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WHAT THIS STUDY HAS ATTEMPTED

Historians inevitably face the fundamental question of how to construct history. On the basis of archeological findings, Egami (1948) contends that Japan was conquered by continental horseriders that were led by a Chin King 辰王 of Mimana 任那 [Kaya] called Mimaki-Iri-biko 御間城入彦 (Sujin 崇神) in the fourth century. Directly quoting Nihongi records on the mid-fourth century, Ledyard (1975) contends that the Puyo 夫餘 warriors from the north conquered the south-western part of the Korean peninsula in the middle of fourth century and then, calling themselves Paekche, immediately crossed the sea to conquer Japan. Giving crucial importance to the post-*Ōjin* 應神 records of Kojiki and Nihongi, however, Hong (1988) contends that it was a group of Paekche people who came across the sea, conquered Japan and established Yamato Wa in the latter half of the fourth century. That is, Egami's theory of the continental horseriders' conquest of Japan evolved into Ledyard's theory of the Puyo warriors' conquest of Japan, which, in turn, evolved into Hong's model of the conquest of Japan by a group of Paekche people who created Yamato Wa 大和倭.

Allan G. Grapard (KEJ: 7. 126) states that: "The Kofun period (ca 300-710) was marked by heavy influences from the continent. It was a time of dramatic changes which led to the emergence of Japan as a nation. Future research may provide us with crucial information concerning the exact nature of the relationships between Japan and Korea . . ." This study has attempted to provide this crucial information concerning the exact nature of the relationship between Paekche and Yamato Wa, to uncover the mystery surrounding the origin of Yamato Wa, and to correct the widespread misconceptions among Japanese people on this matter.