

This is
SEOUL

編 著, 金 永 上
Editor, Kim Young Sang

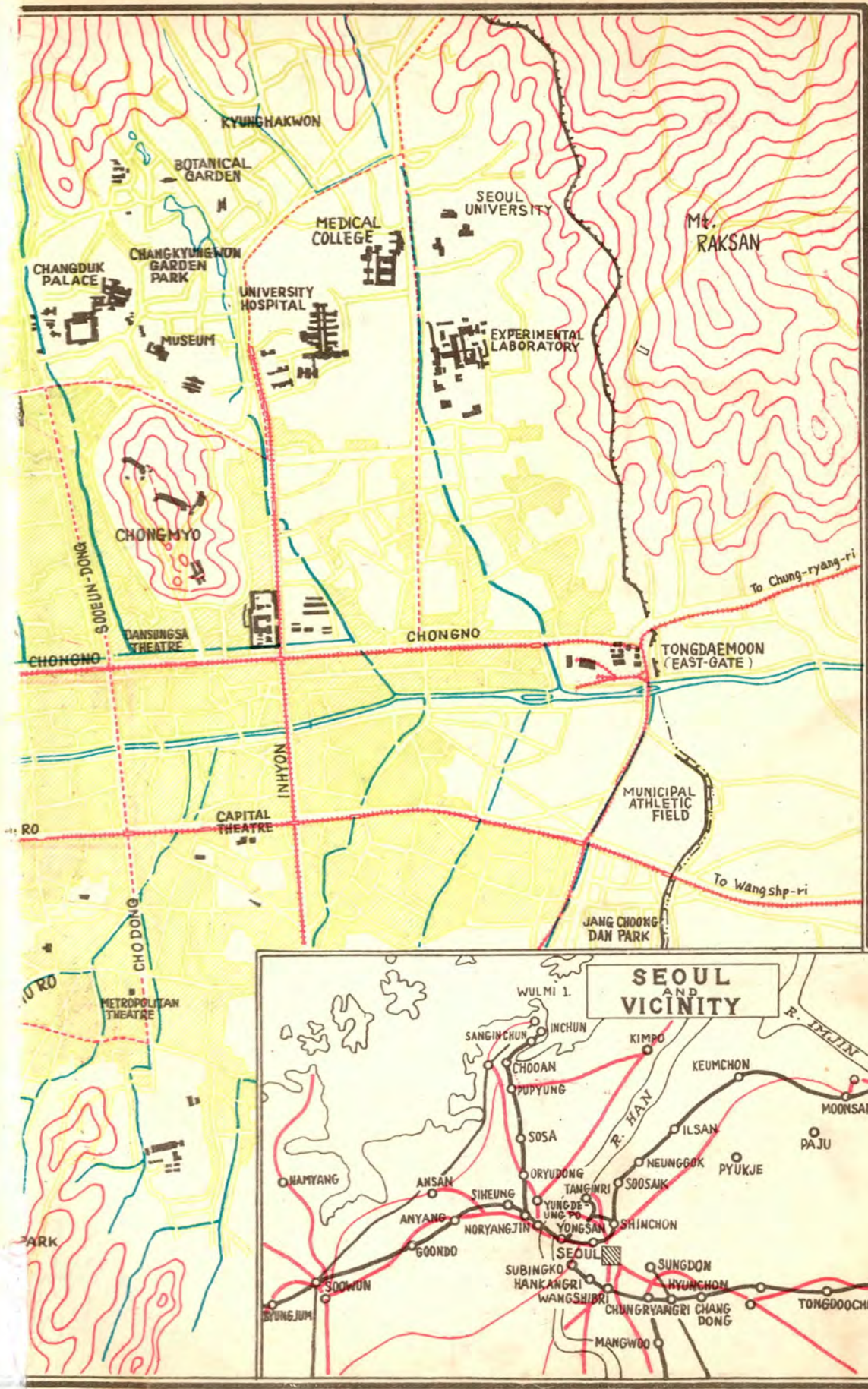
서울특별시

발행

서울시사편찬위원회



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서울특별시사편찬위원회-발행

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서울시 전경 (漢城全景)

A panoramic view of Seoul as seen from Namsan Park.

