

Administrative Region

Administrative districts are governmental units for local administration, but at the same time they define regional and local identity. Since the nation's founding, Korea has promoted administrative efficiency through a number of administrative reorganizations. In the midst of these changes, a *do*-oriented (province-oriented) administrative district system of the Joseon Dynasty is the basis for the modern metropolitan administrative system in Korea. The administrative system is comprised of 1 special city, 15 *dos* (provinces), 23 *bus* (cities), 208 *guns* (counties) in 1945. The following year, Jeju Island was separated from Jeollanam-do, and *bu* became *si* in 1948.

The Korean government carried out comprehensive reform to harmonize living spaces and administrative

districts in 1962. For example, Geumsan-gun in Jeollabuk-do was transferred into Chungcheongnam-do, and Uljin-gun in Gangwon-do was merged into Gyeongsangbuk-do. The reforms after 1960 mainly took place due to urban expansion caused by population growth in cities and suburbanization. Small towns attained cityhood as their population increased, and major cities were promoted to directly-controlled municipalities so that the central government could manage them directly. During the 1960s, as Busan was promoted to a directly-controlled city, Korea consisted of 1 special city (Seoul), 1 directly-controlled city (Busan Directly-Controlled City), 9 *dos* (Gyeonggi-do, Gangwon-do, Chungcheongbuk-do, Chungcheongnam-do, Jeollabuk-do, Jeollanam-

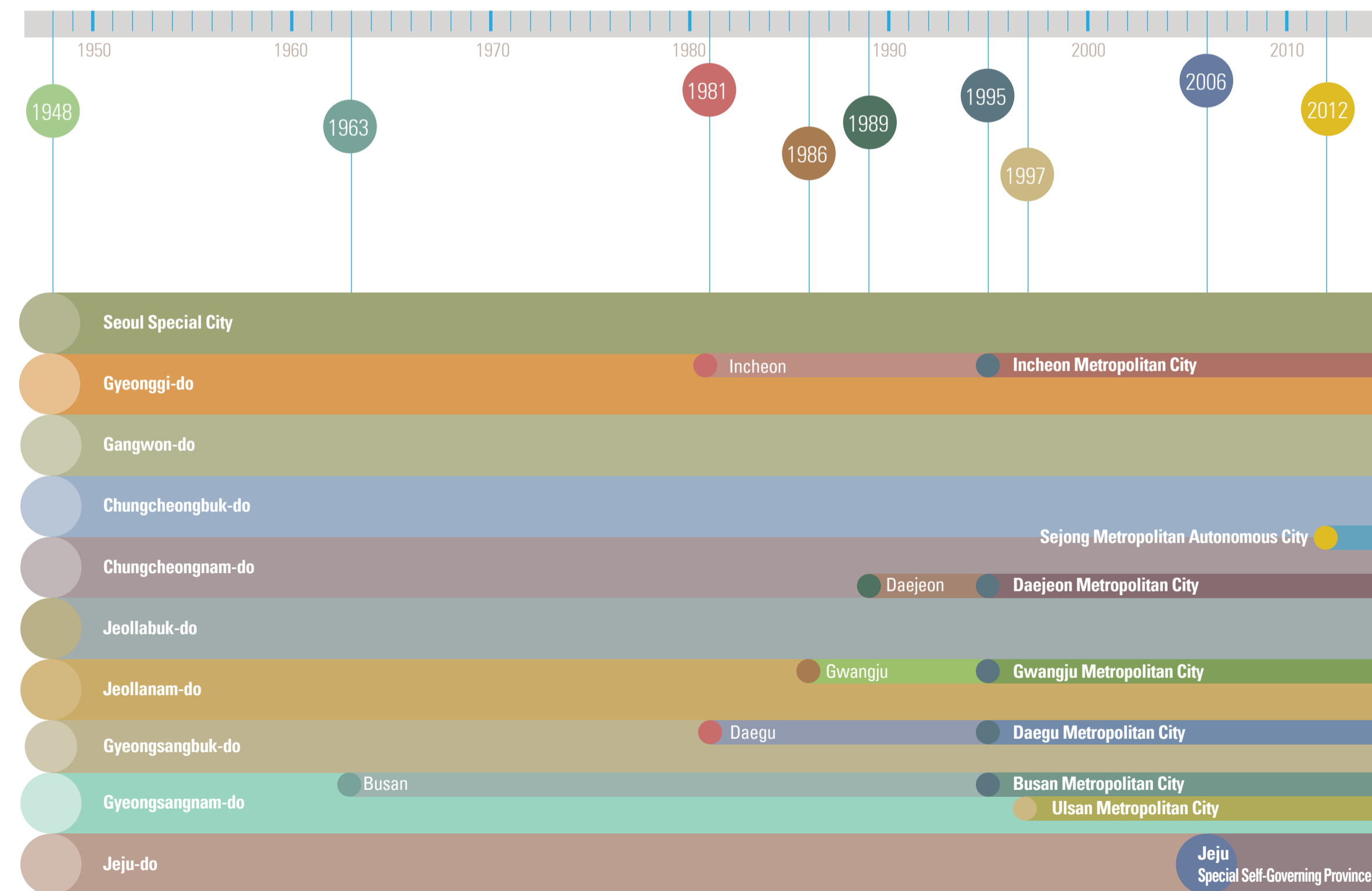
do, Gyeongsangbuk-do, Gyeongsangnam-do, and Jeju-do), 30 *sis* (cities), and 140 *guns* (counties). Large provincial cities, like Incheon, Daegu, Gwangju, and Daejeon, became directly-controlled cities in the 1980s.

Subsequently, in 1995, overall provincial administrative reform was carried out. This reshuffling integrated cities and counties and aimed at balancing development between growing urban and declining rural areas, securing land for urban development, promoting administrative efficiency, and addressing inconsistencies between spaces of daily life and administrative districts. Also, directly-controlled municipalities were reorganized into metropolitan cities by combining neighboring areas. In 1995,

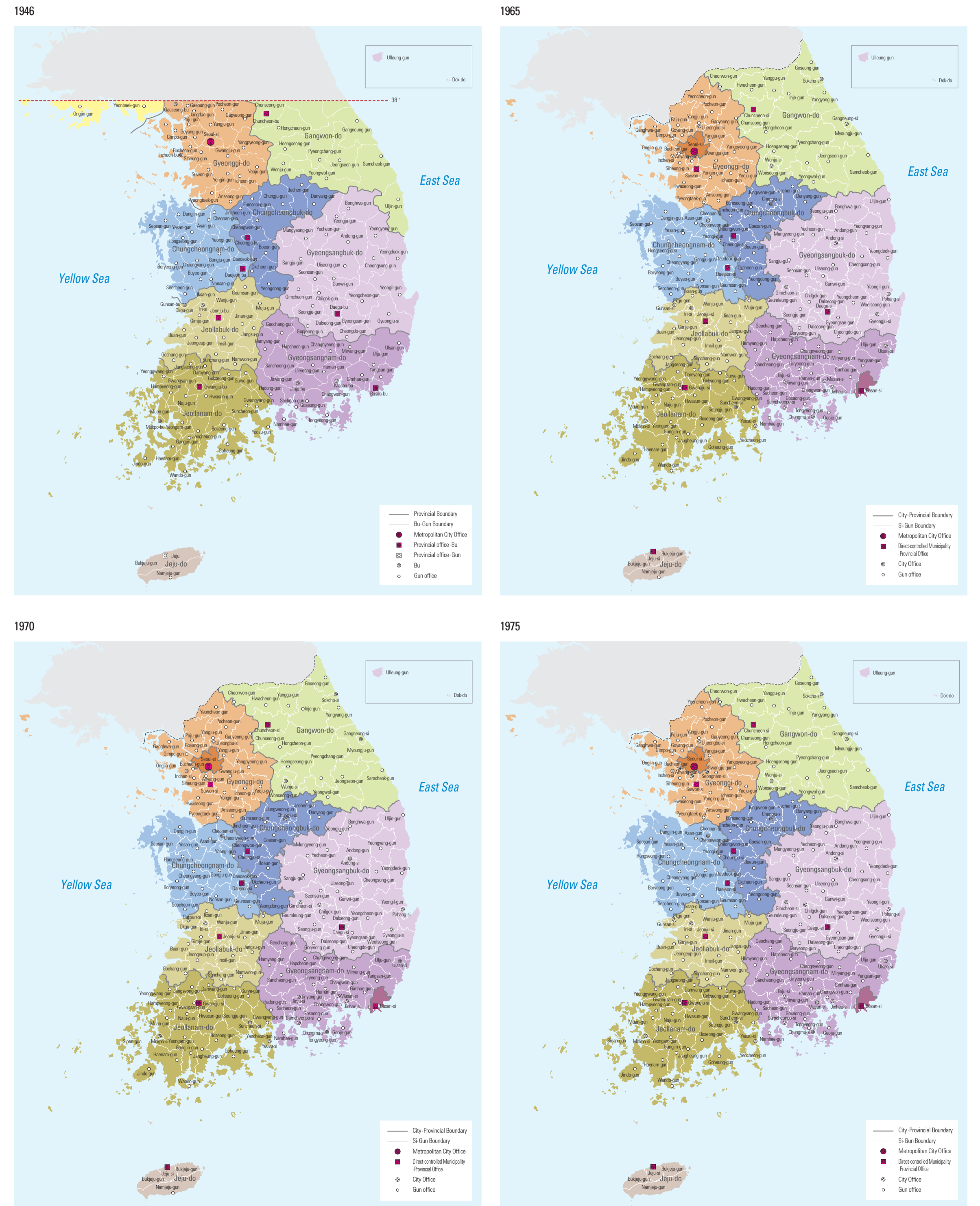
forty urban/rural integration cities were established and 5 metropolitan cities were created including Busan, Daegu, Incheon, and Daejeon. Ulsan attained metropolitan cityhood in 1997.

After the year 2000, continuous merging of cities and counties took place, and Jeju Island was raised to the status of a Jeju Special Self-governing Province. Sejong, a multifunctional administrative city, became the Sejong Metropolitan Autonomous City in 2012. As of January 1, 2014, the Republic of Korea has 1 *teukbyeol-si* (special city), 6 *gwangyeok-sis* (metropolitan cities), 1 *teukbyeol Jachi-si* (special autonomous city), 8 *dos* (provinces), and 1 *teukbyeol Jachi-do* (special self-governing autonomous province).

