Yu Gwan Sun and the March First Movement:  
The Triumph and Tragedy of Peaceful Resistance

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As the daughter of a history teacher, the importance of diverse thinking and understanding of different cultures has always been emphasized to me. Choosing a History Day topic was undoubtedly the most difficult part of my research process, but it was made easier by the discovery of my love for East Asian history and culture. Last year, I advanced to nationals with my project involving the forced prostitution of Koreans during World War II. During the week I spent in Washington, D.C., my teachers encouraged me to find another topic that I would be interested in researching for the next year. Though my initial topic this year was the 1937 Rape of Nanking, this changed upon my acceptance into Stanford’s Sejong Korean Scholars Program, a selective program for high school students that provides an in-depth view into the history of Korea. Knowing that I would be offered incredible opportunities for research of a topic related to Korean history, I changed my History Day topic to a monumental event in Korea’s past: the March First Movement of 1919.

I began my research by first refreshing my knowledge of the Japanese colonization of Korea, which officially began in 1910. I researched the brutality of the Japanese officers and the violence that occurred at the hands of Japanese officials before I moved on to the first Korean resistance movements, and eventually the March First Movement. While reading, I discovered that at the heart of the protests was an intelligent young girl by the name of Yu Gwan Sun. Yu, who was seventeen at the time, led a resistance movement that would lead to her arrest, torture, and eventual death. Her story was a vital contribution to Korean resistance, and I decided to focus my project on her virtuous efforts. My research is ongoing; as I delve further into my Korean history classes, I am constantly discovering new information that I hope to include in my exhibit.

Competing in the exhibit category has offered an incomparable opportunity for improvement in both my composition and design skills. I find the 500-word limit to be an exciting challenge rather than a hindrance, and such a constraint reminds me that each of my words must serve a purpose and that details, at times, must be compromised in order to present a larger concept. For the past six years, I have worked to create exhibits that not only display extensively researched information, but also convey the courageous stories of men and women who have changed history.
My topic is an excellent candidate for this year’s theme. The struggles and tragic deaths of Korean protestors, especially Yu Gwan Sun, were not in vain. Though it took until 1945 for Korea to once again become independent, the essence of freedom grew from the hopeful resistance of injustice on that first day of March, one hundred years ago. Japanese oppression kindled Yu Gwan Sun’s spark of resistance, proving that even the most tragic of events can lead to remarkable triumph.
Annotated Bibliography

Primary Sources


Nodie Kim, a Korean independence activist, is quoted in this article. She asks the American people to be the "allies of Korea," as she works toward establishing a League of Friends of Korea. Her intentions were to form diplomatic relations between Korea and foreign nations in hopes of allied support of the Korean independence movement.

<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045085/1919-08-12/ed-1/seq-2/>  

Mentioning Japan's failure to keep its promises to "Little Korea," this article touches on the fact that before the Japanese occupation, Korea was seen as a "hermit nation." Korea had previously been subject to the influence of Chinese culture and was often caught in the midst of other East Asian conflicts. It would not be until the end of the Japanese occupation in 1945 that Korea would regain its sense of identity.


Discussing the worldwide impact of the Korean resistance movement, this article takes into account the treaty made between the US and Korea that guarantees mutual aid in the event of a foreign country's occupation. This treaty was the first attempt at diplomacy by Korea but would prove to be unbeneicfial.

This LIFE magazine article describes the conquest of Asia by Japan. It provides information on the imperialism of Japan until its date of publication in 1937. Though the copy displayed in this exhibit is missing two pages, the original article contains more detailed information about the colonization of Korea.


The Declaration Project aims to provide accurate and in-context explanations and translations of different declarations of independence. This site displays one of the nine original copies of the Korean Declaration of Independence. It explains that even though thousands of copies of this declaration were printed, the Japanese destroyed almost all of them during their occupation of Korea. The Korean Declaration of Independence was the driving force behind the March First Movement. Its creation was inspired by Woodrow Wilson’s Fourteen Points speech, which emphasized the importance of “national self-determination” for the conquered regions of World War I. Thirty-three young Korean scholars wrote the Korean Declaration of Independence, copies of which Yu Gwan Sun would smuggle to her home town and surrounding cities to spread word of the movement.

