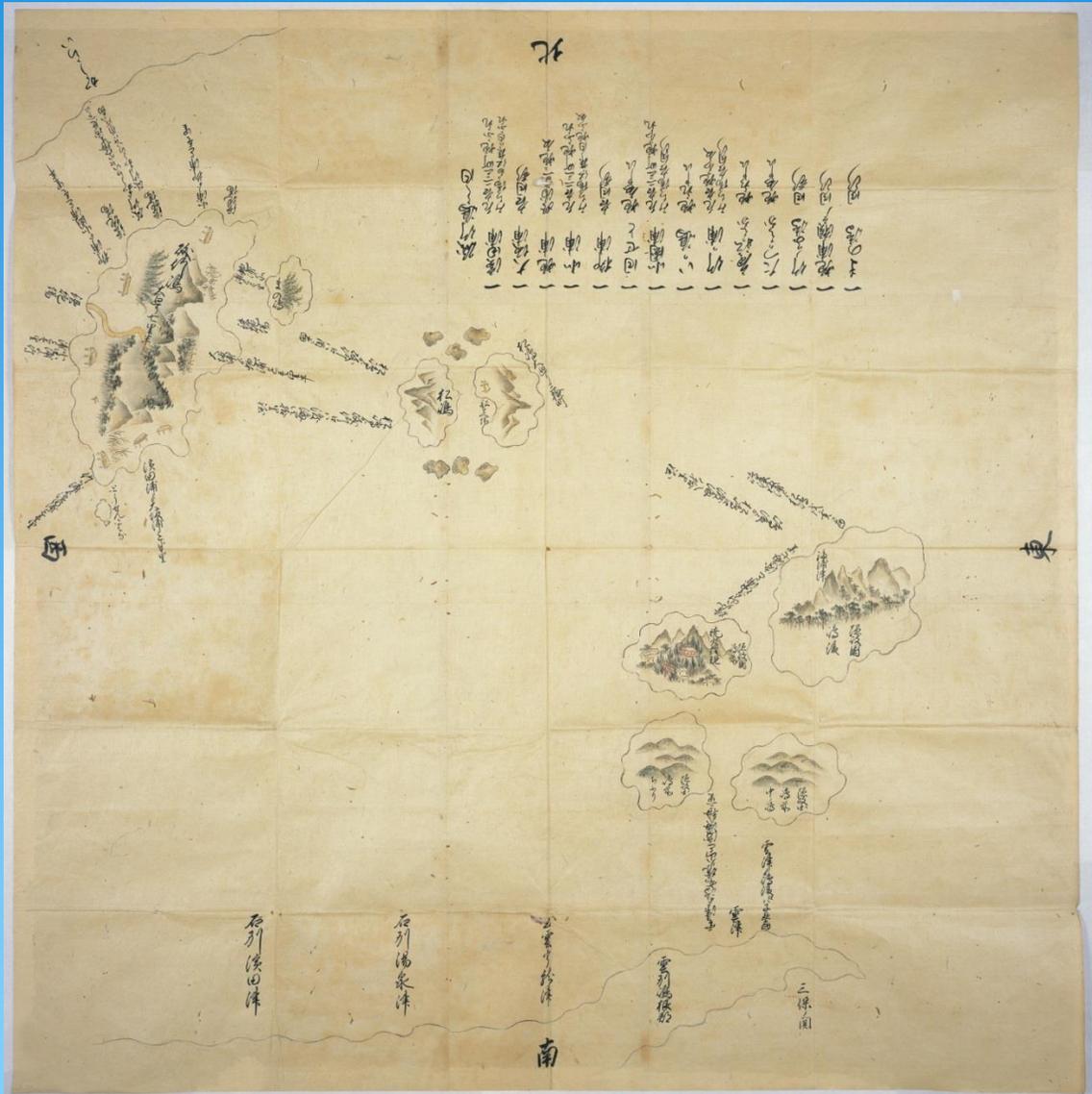


Takeshima

Let's study why Takeshima is Japanese territory.



Map of Takeshima (Tottori Prefectural Museum)

An illustrative map submitted in 1696 by Kotani Ihei, an official of the Tottori domain, to the Edo Shogunate. It accurately shows the positions of the Oki Islands, Matsushima (today's Takeshima) and Isotakeshima (Utsuryo Island) in relation to the Shimane Peninsula.

I'll introduce
Takeshima
in seven panels.



