea (Yalu River) as well as in the Tsushima Strait. In this war, Japan has exercised control over the Korean Peninsula by landing its troops in Incheon (an area in South Korea) and in Namp'o (an area in North Korea) led by General Tamemoto Kuroki to attack Russian troops in Manchuria.

Russia must recognize the modern military power of Japan because Russia lost heavily in this battle. The United States President Theodore Roosevelt became a mediator in the peace agreement between Russia and Japan. This agreement was called the Portsmouth Treaty, held at the Portsmouth Navy shipyard, United States, from August 9 to September 5, 1905. In this agreement, Japan was entitled to the Liaodong Peninsula area, the railroad in South Manchuria, half of Sakhalin Island, and Japanese control over Korea and also recognized.

3.2 Japan Grabbed the Korean Peninsula

Two Japanese victories in one period of government are indeed very grateful because this is a primary Japanese agenda from 1873. The teachings and thoughts of Yoshida Shoin about patriotism that emerged at the end of the Tokugawa government in the Meiji Era reappeared with a new program. The new program based on the teachings and thoughts of Yoshida Shoin was the acquisition of the Kuril Islands, Sakhalin, Kamchatka (a region in Russia), Formosa (Taiwan), Manchuria, East Siberia, and also Korea (Livingstone et al., 1973: 222).

However, long before the Japanese agenda was announced, Japan's aggressiveness to occupy Korea had been going on since 1592 or the time of Toyotomi Hideyoshi. During this time, Toyotomi Hideyoshi failed to invade Korea. There was hostility between Japan and Korea; besides, Japanese soldiers who returned from war spread stories to Japanese citizens, sparking hatred against Korea. Eventually, this tradition developed and became known as *Kokugaku* (the study of nationality or the Japanese national revival movement) in the Edo period (Tae-Jin, 2005: 4).

There were several successes of the Japanese Empire in winning two wars. First, industrial capability is an essential factor for the strength of a nation. During the Meiji period, many industrial factories were built, especially the military industry. Even though Japan lacked natural resources, it got around this situation by importing from other countries. Industrialization was the main program of the Meiji Government. Japan used the compensation from China for the Shimonoseki Agreement to finance the weapons program (Beasley: 2003: 303). The second was its success in military preparedness. Military preparedness requires military development to support a country's foreign policy. Military preparedness consists of two factors,

including technological renewal and leadership (Sihombing, 1983: 113-115).

It was undeniable that weapons and military power were political instruments. Weapons were used to achieve the nation's ideals by influencing the orientation, roles, goals, and actions of other countries. Then, military power can be used as a threat to support negotiations in diplomacy or as a means of communication to the enemy (Holsti, 1983: 32-33). Thus, it was not wrong if countries that had significant and modern military power at that time could exert pressure in their diplomacy against countries that were considered weak in military strength. This kind of thing was also felt by Japan when Commodore Matthew C. Perry came to Japan with his army in 1853 and 1854.

In 1876, the method used by Perry was adopted by Japan by sending a squadron of its naval fleet to establish trade relations with the Korean Joseon Empire. The efforts made by Japan bore fruit with the signing of the Kanhwa Agreement in the same year. In this agreement, Korea opened two ports to Japan (Hoyt, 1986: 23). However, in 1890, China claimed that the Korean King was a Minister of the Chinese Empire. In the end, Korea was on both sides of the power, so during the *Tonghak* rebellion, Korea could easily ask China and Japan for help.

The third was its success on population. The population of a country is also an element of national power. A large population provides benefits to a country. These residents can play a role in establishing and advancing industry, entering population groups as cadres of combat troops. Usually, imperial countries encouraged population growth like Nazi-German and Fascist-Italian. Both countries based population growth as an ideology for imperial expansion (Sihombing, 1983: 118). In the Meiji Era, Japan's population growth also increased when compared to the previous era. In the Meiji Era, the estimated population of Japan was

35,032,551, and this population continued to grow until Japan was involved in the Pacific war (Yasukawa & Hirooka, 1974: 58). The population in Japan experienced a slight decline after Japan surrendered in the Pacific War.

