

# **The Truth of Dokdo\_1**

## **Usando (Usan Island) and Usanguk (Usan Nation)**

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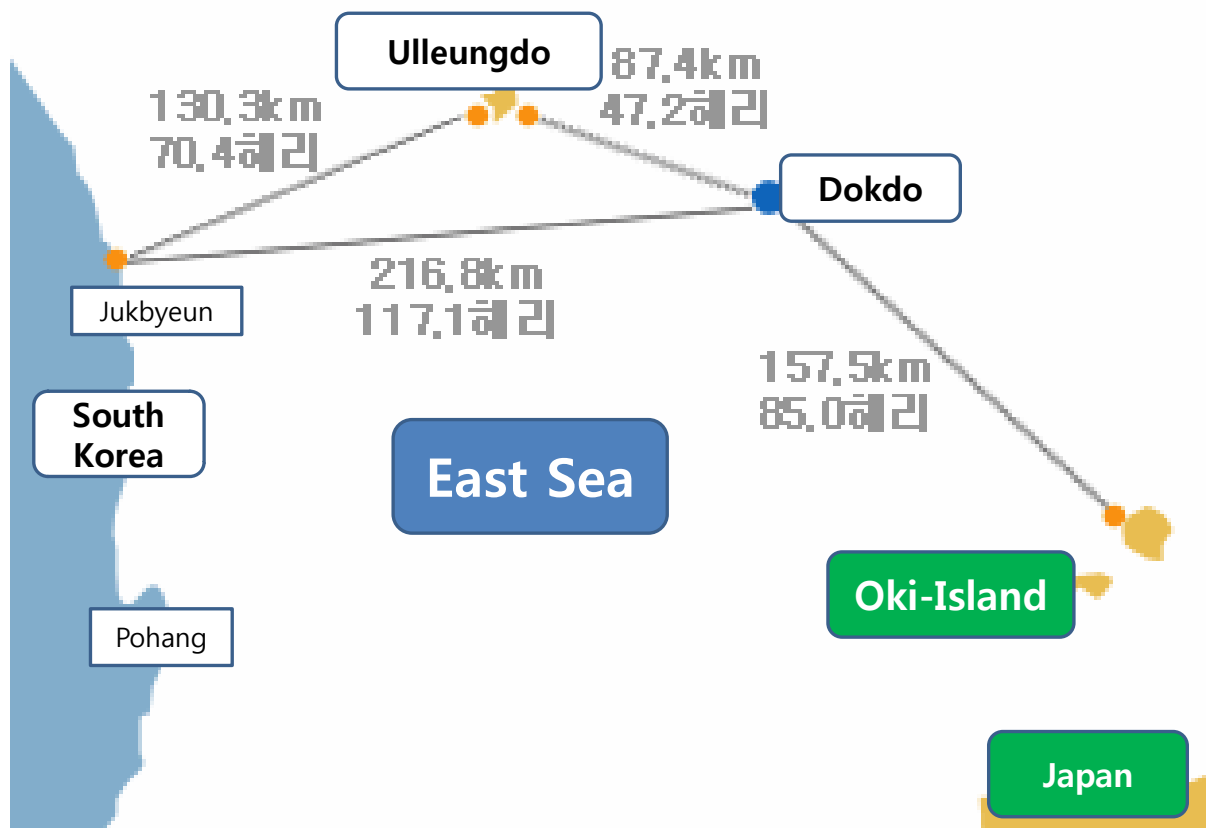
### **1. Location of Dokdo**

Let's examine where Dokdo is located and the distance of Dokdo from the mainland, Ulleungdo, and Oki Island, the closest Japanese island from Dokdo.

\* Dokdo is 87.4 km to the southeast of Ulleungdo, and can be seen by the naked eye from Ulleungdo on clear days. On the other hand, Dokdo is located 157.5 km to the northwest of Japan's Oki Island, however, cannot be seen by the naked eye.

### **2. First Record on Dokdo**

Then, what is the document containing the first record of Dokdo in Korea? There is a record of Ulleungdo in <The Chronicles of the Three States> (AD 1145). The record of 'Usanguk' is shown in a document from AD 512. The record contains the story that Isabu, the lord of Hasulla-province of Silla, made Usanguk a territory of Silla.



## 1) Usanguk within <The Chronicles of the Three States>

### <Summary>

The year of 512 was when King Jijeung of Silla was peacefully ruling the country. King Jijeung had a strong desire to control the islands in the East Sea. Thus, he ordered Isabu, the lord of Hasulla-province (present-day Gangneung), to conquer Usanguk in the East Sea and incorporate it as a territory of Silla.

Isabu knew that the people of Usanguk were tough and would not easily surrender, thus, thought of a scheme. The scheme was to make lions with lumber to threaten the people of Usanguk.

