A Japanese Perspective on Late Nineteenth-Century Korean. Mr. Palais theorizes in his important book on Korea that the remarkable longevity of the Yi dynasty (1392-1910) was related to the difficulties the country faced in maintaining political independence from other powers. Palais argues that the Yi dynasty's success was due to its ability to adapt to changing circumstances and to the leadership of strong kings. Palais's book is a valuable contribution to the study of Korean history and culture, providing insights into the complex political and social dynamics of the period.