Japan's victory over Russia made Japan even more prominent on the world stage. The Korean peninsula was also used as a Japanese protectorate (Mattulada, 1979: 157). In international law, according to Sir Kenneth Roberts-Wray (*Former*

Legal Advisor to the Commonwealth Relations Office and the Colonial Office), "if a country is under the protection of another country, the protected country is called a protectorate" (Institute for Current World Affairs, 1971). The country or region is controlled by a more vital state and has an autonomous status. The protectorate state only has the authority to deal with domestic problems, while the parent country authorizes foreign affairs.

Table 1. Organizational Structure of the Japanese Occupation Forces in Korea (June & July 1904)

General Command	Quartermaster General	Supply units: 15 Rearguard: 1st Battalion of the 47th Division Rearguard: 14th Division Rearguard: 24th Division (1st Company, and 1st Platoon) Rearguard: 2nd Company of the 1st Battalion (1st Platoon) Rearguard: 3rd Company of the 48th Division 2nd Support Troops of the 12th Division
	Railroad Department	1 st Company of the Railroad Battalion
	Defense Unit	Infantry Corps: 3 rd Company of the 37 th Division
		Military Police
		Communications Department
		Hospital Staff
		Rearguard Units: The 2nd Company of the 1 st Battalion attached to the 40 th Division
		Rearguard Units: 1 st Platoon of the 8 th Company of the 24 th Division (dispatched to Mokpo)
		4 th Company of the 48 th Division
		1 st Company of the 1 st Battalion of the 24 th Division- responsible for overseeing the defense of the Seoul-Pusan Railway
		1 st Battalion of the 45 th Division
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dispatched to Taegu • Dispatched to Pusan

Source: Seo Min-kyo, *Korea and Japan During the Russo-Japanese War-With a Special Focus on the Japanese Occupation Forces in Korea*, hlm 90.

There were several agreements between Japan and Korea before Japan confirmed the protectorate agreement. The first was the Korea-Japan Protocol on February 23, 1904; during the Japan-Russia War, the Japanese military invaded Korean territory by ignoring the declaration of neutrality issued by the Korean Government on January 21, 1904. Japan ignored the rules made by the Korean Government and remained occupied by the Korean imperial court and the entire Korean peninsula. Major General Jee-Yong Lee signed the Korea-Japan Protocol on the Korean side and Ambassador Gonsuke

Hayashi on the Japanese side (Kim, 2002: 640-641).

The pattern of the hegemony of the Japanese Empire over the Korean territory as stated in Article II of the protocol, namely that the Imperial Japanese Government, in a strong spirit of friendship, would ensure the security and tranquility of the Korean Empire. Meanwhile, Article III also stated that if Korea was threatened by other countries or an internal state disturbance, then the Empire of Japan could immediately take action. The Korean government was required to give full permission and facilitate the Japanese

Empire (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 1921: 36).

Second, an agreement called the first Korea-Japan Agreement on August 22, 1904, better known as the "*Agreement Concerning Financial and Diplomatic Advisers for Korea*". After the Japanese Navy won the battle against Russia on the Yalu River on August 10, 1904, Japan attempted to establish control over the Korean Government. With this intention, Japan made a "memorandum" with Korea, but Japan introduced this memorandum to Britain and the United States as a "treaty". The three main points in this agreement were: 1) Korea was under the control and guidance of the Japanese Finance Governor; 2) Korea was also under the control and guidance of a Diplomatic Governor elected among foreigners whom the Imperial Japanese Government drafts and 3) all Korean Government agreements relating to other parties would be consulted in advance with the Imperial Japanese Government. This first treaty was imposed on Korea unilaterally by Japan, and only Japan kept this document as an archive (Kim, 2002: 641-642).

The Japanese empire considered that communication was one of the essential things; therefore, the Japanese Empire rearranged the information system in Korea and at the same time merged it with Japan. The Empire of Japan exercised control over essential communications, including the postal service, telegraph, and telephone lines. Control over communication was an attempt by the Japanese government to prevent Korea from dealing with other countries regarding Korea's international relations that were explained later. This communication control effort was strengthened by the "*Agreement for the transfer of postal, telegraph, and telephone services of Korea to control of Japan*" on April 1, 1905. This agreement was written in Article I that the Korean government would send and provide control and administration of post, telegraph, and

telephone services in Korea to the Imperial Japanese Government. In addition, Article II explained that all kinds of communication system facilities and infrastructure belonging to the Korean Government would also be controlled by the Japanese Empire. Therefore, it can be understood that the Korean Government was not allowed to communicate, primarily to communicate with other countries freely. The Empire of Japan controlled and monitored communication activities (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 1921: 38-39).

