

International Presbyterianism: Canada and Korea

I. Presbyterianism in Canada

A. Background

1. Roots
 - a. Canada obviously has strong British ties
 - b. Canadian Presbyterianism has strong Scottish roots
2. Sources of Canadian Presbyterianism
 - a. Various Scottish churches
 - 1) Church of Scotland organized congregations and later presbyteries
 - 2) Dissenting churches had strong presence (Seceder, Free Church)
 - b. Majority of Canadian Presbyterians sided w/ Disruption
 - c. Others, including some American Presbyterians, planted works
3. Consolidation
 - a. By 1867 Canadian Presbyterians had organized into 4 main bodies
 - b. 1875: All united to form the Presbyterian Church in Canada

B. Development

1. Ecumenism & Responses
 - a. Move to ecumenical union
 - 1) Under influence of ecumenical movement, Canada's Methodists, Congregationalists, and the majority of Presbyterians joined
 - 2) Formed the United Church of Canada in 1925
 - b. About a third of Presbyterians resisted the merger & formed a "continuing" Presbyterian Church, winning name Presbyterian Church in Canada legally in 1939
 - 1) Born of different motives
 - a) Preserving Presbyterian heritage
 - b) Theological concern over doctrine (e.g., Jonathan Goforth)
 - c) Even a handful of liberals who thought the United Church too conservative
 - 2) Numbers are slowly declining—but not so drastically as in United Church of Canada
2. Theological trends
 - a. Marked by a growth of liberalism throughout history
 - 1) Member of the WCC and Canadian Council of Churches
 - 2) Has not only women clergy (as of 1966) but even women moderators
 - b. Contains evangelical elements
 - 1) "Puritan" fellowship: Renewal Fellowship Within the Presbyterian Church in Canada
 - 2) Influential Knox Presbyterian Church in Toronto
 - 3) A few have actually affiliated with the PCA
3. Some noted Presbyterian figures (e.g., Jonathan Goforth)

II. Presbyterianism in Korea

A. Roots

1. Presbyterians first Protestant missionaries in Korea, often from contacts of Koreans in China w/ Presbyterians
2. Adopted "Nevius Plan" from missionary John L. Nevius (NEHV ee us) in China
 - a. Self-support

- b. Self-governing (local autonomy)
 - c. Self-propagation
- 3. Influence from USA but also Australia and Canada
- 4. Factor: Christianity in Korea not associated w/ imperialism
- B. Growth
 - 1. Pioneer missionary: Samuel Moffett
 - 2. Key Events of 1907
 - a. Founding an independent Presbyterian Church
 - b. “Korean Pentecost”: major revival
 - 3. Japanese Period
 - a. Dominated by Japan after Russo-Japanese War (1904-5)
 - b. Japanese attempted to coerce Shintoist worship
 - c. Govt. pressure often split Korean churches
 - 4. Impact of Korean War
 - a. Introduced Communist persecution
 - b. Crushed work in the north
 - c. Led to a shift of the work to the south (ROK—South Korea)
 - d. During Cold War, Carl McIntire, Bible Presbyterian Church & ICCC inspired several groups
- C. Contemporary Situation
 - 1. Remarkable Growth
 - a. Almost 30% of South Korea nominally Christian
 - b. About 75% of Christians are Presbyterian
 - 2. About a hundred different Presbyterian denominations
 - a. Presbyterian Church of Korea (TongHap) remnant of original Presbyterian Church & ecumenical but has suffered many secessions over theology (looseness at least if not always liberalism) and ecumenism
 - b. Presbyterian Church of Korea (HapDong) the biggest and more conservative (although also suffering secessions)
 - 3. Major issues: ordination of women, subscription