

Abstract (in English):

Since its foundation, the kingdom of Chosŏn has been culturally and politically connected with the Ming China from which Chosŏn adopted written codes, penal system and administrative structure. At the same time, the legal system of the two states was not identical for various reasons. This differentiation has been increasing over the course of several centuries. The 18th century saw the greatest rise in terms of criminal legislation, and some of today's scholars view this period as the advent of humanism and enlightenment in Korea. This diploma thesis deals with the historical development of criminal law and written codes during the Chosŏn period (14th – 18th century), and with the issue of the Korean state penal system as it was at the end of the 18th century.