The Empire of Japan also sought support from other countries to occupy the Korean Peninsula, Britain. Diplomatic relations between the Empire of Japan and Britain had been going on for a long time. Japan and Britain made an official alliance agreement in January 1902, known as "*The first Anglo-Japanese Alliance*" or "*The Anglo-Japanese Treaties*" (Dennis, 1923: 99-100; Nish, 2012: 216). Meanwhile, the second agreement in August 1905 was known as the "*Agreement respecting the integrity of China, the general peace of Eastern Asia and India, and the territorial rights and special interests of the parties in those regions*". This second agreement explained that the Japanese Empire had political, military, and economic interests in Korea. Britain recognized the rights and authority of the Japanese Empire in exercising control in Korea.

Protectorate rights over Korea or the second Korea-Japan Treaty were confirmed through the "*Japan-Korea Protectorate Treaty*" or "*Convention providing for control of Korean foreign relations by Japan*" on November 17, 1905. In general, this agreement was an attempt by the Empire of Japan to regulate foreign relations. Korea, but the Japanese Empire argued that this agreement was an attempt to increase solidarity with Korea. In addition, the Japanese empire also argued that the agreement was an effort to "protect" Korea (Finch, 1996: 51). Article I clearly

stated that the Japanese government would control and direct foreign relations and affairs. Japan's diplomatic and consular representatives were also responsible for Korean interests abroad (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 1921: 55).

The Empire of Japan governed Korea's relations with other countries ("Japan and Korea, Korean administration" *The Mercury*, Tuesday, November 21, 1905, p. 5). Meanwhile, the Korean Government could not act freely or enter into agreements with other countries that were international except through the Japanese government. The Japanese Empire was worried that if Korea could freely relate to other countries and gain foreign support, it would harm Japan's occupation policy in Korea.

On November 15, 1905, Ito Hirobumi met with Emperor Gojong. They did debate on this second agreement. Emperor Gojong firmly refused to comply with Japan's request to sign the second treaty. Emperor Gojong stated that Korea would not be a place with the status of a colonial nation (Tae-Jin, 2016: 16). In a threatening tone, Ito Hirobumi repeatedly pressured Emperor Gojong to ask the Korean Foreign Minister to agree to the negotiations. Emperor Gojong did not quickly decide on his own but had to follow government procedures. According to the *Uijeongbu hoewi gyujeong* Regulation of the Korean Empire, "when a foreign country proposed a treaty, the Minister of Foreign Affairs accepted the proposal, then sent it to the State Council. The Minister of Foreign Affairs then held a discussion. The decision was by majority vote and required approval from the Emperor as well as the Privy Council.

On November 16, 1905, Japanese diplomat Hayashi Gonsuke sent a negotiation agenda to Bak Je-Sun (Minister of Foreign Affairs of Korea). Emperor Gojong, with his ministers, immediately held a meeting. On November 17, 1905, Hayashi Gonsuke summoned the Korean

Minister to the Japanese Embassy to consolidate Japan's request. However, the Korean Minister did not comply with Japan's request; Hayashi suggested discussing the matter directly with Emperor Gojong and proceeding to *Jungmyeongjeon* at *Gyeongungung* palace (currently known as Deoksugung palace). Emperor Gojong and his ranks of ministers remained in their stance to refuse the Japanese request.

