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New cultural landscape in the 18th century Chosŏn

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New cultural landscape in the 18th century Chosŏn

Cultural plurality and dynamism

Coexistence and diffusion

- Ancient and new cultures
- Native and imported cultures
- Elite and popular cultures

1. Worldviews – 3 kinds of map
2. New passions, studies and reading culture
3. Dissolution of cultural monopoly :
“Middle people”
Women’s writings.
4. Book trade – Korean « bibliothèque bleue »

Culture and society in the 15th and 16th centuries

- *Yangban* elite
- Confucianism
- The sino-centrism

Changes in the 17th century

- Wars with Japan
- Two Manchurian invasions
- The transition from Ming to Qing in China (Manchu conquest)
- Introduction of Western civilization et new Chinese cultural trends
- Neo-Confucian political ideology and speculative thinking brought in question
- Fiscal reforms and socio-economic development

Consequences in 18th century

- Release from the dogma
- Taking up the torch of Chinese civilization
- Self-consciousness (gaze turned on their own self and society)
- Critical and practical trends
- New passions

Sino-centric maps

Imaginary maps from popular beliefs

Western world maps

1. THREE REPRESENTATIONS OF THE WORLD

Towards the sino-centrism

From the 15th c. to the 16th c.

- 혼일강리역대국도지도 (混一疆理歷代國都之圖, 1402) : the 15th century
- 혼일역대국도강리지도 (混一歷代國都疆理之圖, 1526-1549) : the 16th century

Changes in the world maps

혼일강리역대국도지도
(混一疆理歷代國都之圖, 1402)



혼일역대국도강리지도
(混一歷代國都疆理之圖, 1526-1549)



혼일강리역대국도지도 (1402)



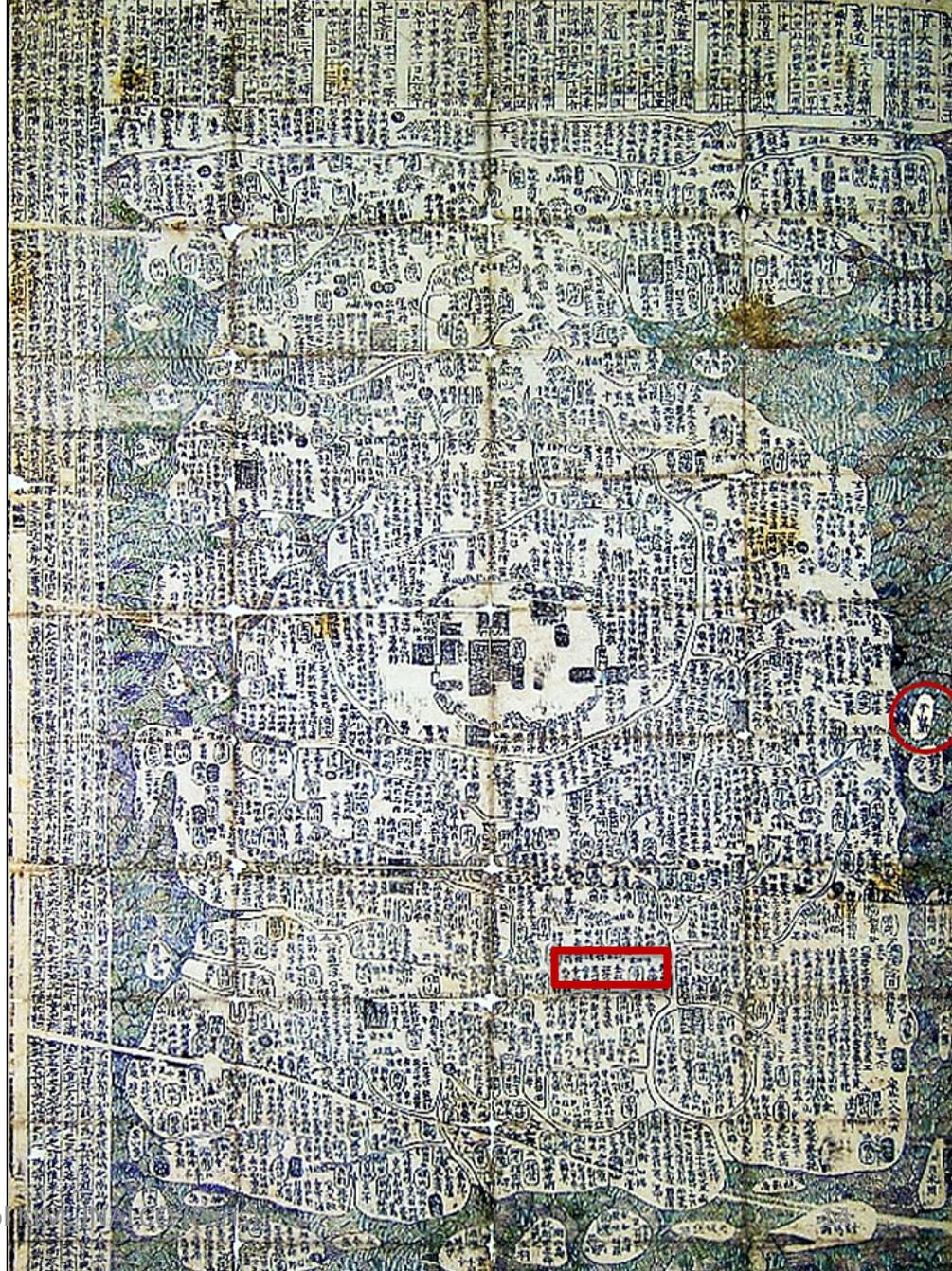
Reduction of the worldview to the
East Asia
under the influence of Neo-
Confucianism
in the 16th century



