



Tübingen Korean Studies Lecture Series

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What Does Goguryeo Mean to Koreans? –The Spatio-Temporal Scope and Historical Significance of Goguryeo History–

Hosub Jung

Korea University

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Biography: He graduated from the Department of Korean History at Korea University and earned both his M.A. and Ph.D. from the same university. He worked as a curator at the Korea University Museum and as a professor at Hansung University, and is currently a professor in the Department of Korean History at Korea University. His primary research field is ancient Korean history, while he also has academic interests in Korean art history, Korean archaeology, museology, public history and regional studies, and unification humanities. He currently serves as the director of the Korea University Institute of Korean History and has long been involved in the Inter-Korean Historians' Association, working toward cooperation in historical studies between North and South Korea.

Abstract: If Koreans were asked to choose the kingdom in Korean history they most wish to remember, Goguryeo would likely rank at the very top. Goguryeo was a state that ruled a vast territory extending from the northern Korean Peninsula to Manchuria, and its fall came after decades of resistance against the Sui and Tang dynasties—then the greatest powers in East Asia—before ultimately collapsing due to internal conflict. For this reason, Goguryeo remains in people's memory as a sorrowful ancient state. It is remembered in Korean history as a “proud and glorious past.”

However, understanding Goguryeo solely through this image is insufficient for a proper comprehension of the state. This study explains what Goguryeo means to Koreans from a contemporary perspective by examining its historical significance through the spatio-temporal framework of Goguryeo history.