



North Korea Smart Book

TRADOC Culture Center

Fourth Edition July 2013



North Korea

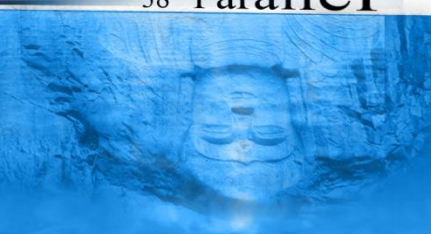
● Pyongyang



38th Parallel

Seoul ●

South Korea



Purpose

To ensure that U.S. Army personnel have a relevant, comprehensive guide to help enhance cultural understanding; to use in capacity and rapport building in relation to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea)

“We are experiencing a tectonic change in military operations because of culture.”

--MG John M. Custer, III

About this Book

This Smart Book contains information designed to enhance the soldier's knowledge of North Korea, including history, politics, country data and statistics, and the military operational environment. The Smart Book concludes with an overview of the culture of North Korea, including religion, identity, behavior, communication and negotiation techniques, an ethnic profile, a regional breakdown outlining each province, a language guide, cultural proverbs and expressions, and Korean superstitions.

Due to the special situation of North Korea in relation to South Korea, this North Korean Smart Book has been created as a complement and supplement to the South Korean Smart Book, to be used in conjunction with the latter smart book in order to provide the American soldier with a greater understanding of the differences, similarities and challenges between the north and south of the Korean peninsula.

Focus

“We brought a lot of experiences back from Iraq but also from Central America and to some degree from other places like Haiti, Bosnia, Kosovo. But there was a general awareness of the importance of understanding the huge impact of cultural, religious, and ethnic factors -- that knowledge of the so-called "cultural terrain" was as important in many cases as knowledge of the physical terrain in contemporary operations. We had to deal with these new challenges because it turns out they are key elements when you plan and conduct military operations.”

General Petraeus- -December 18, 2006

“Cultural awareness is a force multiplier. Working in another culture is enormously difficult if one doesn't understand the ethnic groups, tribes, religious elements, political parties, and other social groupings-and their respective viewpoints; the relationships among the various groups; governmental structures and processes; local and regional history; and, of course, local and national leaders. Understanding of such cultural aspects is essential if one is to help the people build stable political, social, and economic institutions.”

Gen. Petraeus--Jan/Feb 2006, Military Review, Vol. 86, No. 4

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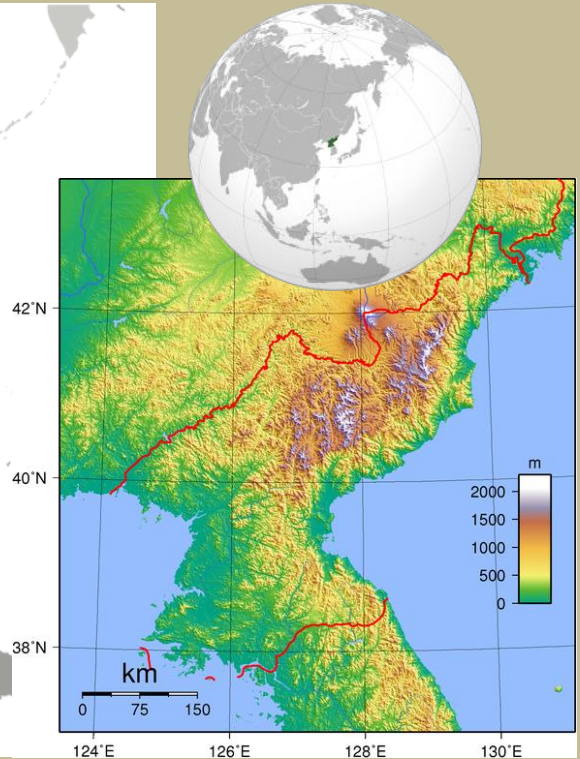
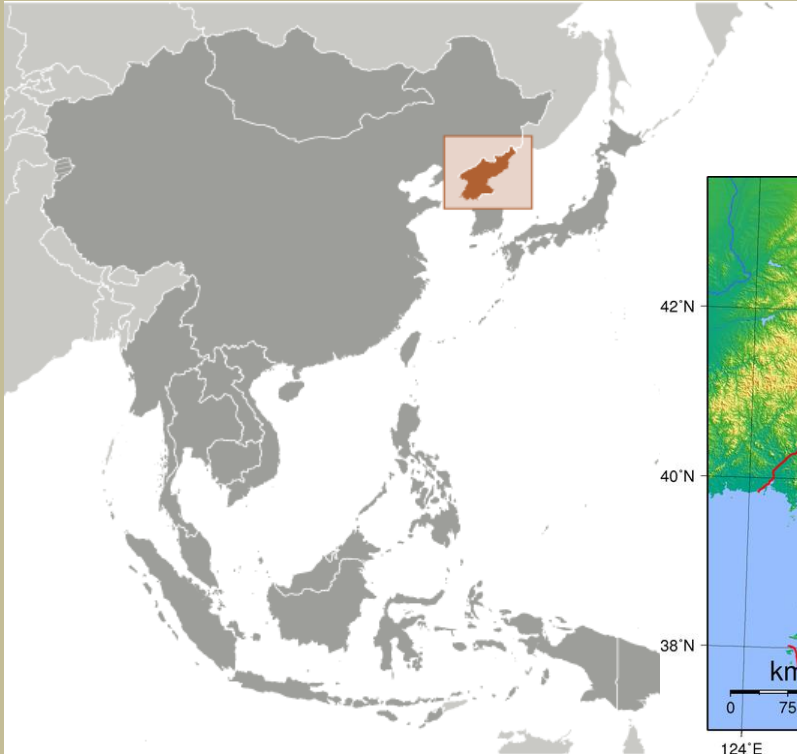
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HISTORY

