



Purpose of the Exhibition

All the states in the world have their own territories and possess sovereignty over them. Japan also has its own territory and possesses its sovereignty over it.

There are, however, two places in the Japanese territory where Japan cannot exercise a part of such right in reality; that is, the Northern Territories and Takeshima.

In addition, although there exists no issue of their territorial sovereignty concerning the Senkaku Islands, which are indisputably an inherent part of the territory of Japan, situation in the maritime areas surrounding the islands have become complex.

The Northern Territories, Takeshima and the Senkaku Islands are inherent territories of Japan, which have never been part of a foreign country.

The National Museum of Territory and Sovereignty reviews the history of the islands, and explains the grounds of their affiliation to Japan, the claims and actions of other states or a region, and Japan's responses and views against them.

Information

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| Location and Mailing Address | 1st Floor Toranomon Daibiru-East Building 3-8-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo Japan 100-0013 |
| Opening Hours | 10-18 |
| The museum is closed on | Monday (except for holidays) and the period between Dec. 29 and Jan. 3. If Monday is a holiday, the museum is closed on the following weekday. The museum is also closed on the first Sunday of March. |
| Admission | free |

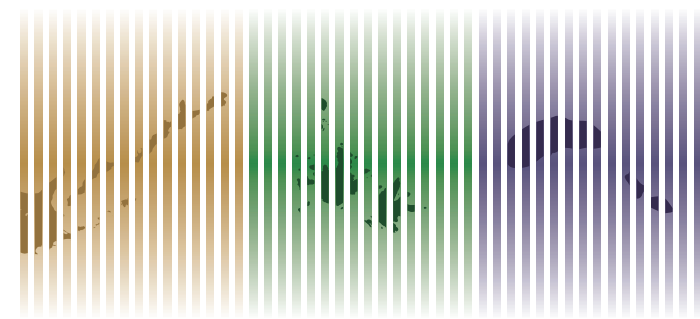


Metro Stations Nearby : Toranomon Sta. (1-min. walk from the 3rd Exit), Toranomon Hills Sta. (5-min. walk from the A2 Exit), Kasumigaseki Sta. (5-min. walk from the A13 Exit)

No parking available. Please use public transportations to visit us.

領土・主権展示館

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF
TERRITORY AND SOVEREIGNTY



領土・主権展示館

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF
TERRITORY AND SOVEREIGNTY

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ADMISSION FREE

The Northern Territories

Hokkaido Prefecture

Why do the Northern Territories continue to be illegally occupied by Russia?

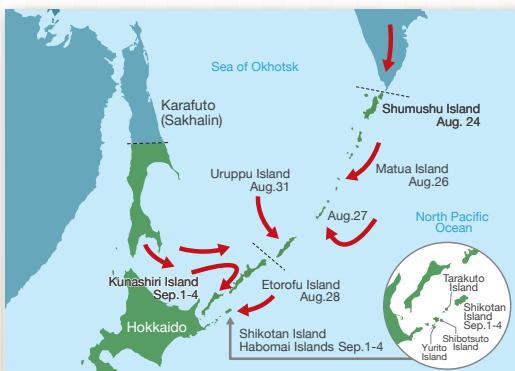


The Northern Territories consist of Etorofu Island, Kunashiri Island, Shikotan Island and the Habomai Islands, located in the Sea of Okhotsk, close to the north-east of Hokkaido's Nemuro Peninsula.

The principality of Matsumae defined the Four Northern Islands as part of its own domain as early as the beginning of the 17th century, and had gradually established control over them. In 1855, the Treaty of Commerce, Navigation and Delimitation between Japan and Russia confirmed the border between the two countries as had been naturally formed between Etorofu and Uruppu Islands.

On August 9, 1945, the Soviet Union, currently the Russian Federation, in violation of the Neutrality Pact that was still in force between Japan and the Soviet Union, opened war on Japan. Even after Japan accepted the Potsdam Declaration and made clear its intention to surrender on August 14, Soviet forces continued its offensive against Japan and occupied the Northern Territories from August 28 until September 5, 1945. At the time, approximately 17 thousand Japanese resided in the Four Northern Islands. All of them were forcibly removed by 1948.

The illegal occupation of the Four Northern Islands by the Russian Federation continues still now. Due to this territorial issue, Japan and the Russian Federation have not concluded a peace treaty. The Government of Japan continues negotiations with the Russian Government to conclude a peace treaty through the resolution of the Northern Territories issue.