The army of Isabu fully loaded the wooden lions on a ship and sailed

towards Ulleungdo. When arriving at the coast of Ulleungdo, they put the lions on the coast and shouted out loud. "Surrender! Otherwise, we will unleash these wild beasts to kill you!"

The people of Usanguk, thinking that the wooden lions were real beasts, all surrendered in front of the army of Isabu. (This way, Usanguk became a territory of Silla and remains as a territory of Korea to this day.)

## 2) Let's examine the original text of 『The Chronicles of the Three States』

Let's examine the original text of The Chronicles of the Three States here, since checking the original text is extremely important to help fully understand the issue.

The story of Isabu's conquest over Usanguk is contained in Volume 4 of The Chronicles of the Three States and the volume for June of the 13th year of Jijeung Maripgan (Basic Annals of Silla.) The contents are as follows, when translating the original text written in Chinese letters into Korean.

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In June, the summer of the 13th year (AD 512), Usanguk became a territory of Silla, and presented the local products of the island every year as offerings. Usanguk is an island in the sea east of Myeong-ju (Gangwon province), which is also referred to as Ulleungdo. The directions of the island is 100-li (Korean 1-li is approximately 400m), and the islanders are known to be difficult to subjugate and confident in the ruggedness of the topography. Isabu became the lord of Hasulla-province.

He stated that the people of Usanguk are thick-headed, rough, and difficult

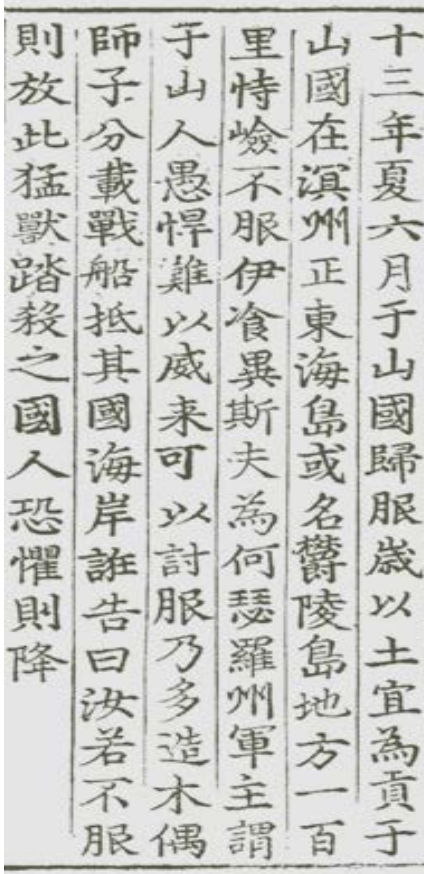
to subjugate by force, but may be conquered through a scheme. He made many wooden lions and loaded them in warships. When arriving at the coast of the nation, he deceived them by stating, "If you do not surrender, we will unleash these wild beasts to kill you." The people of the nation surrendered soon out of fear.

<Volume 4 of The Chronicles of the Three States and Silla Bongi 4 (Volume for June of the 13th year of Jijeung Maripgan)>

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### Original text in Chinese letters of Volume 4 of The Chronicles of the Three States and Silla Bongi 4.

The Chinese letters on the right are the original text of the conquest record of Usanguk in "Three Chronicles of the Three States." It is important to check the original text in Chinese letters.



十三年夏六月于山國歸服歲以土宜為貢于  
山國在溟州正東海島或名鬱陵島地方一百  
里恃嶮不服伊食異斯夫為何瑟羅州軍主謂  
于山人愚悍難以威來可以討服乃多造木偶  
師子分載戰船抵其國海岸誑告曰汝若不服  
則放此猛獸踏殺之國人恐懼則降