Takeshima is Japanese territory

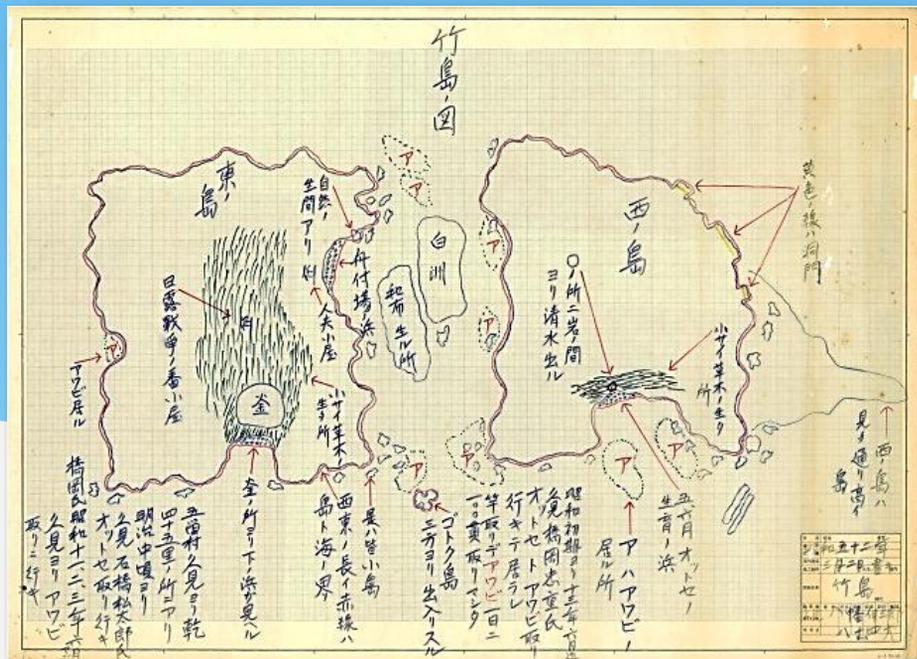
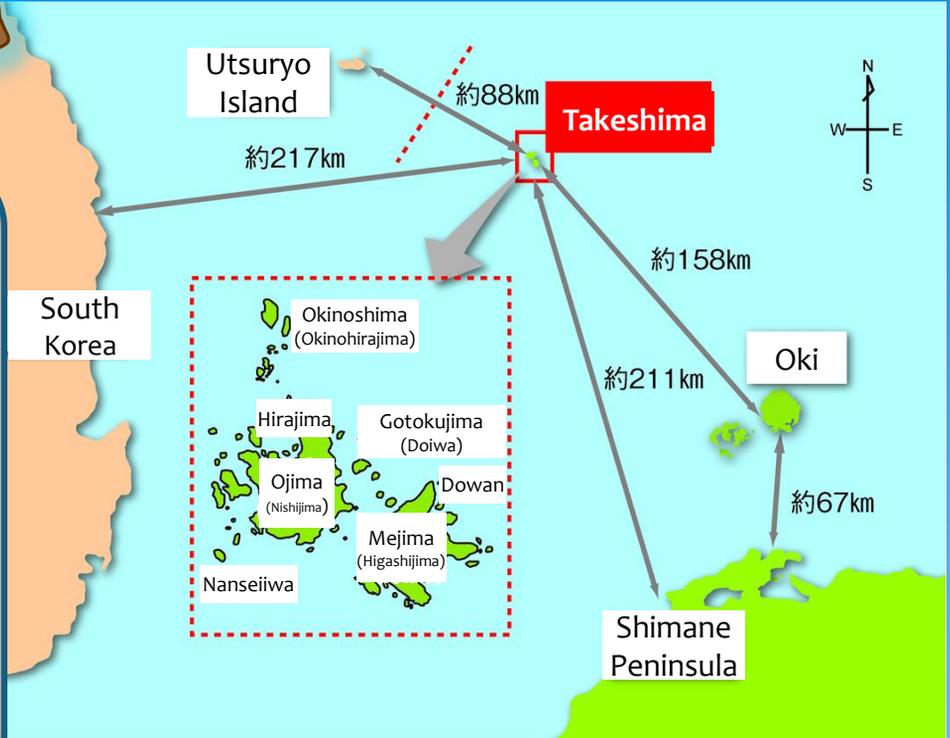


Takeshima is located at 37°14' N, 131°52' E, 158 km from Oki and 211 km from the Shimane Peninsula.

Takeshima measures roughly 200,000 square meters in surface area (approximately five times the size of the Tokyo Dome).

Takeshima is a steep volcanic island that is surrounded by sheer cliffs and has little vegetation or drinking water.

Takeshima's address: State-owned land, in Okinoshima Town, Oki-gun, Shimane Prefecture.



[Map of Takeshima]

In 1977 the late Isaburo Yawata, a resident of Oki, drew this map based on his visits to Takeshima in 1920s and 1930s.