Map of the Soviet Union invasion

Takeshima

Okinoshima Town, Shimane Prefecture

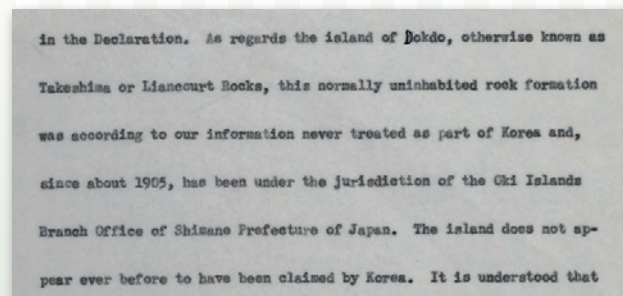
Why has Takeshima illegally been occupied by the Republic of Korea?



Takeshima is located in the Sea of Japan approximately 158km northwest of the Oki Islands. The total area of the islands is approximately 0.20km². Japan had established its sovereignty over Takeshima by the middle of the 17th century at the latest and, in 1905, the Japanese government incorporated Takeshima into Shimane Prefecture by a cabinet decision, and reaffirmed its sovereignty over Takeshima.

Signed in September 1951, the San Francisco Peace Treaty states that Japan recognizes the independence of Korea and renounces "Korea, including the islands of Quelpart, Port Hamilton and Dagelet." A request made by the Republic of Korea (ROK) to include Takeshima to the territories to be renounced by Japan was unequivocally rejected by the United States on the grounds that Takeshima had never been treated as Korean territory and that Korea had at no point claimed sovereignty over Takeshima.

In January 1952, shortly before the Peace Treaty entered into force, the ROK issued a declaration concerning maritime sovereignty, with which it unilaterally established the "Syngman Rhee Line", encompassing the island of Takeshima in contravention of international law. Despite protests by the international community, the ROK did not withdraw the declaration. From 1953 to 1954, the ROK illegally occupied Takeshima by physical force, including firing on Japan's patrol vessels. The ROK has been illegally occupying it ever since.



Letter sent from the U.S. Government to the Korean Government on August 10, 1951

The Senkaku Islands

Ishigaki City, Okinawa Prefecture

There exists no issue of territorial sovereignty to be resolved concerning the Senkaku Islands.

Why did China start to claim the Senkaku Islands in 1971?

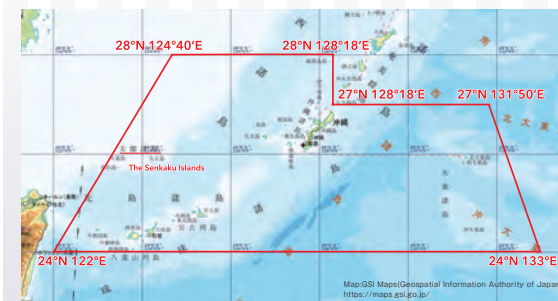


The Senkaku Islands are a group of islands, which include Uotsuri, Kitakojima, Minamikojima, Kuba, Taisho, Okinokitaiwa, Okinominamiwa, and Tobise Islands, located approximately 170km north of Ishigaki Island.

The Senkaku Islands were incorporated into the territory of Japan in 1895 and have consistently been part of the Japanese territory since then. The Islands were occupied by the US Forces in the final stage of WWII, and placed under the US administration by the San Francisco Peace Treaty, while being treated as the Japanese territory.

In December 1971, the People's Republic of China expressed its first ever international claims that the Senkaku Islands are the territory of China. There was no previous record of China asserting any such claims, which suggests that China was only driven to such action by the release of a UN report, in the 1960s, of potential oil reserves in the East China Sea.

China has been asserting that the Senkaku Islands historically belonged to China. However, it has never administrated them as a state nor does it provide any grounds for its claims based on international law. China's claims are unilateral and cannot be accepted in the international community. There is no doubt that the Senkaku Islands are clearly an inherent part of the territory of Japan, in light of historical facts and based upon international law. Indeed, the Senkaku Islands are under the valid control of Japan.



In 1971, Japan and the US signed the Okinawa Reversion Agreement, in accordance with which the administration over Okinawa was returned to Japan in 1972. The Agreed Minutes of the Agreement provide for the geographic scope of the return, which includes the Senkaku Islands.