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**KOREANS  
IN  
SOVIET CENTRAL ASIA**

By  
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HELSINKI 1987

이 책을 고려 사람 중앙 아시아 이주 50년 되는 해에 바칩니다.

Omistettu korealaisten Keski-Aasiaan muuton 50-vuotismuistolle.

Эта книга посвящается 50-летию переселения корейцев в Среднюю Азию.

Бұл кітап корейліктердің Орта Азияға қоныс аударуының 50 жылдығына арналады.

Ушбу китоб Корея халкни Ўрта Осиёга кучиб келишини 50 йиллигига бағишланган.

Dedicated to the memory of the 50th year of the transfer of Koreans to Soviet Central Asia.

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## Foreword

It is just half a century since Koreans were transferred to Central Asia . But it is only in the 1970s that proper attention began to be paid to them. During the last few years, some articles about them could also be found in newspapers and magazines. It is a fact that the study of Koreans in Central Asia has an important position in the research of the past of other Koreans, also. In addition to this, it will help to make the Soviet Union more understandable, as that country is so multinational.

Even if Koreans in Central Asia, who call themselves *Koryŏ Saram*, have changed in their habits, language and name giving, etc. compared with the Koreans in the Korean peninsula, they still attract much attention since they are very distinct from their neighbouring nationalities. In some way it would appear that research into these Koreans has started too late. For this reason also, studies dealing with them more systematically, that is instead of just being treated as a news curiosity, have been awaited by academic circles.

It was in summer, 1970, in Estonia that I got to know of the existence of Koreans in Soviet Central Asia. Since then, a desire to know about their past and present has remained in my mind. However, I first came to grips with this problem at the beginning of the 1980s, when a systematic collection of materials was started. The first concrete result of my study was rather inadequate due to the shortage of materials. However, it was published in Korean in 1984. The English version of this was accepted by the University of Helsinki as the fulfilment of the requirements for the licentiate's degree in 1986. After further endeavour, the present volume is ready for a broader circle of readers in different disciplines.

But the fact that Koreans in Central Asia are living scattered over a wide area, not forming any administrative unit, and that only some parts of Central Asia are open to outsiders, and that there exists only very scanty material about them, made a more detailed study quite difficult. Fortunately, these difficulties were, to a large extent, overcome, at least I would like to believe so, with the help of *Koryŏ Saram*. In this respect, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to Haiyŏn, without whose aid the present volume would not have been able to describe the present situation of the *Koryŏ Saram* so well, without my having had the possibility to visit Soviet Central Asia. There is no way that I can adequately thank him for his help.

Phil. Lic. Harry Halén from the University of Helsinki has been patient enough to read the whole of the manuscript and give stern academic advice. Only one who has done the same can appreciate what a great debt I owe him. Professor Seppo Zetterberg and Dr. Juha Janhunen have continuously supported my work and read the whole of the manuscript. My heartfelt thanks go to them for their many valuable and practical comments and suggestions. Professor M. H. Heu from Seoul National University has read the chapter on rice cultivation and made very valuable comments, for which I thank him very much, also. I express my gratitude to Prof. Dr. Eckardt Dege and cartographer G. Leschewsky from Kiel University for preparing the maps. My thanks are due to David Steadman, B. A., for checking the English language of the text.

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Helsinki, September 1987

Songmoo Kho

## Notes on transliteration

For Korean, the McCune-Reischauer system is used with the following modifications: *c, j* (between voiced sounds) for *ch*, *ch* for *ch'*, *kh* for *k'*, *th* for *t'*, *l* (in word-initial and syllable-final positions) for *r*, *cc* for *tch*, *ai* for *ae* and *oi* for *oe*.

For Russian, a system based on Anglo-American usage is applied, with *zh, kh, c, ch, sh* and *shch* for *Ж, Х, Ц, Ч, Ш* and *Щ* respectively. The letter *y* corresponds to Cyrillic *Й, Ы*, and the initial sound of *Я, Ю, е, and ё* (for the latter two, *y* is written only in syllable-initial position).

For Japanese, a modified version of the Hepburn system is used, with *aa, ei/ee, ii, ou/oo, uu* written for the long vowels.

For Chinese, Pinyin is used.