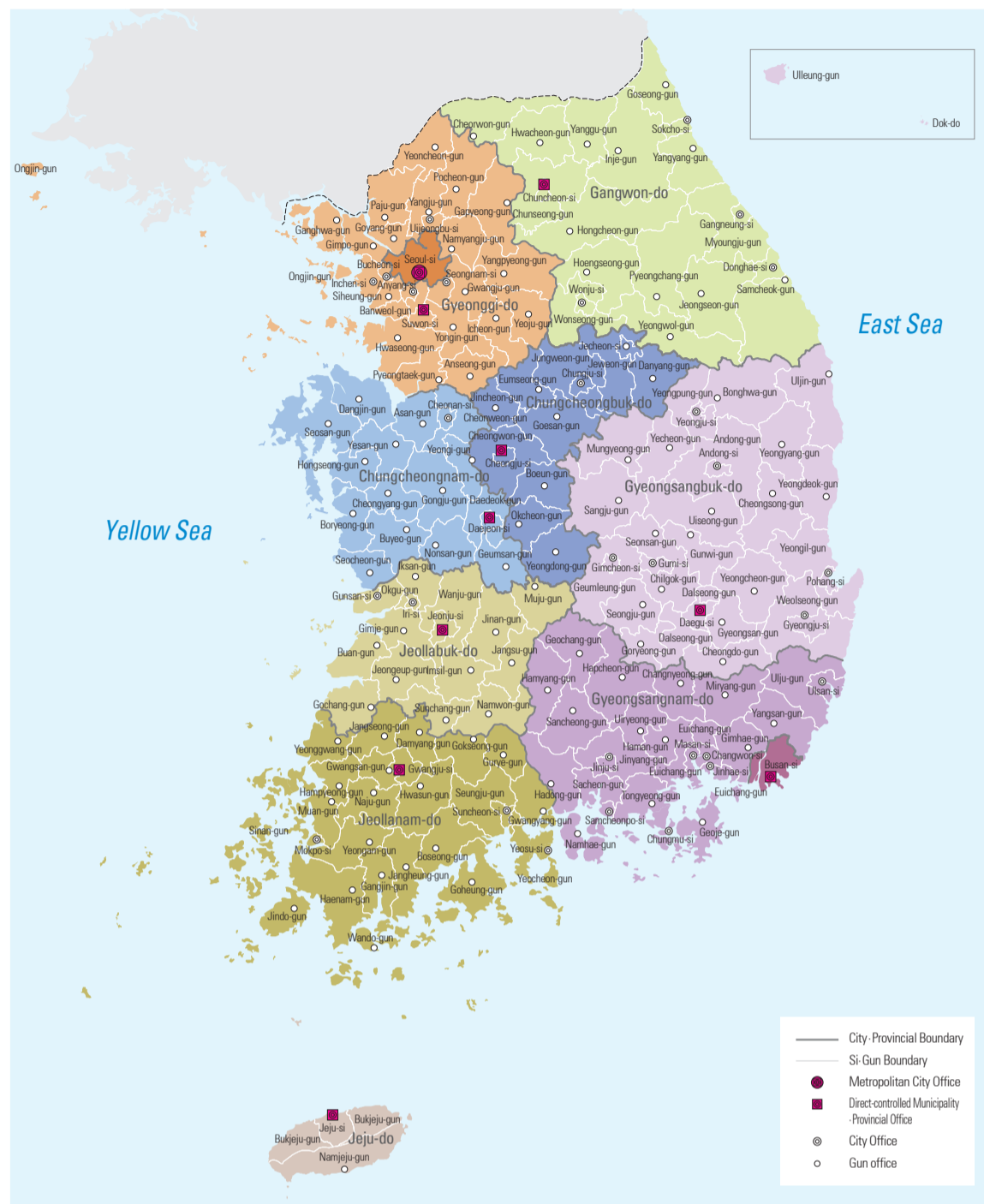
Changes in the First-tier Administrative Divisions of Korea



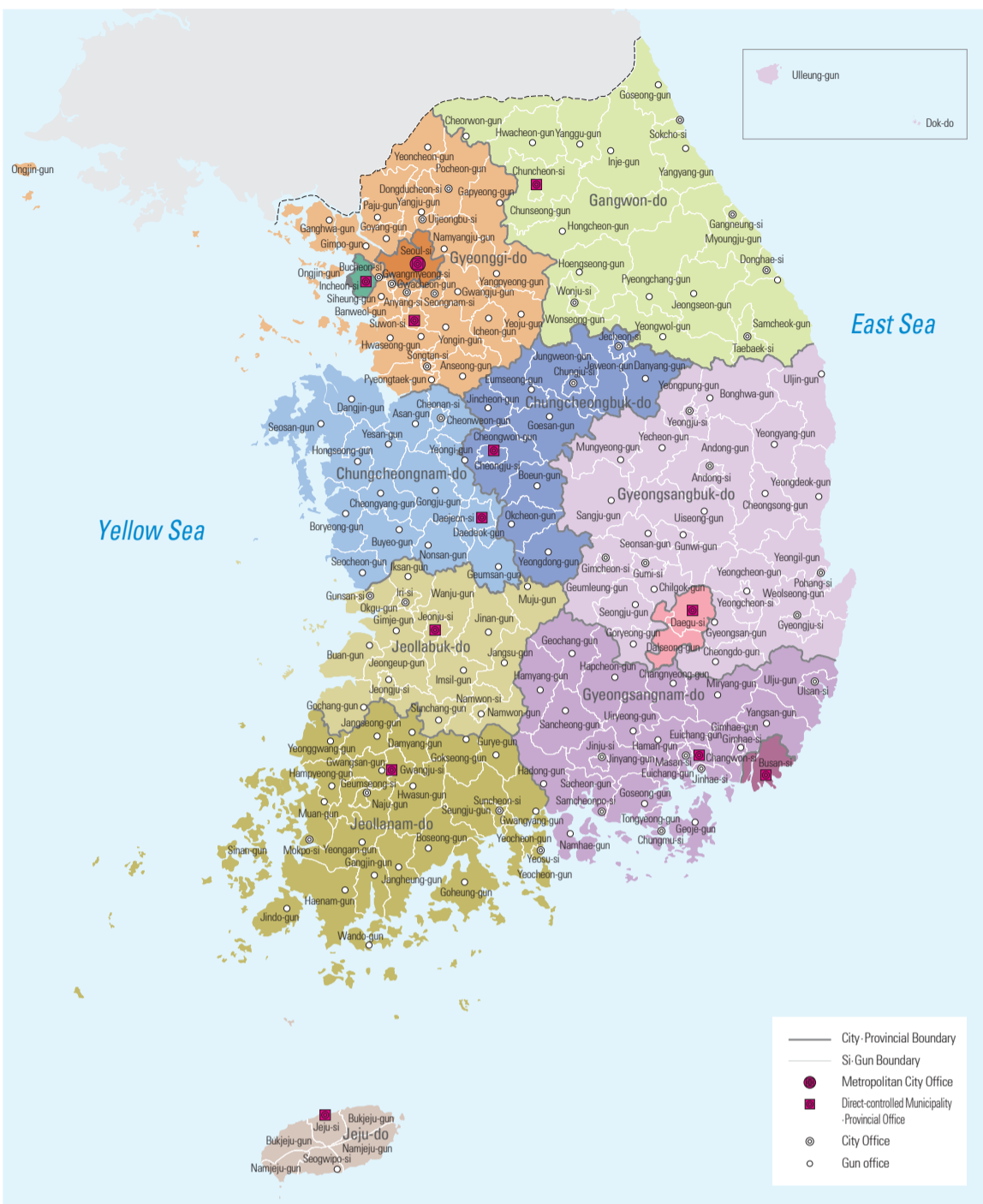
Administrative Changes after Independence



