Korean territory was represented on old maps created in the pre-modern era. Although the boundaries of the territory on these maps are not as clear on maps made in the modern era, these antique maps reflect various and unique aspects of historic Korean territory and serve as evidence for territorial claims made today. Collectively, they represent Korean land ownership and Korean territorial perceptions of land as they have been shaped over time. These territorial documents are not only maps of prefectures, military maps, and general maps of Korea, but also on world maps made by cartographers, both Koreans and others from around the world.

Although mappamaking in Korea dates back to before the Three Kingdoms Period, only the maps made during the Joseon Dynasty now survive. The oldest existing Korean map today is the dozen gangje jindo yeokdae gukdo jido (Map of Integrated Lands and Regions) made in 1445 and more the Donghak Jido (Map of Korea) by Yang Sejong in 1483 (the 59th year of King Sejong). The Jindo gangje jindo yeokdae gukdo jido (Map of the Territory) is a great example of the Joseon jindo yeokdae gukdo jido in the 15th century. This map frames the Korean Peninsula, Manchuria to the north of the Amnokgang River, and the Dumangang River. It represents the view of the national territory by Korean elites and scholar like Yang Sejong, who believed Korean territory stretched beyond the Peninsulas to include Manchuria.

The Fini chongpung (General Map of Eight Provinces) included in Sejong dongguk jindo yeokdae (Complete Compendium of the Territory of the Sannun Country), was made in 1533, is one of the most representative maps of Korean territory produced in the early Joseon Dynasty. This map takes the form of an appendix chart to complement the geographic description, but its description of the land is rather crude. The purpose of the map is not to delineate the country’s territory in detail, but to express the establishment of royal authority and Confucian ideas for governance by means of commemorative views of the national land. The map indicates several mountains, large rivers, and seas that included in the initial drafts. It also features many islands in the East Sea and the Yellow Sea such as Ulleungdo, Ulleungdo (current Ulleungdo), and Hallyeondo, which highlight the fact that they belonged to the Joseon Dynasty as long ago as the 15th century.

In the late Joseon Dynasty, after the two devastating wars with Japan and Manchuria, various types of maps were made with the specific intention of defining the boundaries of Joseon territory. This increased awareness of border regions, such as the northern part of the Peninsula and the coastal and border areas, was reflected in these maps. Military maps like the Yuga jindo yeokdae gukdo jido (Map of the Yuga Borderland) and Hallyeondo jindo yeokdae gukdo jido (Complete Map for Defense of the West and North Border) identified the borderlands around the Amnokgang River and the Dumangang River. These maps were used to define the national boundaries and to prepare for war. These maps prove that the specific borderlands belonged to Joseon.

In the late 18th century, the Donghak Jido (Map of Korea) made by Yang Sejong, was a source of information on late Joseon Dynasty imperialism. Unlike the maps of the early Joseon Period, the scale of this map is large: 1:4,502,000. It contains the elements of the Amnokgang River and the Dumangang River and describes the coastline as precisely as contemporary maps. The Donghak Jido was based on the first map to truly delineate Korean territory. It was widely copied and used by government offices and civilians, later becoming the basis for black-printed maps of Korea, such as the Hallyeondo jindo yeokdae gukdo jido (Complete Map of the Amnokgang Borderland). When the two volumes are unfolded side by side, the sections combine to form a comprehensive view. In 1861, Kim Jong-hee completed the Donghak jindo yeokdae gukdo jido, a splendid cartographic masterpiece of the Joseon Dynasty.

