

South Korea protests Japanese history text

by UPI

SEOUL -- South Korea summoned a Japanese Embassy official Thursday to protest Tokyo's approval of a history textbook Seoul sees as whitewashing Japan's wartime history.

"The government strongly protests the Japanese government's approval of the history textbook based on its false historical perception, which justifies and beautifies past wrongdoings," Foreign Ministry spokesman Moon Tae-young said.

Japanese teenagers will have a distorted view of history because of the textbook, published by an alleged right-wing group, Seoul officials told Yonhap, a South Korean news agency.

Seoul called for the book "to be fundamentally corrected," he said.

South Korean Embassy officials also planned a protest visit to Japan's Foreign Ministry, Yonhap said.

Japan had no immediate comment.

Its Education Ministry Thursday approved the textbook for use in Japanese junior high schools in 2010 and 2011.

The book allegedly justifies Japan's colonization of Korea from 1910-45 and "glosses over" its invasion of other nations during World War II, South Korean officials said.

It also says ancient Korea was ruled by Japan, a theory disputed by historians in both countries, the officials said.

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