

This master's thesis deals with the topic of two concepts by which Ch'oe Nam-sŏn, one of the key figures in Korean modern history, constructed Korean identity during the colonial period, namely his interpretation of the myth of Tangun, the legendary founder of Korean statehood, and the so-called Purham culture, which is to be basis for Asian culture in general. The text of the thesis is divided into two parts, the first part of which attempts to briefly contextualize Ch'oe Nam-sŏn's ideas and their connection to previous historians, especially Sin Chä-ho. The second, key part of the work will be the focus on representative texts written by Ch'oe Nam-sŏn during the Japanese occupation on the topic of Korean identity, and will notice shifts in interpretation with regard to the author's life vicissitudes, limitations and thought "maturation", will also focus on argumentation strategies, presentation of key ideas and conclusions.