The territorial boundaries of the Joseon Dynasty were firmly established when Kim Jong-hee made the Donghak jindo yeokdae gukdo jido. The territorial rights of Korea represent the unique aspects of Korean territory from the national to the coastal and insular regions. Korea’s cartographic tradition took another watershed moment in 1876 when Joseon opened its ports. Ancient cartographers at the Joseon Academy made accurate maps based on triangulation and triangulation. These maps were used for not only for the national territory but also for the external territories as well. These maps were also used in later times in the Joseon Dynasty, which was divided into 22 sections, and such cartography is reflected in the insular Korean territory. In 1910, when Japan began to establish its occupation of Korea, the modern cartography of Korea was developed and the delimitation of the national territory on maps was interpreted. This interpretation lasted for the duration of the Japanese occupation.
This map is a copy of a manuscript world map made by Kwon Keun, Kim Sa-hyung, Lee Mu, and Lee Hoe in 1402 (the 2nd year of King Taejong). With China at the center of the map, it depicts the general form of the Old World, including Africa and Europe in the west with Joseon and Japan in the east. The western part of Arabia is also drawn on the map as it was known to Joseon cartographers thanks to the diffusion of Islamic cartography imported through Mongol influence during China’s Yuan Dynasty. The map shows that Joseon cartographers were aware of and interested in different parts of the world, and is based on the China-centric world view. According to the preface at the bottom, the map was constructed from sources based on two Chinese maps (Shengjiao guangbei tu and Hunyi jiangli tu), a map of Joseon, and a map of Japan. The map is recognized as one of the best world maps among those produced in the early 15th century and in particular, as the first world map that depicts the African continent as a whole.

The Cheonha dojido is a western-style world map drawn in Joseon based on Wanguo quantu (Complete Map of All the Countries) in Zhifang wai ji, a book-length geographical description of the entire world authored by Giulio Aleni, a Christian missionary. Like the Kunyu wanguo quantu (A Map of the Myriad Countries of the World) made by Matteo Ricci, a Jesuit priest, this map placed China and East Asia at the center of the projection with the central meridian placed in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. It was an intentional arrangement promoting Sino-centrism. Southern continents were marked as mystery lands, reflecting that the southern hemisphere, including Oceania, was not yet known to the cartographer. The Cheonha dojido clearly labeled the “Small East Sea” and the “Small West Sea,” referring to the East Sea and the Yellow Sea, which did not appear on Aleni’s maps. Wanguo quantu.

The Cheonhado is a circular world map highly popular among literati-scholars of the late Joseon Dynasty. The map was drawn within a circle. The structure of the map consisted of an inner continent surrounded by an inner sea, an outer continent, and an outer sea. The inner continent contains actual countries like China, Joseon, Annam, and India. The inner sea includes both real island countries like Japan and the Ryukyu Kingdoms, as well as imaginary states like the Khan Kingdom, the Dutch Kingdom, and the Sino-Kingdoms that appeared in the Chinese Shanzhaijing (Classic of Mountains and Seas). The outer continent is mostly ideal with mythical kingdoms. This circular map is unique, reflecting the traditional ideas of “Tian Yuan Di Fang” (round heaven and square earth), Sino-centrism, and Taoism.

The Jigu jeonhudo, made by Choi Han-ki in 1834, is a wood-block atlas of the hemispheres based on Zhang Tingfu’s world map. The bottom left of the Jigu jeonhudo is marked with the production date and the nom de plume (pseudonym) of the cartographer, Tae Yeon-jae, which was the Buddhist name of Choi Han-ki. This map is different from the Kunyu wanguo quantu (Map of the World), an earlier map of the eastern and western hemispheres made by Ferdinand Verbiest, a Western missionary. While the Kunyu wanguo quantu has gaps between the lines of longitude that widen toward the edges, the Jigu jeonhudo has even gaps between lines of longitude. Also, the 24 seasonal divisions were labeled, something which did not appear in other contemporary maps. The equal-sphere projections, and the tropics were highlighted. Unlike the Kunyu wanguo, Oceania and Antarctica were drawn separately, implying that Choi Han-ki knew about the discovery of those regions.
The National Maps

This is a complete map, which contains both a clear identification of the cartographer and the year of its making. It was created by Jeyonggam (the Tribute Management Office), which was in charge of the supply of royal garments and food. Scientific mapmaking projects were initiated in the early Joseon Dynasty during the reign of King Sejong, resulting in the publication of the cumulative geographic knowledge portrayed in the *Dongkuk jido* (Map of Korea) by Jeong Cheok and Yang Seong-ji. The *Joseon bangyeok jido* is supposedly a copy of the *Dongkuk jido*. The name of the map appears at the top, the map itself is at the center, and the list of participating officials is at the bottom. The geographic features of the mid and southern parts of Korea are relatively precise, but those in the north are rather distorted. The drainage patterns are very accurate, except for the Amnokgang River and the Dumangang River; mountain ranges are expressed in the form of mountain chains based on the traditional geomantic understanding of the land.