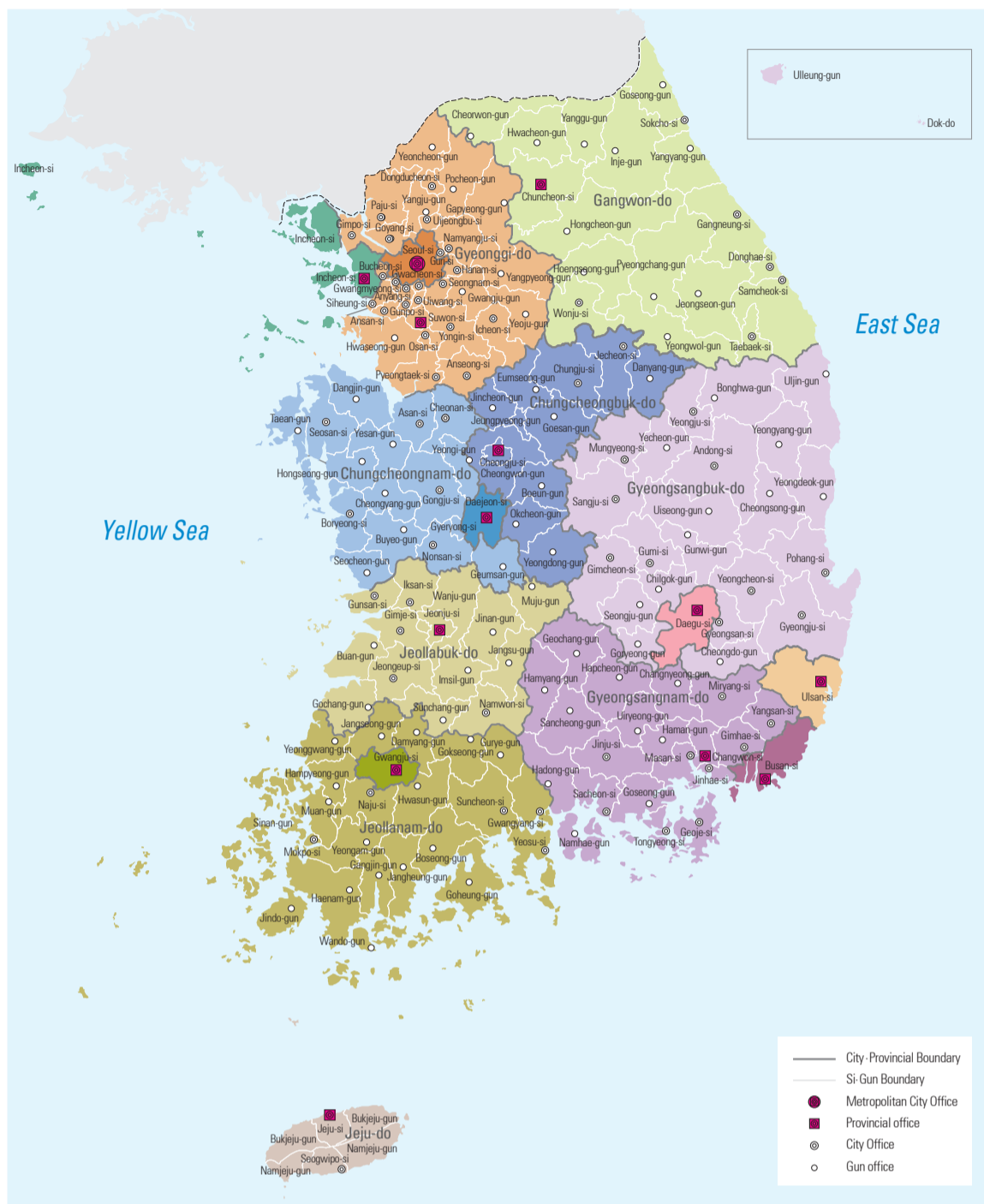
1980



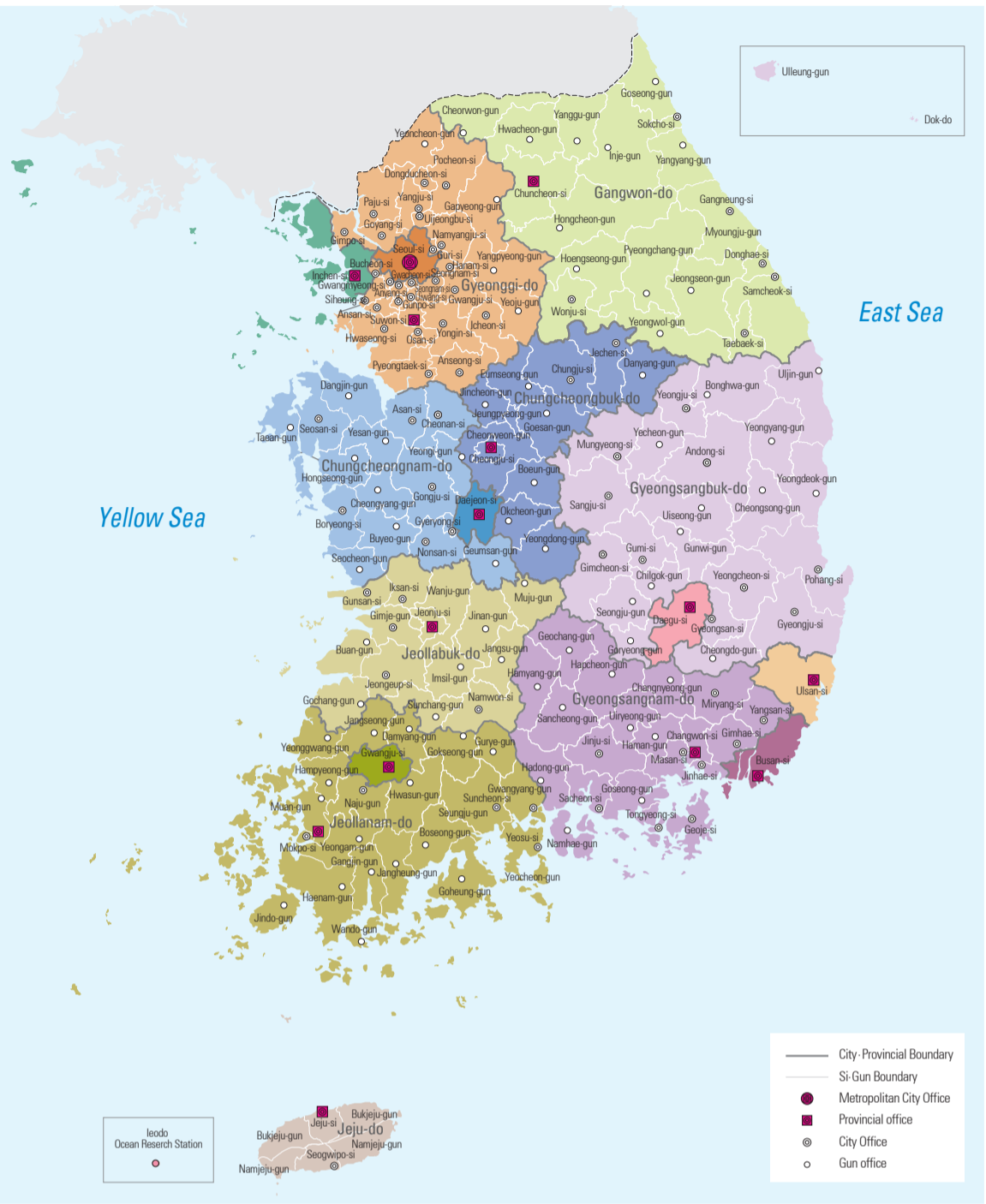
1985



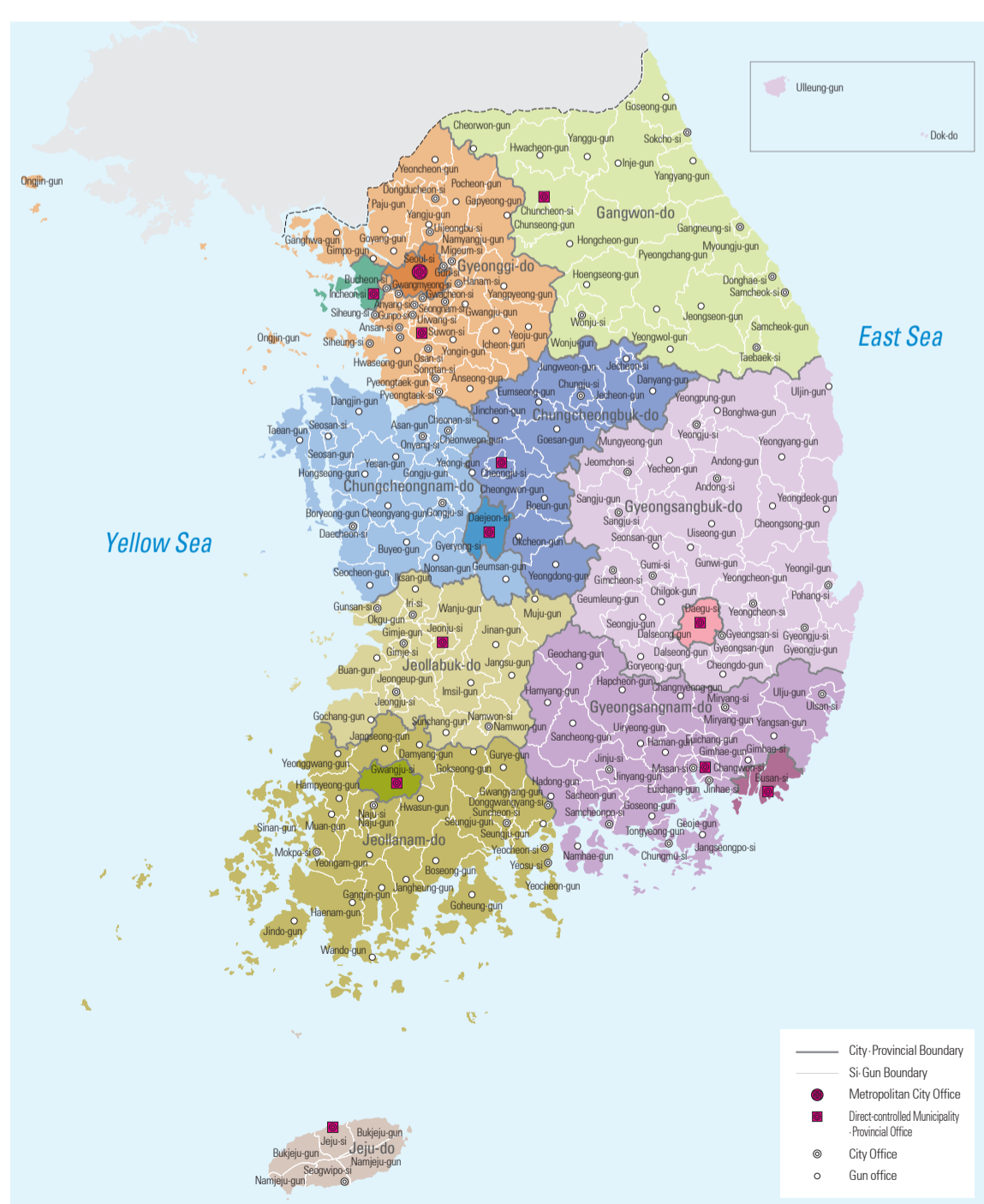
2000



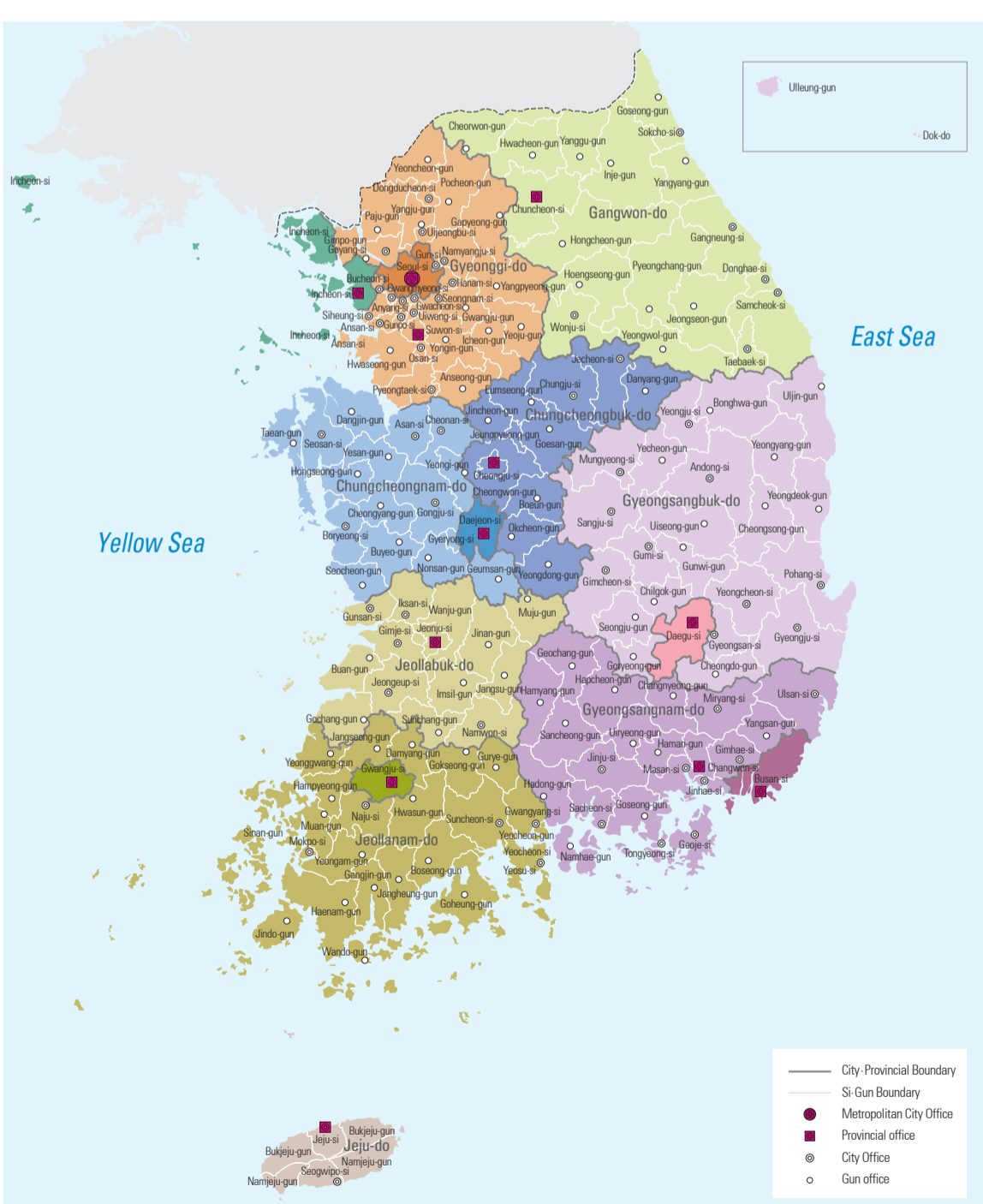
2005



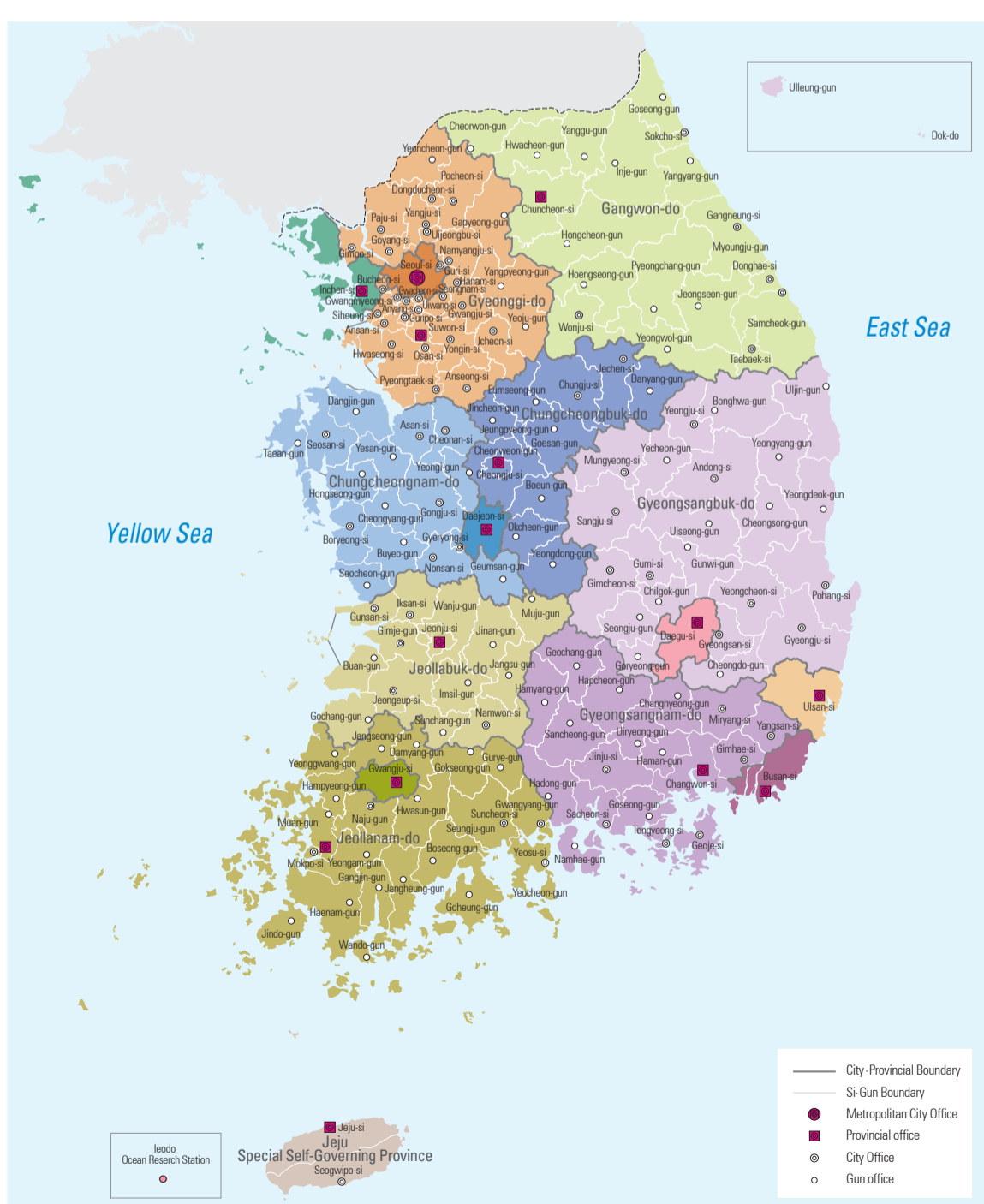
1990



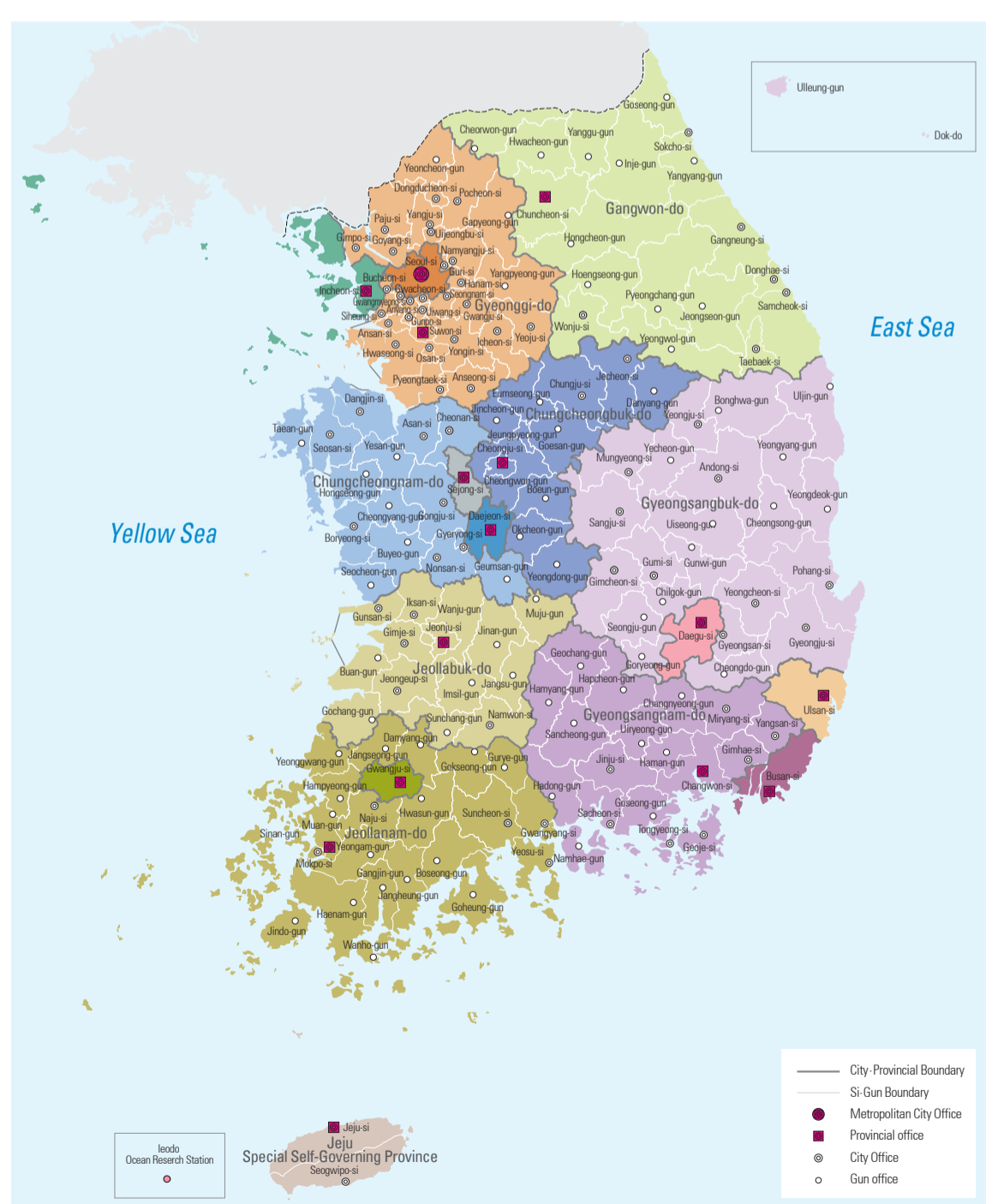
1995



2010



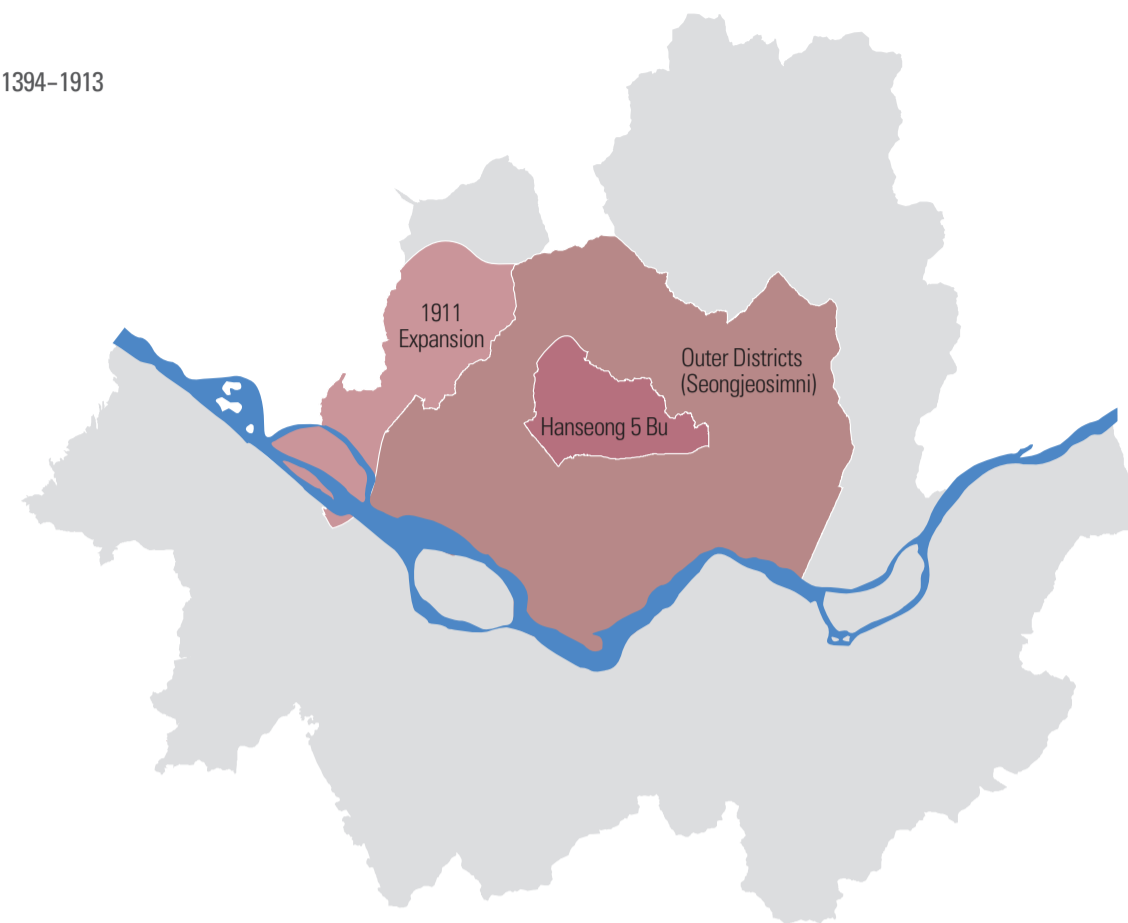
2013



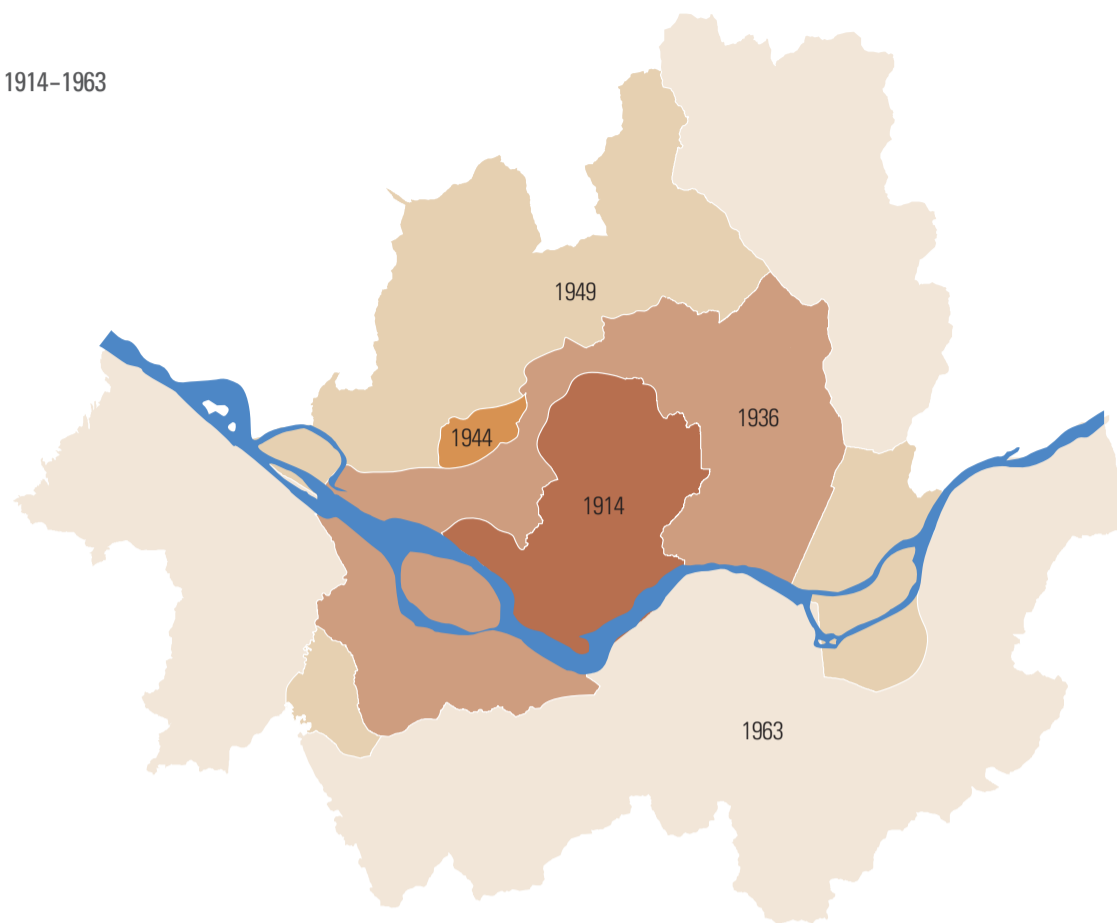
Expansion of Large Cities

Expansion of Seoul

1394-1913



1914-1963



1973



2005



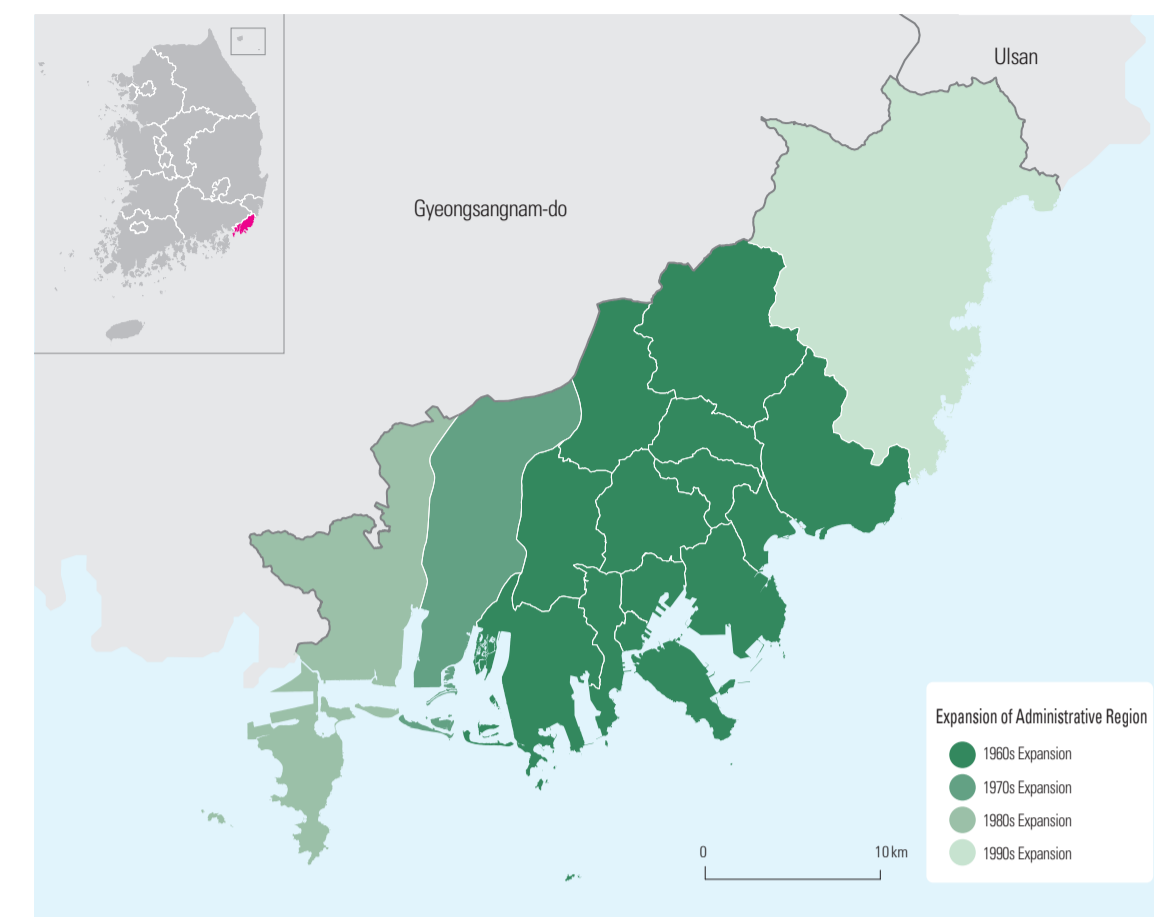
Seoul has experienced a rapid increase in population and area in modern times. During the Joseon Dynasty (1392-1897), Seoul was surrounded by a fortress wall and consisted of *Hanseong 5 Bu*, its inner districts and outer districts (*Seongjeosimni*). The outer districts reached approximately 4 km outside the city wall. By the end of the Joseon Dynasty, and during Japanese colonial rule, the city's boundaries grew as railroads and streetcar routes were constructed. A massive residential area was built in order to house the Japanese who moved to Korea and farmers who migrated to the city during this time period. By the end of the 19th century, the population of the city hovered above 200,000. Following its liberation from Japan, Seoul's population was close to 900,000 and continued growing to 1,700,000 before the Korean War, when overseas Koreans returned to their country. Seoul's population increased sharply even before industrialization; population concentration only

