

# KOREAN WRITING

Code Making and Code Breaking

# INFLUENCE OF CHINESE

- Chinese is the main linguistic and cultural influence on Korean.
- This has been so as far back as anyone knows
- There is evidence of classical Chinese used by Koreans in 440 C.E.

# EARLY KOREAN WRITING

- Idu, Hyangchal, Gugyeol
- All heavily Chinese-based
- The educated classes spoke Korean but learned to read and write Classical Chinese.

# IDU

- Idu was Chinese characters with extra symbols for things like verb endings (which Korean has, but Chinese doesn't)



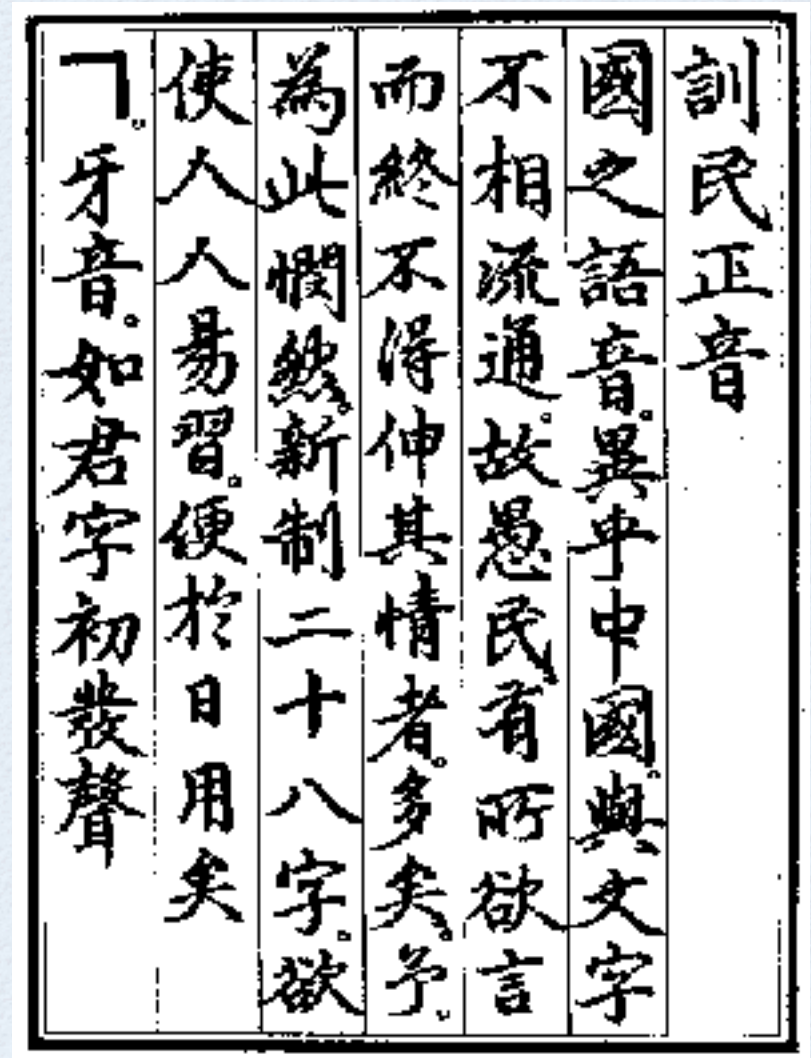
# KING SEJONG THE GREAT

- May 6, 1397 - May 18, 1450
- Reigned 1418-1450
- His older brothers intentionally got themselves banished, because they rated Sejong a likely better King



# HANKUL

- Hwunmin cengum
- Means “The correct sounds for instructing the people”
- Appeared, apparently with no precursors, in 1446. Attributed to Sejong



- Because the national language is different from that of China, it [spoken language] doesn't match [Chinese] letters. Therefore, when the ignorant want to communicate, many of them cannot achieve their intentions. Because I am saddened by this, I have newly made 28 letters. It is my intention that everybody learn the letters easily so that they can conveniently use them everyday.

# REACTION

- Scholars not pleased, Hankul not widely adopted until twentieth century.
- Level of knowledge of Chinese characters to be expected is still a hot issue in South Korea.  
North Korea banned use of Chinese long ago.

# KEY IDEAS

- Written in syllabic blocks
- Deliberate linguistically-informed planning
- Scientific.
  - Based on tripartite division of syllable into three parts. Onset / Peak / Coda.
  - Systematic design for both consonants and vowels

# ENGLISH NAMES

- Matthew
- Alfie