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea)



Korean History

- Until the end of World War II, all of Korea shared a common history that traces back to the second millennium BCE, and even earlier into the late Neolithic (8,000-2,500 BCE)
- Since 1945, the developmental histories of North and South Korea have been divergent, even though these histories are intertwined and inseparable
- Understanding Korean History is vital to understanding Korean culture and contemporary Korean society, both north and south
- Korean history is deep and well detailed, autochthonous to the Korean Peninsula, reinforced by Korean Mythology, legend and traditional historiography
- The Korean people are relatively homogeneous upon racial, ethno-linguistic and cultural levels, and their history is critical to their contemporary identity, having never lost a sense of their own distinct culture regardless of conquerors, invaders or more powerful neighbors

North Korea Historical Timeline

Prehistory: 500,000 BCE: Paleontological evidence suggests early hominid occupation of the Korean Peninsula half a million years ago

8000 BCE: Neolithic cultural activities found archaeologically on the Korean Peninsula, characterized by pottery and ground/polished stone tools

2333 BCE: Beginnings of the first Korean state with the founding of Joseon (Gojoseon, or Chosŏn) by Dangun

2000 BCE: New pottery style enters the Korean Peninsula from China

4th Century BCE: Chinese officials note a number of walled-fortress city-states in the Korean Peninsula. Chosŏn civilization, a federation of fortified city-states, centered in northwestern Korea and northeastern China, is the most distinguished of these early state-civilizations, characterized by bronze metallurgy. Koreans of this period ranged far into Northeastern China and Siberia, where Korean-speaking communities can still be found today

Prehistoric Korea

- Early, at least intermittent or sporadic occupation of hominid populations (*Homo erectus*) upon the Korean Peninsula between one million BP and 40,000 BP
- Late Paleolithic to Mesolithic Transition marked by tools (20,000 BP -10,000 BP)
- Neolithic extended from at least 10,000 BP (first evidence of agriculture, Jeulmun pottery) to first millennium BCE
- Rise of Chalcolithic (Copper Age) culture is associated with the Gojoseon Culture (Mumun pottery, circa 1000-108 BCE) and constitutes part of the proto-historic period
- Delayed but rapid rise of iron age culture marks the beginning of the historic period (from 400-60 BCE)



Korean Neolithic Axe-heads



Mumun Storage Vessel

Folklore & Mythology

- Korean legend Samguk Yusa [13th Century] & Jewang Ungi (or “Rhymed Chronicles of Sovereigns” [1287 CE]), based upon the T(D)angun Myth, dates the founding of Gojoseon from 2333 BCE
- The Tangun Myth is an important component of Korean National Identity as a distinct race on earth, figuring centrally in indigenous Korean religion
- Gojoseon (“Old Joseon”) becomes a national identity reference point for later Korean kingdoms
- Korea has therefore long been ethno-nationally unified

North Korea Historical Timeline

3rd Century BCE--3rd Century CE: Chosŏn is eclipsed by the rise of the Chinese Han Empire and an iron-based culture appears on the Korean Peninsula, eventually forming a large number of walled-town states in the southern part of the Korean Peninsula

Paekche emerged as the most prominent, conquering other southern states and then expanding northward

In central Korea, ***Silla*** emerged as a powerful competitor

In the north of the Peninsula, between the second and fourth centuries CE, ***Koguryŏ*** emerged, near Amnok, expanding in all directions.