accelerated as industrialization rapidly grew after the 1960s. The concentration of population resulted in development on the outskirts of the city, and the opening of subways facilitated urban expansion. In 1963, some parts of Yangju-gun, Gwangju-gun, and Gimpo-gun were incorporated into Seoul, expanding its total land area from 269 km² to 593 km². The current area of the city is 605 km², as some parts of Siheung-gun and Goyang-gun were incorporated into Seoul in 1973. As Seoul expanded, the number of administrative districts also increased. In 1943, there were seven *gu* (districts), and because the administrative divisions were reorganized, the number of *gu* has grown to 25. Like Seoul, six other metropolitan cities have gone through increases in population and have expanded their administrative areas. As their populations have grown, metropolitan cities, serving as hub cities in the local area, became directly-controlled municipalities;

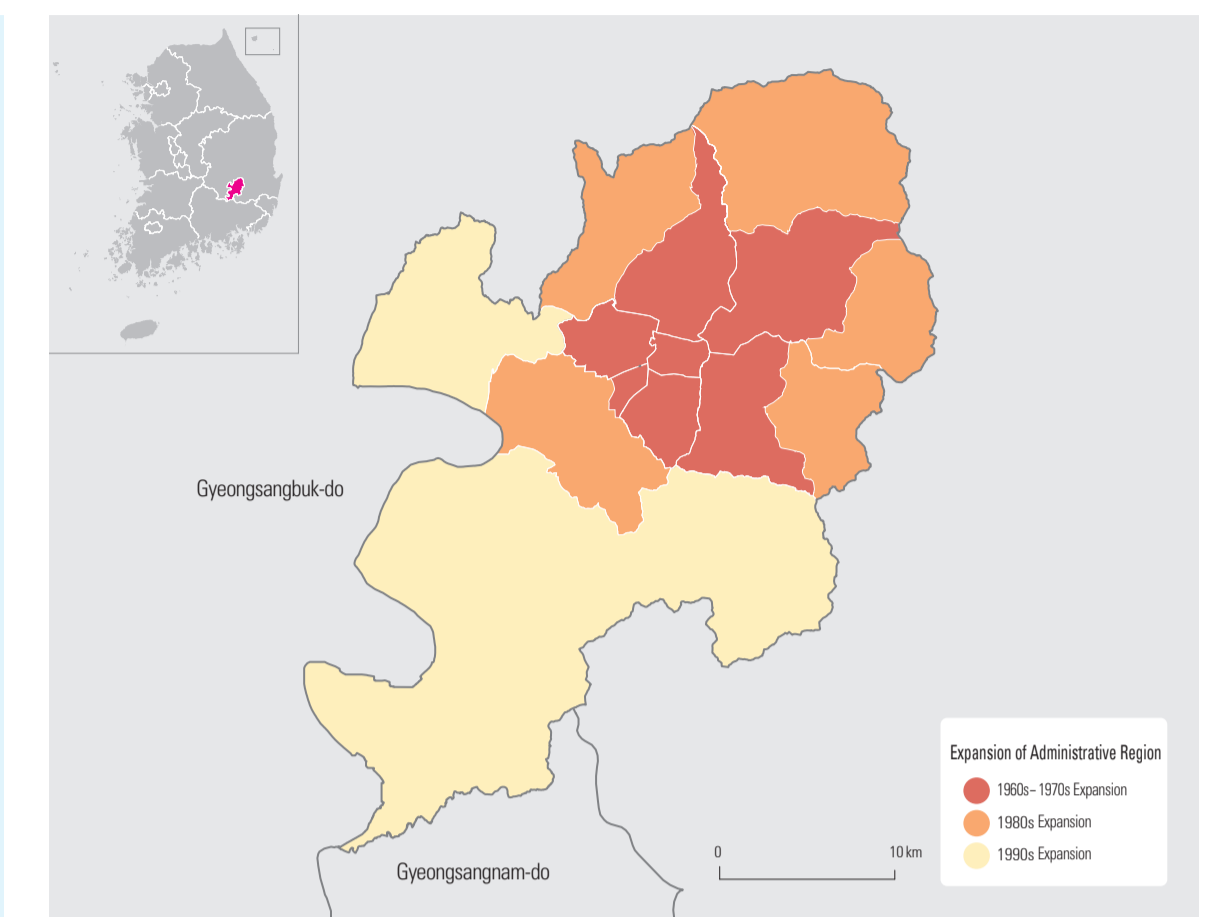
in 1995, they were reorganized by integrating surrounding areas. After opening a port facility, Busan has evolved into an international harbor and the continuous development of port and city has attracted a larger population. In 1960, Busan had more than 1 million inhabitants and became a directly-controlled city in 1963. As the population increased, the banks of Nakdonggang and the Nakdong Delta were