

THE DON KOREANS AS A PART OF THE KORYO-SARAM ETHNIC COMMUNITY IN RUSSIA

The article presents a historical account of the formation of the Korean local ethnic group (Koryo-saram) on the territory of the former USSR. It delineates the distinctive cultural, linguistic and social characteristics of the Koryo-saram, which emerged during 150 years of independent residence first in the Russian Empire, then in the USSR and later in the Republics of the former Soviet Union. The article highlights the distinction between the Don Koreans and other Korean diasporas, such as the Sakhalin diaspora. It is asserted that the historical, cultural and linguistic links of the Koryo-saram originate from the northern part of Korea. The article employs materials derived from the author's observations, which entailed continuous communication with representatives of the Korean diaspora for a period exceeding 15 years. Additionally, the author served as the executive director of the Association of Koreans of the Rostov Region for a year and a half.

Keywords: *Korean culture, Koryo-saram, Koreans in Russia, diaspora, Hallyu*

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