Peace in East Asia and Perpetual Peace: The Ideals of Ahn Jung-Geun and Immanuel Kant

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This study aims to elucidate on aspects of “Peace in East Asia” and “Perpetual Peace.” Ahn Jun-Geun was the Korean independence activist who shot and killed Ito Hirobumi (Japan’s first Resident-General of Korea). Ahn is considered a patriotic martyr in South Korea, and wrote “On Peace in East Asia” — a treatise asserting the independence of Korea. Immanuel Kant was a German philosopher, and was the author of “On Perpetual Peace.”

The present paper outlines a comparative study of these two peaceful thinkers. As research on this subject has been strangely neglected by critics, the two philosophical concepts of world peace are weighed and the points common to both are clarified. The investigation represents research on the possibility of peace and the ongoing status of East Asia.

The study first considers Ahn Jun-Geun’s ideas of peace in “On Peace in East Asia,” which is then followed by an examination of Immanuel Kant’s “On Perpetual Peace.” The final part elucidates on the opinions of the two philosophers regarding the concept of world peace.

Keywords: Peace in East Asia, Perpetual Peace, Patriotism