<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045555/1910-08-29/ed-1/seq-7/>

Because the Japanese destroyed many of the original primary source documents available about the annexation of Korea, a large portion of my research was conducted by cross-checking information found in American newspapers with readily accessible facts.
This newspaper confirmed my findings that the Korean people originally accepted their colonization with quiet resentment, even though Japan celebrated with festivities. Korean resistance was a steadily growing factor between 1910 and 1919. As crimes by the Japanese became more extreme, Koreans became more hostile toward their captors.

<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lecn/sn83045462/1919-08-22/ed-1/seq-9/>

Following the promise of Japan to make reforms in Korea, this article argues that Japan's promise would not be upheld. Ultimately, this article predicted with incredible accuracy the outcome of Korean independence: it would be a long fight, but in the end, Japan would falter with its inability to control a restless nation. Though the purpose of this article hinted towards propaganda, information such as this inspired confidence in the Korean Independence Movement.


This article calls Korea "a bone everlastingly fought over by hungry dogs." These "dogs" are Japan, Manchuria, and Siberia. The writer highlights Korea's incredible history of unification, but fails to accurately depict the relationship between China and Korea before Japan's occupation of Korea. For this reason, I regarded the information in this article as strictly opinion and an insight into the common American view of Korea before its occupation.

Great Falls Daily Tribune. (Great Falls, Mont.), 13 April 1920. Chronicling America:
Frazier Hunt writes about the revolutionary movement in Korea. In a newspaper article from 1920, only a few months before Yu Gwan Sun's death, he writes "The revolutionary movement lives here today, and no power of Japanese bayonets or no amount of Japanese promises can kill it." Hunt's depiction of the Korean Independence Movement contributed to the widespread support of Korean triumph.


Making headlines was the title "Street demonstrations throughout Korea developing into violent riots." The article describes the March 28th riot that lasted only three hours but ended in the deaths of a thousand people.


This article describes the assassination of the Japanese Prince Ito by a Korean man to be a heroic effort. The author says that it is a shame China does not possess such a martyr as the man who killed Ito and that transformations are always seen when a martyr is introduced to a situation. This would come to be true for Yu Gwan Sun's death as well.

This article documents the annexation of Korea by Japan. It details the specific events surrounding the politics of Japanese expansion and serves as a credible source for understanding the Japanese imperialist mindset.

The Independence Hall of Korea, photographic display, Fourth Exhibition: Meaning and value of the Korean Independence Movement, Chungcheongnam-do, South Korea

The Independence Hall of Korea is a museum in South Korea dedicated to archiving historical documents in Korea's history. In the fourth exhibit of the Meaning and Value of the Korean Independence Movement gallery displays photos shown in this exhibit. These photos depict the efforts and arrests of independence demonstrators.

Korea, Seoul City, 1:7500. 1910. From Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress.

This map of Seoul in 1910 shows the alterations that the Japanese made to the names of famous sites in Seoul. At the time, the Japanese were using any means possible to stifle Korean resistance, even changing the names of landmarks and historical sites to Japanese titles. This map is one example of the alterations the Japanese made to public places in Korea during its colonization.


This article discusses President Rhee's opinion on the situation in Korea. He states that "It [Korea] would be ready for independence at any point in time." President Rhee was an original delegate for the 1919 peace negotiations between Japan and Korea, negotiations which would prove to be unsuccessful.

A translation of Korean independence activists’ experiences, directed by the Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers Douglas MacArthur, is printed here. This paper contains word-for-word translations of the Korean perspective of the independence movement and Japan’s colonial rule. Many interviews contain general contempt towards the Japanese, but a surprising number blame the government of Japan, not its citizens, for the suffering of the Korean people. It should be noted that prior to Japan’s surrender at the end of World War II, the Japanese had eliminated most first-person accounts of the Independence Movement, so the accounts found here are quite rare.

Midori, Komatsu. The Old People and the New Government.

In his speech given to Seoul’s Royal Asiatic Society, a group consisting of mostly British and American members, Midori attempts to justify the annexation of Korea by Japan. He describes the history of the two nations, saying, “...it [the annexation] is nothing more than the old state of things restored.” To understand the political and economic motives of Japan during this time period, it is critical to analyze the Japanese opinion, and Midori’s speech gives excellent examples of such.

Miller, Jacob. “23 Photographs of the Japanese Occupation of Korea and the Liberation.”