These became known as the Three Kingdoms, and are considered to be the beginning of a distinctive Korean national heritage

Three Kingdom's Era (57 BCE-668 CE)

- Three states arose, *Paekche* in the South, *Silla* in central Korea, and *Koguryō* in the north, that became known as the Three Kingdoms, and are considered to be the beginning of a distinctive Korean national heritage, with the *Koguryō* legacy today claimed by Korean scholars to be the key to the development of Korean cultural identity. During this period, Confucian state-craft and Buddhism were introduced to the Korean peninsula, and provided a framework for cultural integration and social unification of the Peninsula
- By the first century BCE, Gojoseon has broken up into smaller political entities (the *Samhan*, *Mahan* & the *K[G]aya* Confederacies) and four Chinese commanderies
- By the year zero, three major states arise on the Korean peninsula, *Gogoryeo*, *Silla* and *Baekje*, conquering the other smaller states and defeating the Chinese
- The rise of these three kingdoms marks the beginning of the “Three Kingdoms Era” (circa 57 BCE-668 CE) during which era Buddhism is introduced upon the Korean Peninsula and is officially adopted as the state religion of all three kingdoms

K(G)ogoryeo (75 BCE–668 CE)

- Evidence suggests that *K(G)ogoryeo* was the first kingdom to arise of the Three Kingdoms, and emerged from the aftermath of the Gojoseon Kingdom in the same general region
- Gradually Kogoryeo expanded and became the largest and most dominant of the three Kingdoms, defeating the last Chinese Commandery and controlling territory in Manchuria and Northeast China
- Kogoryeo reached its zenith in the 5th to 6th Centuries, but suffered from continued attacks by Chinese armies and ultimately was destroyed by the Chinese-Silla alliance

Baekje (18 BCE-660 CE)

- Baekje arose from the Mahan Confederacy and was a Kingdom of the Han River that was allied with the Yamato Japanese
- Baekje was known for its superior armor and weapons, and for their capacity in defensive engineering
- Baekje and its Japanese allies were defeated by a Chinese-Silla-Kogoryeo Alliance

Silla Kingdom (57 BCE-935 CE)

- Silla emerged from the Samhan confederacy as a dominant chieftaincy-turned-kingdom
- Silla strategically and diplomatically played off the other two kingdoms, by allying first with one against the other, allied with the Chinese, and then against the other along with the Chinese
- Silla achieved the first unification of the Korean Peninsula in 668 CE by the defeat of Kogoryeo
- Between 671-676 CE, *Silla* seized Chinese-held territories on the Peninsula and drove out the last of the Chinese commandaries on the Peninsula, consolidating Korean cultural influence on the Peninsula, free of direct foreign interference
- Silla, with its capital at *Kyōngju*, in southeastern Korea near present day Pusan, ruled for almost a 1000 years before finally falling to the Koryeo Kingdom in 935 CE

Later Silla (668-935 CE)

- Not all of the Korean Peninsula were united under the Silla Kingdom. Parts of the Balhae state remained independent.
- Later Silla was characterized by Buddhism and Confucianism, with the wood-block printing of Buddhist and Confucianist texts
- The Silla Kingdom conducted censuses of all towns and villages, including all livestock, and levied taxes on agricultural produce and tributary payments on specialty products from towns
- Oldest known example of wood-block printing, the *Dharani Sutra* (751 CE), was found in association with Silla civilization



North Korea Historical Timeline

918-1392 CE: Founding of the Koryŏ Dynasty when Wang Kŏn assumed the thrown of the new state of Koguryŏ (known by scholars as Later Koguryŏ) in the central part of the Peninsula. The Emperor Wang Kŏn subsequently shortened the name of *Koguryŏ* to *Koryŏ*, from which the modern name of “Korea” is derived. The capital of the Koryŏ Empire was at Kaesŏng, and the Koryŏ dynasty subsequently formed an aristocratic tradition that emulated the Chinese Song Dynasty (618-1279 CE) that lasted into the modern era

Late 13th Century: The *Koryŏ* Dynasty was conquered and subjugated by the Mongol invaders, and Koryŏ armies and navies participate in the Mongol invasions of Japan in 1274 and 1281 CE, leading to disastrous defeat. Mongols continued to hold the Korean Peninsula until after their defeat by the Chinese Ming Court

Goryeo Dynasty (918-1392 CE)

- A long standing Dynasty (474 years) established by Emperor Taejo (*Wang Geon*, a general of the Later Silla Kingdom) which gradually expanded its territorial domains and witnessed the complete unification of the Korean Peninsula (1374 CE)
- Withstood the Mongol invasions (1231-1350 CE) and subsequently acculturated by Mongolian Yuan Dynasty
- Noted for its production of Celadon Ceramics and for the Tripitaka Koreana, the complete Buddhist scriptures perfectly inscribed on wood-blocks

Mongol Invasions (1231-1260 CE)