Resembling the style and design of the *Dongkuk jido*, the *Aguk chongdo* preserves the beauty of Korean territory in an exquisite manner. This map is notable for its use of vivid colors: green for mountain ranges, white for cities, and five distinctive colors for different counties and prefectures. Provincial offices and borders in eight provinces were circled and marked with respective place names to make them distinguishable. Islands off the coast of Korea were shown in detail, implying the growing national interest in the coastal and insular regions.

Unlike the *Dongkuk jido*, the *Aguk chongdo* identifies the map of Choson under the same title, and Tolkien is also portrayed on the map. The marginal spaces were filled with the frontier territory, the respective lengths of east to west and south to north distances to Seoul from the endpoints in all four directions, and the number of counties and prefectures in each province.

The *Daedong yeojido*, made by Kim Jeong-ho, is a splendid achievement that built upon previous cartographic developments during the Joseon Dynasty. Its scale is approximately 1:160,000. Kim divided the territory from north to south into 22 sections (each 120-ri). Each section is folded at every 80-ri and collapses into a folding booklet. The 22 booklets can be unfolded and pieced together to form a complete map of Korea that measures 410 cm in width and 660 cm in length. The method of description reflected the principles of partition and unity of the mountains and the streams. Various legends were used, and the pathways were marked for every 10-ri. Above all, the map is an impeccable masterpiece with greater artistic beauty than any other map ever produced during the Joseon Dynasty.
This Korean frontier map focuses on the northeastern region of Korea and Manchuria during the Joseon Dynasty. The word “pia” in “Seobukpia” refers to both the Chinese Qing and Korean Joseon Dynasties. As a type of military map, it was designed to defend the country against invasions from China. The map centers on a wide area with Baekdusan Mountain at the center spanning from the Heilongjiang River (Black Dragon River) in Manchuria in the east to Shanhai Pass in the west, delineating post towns and military bases established along the extensive fortress walls and roads. Its map orientation is unique: instead of aligning the map with a north-south direction, “haejwa sahyang,” the country faces the sa (south-southeast) direction with the direction hae (north-northwest) in the back. Places like Jilin and Ningguta, where the Qing Dynasty was founded, are marked in red.

The map describes in detail a wall surrounding Yeongbyeon, which was called an unconquerable fortress. It was the final line of defense in the Gwanseo area. Being surrounded by rugged mountains on all sides meant that it was located in a natural fortress. Even during the Manchu War of 1636, the castle never fell to the Qing army. The castle is comprised of the main fortress, the north fortress, the new fortress, and the west fortress. The south gate was an important gateway that connects Anju and Pyeongyang. The west fortress, also known for Yaksan, is a famously scenic place. Beautiful Yaksan dongdae is well known for “Yaksan Azaleas,” which are mentioned in the poem “Azaleas” by Kim So-siwol.
The name East Sea refers to the sea to the east of the Korean Peninsula. The name East Sea appears in various references, such as in the 14th-century King Yongungmu’s record, Kings of Korea, and in old maps. The name East Sea is clearly labeled on old maps such as the Kangyujanggak Institute for Korean Studies at Seoul National University. A simplified map of Japan’s periphery was created by Jeong Sang-ki during the reign of Youngjo. This map was drawn with a checkerboard system, and each cell was 4.1–4.2 cm in size. It was drawn with a checkerboard system, and each cell was 4.1–4.2 cm in size. It is notable for its beautiful coloration. The name East Sea is clearly labeled on the late 18th-century world map, a map of China, a map of Beijing and Hanyang, the Yellow Sea, and the South Sea. The name East Sea is clearly labeled on the late 18th-century world map, a map of China, a map of Beijing and Hanyang, the Yellow Sea, and the South Sea. The name East Sea is clearly labeled on a European map made after the 16th century. Initially, the country was described as an island on those maps, and only over time did it take the shape of a peninsula. The name East Sea was placed on a European map after the 16th century. The name East Sea was placed on a European map after the 16th century. The name East Sea was placed on a European map after the 16th century. The name East Sea was placed on a European map after the 16th century.

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