This collection of photographs illustrates the dominance and violence of Japanese officers during the occupation of Korea. It comments on the suffering of individuals and segregation that occurred from 1910 until 1945.

This article describes the reasons for Koreans' desire for independence. Korea had enjoyed nearly four thousand years of peace before took control. The author justifies Korean independence by writing that "Two thousand of those years were before Japan was even a nation."

<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn82014519/1920-02-20/ed-1/seq-15/>

From this article, it becomes evident that the Korean independence movement was well-recognized around the world. The newspaper says "Koreans will never agree to rule by the Japanese." The article continues, saying that the Korean people are "without a mouthpiece." Since Korean newspapers were banned, excluding two that had been regulated by the Japanese government to stifle resistance, most Koreans felt disconnected from the movement until Yu Gwan Sun managed to gather supporters for her protests.


The author of this article blames Japan's "dark militarism" on its opposition to Christianity. Despite remaining close-minded in his viewpoint, the author provides accurate information on the March First Movement.
Rhee. “South Korean Ceremony Song - ‘Song of March 1st Movement’ (삼일절 노래).”

The Song of the March First Movement was created to commemorate the activists who gave their lives for the movement. It is used to manifest pride in the hearts of citizens. Its lyrics insightfully display the intense nationalism that sprang from the March First Movement. This video also contains rare footage of the Korean Independence Movement.


Francis Schofield, a foreigner in Korea at the time of the March First Movement, was one of the only photographers to capture images of the day’s events. Because the majority of primary source documentation for the March First Movement had been gathered and destroyed by the Japanese, it is rare photos like those Schofield captured that were smuggled out of Korea and sent to newspapers worldwide.


This US Senate resolution made March First an official holiday in New York, providing recognition for Yu Gwan Sun’s efforts and her nation’s triumph.

Wilson, Woodrow. “Fourteen Points.”

Woodrow Wilson’s speech would not only serve as the basis for peace negotiations between countries involved in World War I, but it would also inspire the Korean
Independence Movement. Wilson’s speech encouraged the desire for democracy in Korea, and Korean scholars worked the principles of Wilson’s speech into the Korean Declaration of Independence, which would be illegally distributed around Korea with the help of Yu Gwan Sun and other resistance leaders.
Secondary Sources


This site displays photos of Seodaemun Prison, where nearly 40,000 activists were imprisoned throughout Japan’s occupation. Of those, 400 would die from torture and disease, including Yu Gwan Sun. In 1919, Seodaemun Prison had a building reserved for female protesters. Prisoners were often raped and tortured by officers, evidence of which has only been revealed by accounts of survivors. Many people were also kept in underground cells, specifically designed so that prisoners could not stand up. Yu Gwan Sun withstood months inside one of the underground cells, yet she still managed to find a way to document her experiences by writing on scraps of paper other prisoners slipped to her.


This video intricately explains the details of the March First Movement. Rather than focusing on the movement’s lack of immediate success, the documentary includes multiple interviews with professors of Korean history in an effort to convey the immense triumph of eventual Korean independence. This documentary also shows the only known video footage of the March First Movement. The video is incredibly brief, lasting only slightly longer than two seconds.

This article discusses the grievances that led Koreans to fight for their independence, emphasizing the organization’s hope for peace in the country.


Erin Blakemore insightfully describes the annexation of Korea by Japan, taking into account the brutality and injustice that Koreans were subject to under Japanese rule. Prior to the 1910 annexation, Korea was a protectorate of Japan. The Korean resistance movement found its roots in Japanese oppression during this time.


Discussing the details of Japan’s occupation of Korea, this online summary of Mark Caprio’s book segues into a discussion of the Korean independence movement. Caprio’s writing illustrates the ability of Koreans to maintain their culture as the Japanese attempted to eradicate Korean language and history.


New York adopted March 1st as Yu Gwan Sun Day in order to commemorate her efforts with the March First Movement. The article shows a photo of Yu Gwan Sun’s memorial in her hometown of Cheonan after the establishment of “Yu Gwan Sun Day.” The achievement of Yu’s recognition is no small triumph. The contributions by females to the
March First Movement has often been overlooked in history. Many textbooks and websites fail to mention Yu Gwan Sun’s involvement at all, unrightfully claiming that there is a lack of evidence to support her contributions to the movement.