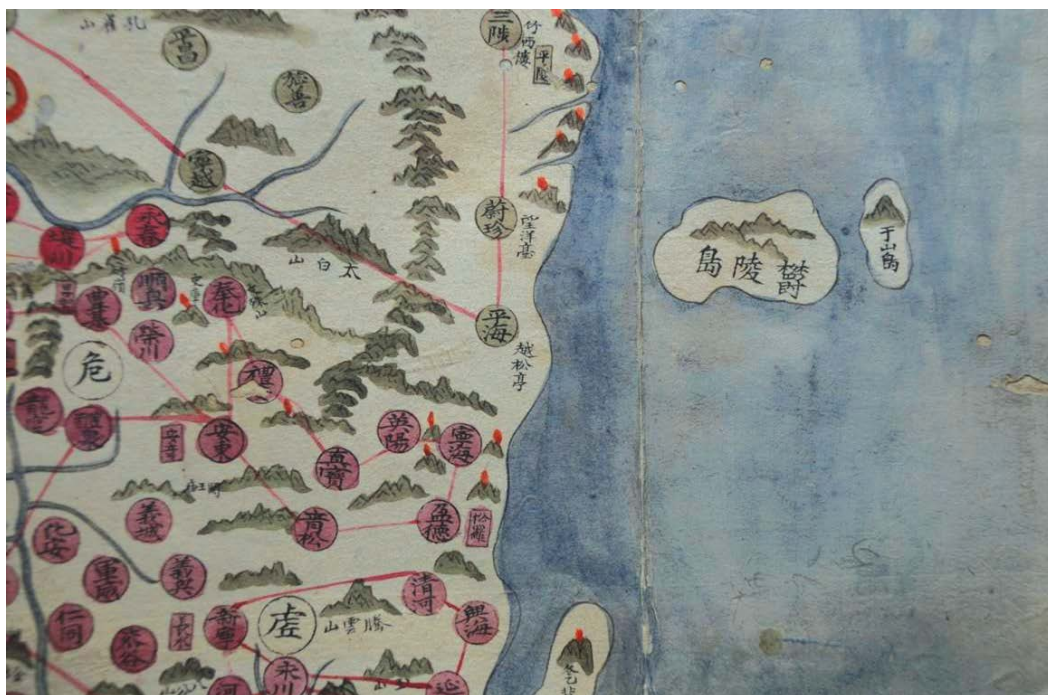
### 3. Criticism by Japan: Usanguk did not include Dokdo.

However, Japan refutes that the records in AD 512 of "The Chronicles of the Three States" only contains a record of Ulleungdo, but contains no record

on Dokdo. They allege that Usanguk only indicates Ulleungdo, at the time.

However, Usanguk was a nation having the range as a country. In particular, Dokdo can be seen with the naked eye from Ulleungdo on fine days. Thus, Ulleungdo residents can be said to have regarded Dokdo as their land when viewing Dokdo. In addition, Usando (=Dokdo) is drawn next to Ulleungdo in many old maps of Korea.

In addition, the “Sejong Sillok Jiriji (Geography Section of the Annals of King Sejong)” (AD 1454) records that ‘The two islands, Usan and Mureung (=Ulleung)...are not far from each other, thus, can be seen on clear days. The name was designated as Usanguk during the Silla era.’ This means that Usando (=Dokdo) and Ulleungdo were referred to as ‘Usanguk’ during the Silla era.



Ulleungdo and Dokdo recorded in “Map of Haedong,” which was made in the mid-19th century. Dokdo is accurately depicted as Usando, and Dokdo’s mountain peak is well detailed in this map.

As years passed, the official documents “Dongguk Munheon Bigo (=The Reference Compilation of Documents on Korea)” (1770), “Mangi Yoram (The Book of Ten Thousand Techniques of Governance)” (1808), and “Jeungbo Munheon Bigo (The Augmented Compilation of Documents on Korea)” (1908) record that ‘Usan and Ulleung are all territories of Usanguk, and Usan is Songdo (=Matsushima=Dokdo), as referred to by the Japanese.’

Here, the fact that Usando was a territory of Usanguk, thus, a territory of Joseon, and indicated as Dokdo is accurately recorded.

(FN :Japan referred to Dokdo as Matsushima (=Songdo) until the 19<sup>th</sup> century.)

Thus, Usanguk was composed of Ulleungdo and Usando, and Usando precisely indicated Dokdo. Consequently, Usanguk was a country composed of Ulleungdo and Dokdo, and became a territory of Korea from AD 512.

Japan’s allegation is merely a distortion originating from ignoring other records by only highlighting “The Chronicles of the Three States.”

#### **4. Ulleungdo Residents that Paid Tributes to the Goryeo Dynasty**

Usanguk, which became a territory of Silla, maintained peace under the control of Silla. However, after the demise of the Silla era and in the year 930, when the Later Three Kingdoms era started, the residents of Ulleungdo offered tributes to King Taejo Wang-geon of Goryeo.

Around the AD 930, the residents of Ulleungdo, who thought that the new ruler of the Korean peninsula would become Goryeo, had decided to serve Wang-geon of Goryeo as their new king. Afterwards, Silla became voluntarily absorbed into Goryeo in AD 935, and Goryeo unified the Later Three Kingdoms in AD 936.

The original text regarding such facts is as follows.

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Ulleungdo sends local products through Baekgil and Toedu, thus, granted ranks as Jeongwi to Baekgil and Jeongjo to Toedu.

<Volume 1 of Goryeo-sa (history of Goryeo) on August of the 13th year of Taejo(AD 930)>

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From the above original text, it can be seen that Wang-geon had granted official ranks as Jeong-wi and Jeong-jo to the residents of Ulleungdo. Ulleungdo and Dokdo became the territories of Goryeo in this way.