Finally, the last method was used by the Japanese. Hayashi sent a message to Ito Hirobumi asking to occupy Korean territory. As explained above, military power and diplomacy are closely related. Responding to Hayashi's message, Ito Hirobumi was accompanied by Hasegawa Yoshimichi (Japanese Army Military Commander serving in Korea), and also the Military Police came to *Jungmyeongjeon*. It asked the Imperial Japanese military force to surround the Korean Imperial palace. Ito Hirobumi prevented the Korean Ministers from leaving the palace and interrogated them one by one, whether they agreed or not with the agreement. According to the Japanese newspaper *Kokumin Shimbun*, Ito Hirobumi's intervention would provide peace in the Far East (East Asia) ("Japan and Korea, Agreement Arrived At" *The Daily News*, Tuesday, November 21, 1905, p.2).

The Korean party did not agree with Japan's action, but the extreme pressure exerted by Japan made Korean officials agree and sign the agreement. Yi Wan-Yong (Lee Wan-Yong), a Korean statesman, demands "the agreement lasted until Korea became a rich and powerful nation and included provisions that guaranteed the security of the Korean Imperial family". This provision was finally drafted the next day by Yi Wan-Yong with Ito Hirobumi (Tae-Jin, 2016: 18). Ito Hirobumi revised the draft treaty to consider Yi Wan-Yong's suggestions, and on November 18, 1905, the Japanese signed the new treaty.

The Korean Nationalists also opposed this protectorate policy. The Korean Nationalists opposed this protectorate agreement by forming a group called "*ũibyŏng*" or righteous armies. *ũibyŏng* is a volunteer force, where these troops used guerrilla tactics to destabilize the Japanese military (Lew, 2000: 20).

According to a study by Seong-Eun Kang, after entering into an agreement and returning to Japan, Ito Hirobumi falsified his report to the Emperor of Japan. In the first draft report (*placed in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room at the National Diet Library*), Chief Secretary of the Advisory Council of Japan Tsuzuki Keiroku noted that "*the Korean Emperor did not agree to this agreement*" when Ito Hirobumi held talks with Emperor Gojong. However, Ito changed the phrase "disagree" to "agree", Ito Hirobumi changed the report to say that Emperor Gojong was involved in the negotiations cooperatively from the start (Tae-Jin, 2016: 20).

Based on the agreement agreed upon by Japan and Korea, Japan took over Korea's external relations (Korean international relations). Korea was prohibited from establishing foreign relations with any country except through Japanese intermediaries. Therefore, all decisions and policies were in the hands of the Japanese Empire. To strengthen the protectorate agreement, the Empire of Japan established a *resident-general* held by Ito Hirobumi and settlements in Korea through Imperial Japanese Regulation number 267, which was officially promulgated on December 20, 1905 (The Annexation of Korea, 1910: 923). Korea's status as a Japanese protectorate was an agenda that has been planned in stages by Japan to occupy or annex the entire Korean Peninsula.

The New Testament between Japan and Korea was reissued on July 24, 1907. Emperor Gojong's abdication was a golden opportunity for Japan. On July 22, 1907, Ito

Hirobumi asked the Japanese troops of the 1st Battalion of the 51st Regiment serving in Korea to enter the Korean Imperial court and take all supporters of the Korean Emperor into custody. The siege of the palace by the Japanese army was on the pretext that the Korean Emperor's bodyguard planned the assassination of pro-Japanese members of the Korean cabinet. The Japanese decided that the crown prince was easier to control to seize control of Korea. The Japanese claimed that the new Korean Emperor ascended the throne on July 22 and Japan requested a new treaty from Korea on July 24 (Tae-Jin, 2005: 21-22). This new agreement was signed between Ito Hirobumi and Ye Wan-Yong, Prime Minister of Korea.

In this new agreement, Japan began to take care of the central administration policy of the Korean government by including the Japanese people as advisers in government departments. The Korean government would receive instructions and guidance from the *resident-general* in government affairs. Enforcement of laws and regulations and critical administrative matters must obtain the prior approval of the *resident-general* (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 1921: 58).

More Japanese than Koreans in the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Agriculture, Trade, and Industry. Meanwhile, in the Department of the Armed Forces, no Japanese served (Kim, 1962: 54). Japan's power over Korea was getting stronger. In 1908, the number of Japanese people working in the Korean government increased, causing protests by the Koreans. In addition, Korean people in the Korean government were asked to use Japanese as a communication.