Takeshima: Japanese territory where we cannot go

February 22 is “Takeshima Day.”

In light of the historical facts and based upon international law, Takeshima is indisputably an inherent part of the territory of Japan.

←Having ascertained that Takeshima had not been occupied by any other country and that only Japanese engaged in sea lion hunting, in January 1905 Japan’s Cabinet decided to incorporate it into Japanese territory. As a result, on February 22 of that year Shimane Prefecture officially announced that the island was under the jurisdiction of Oki in Shimane Prefecture.



↑ Scene of the Shimane Prefectural Assembly adopting the ordinance.

In 2005, the centennial of the announcement by Shimane Prefecture, the Shimane Prefectural Assembly enacted an ordinance designating **February 22 as “Takeshima Day.”**



Consequently, every year on February 22 Shimane Prefecture holds a ceremony to mark “Takeshima Day.”

← “Takeshima Day” Commemoration



Advertisement Tower (in front of JR Matsue Station)

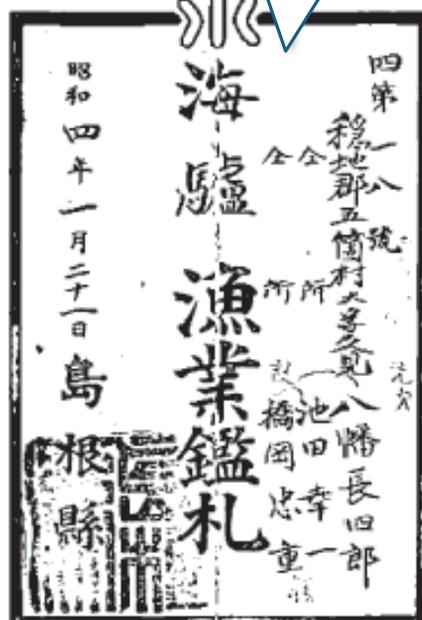
Takeshima and the Japanese in the Past

Scene of residents of Oki hunting sea lions and gathering wakame seaweed at Takeshima.



【1934】

Sea lion hunting license issued by Shimane Prefecture



【1934】

Japanese began full-scale hunting of sea lions at Takeshima from around 1900.



【1954】

Takeshima and Japanese were strongly tied together !



How Takeshima got into trouble.

Properly speaking,

A peace treaty (*1) was signed after the Pacific War ended. The Republic of Korea (ROK) insisted that Takeshima was its territory and requested the United States to amend the draft treaty. However, the United States refused that claim (*2), and the peace treaty confirmed that Takeshima was Japanese territory.

- ※1 **The San Francisco Peace Treaty** was signed on **September 8, 1951** and took effect on **April 28, 1952**. Article 2 (a) Japan, recognizing the independence of Korea, renounces all right, title and claim to Korea, including the islands of Quelpart, Port Hamilton and Dagelet.
- ※2 **The U.S. reply (the Rusk Note)**
“As regards the island of Dokdo, otherwise known as Takeshima or Liancourt Rocks, this normally uninhabited rock formation was according to our information never treated as part of Korea and, since about 1905, has been under the jurisdiction of the Oki Islands Branch Office of Shimane Prefecture of Japan. The island does not appear ever before to have been claimed by Korea.”

But...

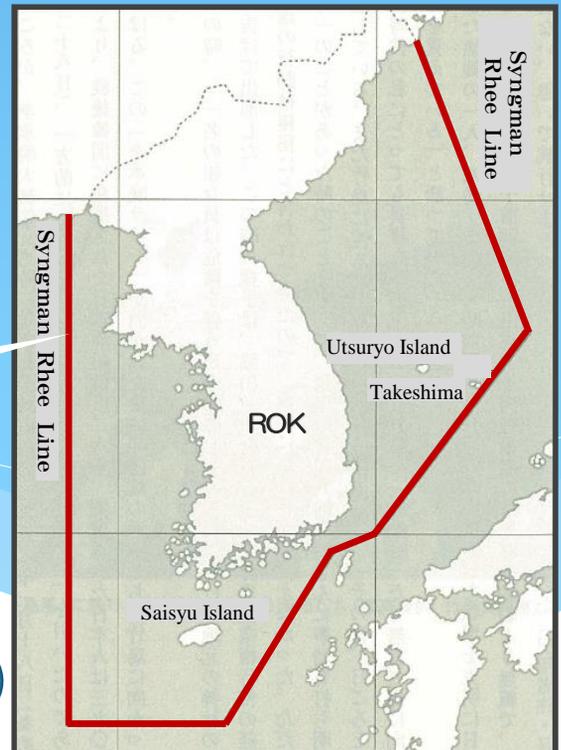
Then, before the peace treaty entered into effect, the ROK's President Syngman Rhee suddenly declared the “Syngman Rhee Line” (declaration concerning maritime sovereignty) and the ROK incorporated Takeshima into the ROK side of the line. That was the genesis of the Takeshima controversy.