천하고금대총편람도 (1666)

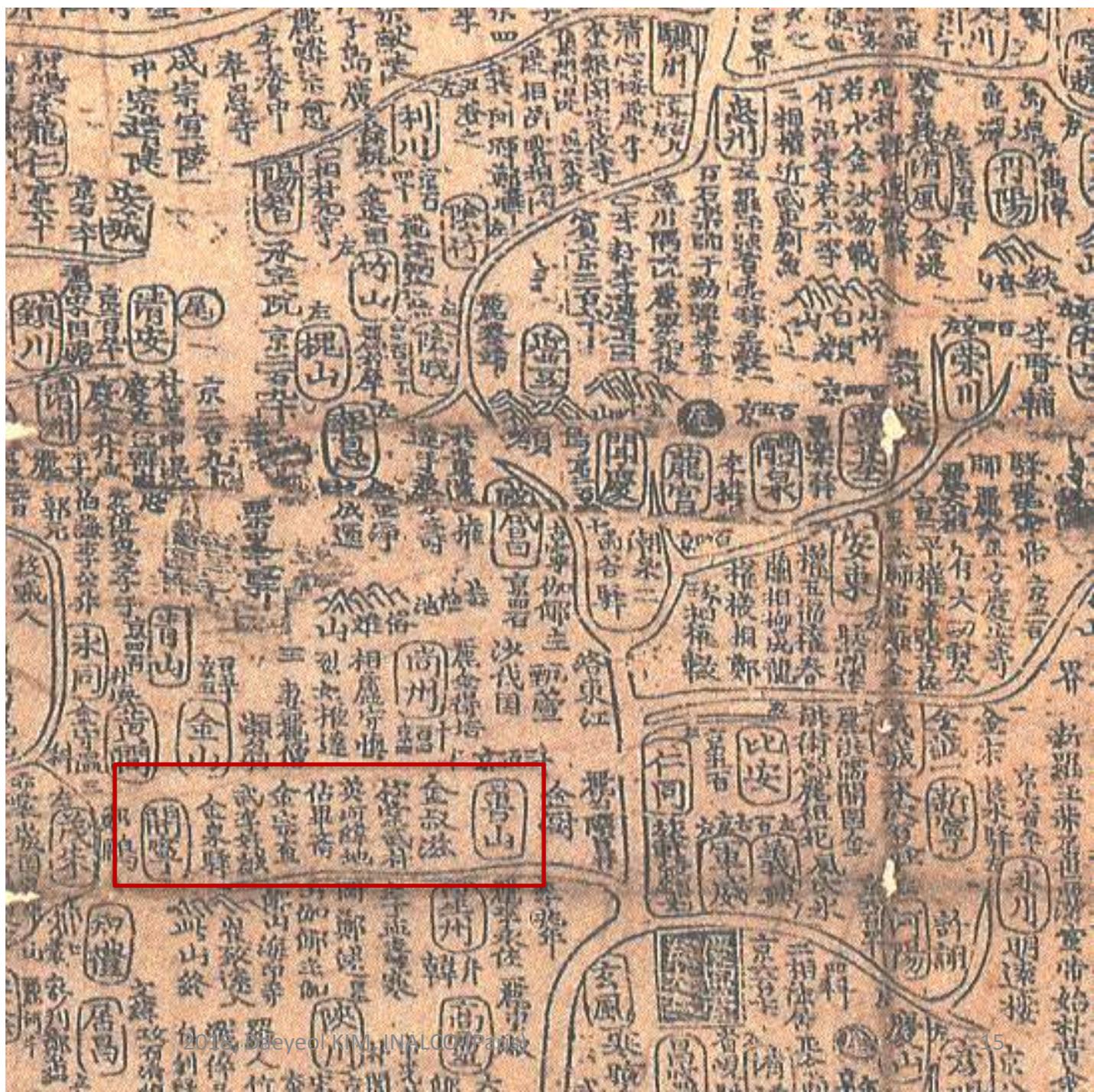


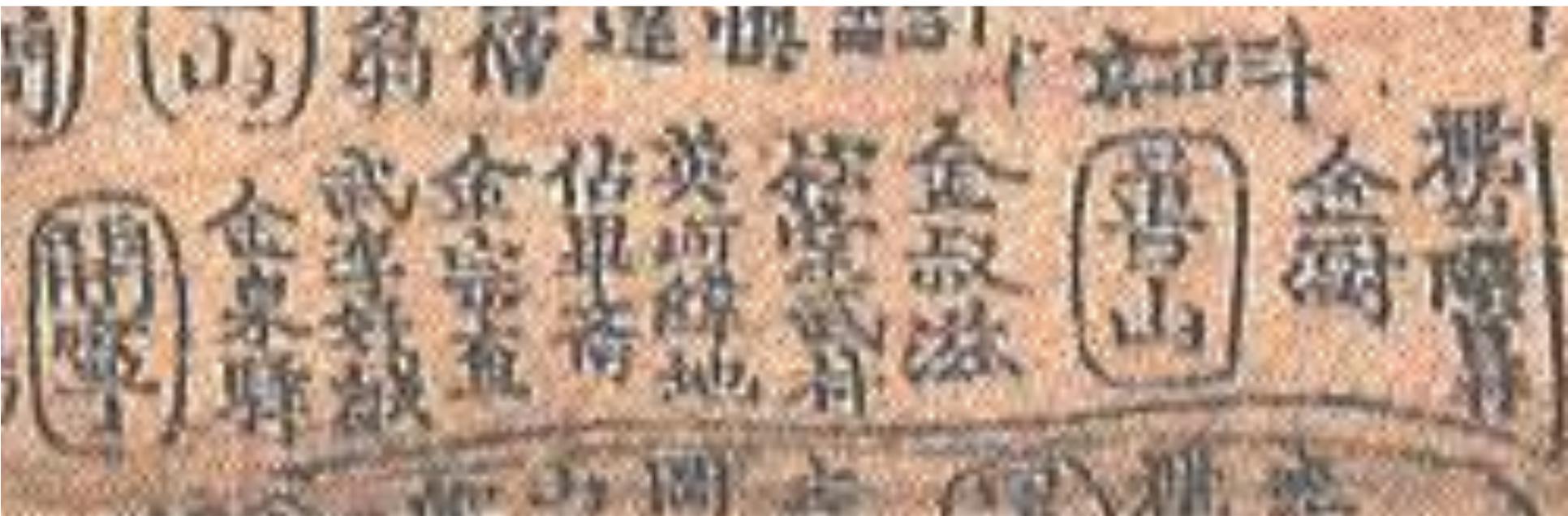
朝鮮八道古今總覽圖



조선팔도고금총람도

조선팔도고금총람도





선산 (善山)

김숙자 (金叔滋, 1389-1456)

김종직 (金宗直, 1431-1492)

개령 (開寧)

Name of the place with
Names of native persons

Confucian model persons

Map used in moral education

Set themselves in the Confucian world

천하도 (天下圖) “Imago mundi”

- An ancient vision of the universe
- Correspondence between earth and heaven
- To see ourselves placed in the universe
- Mention about immortality

天下品

八十一國

自東極至西極二億二萬三千五百七十二步今東西二萬



自內極至北極二億三千五百七十五步今南北二萬六千里

天下圖

廣野山廩農山疾桑山長雉山嶽崙山外五岳

泰山崇山華山衡山恒山內五岳



천하도

천하도 (天下圖) “Imago mundi”

- To see themselves placed in the universe
- Mention about immortality → interest in longevity and afterlife