The new agreement also confirmed the disbanding of the Korean Military. Weakening military power was one of the ways used to make it easier to control a country. It was a tactic used by Japan to make Korea a Japanese colony. On August 1, several Korean Military staff in Seoul

prepared for the disarmament ordered by General Hasegawa (Japanese Garrison Commander). The reading of the military disbandment was read by Yi Pyong-mu (Minister of War of Korea).

Upon the decision to disband the Korean military (Lee, 2019: 66), a riot was initiated by the Korean soldiers. The Japanese did not remain silent. They sent Japanese infantry troops to fight the Korean soldiers. This conflict caused losses on both sides, but the Korean side was more severe than the Japanese. Finally, the disbandment of the Korean Military was carried out separately, namely between August 3 and December 3, 1907 (Kim, 1962: 57). In addition, the Korean Police were handed over to Japanese management and strengthened the Japanese army garrison in Korea with infantry brigades.

In October 1909, Ito Hirobumi arrived in Harbin, Manchuria to meet Vladimir N. Kokovtsov, a Russian envoy. Kokovtsov informed that Russian had fully admitted Korean annexation. However, there was a young Korean nationalist at the station where Ito and Kokovtsov conducted a meeting, Chung Geun An shot Ito Hirobumi. In court, An Chung Geun explained 15 reasons why he killed him,

- 1) The murder of the late Queen of Korea;
- 2) Installation of the convention which brought Korea under the protectorate of Japan in November 1905;
- 3) The new convention forced on Korea by Japan in July 1907;
- 4) Removal of the former Emperor;
- 5) Disbanding of the Korean Army;
- 6) Slaughter of innocent people;
- 7) Depriving Koreans of their rights;
- 8) Destruction of Korean text-books by burning;
- 9) Prohibition against Koreans contributing to newspapers;
- 10) The issue of bank notes;
- 11) Making Korea responsible for a national debt of £ 3,000,000;

- 12) Disturbance of the peace in the Orient;
- 13) Failure to carry out Japan's protectorate policy in Korea in the true sense of the terms;
- 14) Murder of the late Emperor Komei, father of the Emperor of Japan; and
- 15) Throwing dust in the eyes of Japan and of the world ("The Harbin Tragedy" *The Straits Times*, 2 December 1909, p. 5; Rausch, 2013: 4).

After the pressure conducted by the Japanese to Korea and Japan's attempt to shift power gradually, ultimately, on August 22, 1910, the annexation agreement was signed and was known as the "*Treaty of annexation, proclamation, and accompanying document*". This agreement was signed by Terauchi Masatake (a *newly Japanese resident-general*) and Yi Wan-yong. It was approved and announced on August 29, 1910. Based on the agreement, Korea was official the full colony of Japan (Kim, 2002: 663-664). The position of *resident-general* changed to *the governor-general*. There were five reasons why the Japanese annexed Korea: (1) ensuring Japan's national safety; (2) ensuring eternal peace in the East-Asia region by eliminating any threats or disturbance; (3) improving the welfare and prosperity of the Korean people; (4) eliminating the administrative and financial losses of the dual system (*resident-general* and Korean Government); and (5) consolidating the same interests between Japan and Korea in East Asia by merging equality in race and culture to enable cooperation. (Iyenaga, 1912: 201)

4. Conclusion

Korea is a vital asset for Japan, and the annexation of the Korean Peninsula is on the agenda of the Japanese Government. The indications of Japan's hegemony in Korea can be seen in Japan's attitude when ignoring the declaration of Korean

neutrality and Japan gradually placed its military in Korea. Japan attempted to control Korea and its communication networks. Due to their efforts to control Korea, Japan sought support from other countries. Commonly, Korean protectorate rights were Japan's control over Korean foreign policy because Korea could use foreign relations to seek foreign assistance to support Korean sovereignty. The Korean government and people did not agree with the protectorate agreement. Even Korean voluntary military units tried to fight the occupation. After the fall of Gojong's emperor, Japan issued a new treaty, which stated that Japan could regulate the administration of the central government of Korea. Finally, in 1910, Korea had to sign an annexation treaty, and the Korean Peninsula became a Japanese colony until 1945. The wings of Japanese imperialism will expand to parts of China, the Western Pacific, and Southeast Asia later..

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