

## **The roles and responsibilities of non-state actors in transitional justice processes**

### **A historical aspect on Peace in the East and a Non-State Actor:**

#### **An Chunggun, Korean Civilian Activist for Independence**

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### **International Peace Movements in the West**

Peace movements organized by critical intellectuals arose in response to the advent of imperialism in the nineteenth century. In 1901, the Nobel Foundation began awarding the Nobel Peace Prize annually to those who made significant contributions to promoting peace—with Henry Dunant (1849-1910), the founder of the Red Cross, as the first recipient. Upon the urgings of a prominent British journalist, William Thomas Stead (1849-1912), in 1910, an American industrialist, Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919), established the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace with a gift of 10 million dollars. With the opening, in 1913, of the Peace Palace funded by the Carnegie Endow became a city symbolizing international peace—by then having hosted the First and Second Hague conferences (1899, 1907) that negotiated a series of international treaties and declarations. Then upon commencement of World War I (1914-1918), American legal scholars and academics urged the US president Woodrow Wilson (1856-1924) to lead the United States in preventing another such calamity. As is well known, one of the outcomes was the League of Nations (1920-1946).

### **Peace movements in the East**

Such peace movements in the West influenced East Asia, where Japanese political leadership utilized the ideal of international peace to justify the expansion of the Japanese Empire. In the name of “peace in the East” (*Toyo heiwa*), Ito Hirobumi (1841-1909) and other Japanese argued that Japan must lead the region in resisting incursions by Russian and other Western powers and that China and Korea should help. Persuaded especially during the Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905), shortly thereafter, many Chinese and Koreans became disillusioned when, contrary to its rhetoric on regional cooperation, Japan turned Korea into a protectorate. Criticizing Japan’s argument for peace in the East as a lie, many even took up arms against Japan. Such efforts as the Korean emperor’s dispatch of confidential emissaries to the 1907 Second Hague Conference to protest the 1905 Protectorate Treaty imposed on Korea by Japan

and the shooting of Ito in 1909 by a Korean nationalist, An Chungun (1879-1910), who urged Japan to be a true champion of peace in the East, thus were all connected to international peace movements elsewhere.

### **The roles and responsibilities of a non-state actor, An Chungun**

On October 26, 1909, the Korean patriot An Chunggŭn assassinated the Japanese statesman Itō Hirobumi in Harbin, China. More than a century later, the ramifications of An's daring act continue to reverberate across East Asia and beyond.

Please, see: Peace in the East.

<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781498566407/Peace-in-the-East-An-Chunggun's-Vision-for-Asia-in-the-Age-of-Japanese-Imperialism#>

#### ***Peace in the East***

#### ***An Chungun's Vision for Asia in the Age of Japanese Imperialism***

Edited by Yi Tae-Jin; Eugene Y. Park and Kirk W. Larsen - Contributions by Frederick R. Dickinson; Kirk W. Larsen; Makino Eiji; Eugene Y. Park; Franklin D. Rausch; Sasagawa Norikatsu; Suh Young-Hee; Totsuka Etsuro; Wang Yuanzhou; Xu Yong; Yamamuro Shin'ichi and Yi Tae-Jin

Lexington Books

Pages: 284 • Trim: 6 x 9

978-1-4985-6640-7 • Hardback • October 2017 • \$105.00 • (£70.00)

978-1-4985-6641-4 • eBook • October 2017 • \$99.50 • (£65.00)

This volume explores the abiding significance of An, his life, and his written work, most notably *On Peace in the East* (Tongyang p'yŏnghwaron), from a variety of perspectives, especially historical, legal, literary, philosophical, and political. The ways in which An has been understood and interpreted by contemporaries, by later generations, and by scholars and thinkers even today shed light on a range of significant issues including the intellectual and philosophical underpinnings for both imperial expansion and resistance to it; the ongoing debate concerning whether violence, or even terrorism, is ever justified; and the possibilities for international cooperation in today's East Asia as a regional collective. Students and scholars of East Asia will find much to engage with and learn from in this volume.