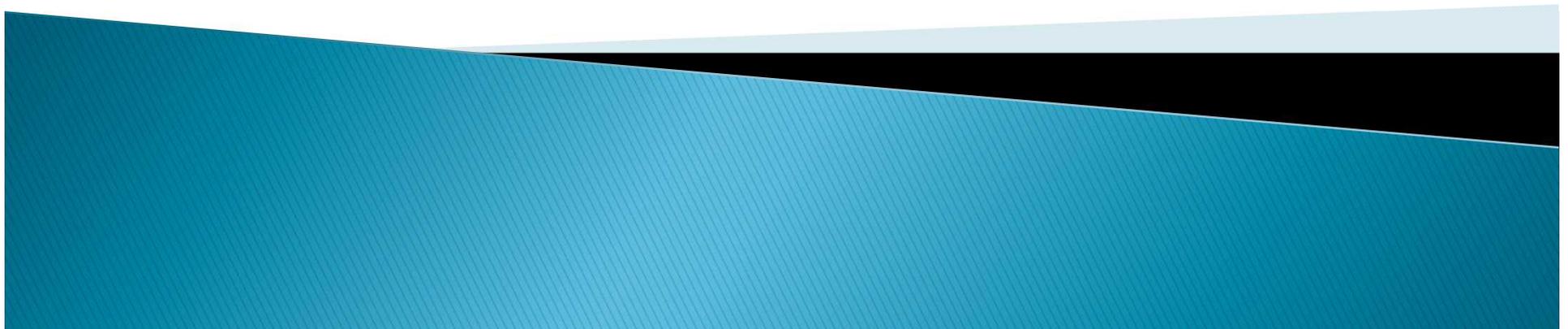


# The History issue

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

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# 1 What is “the history issue ”?

How to perceive Japan’s

- colonial rule in Korea
- aggression in China and South East Asian countries.

- ➔ Position of the Government of Japan
- “Murayama statement” (1995).....page 3
  - “Koizumi statement” (2005).....page 4
  - “Prime Minister Abe’s Position”(2013).... page 5

## 2 Japan’s position on “the history issue ”.

Settlement of the issue of reparations, property and claims  
...pages 6–9

“Comfort women issue”  
...pages 10–14

Japan’s sovereignty over Takeshima and the Senkaku Islands has nothing to do with “the history issue .”

## Recognition of History

In 1995, on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the End of WWII, the then Prime Minister, Tomiichi Murayama, issued the “Murayama Statement.”

“Now, upon this historic occasion of the 50th anniversary of the war's end, we should bear in mind that we must look into the past to learn from the lessons of history, and ensure that we do not stray from the path to the peace and prosperity of human society in the future.”

“During a certain period in the not too distant past, Japan, following a mistaken national policy, advanced along the road to war, only to ensnare the Japanese people in a fateful crisis, and, through its colonial rule and aggression, caused tremendous damage and suffering to the people of many countries, particularly to those of Asian nations. In the hope that no such mistake be made in the future, I regard, in a spirit of humility, these irrefutable facts of history, and express here once again my feelings of deep remorse and state my heartfelt apology. Allow me also to express my feelings of profound mourning for all victims, both at home and abroad, of that history.”

In 2005, on the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the End of WWII, the then Prime Minister, Junichiro Koizumi, issued the “Koizumi Statement.”

“On the 60th anniversary of the end of the war, I reaffirm my determination that Japan must never again take the path to war, reflecting that the peace and prosperity we enjoy today are founded on the ultimate sacrifices of those who lost their lives for the war against their will.”

“In the past, Japan, through its colonial rule and aggression, caused tremendous damage and suffering to the people of many countries, particularly to those of Asian nations. Sincerely facing these facts of history, I once again express my feelings of deep remorse and heartfelt apology, and also express the feelings of mourning for all victims, both at home and abroad, in the war. I am determined not to allow the lessons of that horrible war to erode, and to contribute to the peace and prosperity of the world without ever again waging a war.”

# Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's Remarks on Japan's Recognition of History

“Regarding the Murayama Statement, in the past, Japan caused tremendous damage and suffering to the people of many countries, particularly to those in Asian nations. This fully reflects the feelings of the Abe Cabinet, and the entire position outlined by previous administrations is continued by the Abe Cabinet.” “Based on such deep remorse, we have established a free and democratic Japan, which respects the rule of law and contributes to a peaceful international society.” (May 15, 2013 Upper House Committee)



“We will carve out the future of this country as one full of hope, as we face history with humility and engrave deeply into our hearts the lessons that we should learn. We will make contributions to lasting world peace to the greatest possible extent and spare no effort in working to bring about a world in which all people are able to live enriched lives.” (August 15, 2013 Address at the 68th Memorial Ceremony for the War Dead)

## Settlement of the issue of reparations, property and claims

After WWII, in accordance with the relevant international agreements such as the San Francisco Peace Treaty\* and bilateral peace treaties, Japan carried out necessary payments including reparations in good faith (A); and the issues of reparations, property and claims with the contracting parties to those agreements, including the issues of claims by individuals, have already been legally settled (B).

\* The Treaty of Peace with Japan, signed at San Francisco on 8 September 1951.

- ➔ (A) See page 7
- ➔ (B) See page 8

➔ (A) Japan carried out necessary payments in good faith.

## Reparation Payments and Economic Cooperation by Japan to Asian Countries

(Unit: Million dollars)

	Reparations	Grants	Long-term low-interest loans
<b>Burma (Myanmar)</b> Member of the Japan-Burma Peace Treaty	200	140	80
<b>Philippines</b> Member of the SF Peace Treaty	550	-	250
<b>Indonesia</b> Member of the Japan-Indonesia Peace Treaty	223	177 (Canceled the debt)	400
<b>Vietnam</b> Member of the SF Peace Treaty	39	-	16.6
<b>Laos</b> Member of the SF Peace Treaty	Waived	2.78	-
<b>Cambodia</b> Member of the SF Peace Treaty	Waived	4.17	-
<b>Malaysia</b>	Do not have right to claim	8.17	-
<b>Singapore</b>	Do not have right to claim	8.17	-
<b>Mongolia</b>	Do not have right to claim	13.9	-

- China declared that it renounced its demand for war reparations from Japan in the “Joint Communiqué of the Government of Japan and the Government of the People's Republic of China” which was signed in 1972.
- Refer to page 9 for the Republic of Korea.

→ (B) The issues of reparations, property and claims have already been legally settled.

## Examples of Treaties and Agreements

### (1) The Treaty of Peace with Japan(San Francisco Peace Treaty)

(46 countries ratified in total: United States, United Kingdom, France, etc.)

Article 14(b) of the “Treaty of Peace with Japan”

Except as otherwise provided in the present Treaty, the Allied Powers waive all reparations claims of the Allied Powers, other claims of the Allied Powers and their nationals arising out of any actions taken by Japan and its nationals in the course of the prosecution of the war, and claims of the Allied Powers for direct military costs of occupation.

### (2) Bilateral International Agreements

(8 countries in total: China, Indonesia, Russia, Burma, etc.)

“Joint Communiqué of the Government of Japan and the Government of the People's Republic of China”

5. The Government of the People's Republic of China declares that in the interest of the friendship between the Chinese and the Japanese peoples, it renounces its demand for war reparations from Japan.

Article 4, paragraph 2 of the “Treaty of Peace between Japan and the Republic of Indonesia”

Except as otherwise provided in the preceding paragraph, the Republic of Indonesia waives all reparations claims of the Republic of Indonesia and all other claims of the Republic of Indonesia and its nationals arising out of any actions taken by Japan and its nationals in the course of the prosecution of the war.

## Settlement of Claims with the Republic of Korea

- ◆ In 1965, Japan and the ROK concluded the “Agreement on the Settlement of Problems Concerning Property and Claims and on Economic Cooperation between Japan and the ROK” in accordance with the San Francisco Peace Treaty.
- ◆ It was agreed that Japan would supply \$300 million in grants, and \$200 million in long-term low-interest credits to the ROK, and that these should be such that would be conducive to the economic development of the ROK (Article 1)
- ◆ Japan and the ROK confirmed that “problem concerning property, rights and interests of the two Contracting Parties and their nationals (including juridical persons) and concerning claims between the Contracting Parties and their nationals...[was] settled completely and finally.” (Article 2(paragraph 1))
- ◆ The Agreement also notes that “no contention shall be made with respect to the measures on property, rights and interests of either Contracting Party and its nationals...or with respect to any claims of either Contracting Party and its nationals against the other Contracting Party and its nationals...” (Article 2, paragraph 3)

➤ The issue of property and claims between Japan and the ROK, not only governmentally but also individually (including judicial persons' claims) has been settled completely and finally through the Agreement.