urbanized. Busan expanded its area by integrating neighboring Gimhae-gun and Changwon-gun. The current boundary of Busan was delineated in 1995 when the city incorporated Yangsan-gun and was raised to the status of a metropolitan city. Daegu became a directly-controlled city in 1981 by integrating Dalseong-gun, Chilgok-gun, and Gyeongsan-gun into its area. The city limits significantly expanded as Daegu attained metropolitan cityhood in 1995. Incheon, a gateway city of the Seoul Metropolitan Area, became a directly-controlled city in 1981 and was reorganized into a

metropolitan city when it incorporated Ganghwa-gun and its neighboring island in 1995. Gwangju, the central city of Jeollanam-do in the southwestern region of Korea, attained cityhood in 1949 and was promoted to a directly-controlled city in 1963, following Busan, Daegu, and Incheon. When Gwangju incorporated Songjeong-gun and Gwangsan-gun in 1988, its administrative district was greatly expanded, and the city was raised to the status of a metropolitan city in 1995. Daejeon attained cityhood in 1949 and grew by including parts of neighboring Daedeok-gun. In 1989, when it became a directly-controlled city, it incorporated the entire Daedeok and became a metropolitan city in 1995. Ulsan grew rapidly, thanks to the Industrial Complex located there, and attained cityhood in 1962. In 1995, Ulsan integrated Ulsan-gun and was raised to the status of a metropolitan city in 1997.