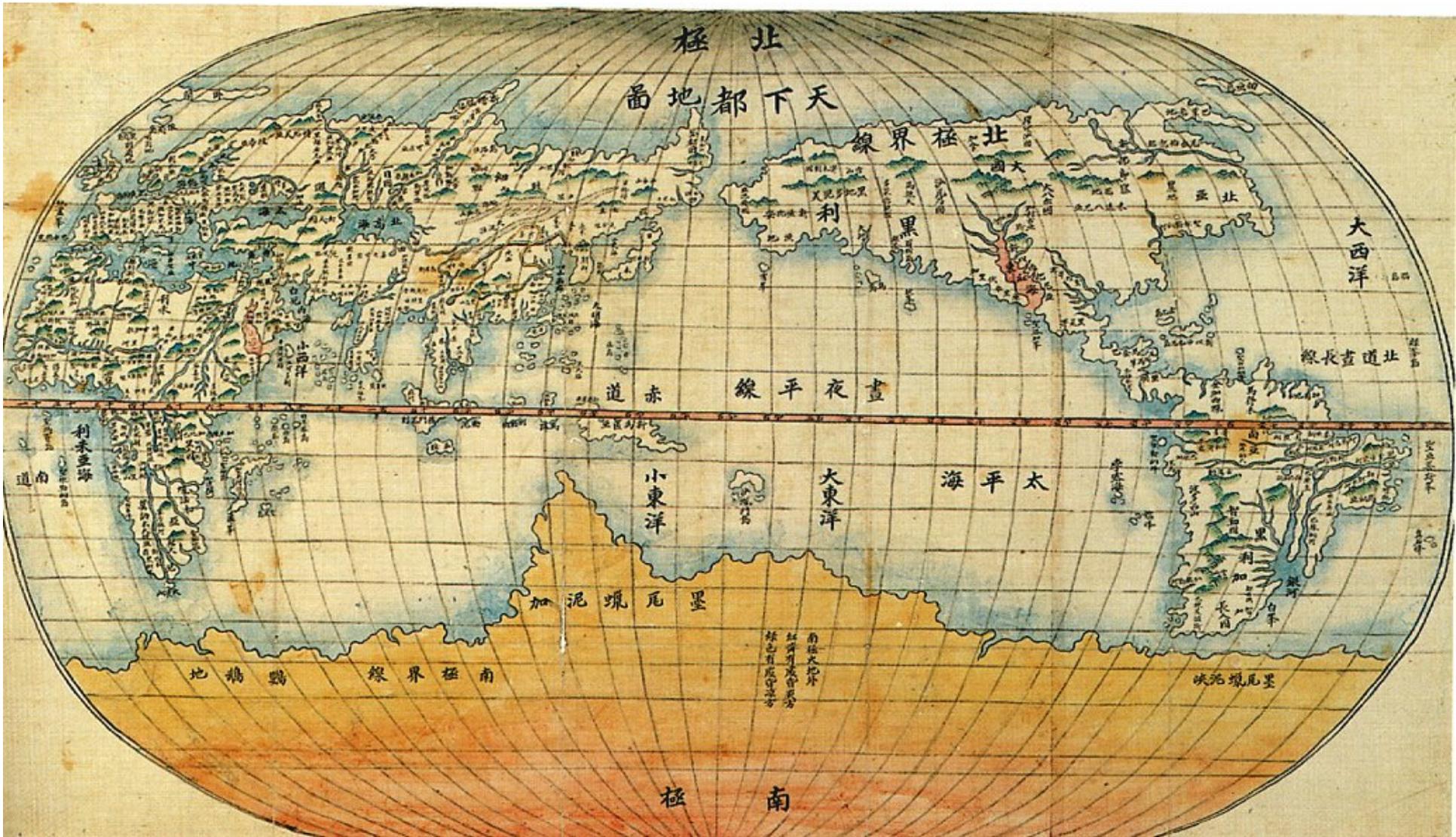
Western World maps

- The map drawn by Mateo Ricci in 1602
- World map related to astronomy
- Longitude and latitude
- Spherical Earth theory



곤여만국전도 (1602, Matteo Ricci)

2018, Daeyeol KIM, INALCO (Paris)



천하도지도 (18세기 말, 조선)

Two impacts from Western World maps

- Knowledge about wider world
- Earth map in connection with astronomy

해동여지도 (1777-1787)



Three kinds of map
altogether in an Atlas

*Use of different maps
according to different aims*

Plurality of worldview

New passions

New studies

2. READING CULTURE

What is reading ?

knowledge management

practice for social distinction

Evolution in reading culture in Chosŏn time

- In the beginning: reading to prepare for the state examination
- In the middle: reading in search of the "way" to acquire a moral authority
- Towards the end: reading to solve problems of society and life

Changes in relationship with Qing China

- Evolution in Qing China
 - Inside stability and openness toward outside
- Evolution in Chosŏn Korea
 - No longer a China to “down” (북벌 北伐) but to “learn” (북학 北學)
- Significant import from Qing China

In the 17th and 18th c.

*Flood of knowledge and information
from outside into Korean society*

*Economic development and social
changes*

*Confucian and sino-centric dogma
challenged*

“Things”

Before
means to study

In the 18th c.
object of study

Changes in study

From moral principle

to social concern

*and extraordinary curiosity
as cultural standing*

Passion, curiosity for knowledge

New paradigm of knowledge

Release from dogma

Before : Confucian spirit

완물상지 (玩物喪志)

“In indulging his tastes in things, he finally loses his will”

In the 18th c.: Curiosity, passion,
mania

“The man without mania is
useless” (박제가)

벽(癡, mania) and 치(痴, crazy) :
cultural distinction and privilege

“It is only maniacs who can have an original mind and understand a particular technique. Ah! These cowardly people who spoil the major business but who themselves did not suspect anything, they have to be wary of themselves in reading this book !”