Anne Choi’s article explores the effects of the Korean Independence Movement on Koreans’ racial identity. She writes about Koreans who are caught up in the midst of extreme nationalism under Japanese colonial rule. These nationalistic sentiments then transcend into new forms of patriotism as the United States “adopts” Korea. Her article provides excellent information about the scarcely mentioned psychological effects of the Korean Independence Movement.


After analyzing documents found in Boston University’s archives, students compiled their findings into this article, which describes the events of March First, 1919 and focuses on the public reading of the Korean Declaration of Independence. The article mostly describes how Boston newspapers responded to the March First Movement, providing another perspective on the events surrounding Korean independence.

Chokshi, Niraj. “South Koreans in New York Celebrate a 100-Year-Old Independence

On the hundredth anniversary of the March First Movement, which occurred on March 1st, 2019, South Koreans in New York gathered to celebrate the occasion. Together, they held a portrait of Yu Gwan Sun and waved traditional Korean flags, recreating the scene of the original March First Movement.


In an effort to contrast the existing opinions regarding the aid of foreign missionaries in the March First Movement, Donald Clark begins his article with an unbiased explanation of the prominence of Christianity in Korea. He then explains how foreign missionaries in Korea "sheltered Korean student activists." If the Japanese had not been restricting the religious rights of Koreans, he explains, foreign missionaries would not have taken part in the independence movement. These missionaries like Frank Schofield, whose photographs are displayed in this exhibit, played a crucial role in spreading news of the movement throughout the world.


This website provides details on the individual protests that occurred during the March First Movement. In all, nearly 1500 protests occurred, involving a tenth of the Korean
population. These protests occurred in both large cities and rural towns, spurred by the illegal distribution of the Korean Declaration of Independence.


Daeyeol examines the state of Korean independence immediately following Korea's liberation from Japan. Because Korea had never established true and lasting international relations prior to colonization, it was largely up to the United States and Russia, whose Cold War conflict would provide an environment for the start of the Korean War, to establish Korean governments and permanent relations with the two Koreas.


Yu Gwan Sun’s legacy is noted in this article, which also depicts the obstacles that Yu and other protesters had to face in order to challenge Japanese oppression. Images found on this site include a printed copy of the Korean national flag, waved by protesters during the movement. The author also notes that Yu Gwan Sun’s efforts were not underscored by her death at a young age, stating the following: “Even though Yu only worked in the independence movement for 21 months, her name remains a source of strength and pride to Koreans even today.”


Devine assesses the state of the Japanese rule in Korea prior to and proceeding the March First Movement. He analyzes the recommendations of Governor-General Hasegawa to
the Japanese, noting that while Hasegawa’s suggestions may seem harsh, the policies he recommended were enormous steps in the direction of freeing Koreans from oppression by the Japanese. The response Hasegawa received indicates the thinking of Japanese leaders at the time. Many did not believe that Koreans should be involved in their own government, as Hasegawa recommended, but eventually the Japanese did pursue a less stringent rule over Korea.


By comparing Yu Gwan Sun to Joan of Arc, the author is able to make the point that Yu’s martyrdom would leave a legacy for generations to come. Yu’s time in prison is also described in this article. Yu withstood months of torture, left to the care of prison guards that committed unspeakable crimes to her. Though Yu Gwan Sun was never able to share her experiences of being imprisoned, surviving prisoners have come forward to claim that the Japanese officers often assaulted and raped female prisoners.


Mr. Hwang explains the extent of the March First Movement, stating that the unification the movement provided “proved short-lived. The independence movement split into two opposing ideological camps, a division that eventually became institutionalized into the separate states that we know today as North and South Korea.” This is yet another tragedy resulting from the March First Movement.

Ji, Geun-ok. “Special Project-Having an Accurate Understanding of Korea’s Modern

Showing great nationalism, the author of this article says, “The history of Korea plays a part in our own history as individuals.” The author summarizes what occurred during the Japanese occupation of Korea, reaching a wide online audience.


Despite the printing of thousands of copies of the Korean Declaration of Independence, only nine are known to still exist. This article describes the discovery of the ninth document, found on the third of March, 2019.