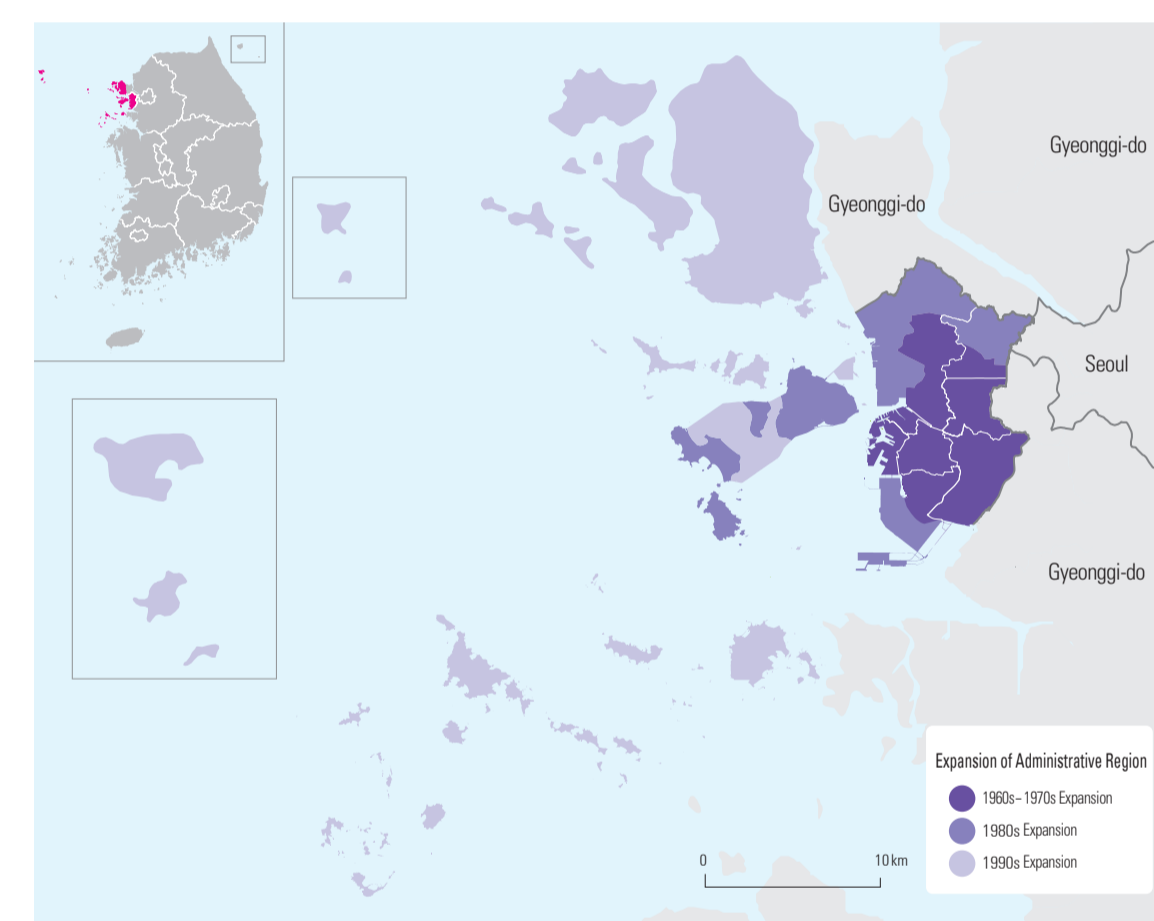
Expansion of Busan



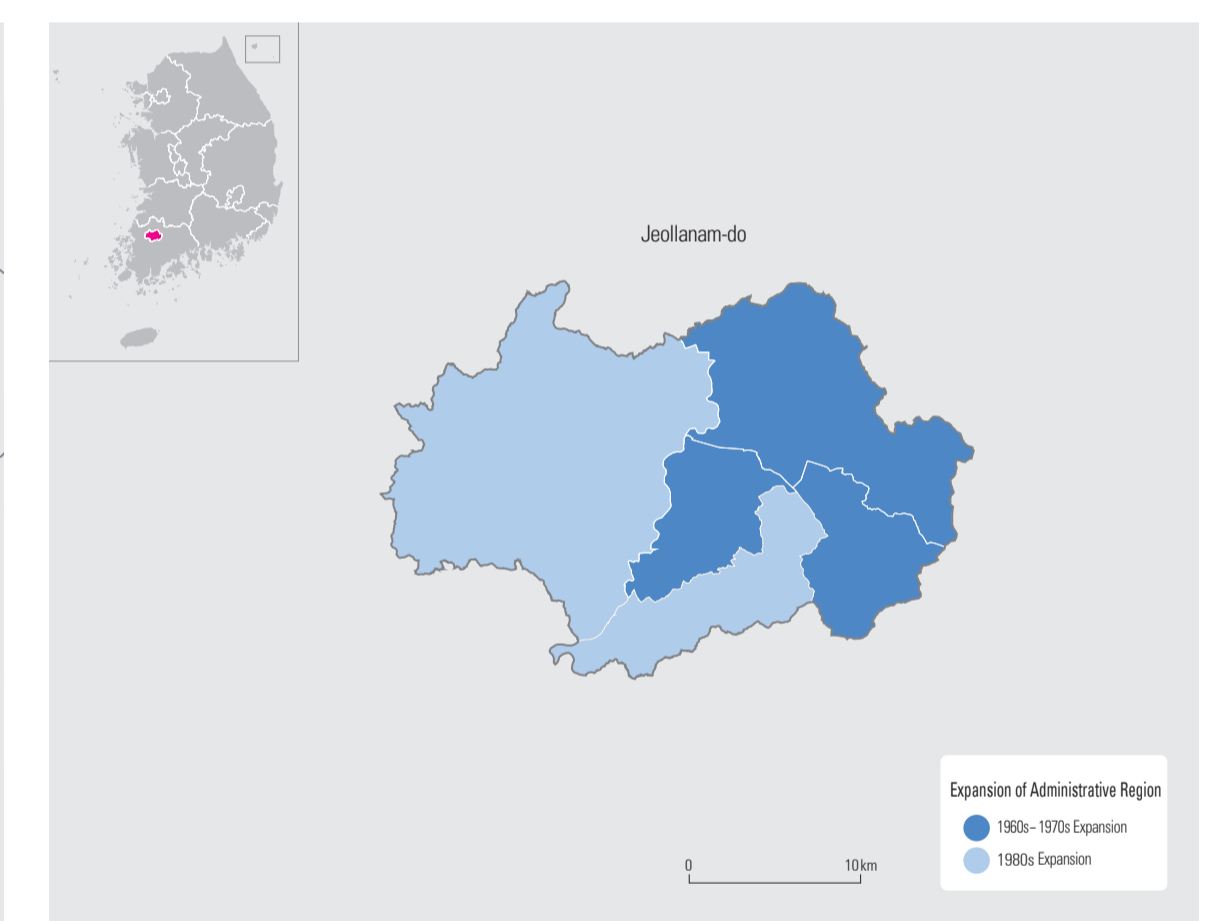
Expansion of Daegu



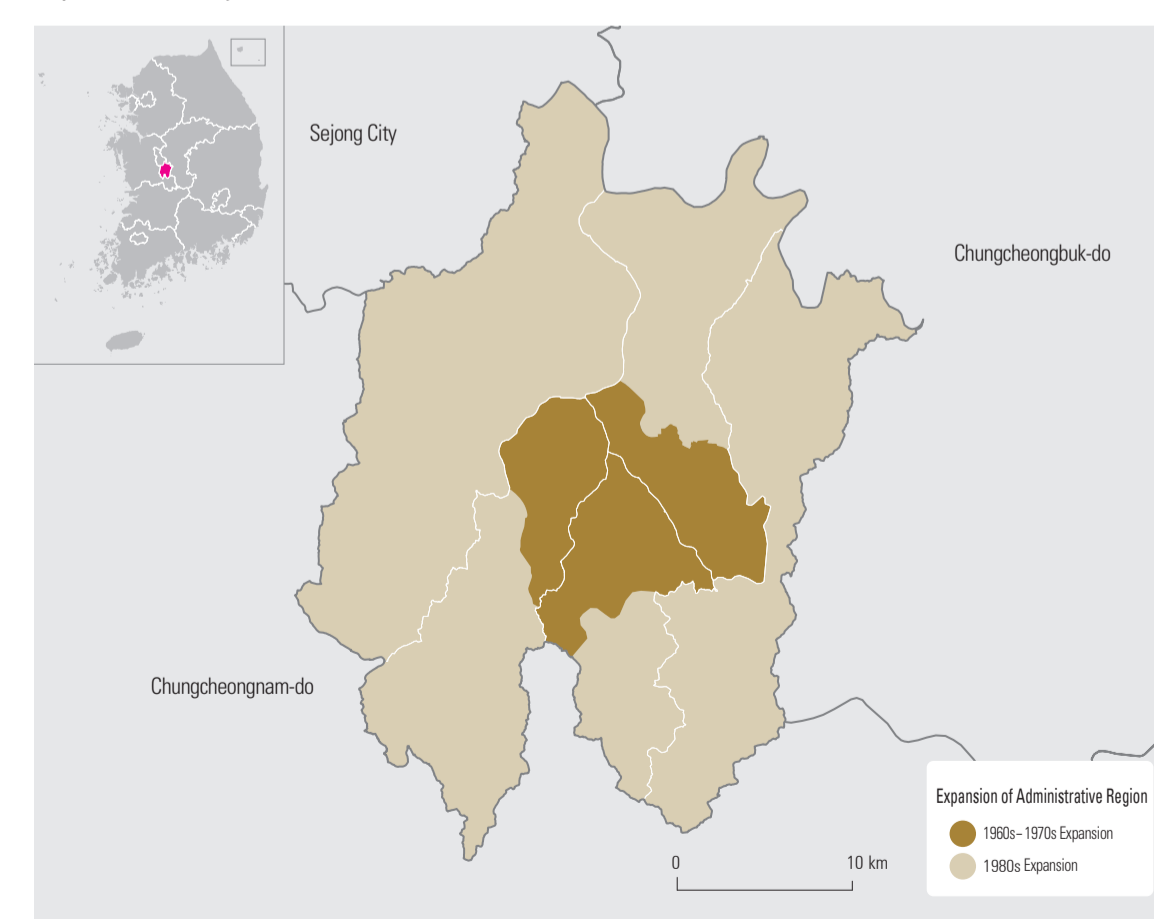
Expansion of Incheon



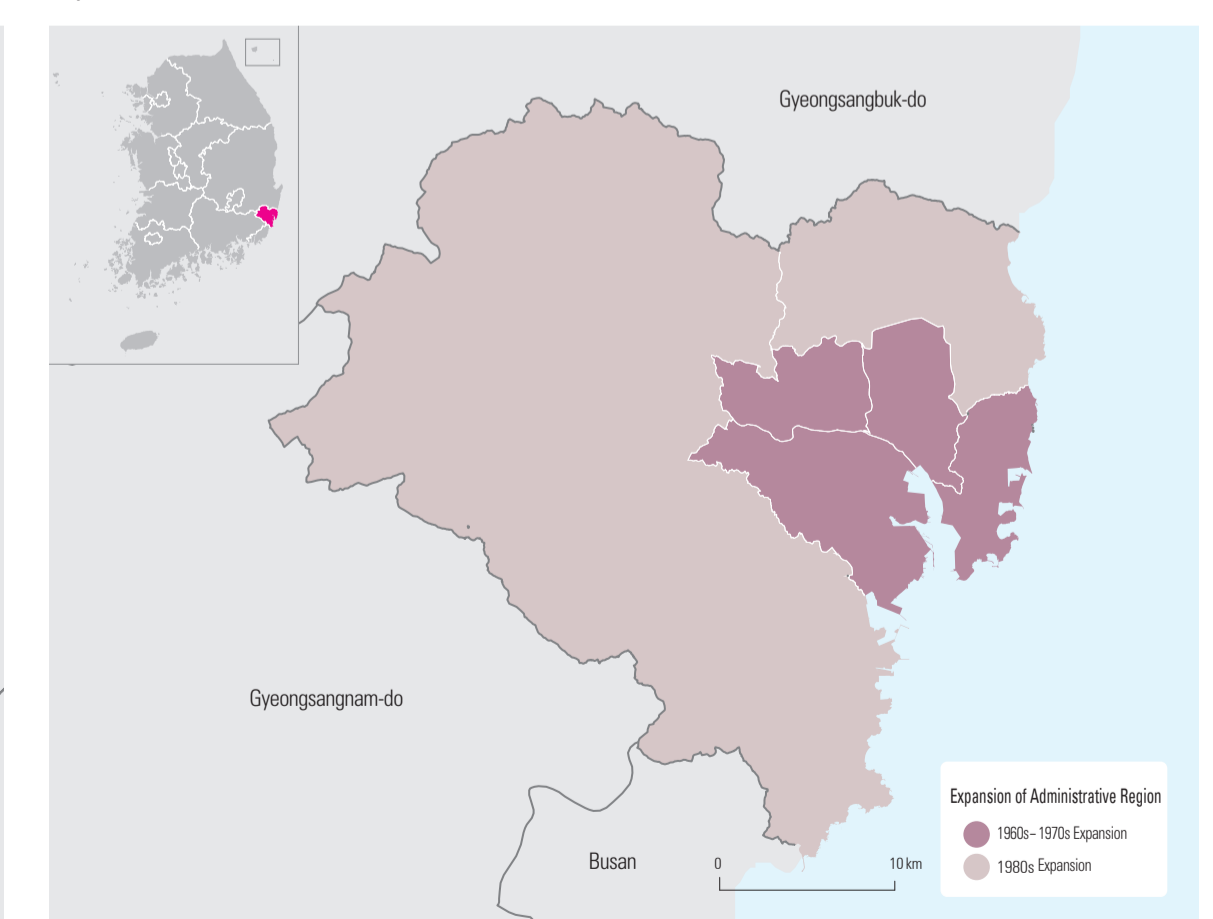
Expansion of Gwangju



Expansion of Daejeon

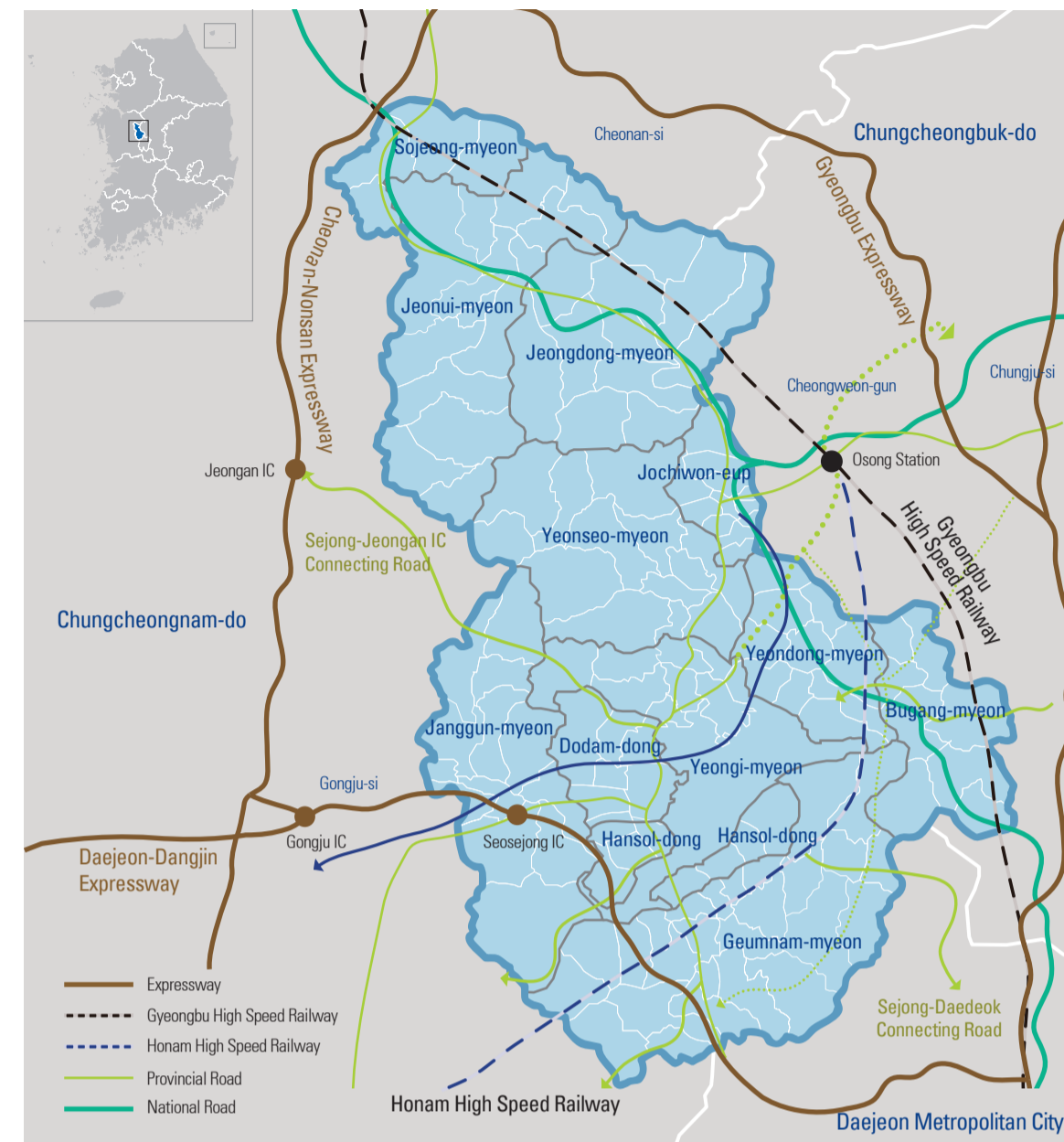


Expansion of Ulsan



Special Administrative Region: Sejong

Map of Sejong Metropolitan Autonomous City



Korea has achieved rapid economic growth since the 1960s, and one of the factors of its success has been a state-led development plan that controlled the speed and direction of industrialization and urbanization. The National Development Plan and a five-year Economic Development Plan were representative of Korea's state-led development programs. Human and material resources were focused on Seoul, the Seoul Metropolitan Area (SMA), and the Southeastern Coastal Region. Uneven development between these regions, in particular the metropolitan areas, has become one of the most urgent challenges that needs to be addressed. A number of strategies for balanced national development had been implemented. One of the strategies was the relocation of capital which was attempted in the late 1970s. President Park Chung-Hee made a plan to relocate the capital to Gongju area under the consideration that Seoul was too close to North Korea in 1970s. In 2002, then president-candidate Roh Moo-hyun pledged to relocate the capital to balance national development. After his inauguration, President Roh supported a special law for the construction of a new administrative capital, and the National Assembly passed legislation relocating and building a new administrative capital in the Yeongi-Gongju area in Chungcheongnam-do.

Some argued that the administration could not solely make a decision on capital relocation and suggested that a constitutional revision be required via a national referendum. Under these circumstances, the administration changed the plan from that of building a "new administrative capital" to that of building a "multifunctional administrative city." The new city was named "Sejong" in 2006. Sejong-si is responsible for some of the national administrative functions so it became a metropolitan autonomous city, which is not under the jurisdiction of a province. Sejong Metropolitan Autonomous City was formally launched on July 1, 2012. Administrative branches were moved to Sejong except for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Unification, the Ministry of National Defense, the Ministry of Security and Public Administration, and the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family. The