- Mongols under Genghis Kahn invaded the Korean Peninsula in 1231 CE
- Koreans resisted for more than 30 years under General Choe
- Mongols launched 6 major campaigns, focused on the Gyeongsang and Jeolla provinces
- Mongols finally defeated the military dictatorship of Koryeo
- Korean scholars sued for peace with the Yuan court, and Korea became a tributary state of the Mongol empire
- Mongols launched two invasions of Japan from Korea, both of which ended in disaster
- Mongol court influenced the royal court/aristocratic classes of Korea, which filtered down to the common classes by means of traditional dress/clothing styles (*han bok*)

North Korea Historical Timeline

Late 14th Century: The Chinese Ming Dynasty (1368-1644 CE) defeats the Mongols and the Koryŏ court becomes split between pro-Mongol and pro-Ming factions

1392-1910 CE: The pro-Ming faction of the Koryŏ court is victorious and Yi Song-gye founds the *Chosŏn* dynasty, with its capital at Seoul, that becomes Korea's longest lasting dynasty. Yi Song-gye initiated land reforms, appropriated private property on behalf of the government, and created a new tax system. Chosŏn society became deeply influenced by Confucianism and a new secular society developed as well as a new Korean national culture. *Han gŭl*, the Korean phonetic alphabet, was developed by the 15th Century CE, at the time of the introduction of moveable metal type for book printing

Joseon (Chosŏn) Dynasty

(July 1392-August 1910 CE)

- The Joseon Kingdom was established when the commanding general of the Korean forces, Taejo Yi Song-gye, invading China, halted his armies at the border and rebelled against the ruling Koryeo dynasty
- A neo-Confucian dynasty which promoted Confucian doctrine in government, education and society
- Repelled the Japanese invasions of 1592-1598 CE
- Known as the “Hermit Kingdom” by the 19th Century, it became one of the most closed and backward Kingdoms still in existence
- Formally ended by the Japanese annexation treaty of Korea in 1910 CE



Second & Third Japanese Invasions of Korea

- Japan first invaded Korea to reestablished the Baekje kingdom in 661-2 CE, but was defeated by combined Chinese-Silla forces
- Japan invaded Korea twice again, in 1591 CE and again in 1597 CE, in the bid to conquer China using European firearms, but was both times ultimately defeated by combined Korean & Chinese armies and navies
- Japan won most of the land battles, except for a few key decisive defeats.
- Japan's sea forces and ships for transport were systematically destroyed by the Korean navy under Admiral Yi Sun-sin, the Korean "Admiral Nelson"
- Japanese armies proved unable to sustain themselves in Korea without naval reinforcement or a supply line to Japan
- Repeated Japanese invasions devastated the Korean Peninsula even though the Japanese were finally defeated. In the wake of the devastation, Korea was invaded by the Manchu from Manchuria, and Chosŏn established tributary relations with the new Manchurian Qing Dynasty (1644-1911 CE)

North Korea Historical Timeline

- 1876 CE:** Chinese influence declined as the Ching Dynasty wanes in power and Japanese influence arose as a modernizing regional power, Japan imposed a new treaty on the Chosŏn court opening three Korean ports to Japanese commerce and granted Japanese nationals extra-territorial rights in Korea
- 1894-1895 CE:** Sino-Japanese War ends in Japanese victory and the eclipse of Chinese influence in Korea. Simultaneously, a peasant revolt in Korea led by advocates of the Tonghak Movement (Eastern Learning Movement) results in the Chosŏn court inviting Chinese forces to protect it
- 1900 CE:** The Korean Peninsula becomes the stage for intense rivalry by competing imperial powers seeking to carve it up into spheres of influence, particularly between Russia and Japan, eventually dividing the kingdom into two parts at the 38th parallel
- 1904-5 CE:** Russo-Japanese War ends in Japanese victory and Japan's paramouncy over the Korean Peninsula
- 1910 CE:** Japan officially colonizes Korea without challenge by the International community

Japanese Imperialism (1860-1910)

- Japanese interests in Korea stemmed from its strategic proximity as a bridge between the Japanese archipelago and the Asian mainland
- Japan had a strategic interest in removing Chinese tributary-protectorate influence over Korea before asserting its own authority there
- Japan deployed gun-boat diplomacy in gaining a diplomatic foothold in Korea and in opening Korea up to trade with Japan
- Japan fought a war with China (First Sino-Japanese War, 1894-5 CE), largely on Korean soil, as well as a war with Russia (1904-5 CE) in order to consolidate its control over the Korean Peninsula and extend its sphere of power into mainland East and Northeast Asia

The Greater Korean Empire (1897-1910)

- Empress Myeongseong took a stand against Japanese encroachment and interference in Korea, and was assassinated
- 1896 Independence Club formed, promoting Korean Nationalism
- Emperor Gojong proclaimed the Greater Korean Empire in 1897 from his *Gyeongungung* Palace
- *Gwangmu* Reforms--Korea embarked on a process of rapid modernization of its military, educational system, legal system and industry
- Japanese, supported by international sentiment, forced abdication of Gwangmu Emperor in 1907 due to the violation of the Eulsa Treaty