To present a more personal perspective of Japanese colonization, Kang’s book displays numerous descriptions of the Korean colonial era by those who experienced it themselves. From these descriptions, I came across multiple emotional aspects of the Japanese occupation that I had yet to consider: the shame that accompanies changing one’s own name, Koreans’ fear of being drafted into the Japanese military, and the worry for family members who were arrested during the independence movement.


This article was the most influential individual source used for research in this project. The New York Times has created a section of “Overlooked” women in history, and through its publicity, the bravery and determination of Yu Gwan Sun became evident.


New York officially named March 1st “Yu Gwan Sun Day.” This marks a memorable achievement in the steps towards recognizing Yu’s efforts for the Korean Independence Movement, which have previously been undervalued.


This book is perhaps the most well-known publication of Korea’s history. It accounts in detail the Korean resistance movement, putting into context Yu Gwan Sun’s involvement in the March First Movement.


Hannah Kim, the author of this article, spearheaded the passage of the Korean War Veterans Recognition Act. In her article, she emphasizes the importance of Korea’s
pre-war history. She names Yu Gwan Sun as “Korea’s Joan of Arc,” a title that has stuck with the activist for decades.


Yu Gwan Sun’s death is described in this article. After her death, her house was burned down, and the cemetery where she was buried was destroyed. According to the article, Yu left behind only a hat that she knitted for her cousin.


Kim adeptly explains the involvement of Christianity in the Korean Independence Movement. She writes of how followers of Christianity introduced Christian stories and ideas to scholars, which in turn provoked their desire for repentance, calling it “an important part of national recovery.” Kim writes that Korean nationalism became associated with Christianity and was greatly looked down upon by the Japanese.

In the second half of the “Korean Christian” series, Robert Kim explains the effect of progressive American ideas and Christianity on the Korean Independence Movement. Yu Gwan Sun herself was a Christian, and prior to the March First Movement, she attended a school funded by foreign missionaries. Korean independence advocates were mostly scholars who attended some form of a Christian school, where they learned the Western ideas of justified revolution.


Despite her contribution to the triumph of Korean independence, Yu Gwan Sun does not appear in many modern Korean history textbooks. The author of this article calls into question the lack of appreciation for her patriotism, citing the causes for this as both sexism and bias against Yu’s young age.


Describing the Korean independence movement with very technical and unbiased dictation, this article gives a detailed explanation of the events leading up to the March First Movement. Prior to the public demonstration itself, Korean scholars had gathered in
Tokyo to draft the Korean Declaration of Independence and discuss necessary measures to reestablish Korea's independence. The article briefly mentions the actions of future Korean president Syngman Rhee. It goes into detail about the number of protestors and the number of forces the Japanese military supplied towards the suppression of the protests.


In 2013, a large group gathered in the Seodaemun district of Seoul, where Yu Gwan Sun was imprisoned. Together, they celebrated the anniversary of the March First Movement. Demonstration such as this continue to take place all around Korea. The goal of many of these protests is to ensure that Yu's legacy is not forgotten in the wake of recent tense diplomatic issues between Japan and Korea.


Erez Manela broadens the perspective of the March First Movement, comparing it to the spring uprisings of Egypt, India, and China in the same year. Manela places the movement into the perspective of the Wilsonian colonialism, which is the revolutionary ideas held by oppressed colonies around the world, inspired by the Fourteen Points statement.

"March 1 Movement - One Korea Global Campaign." One Korea Global Campaign, 2018,

One Korea is an organization advocating for the reunification the Korean peninsula. The website of the organization describes the legacy of the March First Movement’s impact on lasting tension between the two Koreas, providing a short video that explains the influence of the Korean Independence Movement.


In this article published just before the 100th anniversary of the March First Movement, Min-Ju Lee explores the importance of Korean nurses who were independence advocates. These nurses treated injured student activists, “distributed the independence declaration, and led manse demonstrations from town to town.”


Bardise Muhammad describes her own discovery of Yu Gwan Sun’s work towards the Korean independence movement. She comments on a popular children’s book, which aims to teach young students about Yu’s work.

