

tions certainly deserve closer investigation, e. g. the identification of *buddhagotra* (not “family” here, but rather “mine”, in the sense of *dhātu*) with the imprisoned light particles. W. Hage, in “The Christian Religion in the Turfan Oasis”, points out that despite a noticeable shift of emphasis in points of doctrine, Nestorian Christian theologians on the whole faithfully preserved the traditions of their Near Eastern mother church. C. R. Bawden, drawing chiefly on accounts of English protestant missionaries, shows in “Shamans, Lamas and Evangelicals in Early Nineteenth Century Transbaikalia” that the encounter of several religions results in syncretism only if the religions are compatible. I noticed only very few misprints (p. 68 n. 5 *aṣṭākṣaṇa*) in this carefully edited volume, which is furnished with an index of names and subjects.

*Almuth Degener*

Ch'oe Ok-Cha (ed.), *Migunjŏng chŏngbo pogosŏ* (Intelligence Reports from the U.S. Military Government), 15 vols. Seoul: Irwŏl sogak 1986. 9636 pp., 450 000 Wŏn

Bruce Cumings' publication, six years ago, of the first part of a two-volume study *The Origins of the Korean War* was acknowledged by Gregory Henderson as one of the most important books for Western readers written since the end of World War II. Although a little emotional, Professor Henderson advised that Cumings' *Origins* “must be read by anyone who is even remotely interested in Korea” (*Korean Studies*, Vol. 7, 1983, p. 117). The study of the post-liberation period is of course of interest to Koreans in Korea, which explains the existence of two unlicensed translations as well as pirate reprints of this work in many Korean bookshops. (Foreign copyrights will be protected in South Korea under the Universal Copyright Convention from October 1987.) Due to the well-known oversensitivity of the Korean regime about critical studies of contemporary history, import source materials from the time 1945 to 1950 were not available for decades. Leftist books and magazines, which were published *en masse* in 1945/1946 by the homecomers from Manchuria, Yan'an and Japan, were taken from public circulation during the Syngman Rhee Government. In the 70s and 80s some reprints of magazines from that time, e.g. *Sinch'ŏnji*, were published. Even articles about the communist movement during Japanese colonial rule were censored and/or omitted. Nowadays, however, reprints, translations and works from Snow's *Red Star over China* to Bukharin's *The ABC of Communism* are

published, proving that since the summer of 1986 the political censorship has become more liberal.

In August 1986 a facsimile print in a 15-volume edition of the declassified intelligence reports of the U.S. Military Government in the southern part of Korea became available. With *Migunjong chongbo pogosó* a main part of the English language materials which Cumings had used for his study, are now in general circulation. These materials were formerly confidential, secret or top secret classified reports, although the documents have been xeroxed in the U.S.A. by Yi U-je. The period of time covered by these reports of the U.S. Armed Forces in Korea (USAFIK) is from the landing of General Hodge's XXIV Corps on September 8, 1945 in the Inch'ŏn harbour to the end of 1948. The first six volumes are wholly made up of the "G-2 Periodic Reports" from the headquarters of the USAFIK. Now, with the exception of a few not yet declassified reports, all G-2 reports are published. This is due to the South Korean Board of National Unification's publication of *An Anthology of Selected Pieces from Declassified Files of Secret U.S. Materials on Korea Before and During the Korean War*, in 1981, the second volume of which consisted of the G-2 reports from January 1949 to the withdrawal of all American troops in June of the same year. The above-mentioned government edition does not cover the troubled times (1945-1948) of power consolidation in the hands of the right-wing leaders directed by the U.S. Military Government. The G-2 reports from the Sixth (Pusan) and Seventh (Seoul) Infantry Divisions fill volumes seven to ten. These together with the above-mentioned headquarter reports are usually divided into different chapters headed e.g. "Non-Operational Intelligence", "Counterintelligence", "Civil Relations" etc, although in March 1948 these headings assumed a more civilian tone, e.g. "Political Activities", "Civil Unrest" and "Psychological". The last five volumes contain the "G-2 Weekly Summaries", which give more detailed information about the political leaders and party-politics in both North and South Korea at the time.

Up until the publication of these documents research on political and social conditions in Korea during that time was a tedious and laborious task in the U.S. National Archives (Federal Complex Suitland). By studying these reports we can distinguish the genuine from the misguided information of the U.S. Military Government. A typical example is Yŏ Un-hyŏng, the prominent moderate-left politician, a patriot beyond reproach, who is described as "well-known to the Korean people as pro-Japanese collaborator" (Vol. 1, p.17). During the first three tempestuous months of the U.S. trusteeship when the socio-political situation on the "peninsula was ripe for revolution" (*Origins*, p. XXVII), General Hodge, who had no experience in Asia, made fundamental and important decisions concerning the eventual creation of a separate southern regime. In addition to translation of Korean



newspaper articles, leaflets and interviews with politicians, innumerable short accounts of various in-cidents throughout the country can also be found. Here are just two examples that well illustrate the general atmosphere. On the outskirts of Seoul about 350 outraged Koreans stoned three U.S. jeeps (Vol.12, p. 203). Also on Cheju-do two snipers opened fire on a U.S. Army C-47 airplane (Vol.15, p. 115). In February 1948 a public opinion poll in Kwangju showed that 61 % of the people were dissatisfied with the coming election. The election was instigated and implemented by the U.S. dominated UN Commission, although only 9 % actually supported it (Vol.5, p. 332). Some of the papers even reproduce caricatures about "forced" elections (e.g., Vol. 10, p. 339), which would lead to two separate states on the peninsula. The reports also present precise information about violent incidents on the 38th Parallel which grew in intensity between 1945-1948 and were normally initiated by the northern side.

A short Korean introduction by Professor Sim Chi-yŏn in the first volume gives a summary of the political development under the U.S. Military Government. Unfortunately the publishing house Irwŏl sŏgak did not provide an index of subjects and names, although the volumes run to nearly 10 000 pages. Obviously the absence of an index in such an extensive collection makes reference to these materials difficult.

In addition to the above reports there are of course many other secret American documents from that period. In the papers of the State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee (SWNCC) and the State-Army-Navy-Air-Force Coordinating Committee (SANACC) there are many documents covering the years 1944-1949. Military aspects of the American trusteeship and the formation of a separate South Korean Government are discussed. The SWNCC and SANACC documents are available on microfilm from Scholarly Resources Inc. (Wilmington, U.S.A.). In the U.S. National Archives, Modern Military Branch, "The Records of the Adjutant General's Office" (RAGO) 1917-1954 and "Records of the Office of Strategic Services" (OSS) 1941-1946 are also kept. Both comprise important sources of information for modern Korean history. Other records which are helpful are the documents of the Civil Affairs Division (CAD)1943-1949, records of the Plans and Operation Division (POD) since 1946 and the "American-British Conversation Files" (ABC) from 1942 to 1946 from the War Department. It is to be hoped that in the near future these documents as well as secret files of the Diplomatic Branch of the State Department will be published in print or microfilm.

*Frank Hoffmann*