North Korea Historical Timeline

1910-1945 CE: Japanese colonial administration and military occupation. Tokyo imposes the Japanese language, Japanese investment, an elite Japanese community, a modernized non-Confucian educational system, and a central state administration upon the Korean Peninsula. These colonial reforms were resented by Koreans, considered illegitimate and humiliating, and fostered a love-hate relationship with Japan by Koreans that in part divided Korean society by classes. Korean nationalism and armed resistance emerged by the 1920s, split between nationalist and communist groups who were influenced in the North by Russia and later, Communist China. These divisions became the basis for the later north-south split of the Korean Peninsula

1925 CE: Korean Communist Party (KCP) founded in Seoul, Korea. Exiled Korean Provisional Government is established in Shanghai, China, forming the basis for Nationalist party organization

1931 CE: Japanese invasion of Manchuria unites Korean and Chinese guerrilla forces fighting a common enemy. Japan uses the Korean Peninsula as the staging ground for its army in its invasion of Manchuria and China, and thus colonial administration of the Korean Peninsula enters into a strict army administrative era, with conscription of Koreans for labor and army service, prohibiting Korean press and the Korean language, and attempting to promote the Shinto religion and Emperor worship by the Koreans

1945 CE: Defeat of Japan and retention of Japanese forces to administer Korea by the US, creates the primary legitimating doctrine of North Korea in resistance to the Japanese and foreign influence, and subsequently forms the basis for the founding of the North Korean army, leadership and state ideology. North Korea would be dominated for the following five decades by a core inner circle of guerrilla leaders who fought the Japanese in Manchuria, including Kim Il Sung (1924-1994)

Japanese Occupation (1910-1945)

- Japanese Diplomats coerced the young Korean King to sign a treaty of annexation that essentially made Korea a territory of the Japanese empire in 1910
- Japanese occupied militarily the Korean peninsula
- Japanese confiscated systematically Korean-held lands and essentially gave this land to immigrant Japanese
- Japanese by the late 1930s began a process of Korean deculturation, promoting the use of the Japanese language and religion in all public arenas
- Korean resistance increased and consolidated against Japanese occupation
- Koreans were systematically conscripted in increasing numbers to serve as prostitutes, laborers and soldiers for the Japanese Imperial Army and Empire

North Korea Historical Timeline

1945-1950 CE: Partition of the Korean Peninsula at the 38th parallel as a result of occupation of the northern half by Soviet troops alongside Korean resistance forces in August, 1945, and the occupation by American forces of the southern half in September. This partition led to the emergence of separate but parallel state apparatus on both sides of the 38th parallel

February, 1946: the Interim People's Committee led by Kim Il Sung became the first central government on the Korean Peninsula. Between 1946 and 1948, Kim Il Sung and his party consolidate their power in the north

The Partition of Korea

- The leaders of the Allied powers discussed Korea's independence and enslavement to the Japanese at the Cairo Conference in November of 1943
- At the Potsdam Conference, from July to August of 1945, Truman & Churchill conceded to Joseph Stalin the region of North Korea above the 38th Parallel, thereby arbitrarily partitioning Korea even though the vast majority of Koreans opposed the partition
- Soviet Troops invaded Manchuria and North Korea at the end of World War II, and the US, fearing occupation of the entire Korean Peninsula by the Soviets, commenced to occupy South Korea below the 38th Parallel

Soviet Military Occupation (1945-1948)

- Soviet Armies, led by units of Korean make-up, march into North Korea and stop at the 38th Parallel. Japanese forces are disarmed, officials ousted, and Japanese-held lands are soon repatriated to Koreans
- Soviet Civil Authority is established to govern North Korea, and provisional committees across the country-side put communist party cadre into key leadership and administrative positions of authority
- Soviet commander and communist leader Kim Il-Sung gained head of the Korean communist party and the government by early 1946 and initiates sweeping land reforms, eliminating local traditional leadership, and nationalizing industries developed under the Japanese. Over 400,000 Koreans, dispossessed of their estates, flee southward to US held territory
- Kim Il-sung created the North Korean Army, the Korean People's Army, largely equipped and trained by the Soviet military
- Kim Il-sung declared the Democratic People's Republic of Korea a couple of weeks after the declaration of the Republic of Korea in August of 1948, claiming sovereignty and legitimacy of his government over the entire Korean peninsula
- North Korean forces launched a series of raids and penetrations across the 38th Parallel with the aim of disrupting South Korea and promoting their party aspirations in the South Korean countryside

