

The Enlightenment of Chosŏn and Inoue Kakugōrō (井上角五郎)

—A Critical Suggestion for ‘Deconstructing’ the
History of the Japan-Korea Relation—

by KIM Bong-jin

Inoue Kakugōrō, as a foreign assistant or advisor, had been employed at a new government office named Bakmunkuk (博文局), having published the modern newspaper such as ‘Hansŏngsunbo (漢城旬報)’ and ‘Hansŏngzubo (漢城周報).’ We may say, in a sense, he had been engaged in enlightening the society or reforming the old system when he stayed in Chosŏn for about four years. However, we need to be careful about what motivated him to do this and/or what was his genuine, real purpose in doing that. We must ask whether his motive/purpose was pure or not. By putting these questions, we can reveal not only the real facts of this historical case but also the real problems resided in the historico-psychological depths of the modern history of Japan and Chosŏn. This paper will be a critical suggestion for ‘deconstructing’ the history of the Japan-Korea relation.