

# THEME ISSUE: The Korean War

## Introduction

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The articles in this special theme issue are based on presentations given at an international workshop organized by the International Center for Korean Studies at the Kyujanggak Institute for Korean Studies. The workshop was held on May 13 and 14, 2010, the year South Korea commemorated the 60th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War. The workshop was intended to take a new look at the participants of the war, and was therefore held under the theme “The Actors: The Korean War, 60 Years after the Outbreak.” Presenters came from various countries, including South Korea, China and Japan in Asia, and France and Great Britain in Europe. The workshop focused on issues in particular. First, an analysis of the people involved in the war. This included both those involved in the decision making process regarding the start of the war (Kim Donggil), and intellectuals involved in creating the social discourse or consensus regarding the war (Laurent Quisefit). At the same time, it can also include an analysis of the war’s victims, such as POWs and refugees, including Koreans who migrated to Japan. Second, it also aimed to analyze the enduring legacy of the war. Sixty years after its outbreak the Korean War is still often labeled the forgotten war, but in truth it has never ended. Although an Armistice Agreement was reached on the Korean peninsula, conflicts between North and South Korea never ceased (Park Tae Gyun). Furthermore, besides its effects on Korea, the war has also impacted not only neighboring countries but also the whole world (Rosemary Foot, Akagi Kenji). This special issue only contains the English papers that passed peer review; some of the papers presented in Korean at this workshop have been submitted separately to Korean language journals.

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