North Korea Historical Timeline

- **1950-1953 CE:** Korean War between South Korean and American led United Nations forces and Chinese/Soviet backed North Korean Forces breaks out on June 25th, following movement of North Korean forces across the 38th parallel and penetration of guerrilla forces in the South. Early successes by North Korean troops driving to the South against combined American and South Korean forces is reversed by the Fall by US landings at Inchon that cut off most of the North Korean forces, and the subsequent drive to the Yalu river in the North bordering China in the ensuing weeks. Chinese forces invade across the Yalu, and drive American and Korean forces from the Northern half of the Peninsula
- **July 27th, 1953 CE:** Armistice signed following a two year stale-mate in the fighting that cost thousands of lives on both sides, and a demilitarized zone was established at the 38th parallel, running lengthwise 155 miles (248 kilometers), cutting the Korean Peninsula into two roughly equal halves, and is approximately 2.5 miles in breadth. It remains the most heavily militarized border zone in the world and continues to be symbolic of the basic split between the North and the South

The Korean War (1950-1953)

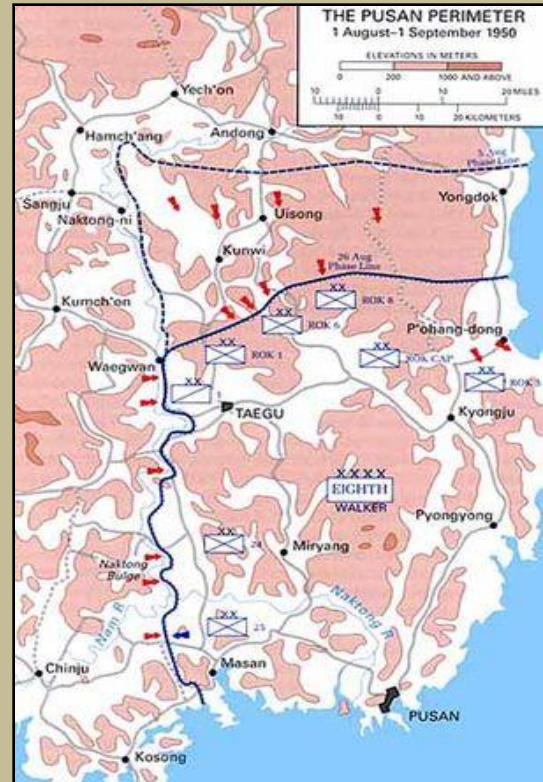
Opening Phase

- Well-equipped North Korean army launches a surprise, Sunday morning, holiday offensive across the 38th Parallel, in spite of two week warning provided by US intelligence operatives in China
- South Korean forces, ill-equipped with only small arms provided by Americans, and lacking armor or air support, are swept back
- US forces are reinforcing at southern port of Pusan, and MacArthur issues “stand and fight” directive at the Pusan Perimeter, which holds in spite of repeated offenses by the North Korean Army

The Korean War (1950-1953)

Inchon Landing & Breakout

- North Korean forces are stalled at the Pusan Perimeter, due in part to their overstretched supply lines, which holds in spite of repeated multiple offenses by the KPA and substantial losses of UN controlled territory
- US 1st Marine Infantry Division lands at Inchon and takes Seoul within a week.
- First Army Cavalry Division and other units simultaneously stage a breakout of the Pusan Perimeter, driving north towards Seoul
- North Korean army's back is broken, but about half its forces manage to escape back to North Korea, followed closely by combined US led UN forces and South Korean military units
- Extensive bombing of North Korea by US planes and artillery all but obliterates North Korean military capacity, and its army almost completely disintegrates



Korean War (1950-1953)

Chinese Winter & Spring Offenses

- More than a quarter million Chinese troops are secretly moved by night to the edge of the Yalu River, escaping notice by US reconnaissance aircraft
- MacArthur ignores reports of Chinese soldiers captured in supposedly North Korean units
- To the sound of bugles blaring in the hills and mountain sides, the Chinese launch a massive counteroffensive against the UN and South Korean units, which are lightly equipped for mopping up operations and are caught mostly off-guard
- Seoul is recaptured by communist forces
- UN forces are sent reeling back beyond the 38th Parallel, and are almost surrounded, but are evacuated to Pusan by ship, and the Chinese offenses then stall due to overstretched logistical lines

Korean War (1950-1953)

UN Holding Actions & Counter-offenses

- The American commander was killed in a head-on jeep accident, and was replaced by Airborne Commander General Matthew Ridgeway
- Ridgeway takes a defeated army, and turned it around, initiating a counter-offensive with ground and air support and attacking the Chinese-Korean forces in the hillsides and mountain-tops
- Subsequent Chinese Spring Offenses were blocked and defeated, with tremendous loss of life, and are pushed back above the 38th Parallel
- Seoul is retaken by UN forces for a second time

Korean War (1950-1953)