Guide to the Capital

With its wonderful climate considered one of the healthiest in Asia, with its glorious sceneries and many healthy resorts as well as unique and colorful customs and manners of its people, Korea is one of the most romantic and picturesque countries in the Far East. It is an elongated peninsular extending from the southeastern part of Manchuria into the Sea of Donghae (Sea of Japan). It is about 600 miles long north to south and the western coast is washed by the Yellow Sea.

The northern and eastern sections of the country consist largely of mountain ranges, while its southern and western parts have extensive fertile plains. Rivers are well scattered throughout the peninsular making the land fertile. Its area is 85,266 square miles.

Thanks to the mountainous terrain and surrounding seas, Korean naturally enjoys one of the healthiest climates in the Far East.

Korea is an ancient country. It has a long history of more than four thousand years. At the close of the 14th Century, the last king of the Koryo Dynasty was overthrown by Yi Sung-Kye, a powerful general by profession, who eventually founded a new dynasty of his own with its capital at Hanyang, which is present Seoul. When the founder of the new Yi Dynasty was planning in 1393 to move the capital out of Kaesong, which had been the capital of the Koryo Dynasty, never could he choose a more attractive and ideal site as its capital than Seoul.



Seoul is situated approximately in the center of the peninsular, nearer to the western coast, and has its outlet to the Yellow Sea through the nearby port of Inchon.

Seoul is one of the most scenic cities of the world. With the peaks of Bukhan mountain in the north as its background, it faces the beautiful pine-tree clad Namsan in the south. In addition to these two beautiful mountains forming the front and rear approaches to the city, the enchanting Han River, the third largest in Korea which has its origin at the foot of Mt. Kungang (Diamond Mountain) in Kangwon Province, some 120 miles upstream, runs through the western outskirts of the city and flows into the Yellow Sea, some 50 miles further west.

Seoul was the capital of the Yi Dynasty for over five hundred years and the seat of the office of the Japanese governor-general for 36 years during the Japanese rule.

Politically the Japanese occupation period was that of a colonial and militaristic oppression and a return to isolationism. On March 1, 1919, Seoul shook with the exploding shouts of "manseis" (Long Live Korea) as a Declaration of Independence signed by 33 patriotic national leaders was read in Pagoda Park, triggering off a nation-wide unarmed non-resistance national independence movement. Peaceful demonstrations against Japanese rule after the reading of the declaration were

ruthlessly suppressed by Japanese police and armed forces, with arrested Korean patriots and demonstrators overflowing all the jails and prisons of Seoul.

