

Final Kabo Reform Plan

I. Political Reform

Korea should be established as a constitutional monarchy, with King Kojong as our rightful ruler and a legislative body voted on by all educated men. The legislature may propose laws, engage in lively yet respectful debate, and pass provisional legislation. However, the final decision on all matters should still ultimately rest on our great King's deliberative righteousness. Not a single ordinance or law should be passed without the King's enthusiastic approval. As will be discussed on the policy proposal for education, we should educate as many people as possible so that the legislature shall be voted on by wise, informed men.

II. Social Reform

The government service examination system as it currently stands gives an extremely unfair advantage in our society to yangban, especially secondary social groups. As such, the tests should be modified so that the content itself is not biased towards the yangban class, and also so that any man of intelligence and wisdom may be allowed the opportunity to test his mettle at becoming a government official and serving our great nation.

The explicit social and political privileges of the yangban class should be abolished. That is not to say that there is an issue with yangban holding power or status, but merely that such things should be earned through merit rather than dictated by birthright. Also, the tendency for the yangban to act as a conservative force in our government is holding Korea back from modernization.

Korea should abolish any and all practices of slavery as these are morally abhorrent and against the principle of personal political rights and sovereignty that Korea should hold up. In addition, in aligning Korea with moral truths that the West has learned, we should abolish laws and practices that specifically disadvantage and harm women; these are: early marriage, sequestering in the inner quarters, and the prohibition of remarriage for widows.

III. Economic Reform

Merchants should be viewed as valuable assets in Korea, rather than being discriminated against by both society and the law. They should no longer be considered a lower class both socially and legally.

Western-style infrastructure should be developed and adopted quickly so as to strengthen our internal economy. This includes railroads, steamships, and telegraph lines. However, the government should negotiate with private landowners so that the building of these things does not violate private land ownership.

Korea should establish its own paper currency and centralized banking system to allow for control and encouragement of the local economy, and to improve the ease of trade among the people. In addition, Korea should establish an official government office for negotiating trade relationships with outside countries, especially those from the West whose trade relationships Korea may benefit from.

IV. Education Reform

Education should be massively expanded to provide an education to all classes. That way, all our citizens will be wise and learned and increase the prosperity of our great nation. Our schools should also allow enrollment by women, so that they will understand the importance of education and pass it down to our next generation of scholars, merchants, and leaders.

The curriculum should be built around a three-pronged approach: moral education, where students study the classics and learn our Confucian moral values; practical education, where students learn the Western practical disciplines of mathematics, the natural sciences, and economics; and arts education, where moral principles are applied to the practical discipline and subjective creative thinking is encouraged. This curriculum will prepare our next generation for a modernizing Korea.

Finally, the government service exam system should have material on both the practical and artistic disciplines included alongside questions which judge the mastery of the Confucian classics.