Guy Podoler explores the “collective memory” of the Korean colonial era by examining the construction and demolition of monuments, museums, and memorials. He claims that the image of the March First Movement should be portrayed differently and that the movement has been wrongly used as a channel for the recollection of colonial rule. The information in this exhibit argues the opposite. While Podoler argues that the significance of the March First Movement is too greatly exaggerated, his own statements are contradictory. He claims that collective memory is what remains after history has taken its course, and that collective memory itself contributes an accurate representation of historical events. Yet his article continuously berates the March First Movement’s legacy. Articles such as this have negatively influenced the memory of the March First Movement, which in turn lead to a “collective ignorance” and deprecation of Korean patriotism.


Professor Michael Robinson of Indiana University gave a lecture about colonial Korea for my Sejong Korean Scholars course, a class I was accepted into for my interest in Korean history. Professor Robinson’s lecture provided insight about the details of the Japanese colonization of Korea and discussed the efforts of student leaders who wrote the Korean Declaration of Independence. During the lecture, Professor Robinson answered my questions about the impact of the March First Movement and gave his opinion on the reasons the movement was not immediately successful.

Sato, Hiroaki. “Japan’s Colonial Rule of Korea Was ‘moderate,’: The Japan Times.” The

In a controversial article, this author argues that Japan’s occupation of Korea was “moderate.” This opinion should be taken into account, despite the evidence against such a statement, because the author provides historical context of other country’s colonial occupations in comparison with the Japanese colonization of Korea. While Japan’s treatment of Koreans may seem anything but “moderate,” it is important to consider the perspective of other colonized regions to fully understand the justification behind resistance.


Sarah Soh explains the evolution of women's participation in South Korean government. She cites the March First Movement as the instigator for women's involvement in Korean politics. Many student and religious advocates of Korean independence were imprisoned during the movement, but several were also appointed to government positions following the end of the Second World War: "After liberation, they [women activists] were appointed to high office in the Rhee administration and were elected to the National Assembly."


Keiko Sometani examines the impact of the Korean Independence Movement, which is considered a uniting factor for Koreans, in the context of Korean reunification. She writes
that “the ideals [of the movement] still resonate in the hearts of the Korean people and could serve as a catalyst for the current global movement to support reunification.”


This article provides an overview of the events of March 1st, 1919. It discusses Yu Gwan Sun’s bravery and the protests she led during that year.


Maps of the city of Seoul can be found here, provided by the Library of Congress. These maps depict the alterations the Japanese made to the titles of places and monuments. This level of control forced the Koreans into submission and would encourage Yu Gwan Sun’s efforts as she led her country in its fight for independence.


Jaceon Toomgam’s article discusses modern-day March First protests. He describes the movement as inspiring, and calls it “the first people’s movement in Korean history that combated any form of discrimination, prejudice, and violence."

On the 100th anniversary of the March First Movement on March 1st, 2019, dozens of articles about the event were published, bringing newfound publicity to the movement. This is one such article. Trepanier explains in detail the political effects of the movement, deeming it a “catalyst for the establishment of the Provisional Government of the Republic of Korea.” While most other articles published on this day review the movement and note its effect on the modern nationalism of Korea, Trepanier specifically calls to the historical impacts of the movement.


By describing the life and circumstances of Francis Schofield, the author of this website provides unique insight into the events of the March First Movement. Schofield, a foreigner living in Korea, was one of the only photographers to capture the events of the March First Movement. His photos are displayed in this exhibit, and it is thanks to him that news of the movement spread across the world.


Yoon’s article mentions the impact of the Korean Independence Movement on the migration of Koreans. Prior to the independence movement, Koreans migrated to foreign
countries for economic reasons. During Korea’s colonial rule, many moved to Manchuria to help with the resistance movement. Yoon claims that the March First Movement was unsuccessful, which promoted many Koreans to begin migrating for political reasons. However, Yoon mentions only the surface facts of this argument, so while it is reasonable to claim that the March First Movement was unsuccessful in certain aspects, it had its own successes that would motivate Koreans to continue resisting Japanese oppression.


This website goes into painstaking detail to describe Yu Gwan Sun and others’ efforts in the Korean resistance movement. It mentions that Yu Gwan Sun and her peers have been passed over in history because of the lack of evidence supporting the events of March 1st.


Yu and Kale present an argument for the position of Christian missionaries in Korea during the early 1900s. They claim that some foreign missionaries largely ignored the Korean independence movement because it was a political matter rather than a religious one. Other missionaries, however, felt compelled to intervene, and their efforts to shelter student activists and photograph the events helped to document this major historical movement.