Collection and ordering mania

- Curiosity and knowledge mania
 - → Gathered and sorted informations
 - → Compilation & edition
- 이서구 (李書九 1754-1825) : 녹앵무경 (綠鸚鵡經
The Classic on Parrot)
- 유득공 (柳得恭 1749- 1807) : 발합경 (鵓鴿經
The Classic on Dove)
- 이옥 (李鈺 1760-1812) : 연경 (烟經 *The Classic on Tobacco*)

Evolution in reading culture

Before

- To prepare for the state examination
- In search of the way to acquire a morality or moral authority

In the 18th c.

- To solve problems of society and life
- To satisfy curiosity
- To get a social distinction

Changes in reading culture

Before

- slow and intensive reading
- reading for exegesis
- simple libraries

In the 18th century

- speedy and extensive reading
- reading for review
- libraries of “ten thousands books”



Librarie in Tosan Confucian Academy : 5000 volumes



2018, Daeyeol KIM, INALCO (Paris)

Book Collection in Mun of Namp'yŏng family 20.000 volumes (beginning of the 20th c.)



3. DISSOLUTION OF CULTURAL MONOPOLY :

“Middle people”
Women

Dissolution of cultural monopoly

- The “Middle people” and their cultural roles
- Women’s breakthrough in literature
- Book trade
- A Korean « Bibliothèque bleue »

Two fundamental social layers

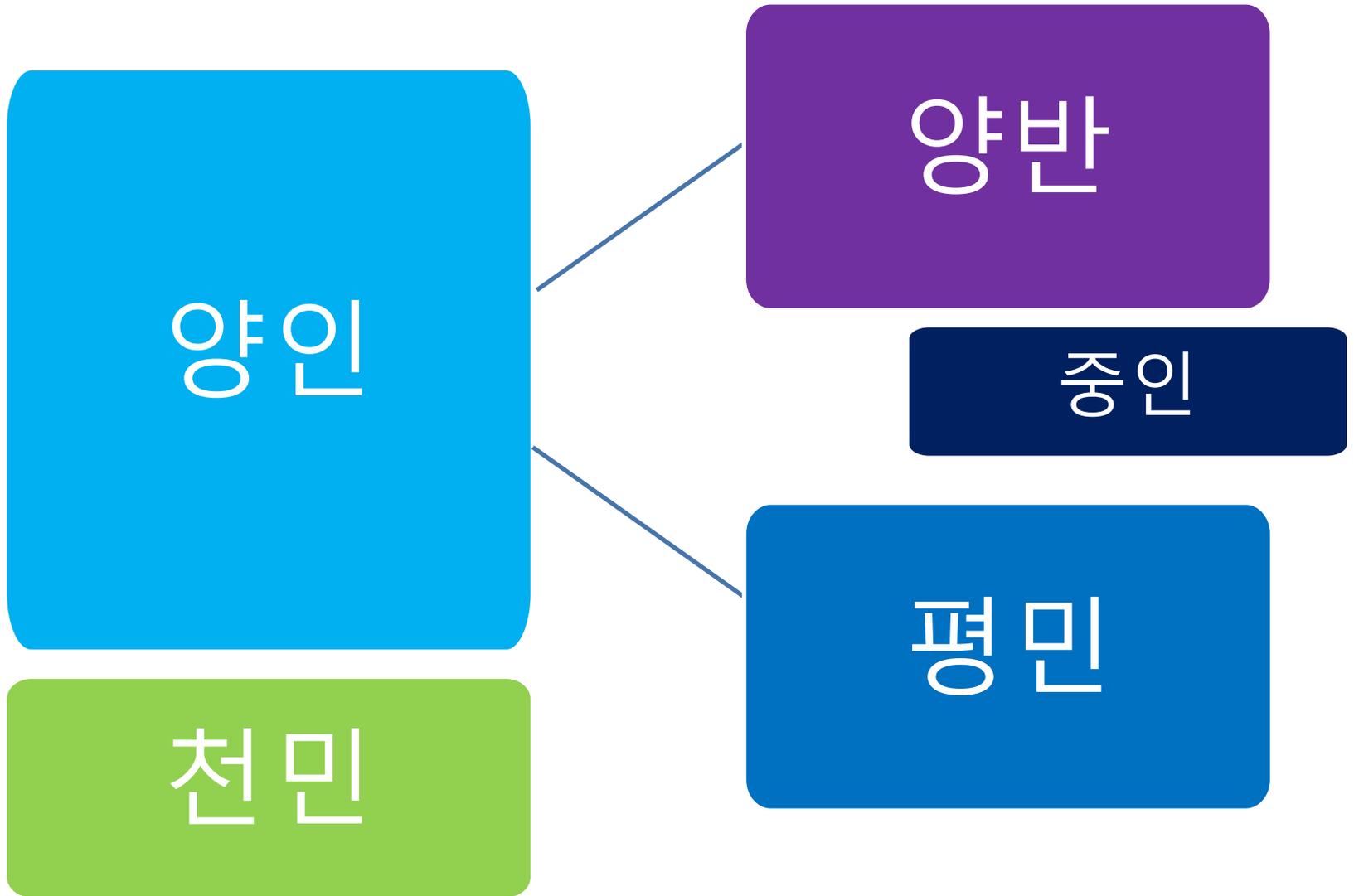
양인(良人) = “good people”