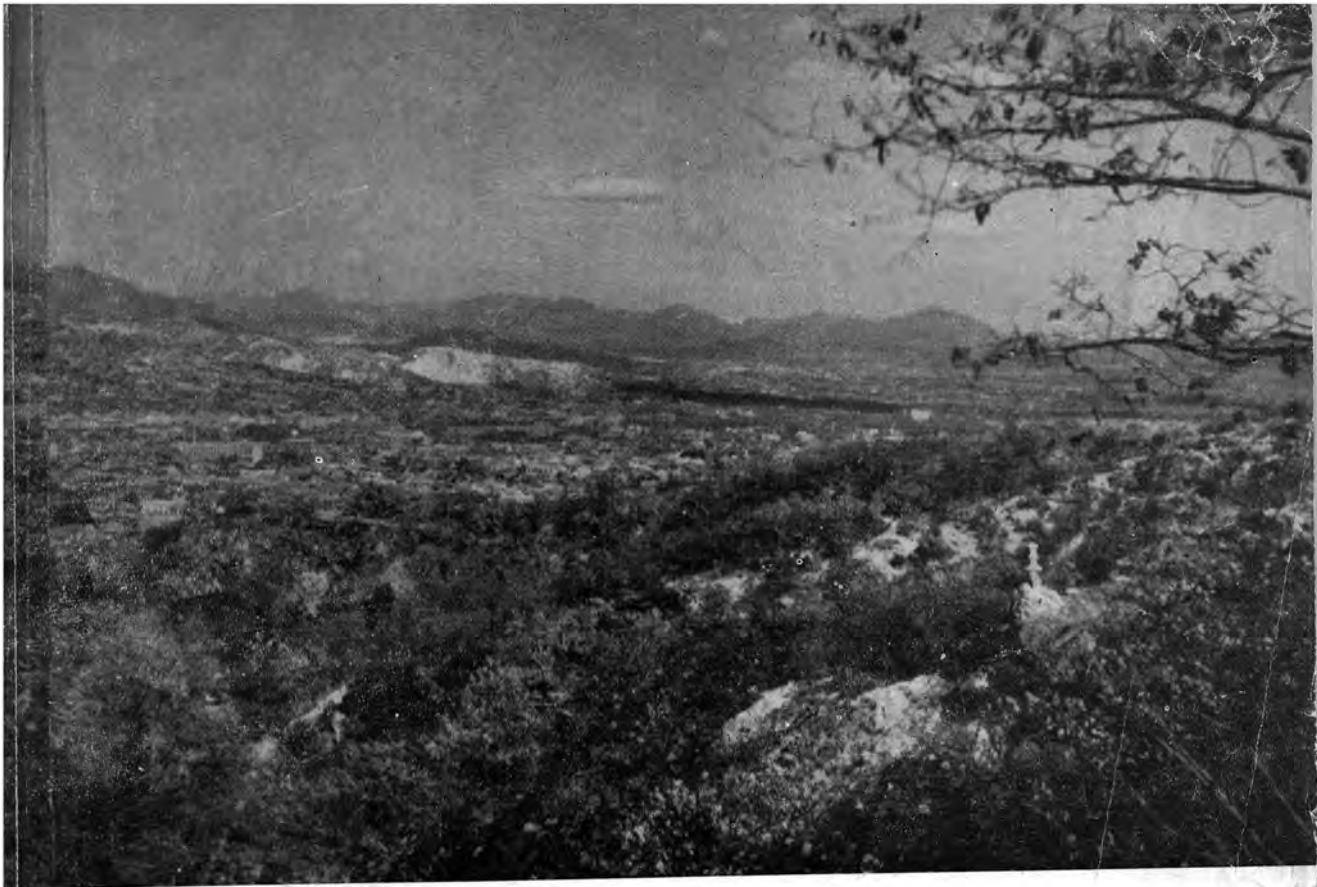
For 36 years the Japanese tried to destroy the national characteristics and culture of Korea, and Seoul was practically cut off from contact with the rest of the world. As the Republic of Korea was born in 1948 Seoul became its capital again.

During the past ten years the population of Seoul incredibly increased from about 800,000 in 1944 to about 1,500,000 in 1956, mainly due to the influx of refugees from the north. Meanwhile about half of the city was destroyed during the Korean war.

As the City of Seoul itself has a long history as a capital, it has many historic remains which are of great interest to visitors. One outstanding feature of such time-honored remains is an old castle wall, surrounding the main part of the old city area, about 10 miles long and 23 feet high. This wall used to have four main gates, one of which is the one impressively standing nearby Seoul Station to greet visitors to Seoul coming out of the railroad station. It is called Namdae-Moon (South Gate) and is right along the main thoroughfare leading to downtown Seoul. The street is called "Namdae-Moon-Ro" after the name of the gate.

*in 1950, on the occasion of the unexpected Korea War
 But it revived, through the strenuous efforts of the people,
 to a peaceful and beautiful Capital of Korea.
 서울은 1950년 7월 27일 휴전 후 다시*

*when Korea was liberated in 1945, Seoul once
 more recovered the glory as a Capital City - Capital
 new and
 independent
 democracy*



The city has been much modernized. As a modern city Seoul has all the ordinary public conveniences in addition to many ancient monuments. As a center of the Korean culture Seoul boasts its national and private universities and colleges and technical schools. It has even a Confucian Institute too.

Tourists sojourning in the city are made very pleasant and comfortable by the existence of two first class Western-style hotels, the Chosun and Bando, managed by the Ministry of Transportation, Republic of Korea Government, where one can get excellent accommodations and food at moderate rates.

There are many first-rate Korean hotels too. All personal and traveling effects may be bought at several large, modern department stores in the city. Some of the beautiful special products of the country are Koryo wares, ambers, lacquered and mother-of-pearl inlaid objects, brass wares, bamboo wares, fans and so on.

As to Christian churches, practically all Protestant denominational ones exist within the city, besides the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches.

Seoul also enjoys one of the finest climates besides these interesting things.

*italy
on, ✓
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ratic Korea*



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