## The “Comfort Women” Issue

- ▶ In 1993, after the Japanese Government conducted a two-year study on the issue of wartime “Comfort Women,” the then Chief Cabinet Secretary, Yohei Kono, announced its findings and issued a statement (the “Kono Statement”).

“The Government of Japan would like to take this opportunity once again to extend its sincere apologies and remorse to all those, irrespective of place of origin, who suffered immeasurable pain and incurable physical and psychological wounds as comfort women.”

## The Asian Women's Fund

- ▶ All issues of reparations, properties and claims arising from the war have been legally settled.
- ▶ However, recognizing that the "comfort women" issue was a grave affront to the honor and dignity of a large number of women, the Government of Japan, together with the people of Japan, discussed what could be done to express their sincere apologies and remorse.
- ▶ As a result, the Asian Women's Fund (AWF) was established in 1995 and the Government of Japan provided all possible assistance for the AWF.
- ▶ The Government of Japan provided approximately 4.8 billion yen to support AWF's activities.
- ▶ The then Prime Minister of Japan sent a personally signed letter expressing apologies and remorse directly to each former "comfort woman" who took part in the AWF project.
- ▶ The AWF was disbanded in March 2007 following the completion of the project in Indonesia.

# Details of the AWF Projects

## People of Japan

Donations from the people of Japan (¥600 million)

### Philippines, the Republic of Korea and Taiwan

(\*where former comfort women were identified by their governments and other bodies)

- Payments of "atonement money" amounting to 2 million yen per person to each of the 285 former comfort women.
- Implemented medical and welfare support projects to these comfort women (total of 500 million yen).

## Government of Japan

Japanese Government Budget (¥5 billion)

### Netherlands

(\*where former comfort women were not identified)

- Project to improve the living conditions of former comfort women through the "Project Implementation Committee in the Netherlands" (PICN) (Approximate total of 245 million yen over 3 years, thus providing assistance to 79 recipients)

### Indonesia

(\*where there were difficulties to identify former comfort women)

- Provision of financial support project to promote social welfare services for elderly people implemented by the Government of Indonesia amounting to 380 million yen over ten years.

# Letter of Apology from the Prime Minister to each former “Comfort Woman”

*Dear Madam,*

*On the occasion that the Asian Women's Fund, in cooperation with the Government and the people of Japan, offers atonement from the Japanese people to the former wartime comfort women, I wish to express my feelings as well.*

*The issue of comfort women, with an involvement of the Japanese military authorities at that time, was a grave affront to the honor and dignity of large numbers of women.*

*As Prime Minister of Japan, I thus extend anew my most sincere apologies and remorse to all the women who underwent immeasurable and painful experiences and suffered incurable physical and psychological wounds as comfort women.*

*We must not evade the weight of the past, nor should we evade our responsibilities for the future.*

*I believe that our country, painfully aware of its moral responsibilities, with feelings of apology and remorse, should face up squarely to its past history and accurately convey it to future generations.*

*Furthermore, Japan also should take an active part in dealing with violence and other forms of injustice to the honor and dignity of women. Finally, I pray from the bottom of my heart that each of you will find peace for the rest of your lives.*

*Respectfully yours,*

*Prime Minister of Japan*



## PM Abe's Remarks on the issue of "Comfort Women"

"I am deeply pained to think of the comfort women who experienced immeasurable pain and suffering, a feeling I share equally with my predecessors."

"Throughout history, women's dignity and basic human rights have often been infringed upon during the many wars of the past. The Government of Japan places paramount importance and is committed to doing its utmost to ensure that the 21st century is free from further violations of women's dignity and basic human rights." (Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, May 15, 2013 Upper House Committee)

"The Abe Cabinet has no intention to review it (the "Kono Statement")." (Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Mar 14, 2014 Upper House Committee)