천민(賤民) = “base people”

양인

양반(兩班) = literati, higher civil
and military officials

평민(平民) or 상민(常民) =
“common people”



In the upper layer

Discrimination of secondary groups
of *yangban* families

Secondary groups → 중인

Since the 2nd half of the 17th c.

중인 (中人) “Middle people” as
social layer

Between “common people” and
yangban elite

중인 (中人)

- Subaltern officials as 향리 (鄉吏)
- 서얼 (庶孽) : descendants out of illegitimate birth
- Higher officials in technical or specialized fields
 - Medical doctors 의원 (醫院)
 - Interpreter 역관 (譯官)
 - Expert in calendar 일관 (日官)
 - Accountant 기사 (計士)
 - Jurist 율관 (律官)

Middle people's cultural roles

- Educated people
- Economic power in the Capital
- Artistic activities
- Educational activity
- Bidirectional role

Economic power in the Capital

Officials with steady salary

Free of ideological constraint →
possibility of economic activity

*Discriminated but sometimes in
demand*

Artistic activities

Poetry, calligraphy, painting, music

시사 (詩社, societies of poets)

Resistance against and dependency
in the culture of noble literati

Educational activities

For common people as well as for
people of upper layer

Publishing books

Bidirectional role

Dissemination of higher culture and imported knowledge

Introduction of popular culture to higher layer

---> cultural diffusion

Women's culture

- To educate their children
- To attend the literary activities of their husbands
- To develop their own writing talent

Women's writings

- A variety of genre
- With Korean alphabet in most cases
- In some cases : in a mixed style of Korean and classical Chinese or purely in classical Chinese ---> their education in Chinese classics.

Resistance to social system

- 金浩然齋 (김호연재, 1681-1722), 自警編 (자경편)
- 豊壤趙氏 (풍양조씨, 1772-1825), 자기록 or *Autobiographical memoirs*
- 金三宜堂 (김삼의당, 1769-1823), 三宜堂稿 (삼의당고)
- 任允摯堂 (임윤지당 1721-1793), 允摯堂遺稿 (윤지당유고)

三宜堂稿

朝
48
2111

三宜堂稿目錄

三宜堂稿卷之一



筭年吟 三首

十三顏如花十五語如絲內則從姆聽新粧學母為束髮
纔成髻舉案能齊眉標梅已三寶傾筐又壑之
生長淡閨裏窈窕守天性曾讀內則篇慣知家門政於親
當盡孝於夫必主敬無儀亦無非惟順以為正

