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2010 KYOTO LECTURES

Thursday, May 13th, 18:00h

Nam-lin Hur SPEAKER

Why did Hideyoshi Invade Korea in 1592? A New Approach

Japan's Toyotomi Hideyoshi invaded Korea in 1592 in the name of conquering Ming China. The invasion, which soon developed into an international conflict, embroiled all the major countries in the region and led them into uncharted territory. The aftermath was epochal, involving regime collapses and profound social transformations throughout the region.

What caused Hideyoshi to envision a continental conquest? Did he really think that Japan would be able to conquer China and exercise political hegemony over the region? These questions hold the key to understanding the matrix of international conflict in the geopolitical setting of a China-centered regional order at the time—a setting that Hideyoshi attempted to replace with his own vision of a new regional order controlled by Japan. Based on a wide range of materials, the talk will explore what was behind Hideyoshi's decision for the invasion that eventually proved to be lethal to his own regime.

Nam-lin Hur is Professor in the Department of Asian Studies and serves as Director of the Centre for Korean Research at the University of British Columbia. His teaching focuses on premodern Japanese history and international relations (particularly those between Korea and Japan) in premodern and modern East Asia. His book publications include: *Prayer and Play in Late Tokugawa Japan: Asakusa Sensōji and Edo Society* (Harvard University Asia Center, 2000) and *Death and Social Order in Tokugawa Japan: Buddhism, Anti-Christianity, and the Danka System* (Harvard University Asia Center, 2007). His current research involves *Kaichō* and Buddhist culture in early modern Japan and Japan's invasion of Chosŏn Korea, 1592-1598.

This lecture will be held at the Institute for Research in Humanities (IRH), Kyoto University (seminar room, 1st floor).

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