Takeshima was enclosed within the Syngman Rhee Line.

Even after the Syngman Rhee Line was abolished, the ROK has continued to unlawfully occupy Takeshima by force and prevent Japanese from approaching.

What is the Rusk Note?

This Note, dated August 10, 1951, was the formal reply to a written request presented by the ROK government to the U.S. government about the draft peace treaty. Since it was signed “for the Secretary of States” by the Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs Dean Rusk, it is referred to as the “Rusk Letter.”



Troubles caused by the Takeshima problem

1) Approaching Takeshima or its surrounding area (12 nautical miles) is obstructed. [Note: 1 nautical mile = 1,852 meters]

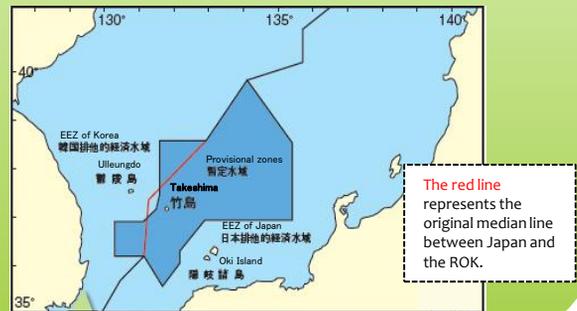
Not only has the ROK deployed a marine police force in the area, it has unilaterally built a lighthouse, loggings, a pier, etc., and run a liner to and from Takeshima, allowing tourists to come ashore; as such Japanese cannot approach the area.

The Japanese government continues to protest such actions.



2) Fishing is hindered.

Since the Takeshima issue remains unresolved, the delimitation of EEZ (exclusive economic zone) has not completed. “Provisional waters” where both sides can fish were set up, But in reality Japanese fishing vessels can catch almost no seafood there.



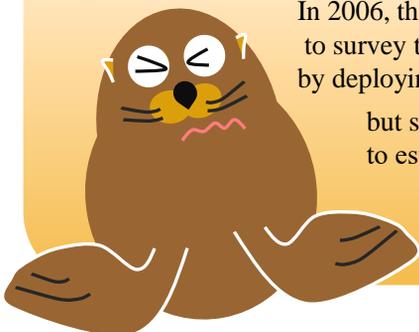
What are seabed and subsoil resources?

They petroleum, natural gas and minerals (methane hydrates, etc.) from the seabed and subsoil thereof

3) seabed and subsoil resources cannot be extracted.

In 2006, the Japan Coast Guard sought to survey the waters around Takeshima, but since the ROK interfered by deploying patrol vessels, it was unable to proceed.

but since then the ROK has carried out marine surveys related to its unilateral plan to establish an “Integrated Maritime Science Base.”



For a peaceful settlement ...



What are the government, prefecture and town doing to reach a peaceful solution?

Bringing a bilateral issue up for trial at the International Court of Justice is a way to resolve the issue peacefully but both sides to a dispute must agree to refer the issue to the court.

In 1954, 1962 and again in 2012, the Japanese government proposed to bring the Takeshima issue to the International Court Justice for trial. However, the ROK refused, stating, “No territorial issues between Japan and Korea exist.”

National Government actions

Actions by Shimane Prefecture

“Ordinance to establish Takeshima Day”

Exactly 100 years after Shimane Prefecture’s 1905 announcement incorporating Takeshima, in 2005 Shimane Prefecture designated **February 22 as “Takeshima Day.”**

Shimane Prefecture is promoting various programs to establish territorial rights.



School children are learning about Takeshima.

What is the International Court of Justice?

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) was established in 1945 in the Hague, the Netherlands, and is an important judicial organ of the United Nations.

The ICJ has 15 judges who judge disputes between countries.



Japan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs has issued a pamphlet entitled Definitive clarifications as to why Takeshima is Japan’s territory!
10 points to understand the Takeshima Dispute.



Actions by Okinoshima Town

The town of Okinoshima has built the Kumi Takeshima History Museum, an archiving facility for Takeshima-related documents and other materials, to promote fact-finding surveys and verification of fishing activities in Takeshima. In addition,

it is promoting education about the area in local schools, conducting educational activities for residents, and taking other measures to pass on to later generations the facts of fishing in Takeshima.



Let’s all acquire accurate knowledge about Takeshima.

by Ryanko-chan