三宜堂金夫人手著

咸陽人吳相喆校閱

烏川人鄭迴澤編修

Female talent behind male work

- First draft in Korean by female member
- Transcription in classical Chinese by male member
- Trace of women's lives through women's care
- Division of work

Autobiographies

- 惠慶宮 洪氏 (혜경궁 홍씨, 1735-1816), 閑中錄 (한중록) or *The Memoire of Lady Hyegyöng*
- 豊壤趙氏 (풍양조씨, 1772-1825), 자기록 or *Autobiographical memoirs*
- 烈女傳 (열녀전) *Biographies of women who sacrifice their lives for marital fidelity*

Political or ritual debates

- 任允摯堂 (임윤지당 1721-1793), 允摯堂遺稿 (윤지당유고)
- 姜靜一堂 (1772-1832), 靜一堂遺稿 (정일당유고)

Extended literature

- 憑虛閣 李氏 (빙허각 이씨, 1759-1824),
閨閣叢書 (규합총서) ou *Collections of
gynaecium*
- Poetry and prose
- Translation of Chinese texts in Korean

Books for whom ?

What books ?

How books were published and circulated ?

4. BOOK TRADE – KOREAN « BIBLIOTHÈQUE BLEUE »

Book trade

- Previously :
 - Printing and distribution of books by the State → negative effect on commercial publication
 - Woodblock printing in the private sector
- From the 18th c. :
 - Development of market and growing social demande
 - Circulation of knowledge integrates into the commercial economy

Diffusion in 2nd half of Chosŏn

- Book brokers 서괘 (書僮) or 책괘
 - imported chinese books, reproduction by hand copies
- Bookstore :
 - rental
 - popular books and learning materials
 - pharmacy-bookstore 약계책사 藥契冊肆
 - women's clubs of higher society in Seoul

« Bibliothèque bleue »

A type of popular literature published
in Early modern France

Prints in low quality and small format

With blue paper cover

LE DOUBLE
ALMANACH
JOURNALIER

POUR L'ANNÉE 1814.

Par MATTHIEU LÆNSBERGH,
Mathématicien.



A REIMS,
Chez LE BATARD, Imprimeur-Libraire,
rue de l'Arbalète, n.° 21a

Korean « bibliothèque bleue »

- 방각본 (坊刻本) “book printed in village”
- Commercial publication of popular book at low price in low quality
- Existence of book market

奕性

才敏

壽富

變異

傳運附東國

附數彙

補遺

兒戲原覽

形氣

太易未見氣也太初氣之始也太始形之始也太素質之始也自其未分而言謂之混淪自其既分而言謂之天地

乾坤者太極之變兩儀未分其氣渾淪清濁既分大形如雞子天大地小表裏有水氣充其中運如車轂之運

天者水土之氣輕清而升浮穹窿如覆盆冒地之表地者水土之氣重濁而沈凝乘氣而立載水而浮

兒戲原覽



- 간식류편 (簡式類編) *Formulas of letters*
 - published in 1739
 - by 이인석 (李寅錫)
 - in Seoul
- A set of books
 - published between 1796-1808
 - by 전이채 (田以采) and 박치유 (朴致維)
 - at 태인 (泰仁)

- At the beginning :
 - Book with practical aims and manual for learning
 - Principal consumers : people of middle or lower class capable of reading written Chinese
- From the middle-19th c. :
 - novels
 - Clients : men from lower class or women from middle and lower class

Cultural roles

- Manual for learning of written chinese for children
- Books on history
- → Extension of literate population
- Certain publication only in *panggakpon*
- → Appropriation by people (intermediary of lower class) of the culture of the higher class

1. Worldviews – 3 kinds of map
2. New passions, studies and reading culture
3. Dissolution of cultural monopoly :
 1. “Middle people”
 2. Women’s writings.
4. Book trade – Korean « bibliothèque bleue »

Coexistence and diffusion

- Ancient and new cultures
- Native and imported cultures
- Elite and popular cultures

Mulțumesc

감사합니다