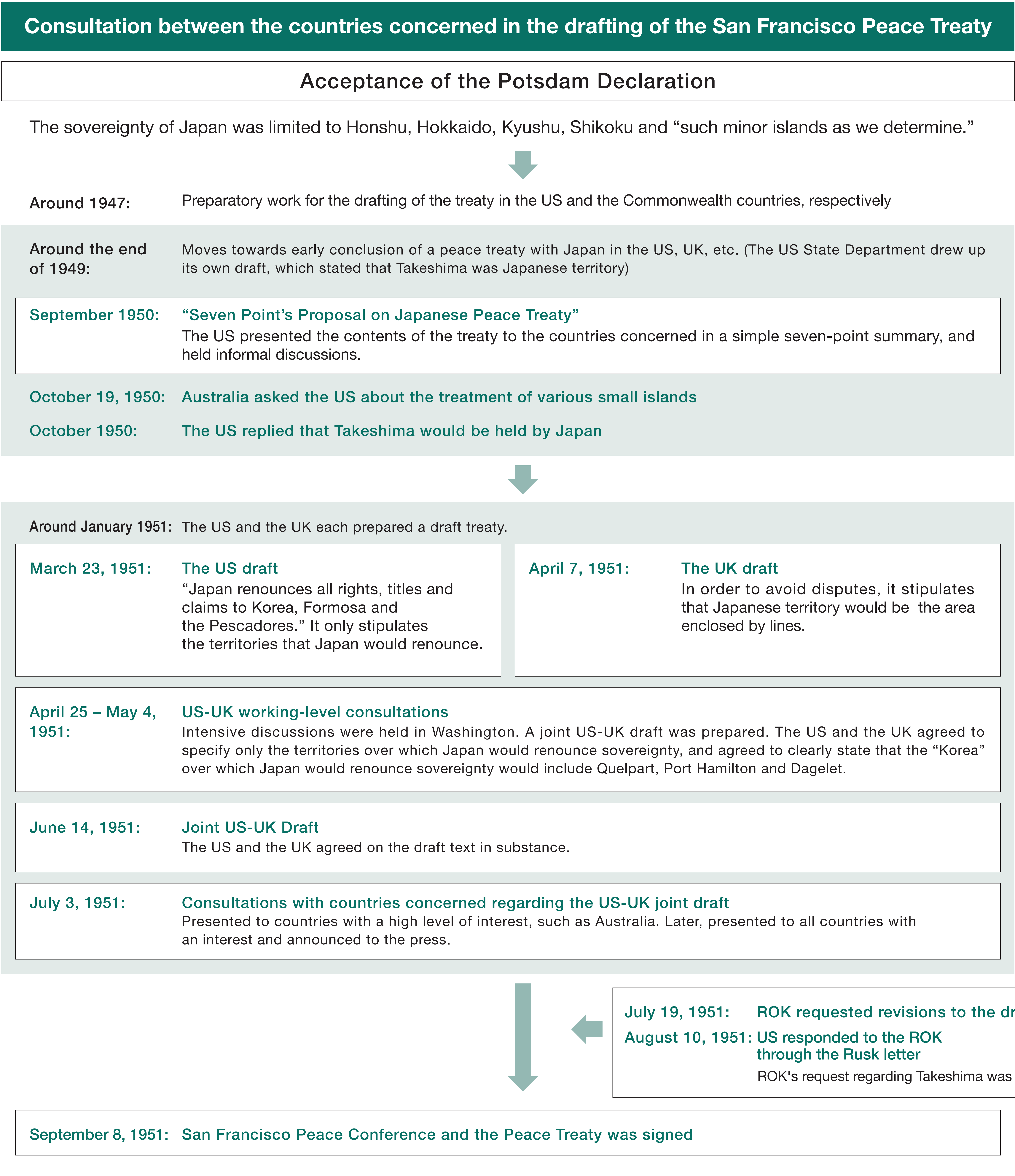


Takeshima after WWII

After WWII: The San Francisco Peace Treaty and the Illegal Occupation of Takeshima by the Republic of Korea

The San Francisco Peace Treaty, which ended the state of war after World War II, stipulated that Japan “renounces all right, title and claim to Korea, including the islands of Quelpart, Port Hamilton and Dagelet.” A closer look at the drafting of this provision shows that Takeshima was deliberately excluded from the text. Although the Republic of Korea (ROK) was aware that Takeshima was not included in the “Korea” that Japan renounced in the Peace Treaty, in January 1952, shortly before

the San Francisco Peace Treaty entered into force, the ROK issued a declaration concerning maritime sovereignty, with which it unilaterally established the “Syngman Rhee Line,” encompassing Takeshima in contravention of international law. Despite protests from 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.



- January 18, 1952:

The ROK President issued a declaration concerning maritime sovereignty
The issue became more serious as a number of incidents occur in which Japanese fishing boats were seized for allegedly violating the so-called “Syngman Rhee Line,” mainly in the waters from around Jeju (Quelpart) Island to Tsushima.
- April 28, 1952:

The San Francisco Peace Treaty entered into force
Takeshima was provided to the US Forces as a bombing range. In March 1953, the designation of the island as a bombing range was lifted in response to requests from Shimane Prefecture. Travel to Takeshima was resumed. Meanwhile, as illegal landings by ROK nationals were being confirmed, the Japanese authorities began taking enforcement measures.
- July 12, 1953:

The Hekura gunfire incident involving a Japan Maritime Safety Agency patrol boat
The Japan Maritime Safety Agency patrol boat “Hekura” was fired at dozens of times near Takeshima.
- June 1954:

ROK deployed a maritime police unit to illegally occupy Takeshima

Although it is obvious that Takeshima continues to be Japanese territory under the San Francisco Peace Treaty, the ROK illegally occupied it using physical force.

