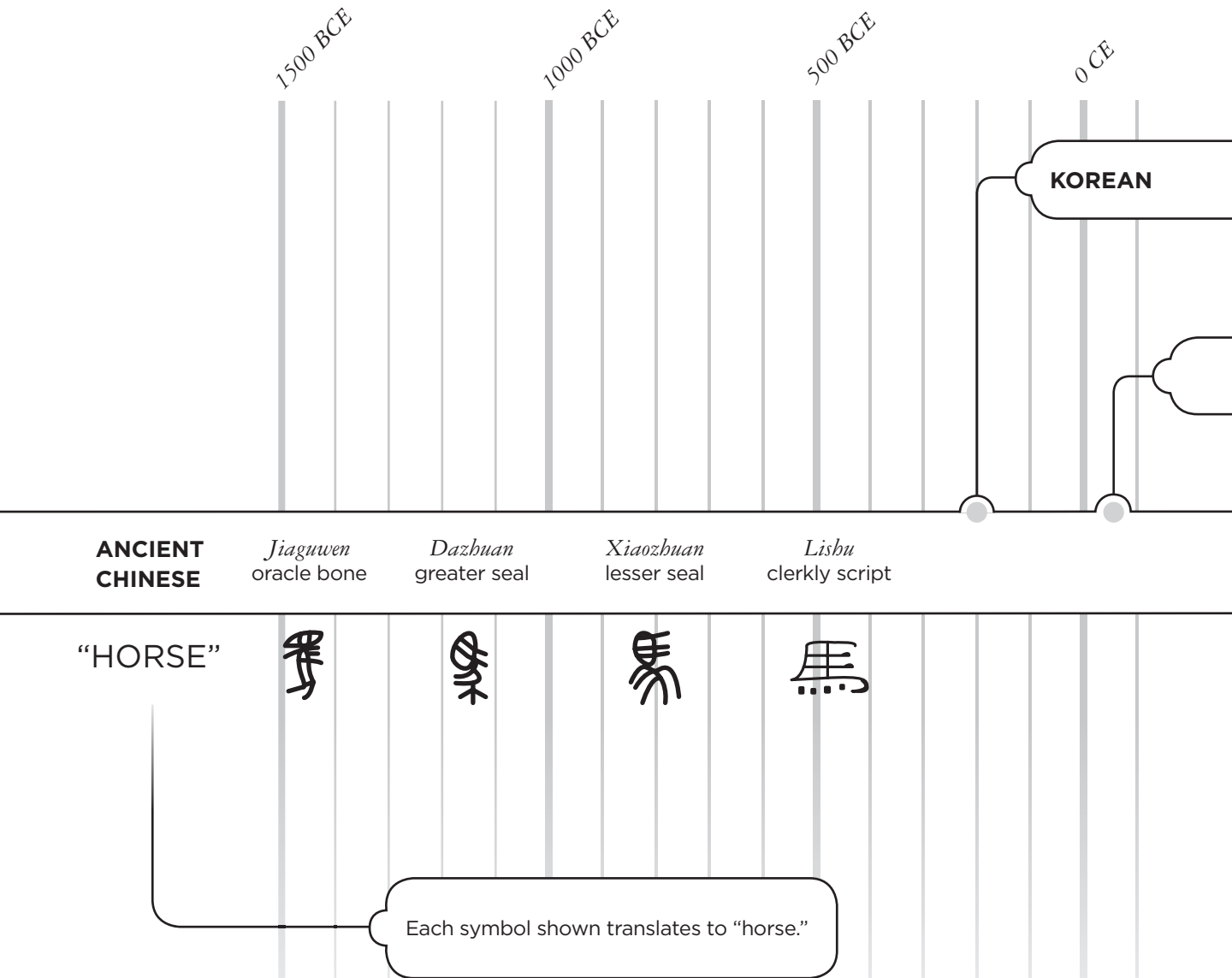
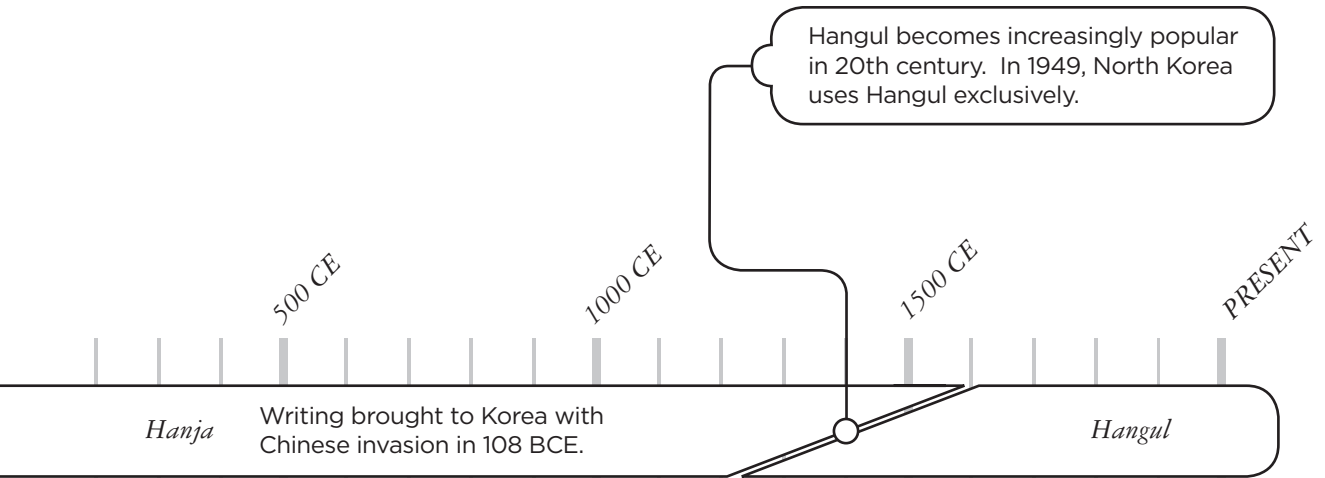


ANATOMY OF A CHARACTER

Most East Asian languages have been heavily influenced by ancient Chinese through conquest, trade, cultural diffusion, or a mix of all three. Here, *World Policy Journal* traces the evolution and spread of the character for “horse” through 3,500 years of turbulent history to its present forms in alphabets across the region.





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JURCHEN

TANGUT

KHITAN

These languages die off with the Mongolian invasion in 13th cent. CE.

SIMPLIFIED CHINESE
Jiantizi used in China & Singapore.

马



馭

ngạo

French colonial rulers outlaw Chinese language and make quoc ngu Vietnam's official alphabet in early 20th century.