

Contents

Preface

aimed at both students and general readers who seek a readable account of modern Korean history since 1876. Its central focus is on Korean politics and the way both North Korea and South Korea have shaped it. It also places events in the wider context of the Japanese Empire's policies and debates which drove them.

1 The setting	1
2 Lost horizons – Choson 1876–1910	17
3 Joined to the Empire 1910–1931	46
4 The dark gulf 1931–1945	71
5 Bitter liberty 1945–1948	85
6 The supreme disaster 1948–1953	106
7 The mastery of despair 1953–1971	126
8 Reversal of fortunes 1971–1980	157
9 Diverging courses 1980–1992	177
10 Game changers 1992–2007	204
11 Hallowed by the price: the two Koreas today 2007–2016	234
12 Concluding remarks	258
13 Major events 1876–2016	266
<i>Bibliography</i>	287
<i>Index</i>	289

It is also worth noting that this work is organised chronologically, for time provides the essential yardstick for measuring the sequences, degrees and intensities of Japanese policy and Korean response, but I have tried to emphasise this difference by dividing events in three distinct periods. Chapter 1, kudos, it seems to me that 19–1945 (the first) was essentially easy for the escalation of the intra-Korean conflict, and it is therefore more logical to consolidate the period 1948–1953 around the single focus of war preparation and execution.

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