

ANCIENT KOREA–JAPAN RELATIONS AND THE *NIHONSHOKI*

By Choi Jae-sök

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ANCIENT KOREA–JAPAN RELATIONS AND THE *NIHONSHOKI* represents the distillation of 15 years of research by Choi Jae-sök into ancient Korea–Japan relations. The author analyses nineteen elements of the *Nihonshoki*, which, as he asserts, is more than a history of ancient Japan, it is also a history of ancient Korea–Japan relations.

The major aspects examined are: the mass emigration of Paekche refugees to Yamato-Wa (Japan); the territorial extent of Yamato-Wa; the limited extent of the Yamato-Wa kings' (emperors') royal power; the comparative backwardness of the shipbuilding and navigation skills of the Japanese in the periods in question; and, most significantly, the author's assertion that from around A.D. 500 Yamato-Wa was administered by Paekche kings.

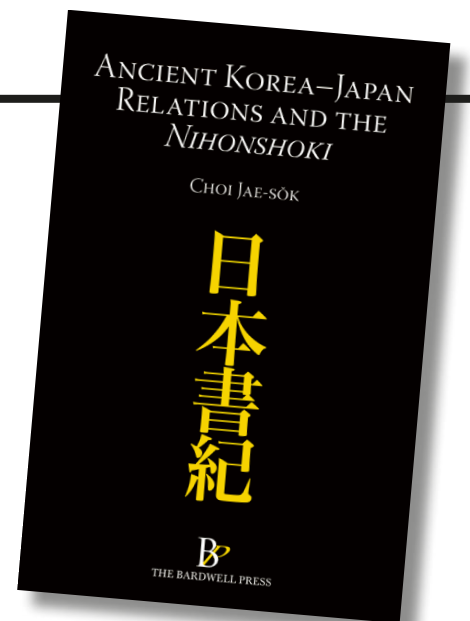
As a result of these analyses the author contests that, contrary to the commonly-held view in Japan that ancient Korea was a colony of ancient Japan (Yamato-Wa), the evidence suggests that this was not the case. In fact, the author states that, at least from the beginning of the sixth century, Yamato-Wa was administered by Paekche officials dispatched by Paekche kings.



CHOI JAE-SÖK (b. 1926) was a visiting professor at the Harvard-Yenching Institute (1966–1967), a professor of sociology at Korea University (1966–1991), and is currently a professor emeritus at the same university.

He has written ten books on ancient Korea–Japan relations and thirteen books on the Korean family and social history. Two of his early works were translated and published in Japan.

In recognition of his research he was awarded the Seoul City Cultural Prize in 1967 for *A Study of the Korean Family*, the First Academic Prize from the Korean Sociological Association in 1994 for *A Study on the History of the Korean Family System*, and was awarded the 46th 3-1 Cultural Prize in 2005 for several of his books on ancient Korea–Japan relations, including the original Korean edition of this book.



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