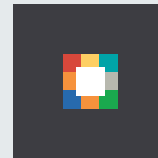


# News from Northeast Asia

Seoul National University Asia Center (SNUAC) aims to serve as a hub for Asian Studies by integrating regional studies and thematic research agendas across Asia. Since its establishment in 2009, SNUAC has been working on laying a cornerstone for Asian Studies at Seoul National University. SNUAC contributes to the cooperative relationship and mutual prosperity in Asia by advancing and sharing knowledge on Asian Studies. SNUAC is a global, integrated research center that combines academic research, international exchange, and human resource development. It is home to three regional research centers and eight thematic research programs: Northeast Asia Center; Southeast Asia Center; Central Asia Center; Asia Census; Civil Society and NGOs; Democracy and Economic Development; Environmental Cooperation; Popular Culture; US-China Relations; Transnational Asia; Asia Global Economic Order. For further information please visit: <http://snuac.snu.ac.kr>



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## Remembering and rewriting seventy years since the end of World War II in Northeast Asia

Joo Yunjeong

AS THIS YEAR, 2015, marks the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, each country in the Northeast Asia region staged various memorials this summer, on different dates and in different ways. The services included official statements (executed by the presidents and prime ministers of each country), commemorative events (such as parades and exhibitions), and academic conferences held in South Korea, China, Japan, and Taiwan. Such acts of commemoration not only serve to remember the past, but are also anticipated to rewrite the future of the region. Given that the countries of Northeast Asia hold varying perspectives and follow different directions, common ground for regional peace and prosperity can only be found if these differences are better understood. In South Korea, for instance, the meaning of '8.15' has evolved over the past decades as the political powers have changed. In China, on the other hand, a large-scale military parade was held on September 3rd for both internal and external purposes, while in Japan, the repentance speeches about the past have turned into major political events and sources of conflict. In Taiwan, the textbook contents on the history of Japanese colonialism have been under heated discussion.

In these ways, history is not just history in Northeast Asia. History is evoked for different purposes and within different contexts. In order to understand the present and future directions of Northeast Asia, it is crucial to look upon the past, witnessing how the past is both remembered and rewritten constantly.

SNUAC Editorial Committee  
(Managing Editor Joo Yunjeong, Research Fellow, SNUAC)

During the Victory Day Parade, Chinese helicopters fly the number '70' to memorialize the 70th anniversary of the victory of the war (courtesy of People's Daily Online, [kr.people.com.cn](http://kr.people.com.cn)).