Front stagnates around 38th Parallel

- For the following two years, the front lines of the war fix around the 38th Parallel, with many fierce and bloody battles taking place along ridges and hill-tops
- The front ossified into World War I style trench warfare, and some of the bloodiest fighting in the 20th Century occurs over worthless real estate
- Armistice talks began between sides, which were stalled and continued in spite of heavy fighting and losses on both sides

Armistice

- Armistice talks stalled, mainly over the question of the repatriation of thousands of North Korean soldiers captured by the UN and South Korea and who refuse repatriation, and by the resistance of Syngman Rhee who refused to accept any plan that would not reunify Korea under his own authority
- July 27th, 1953, representatives of North Korea, of the People's Republic of China, and the UN security forces, finally reached an armistice agreement
- South Korea, led by President Syngman Rhee, refused to participate in the Armistice talks, and never signed the Armistice agreement
- Armistice creates a 4,500 meter wide demilitarized zone along the entire 38th parallel, with one small neutral area at Panmunjong for the conduct of further negotiations

Kim Il Sung during Classical Soviet Era (1948-1965)

- Becomes Prime Minister of North Korea in 1948, until 1972. Also is General Secretary of the Workers Party of Korea, and *defacto* autocrat
- Kim Il Sung leads North Korea into a disastrous war that lasts three years longer than planned, and which results in divisions that existed before the war, as well as in a ruined infrastructure and economy
- Large doses of annual aid from China, the Soviet Bloc Nations and other communist nations allows North Korea to rapidly rebuild its infrastructure and economy
- Kim Il Sung pursues a Stalinist model of a command economy, with collectivization of agriculture and industry, and promotes Conservative Communist Ideology based on the worker
- Kim Il Sung gradually parts company with both Chinese and Soviets after the Sino-Soviet Split and as a consequence of Khrushchev reforms of the Soviet System, even though both nations continue to send aid and military equipment to North Korea
- From 1972 until his death in 1994, he serves as President of North Korea

North Korea Historical Timeline

1953-1994 CE: Era of Kim Il Sung, who inaugurated a Leninist model of political autonomy and independence, with a socialist command economy, prioritizing heavy industrialization and the collectivization of agriculture. With unquestioned command of a totalitarian government having complete control over every aspect of North Korean society, Kim Il Sung was the center of a propaganda leadership cult and became known as “Great Leader.” Despite meetings between the North and South resulting in the July 4th, 1972 pronouncement of an intended, independent, and peaceful reunification of Korea, frequent incursions of Northern forces over the DMZ, the refusal of the US to withdraw its forces in 1979, and the subsequent discovery of invasion tunnels from North Korea through the DMZ, resulted in heightened tensions between the North and South. Despite consistent efforts at reconciliation, involvement by the North Korean government in illicit international arms and drug dealing, pursuit of nuclear technology, and support of governments and terrorist organizations opposed to the US has continued to exacerbate and fuel the divisiveness between the North and South

North Korea Historical Timeline

1994-Present: Kim Il Sung died suddenly on July 8th, 1994, and his son, Kim Jong Il, groomed for leadership since 1980, gradually assumes leadership and chairmanship of the North Korean communist party. He continued in his father's footsteps, and similarly has fostered a personal leadership cult of "Dear Leader" or "Eternal Leader." North Korea continues as the world's most repressive, die-hard communist and reclusive nation in the world, in spite of severe economic decline, famine and mass disaffection by the North Korean population. Kim Jong Il promulgates Songun Policy circa 1997, which makes the North Korean Military the privileged focus of all policy and government. Since the end of the Korean War, until the 21st Century, only 5,000 North Koreans have managed to escape North Korea. From 2003 on, thousands of North Koreans (estimates between 140 and 300 thousand) have fled northward to China with the hope of eventually repatriating in South Korea. Whereas in 2000, only 312 North Koreans were living in South Korea, by February 2007, there was an estimated 10,000 North Koreans residing in the south

North Korea Historical Timeline

2008: Rumors since 2008 have speculated that Kim Jong-il has died from complications of diabetes, and that his death has been kept hidden from public awareness, using stand-ins at public appearances. Health problems, including a stroke, have led intelligence communities to speculate that the North Korean “Supreme Leader” may have been undergoing a health crisis. A hardened line in nuclear diplomacy may indicate that Kim Jong-il may have been superseded by a conservative military who have taken the upper hand in North Korean policies of state. North Korean media sources later confirmed the fact of a stroke on August 15th, 2008, but denied that his life was threatened. News of continuing health problems continued into late October of 2008, with the possibility of a second stroke. Rumors of ill health, including pancreatic cancer, continued into July of 2009

