

[Articles]

Australia, Korea and the Korean Question in the United Nations, 1946-1991

Pages: 1–26

John Synott

Abstract: One previously unrecognised feature of the history of the political relationship between Australia and Korea is the role played by Australia as a member of the United Nations Organization in respect to the so-called Korea Question. Drawing on source documents from UN Resolutions and Australian Archives this article examines the changing positions of Australia as the Korea Question developed in the UN General Assembly. This spanned a period from the beginnings of the UN Organization until the time when both Koreas were admitted as members in 1991. The article proposes the Australian positions as responses to changing domestic and international political contexts.

Democratic Consolidation and the Debate on Constitutional Reform in South Korea

Pages: 27–46

Heike Hermanns

Abstract: The debate about constitutional change in Korea is often little more as a political manoeuvre rather than genuine concern about long-term effects and shows the lack of democratic consolidation. This paper identifies political attitudes and behaviour as key obstacles to democratic consolidation and suggests that rather than changing the constitution, the opportunities of electoral law changes could be utilised to improve the political system in Korea.

Epenthetic [i] in Optimality Theory

Pages: 47–58

Duk-Soo Park

Abstract: In this paper, the [i]-and-zero alternation across the verb/adjective stem boundary in Korean is described as an i Epenthesis phenomenon within the framework of Optimality Theory. Here, I claim that the function of the epenthetic vowel [i] is to block two regressive weakening processes, namely Obstruent-Nasalisation and Alveolar Stop-Spirantisation, so as to maintain the morpheme

ancient Chinese system of divining locations that cannot easily be classified or labelled using a Western category. It is not a clear-cut superstition, religion or science, but an art comprised of all three. The influence of geomantic ideas on Korean culture is so profound that it is almost impossible to understand the people-land relationships in Korea without appreciating the nature of geomancy and its role in Korean culture. Ever since this idea was introduced to Korea, it has been an important part of the Korean way of thinking in dealing with the environment. Its impact is clearly visible in Korean settlement landscapes, grave landscapes, the practice of religious beliefs, and even in Korean literature and paintings.

Education and Research on Korean Studies in Malaysia

Pages: 119–136

Md. Nasrudin Md. Akhir and Tan Soo Kee

Abstract: This paper discusses the initiatives taken by higher institutions of learning, especially the University of Malaya (UM) and other public universities, in promoting