relocation of administrative branches resulted in a number of massive projects, such as new city development and construction of government buildings, as well as city infrastructure. Thanks to the relocation of some administrative branches of government, the population flowing into Sejong has increased continuously and as of October 2014 reached 145,431. It is projected that the population will increase to 800,000 by 2030. By the end of 2014, 16 central government branches, 19 government-related organizations, and 14 national research and development institutes were scheduled to move to the city.



Construction of Sejong Metropolitan Autonomous City (MAC)

Sejong MAC. at Present

Section	As of Oct. 2014
Population	145,431
Household	57,771
Administrative District	1 Eup, 9 Myeon, 2 Dong
Budget	760 Billion Won (2nd Revised Supplementary: 993 Billion Won)
Fiscal Self-reliance Ratio	47.6%
Educational Institutions	University (4), High School (8), Middle School (13), Elementary school (25)



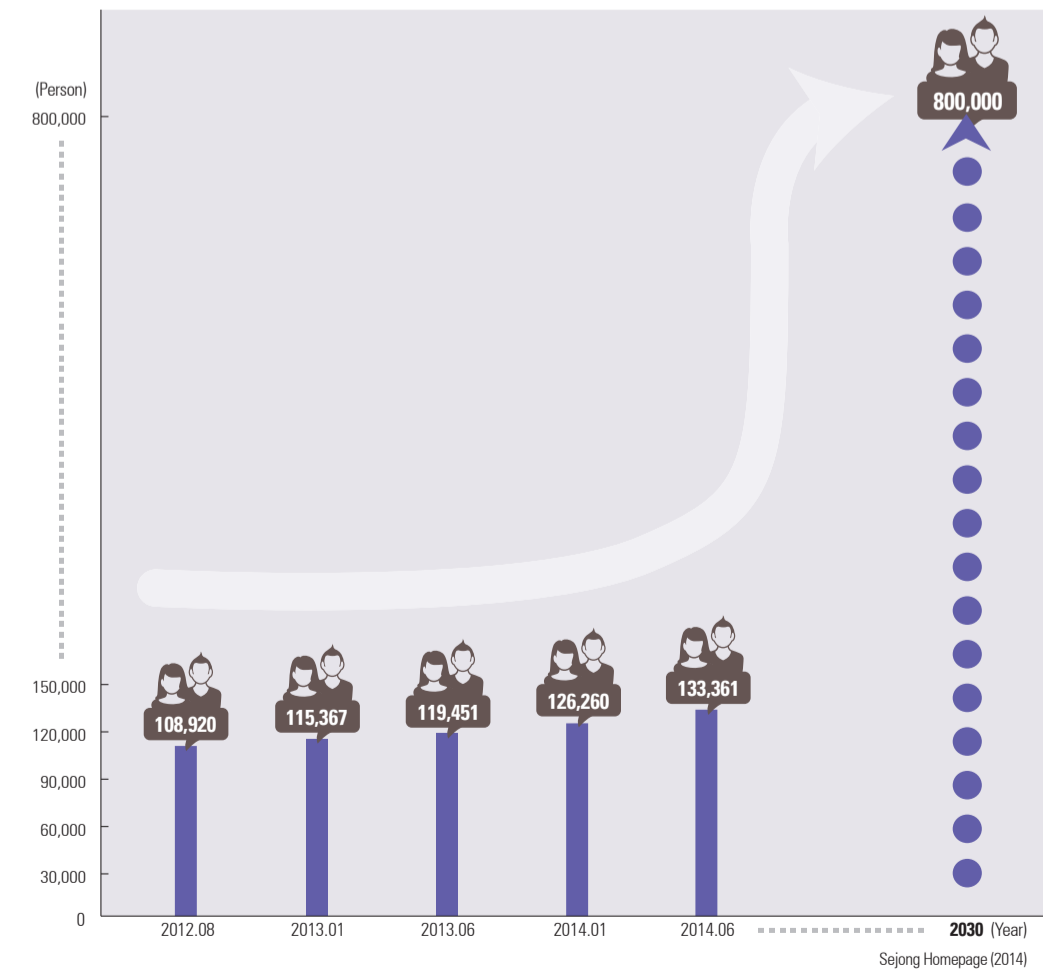
Government Complex-Sejong



Plan View of Designated Area for Sejong MAC

Sejong MAC. (2014)

Population Growth in Sejong



Sejong Homepage (2014)

Governmental Offices Relocation Plan

Stages	Ministries	Affiliated Institutions
Stage1	Prime Minister's Office	
	Prime Minister's Secretariat	Tax Tribunal
	Ministry of Strategy and Finance	Secretariat of the Lottery Commission
	Fair Trade Commission	
	Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport	Central Land Tribunal Aviation and Railway Accident Investigation Board
Stage2	Ministry of environment	Central Environmental Disputes Coordination Commission
	Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs	
	Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (temporary)	Korean Maritime Safety Tribunal
	Multifunctional Administrative City Construction Agency	
Stage3	Ministry of Health and Welfare	National Labor Relations Commission Minimum Wage Council The Review Committee of Industrial Accident Compensation Insurance
	Patriots and Veterans Affairs	Board of Patriots and Veterans Entitlement
	Ministry of Education	Appeal Commission for Teachers
	Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism	Korean Culture and Information Service
	Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy	Korean Free Economic Zones Mine Registration Office Korea Trade Commission Electricity Regulatory Commission
Stage3	Ministry of Government Legislation	
	Anti-Corruption & Civil Rights Commission of Korea	
	National Tax Service	The National Audio Visual Information Service Korea Post

