



# Admonitions on Governing the People: Manual for All Administrators

By Yagyong Chong

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**Admonitions on Governing the People: Manual for All Administrators** By Yagyong Chong

This is the first English translation of one of Korea's most celebrated historical works, a pre-modern classic so well known to Koreans that it has inspired contemporary literature and television. Written in 1821 by Chong Yagyong (Tasan), *Admonitions on Governing the People* (*Mongmin simso*) is a detailed manual for district magistrates on how to govern better. In encyclopedic fashion, Chong Yagyong addresses the administration, social and economic life, criminal justice, the military, and the Confucian ritual system. He provides examples of past corrupt officials and discusses topics of the day such as famine relief and social welfare. A general call for overhauling the Korean ruling system, the book also makes the radical proposition that the purpose of government is to serve the interests of the people. This long-awaited translation opens a new window on early-nineteenth century Korea and makes available to a wide audience a work whose main concerns simultaneously transcend national and cultural boundaries.

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### Editorial Review

#### From the Inside Flap

"*Admonitions on Governing the People* is the most highly regarded and celebrated work by one of Korea's most creative thinkers. This carefully translated English language edition will be widely consulted by serious scholars of Korean intellectual history."—Mark Setton, author of *Chong Yagyong: Korea's Challenge to Orthodox Neo-Confucianism*

#### About the Author

**Chong Yagyong** (1762–1863), who wrote under the pen name Tasan, was one of Korea's greatest Confucian scholars. Award-winning writer and scholar **Choi Byonghyon** has devoted himself to the English translation of Korean classics over the last two decades, and his translation of *The Book of Corrections: Reflections on the National Crisis on the Japanese Invasion of Korea 1592-1597* won the translation award from Korea Literature Translation Institute. He is currently working on a dictionary for the English translation of Korean classics.

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