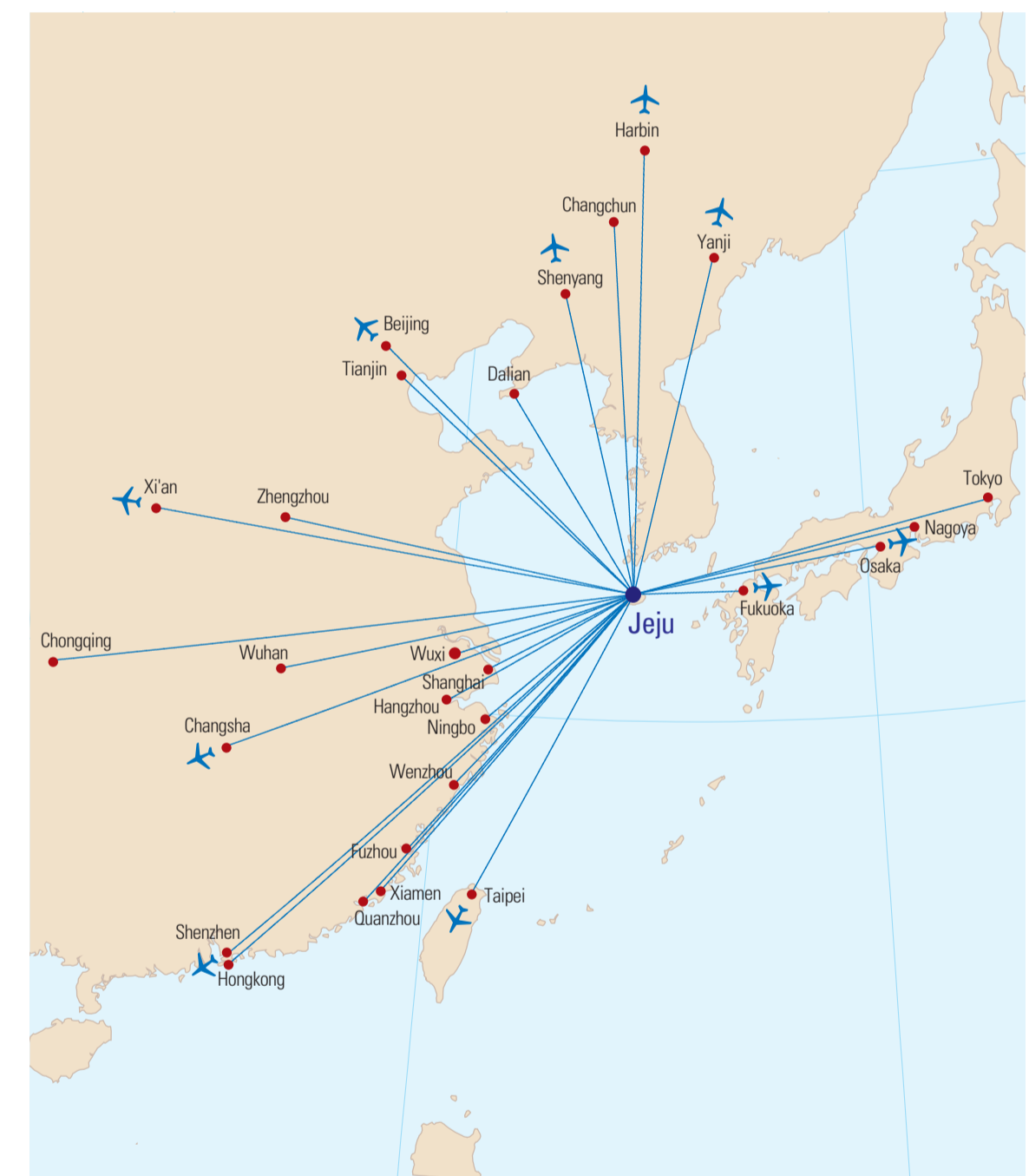
Note: as of Dec. 2014

Special Administrative Region: Jeju

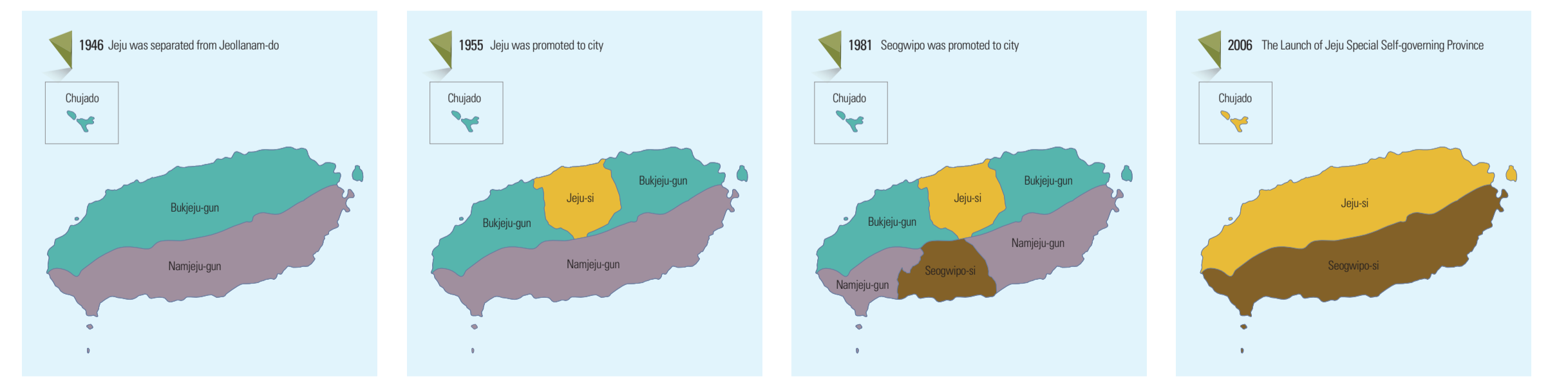
Jeju is the largest island in Korea and is known for its beautiful natural landscape and unique cultural heritage; these attributes attract large numbers of tourists. Jeju Island was created from volcanic action and is characterized by a volcanic topography, such as Hallasan, numerous parasitic cones, and caves. Because of the ecological and environmental value of Jeju, the island was designated as UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 2002 and as a World Natural Heritage in 2007. Jeju was also certified as a Global Geopark in 2010. The island's well-preserved natural environment and a unique ecosystem made it an ideal location for various leisure and recreational facilities. Because numerous tourists visit the island every year, the Seoul (Gimpo)-Jeju airline route is one of the busiest air routes in the world. The island is becoming a well-known international tourist destination for an increasing number of foreign visitors, including large numbers of Chinese.

Jeju became the first Special Self-governing Province in 2006 with the goal of facilitating regional development that focuses upon unique regional attributes. There is also a plan to build an international city to facilitate free trade. Unlike any other provinces, the Jeju Special Self-governing Province belongs to a category that has a high level of guaranteed autonomy. Specifically, with autonomous decisions to implement administrative deregulation and the bold introduction of international standards, the island is now attracting foreign visitors, investors, and immigrants, thus ensuring free enterprise. After the launch of this Special Self-Governing Province, foreign investment has increased, and many foreign educational institutes have been established due to streamlined regulations. At the same time, Bukjeju-gun was merged into Jeju-si, and Namjeju-gun was integrated into Seogwipo-si.

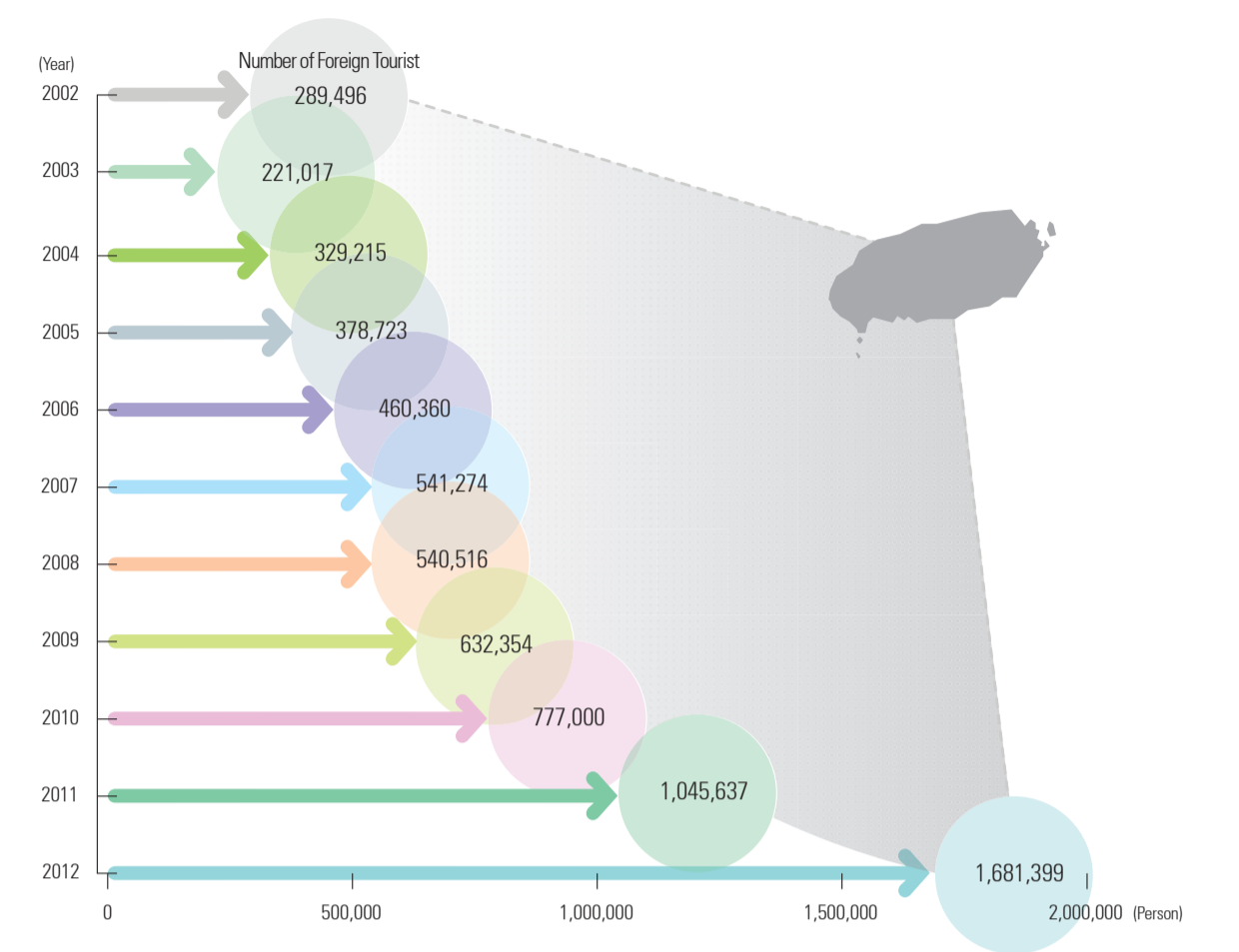
International Air Route of Jeju



Administration Re-organization of Jeju



Number of Foreign Tourist in Jeju



Sanbansan



Seongsan Ilchulbong Tuff Cone

Passengers of Jeju International Airport