Kim Jong-il made his first public appearance since August of 2008 at the Supreme People’s Assembly, on April 9th, 2009, where he was reelected unanimously as chairman of the DPRK National Defense Commission. In March of 2009 the North Korean government jailed two American journalists, Euna Lee and Laura Ling, who allegedly passed into North Korean Territory from the People’s Republic of China without passports. They were sentenced to twelve years hard labor. Former US President Bill Clinton met with Kim Jong-il on August 4th, 2009, and after extensive discussion, the following day, August 5th, the two journalists were pardoned and released by Kim Jong-il

Dec. 17th, 2012: Kim Jong-il died suddenly, and his death was announced publically to the world two days later, on the 19th of December, sparking a period of intense public mourning across North Korea and a wave of speculation about North Korea’s future around the world

North Korea Historical Timeline

Reports as late as June 2009 indicate that power may pass to his third and youngest son, **Kim Jong un** (born 1983-4), who is reportedly isomorphic with his father's in his extreme political views and outbursts of temper, and he has been given the nickname "The Brilliant Comrade"

In June, 2010, Kim Jong un was acknowledged the official successor of Kim Jong il, and on Sept. 30th, he was officially appointed as successor, under the tutelage of his Aunt, *Kim Kyong hui* (Kim Jong-il's sister) and Uncle, *Chang Sung-taek* (Kim Jong-il's brother-in-law, and second in power to Kim Jong il), Vice-Chairman of the National Defense Commission, who will serve as interim regents. On this date the first public photographs of his image was released

Kim Jong un had been made a four star general in the Korean People's Army on September 27th, 2010

On Sept. 28th, 2010, Kim Jong un was named vice chairman of the Central Military Commission and appointed to the Central Committee of the Worker's Party.

On Oct. 10th, 2010, he attended alongside his father the Worker's Party 65th anniversary celebration

His youth and education is shrouded in secrecy, though reports indicate he was educated abroad in Switzerland

Kim Jong un's birthday has become an official national holiday

Kim Jong un succeeded his father Kim Jong il after the later's demise on Dec. 17th, 2012, and is now referred to as the Supreme Leader

He has been in charge for more than a year and a half, and he remains still a mystery

Kim Jong-un



Kim Jong-un, far left, in review with his father, far right, one of few public pictures of the successor and youngest son of the Kim dynasty.

POLITICAL



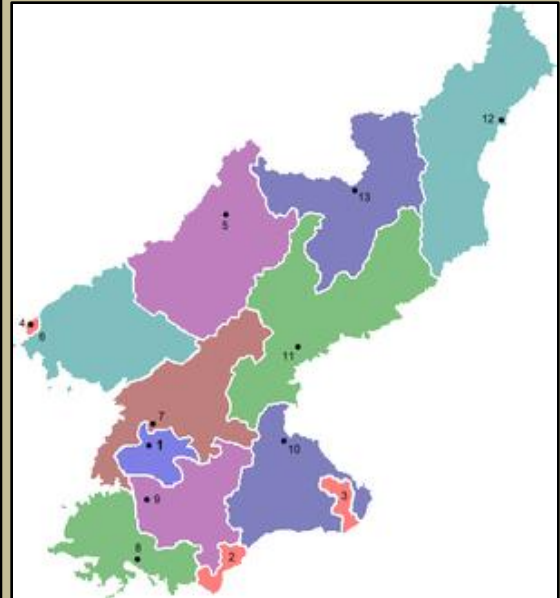
National Flag of Democratic People's Republic of Korea

FLAG OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

- Adopted September 8th, 1948 as national ensign
- Red star on white disc replaced the yin-yang taegeukgi in contradistinction to the South Korean flag and emulation of the USSR
- Red stripe stands for the revolutionary tradition and the red star represents communism
- Blue strips stand for sovereignty, peace and friendship
- White symbolizes purity



POLITICAL MAP



North Korean Political System

North Korea is a communist based system with a centralized command economy

- Though nominally a three-party “coalition front,” it is essentially a single party state, with party-members controlling all aspects of the government administration
- Revisions of the Constitution in place since 1948 have been to consolidate and increase the centralized authority of Kim Il-sung and his son, Kim Jong-il
- People’s National Assembly is the main legislative body of North Korea, though it has not met for many years
- Executive structure is a complicated system of departments & party-controlled committee structures
- Judicial authority consists of “puppet theater courts” and party-appointed judges who interpret a legal system serving the exclusive interests of Kim Jong-il in the name of the North Korean state
- The North Korean government can be characterized as a Praetorian Authoritarian structure, with the military essentially in indirect control of all government sectors and functions
- Leaders of the Worker’s Party have lost ground to Military authority at higher government levels

POLITICAL STRUCTURE-North Korean CONSTITUTION

- Constitution in place since 1948
- Revised several times, in keeping with reorganization of the government in order to consolidate central control and power
- Three official parties, but one de facto party in control of the “front”
- Legislative branch a proxy for the central leader’s authority
- Judiciary branch not independent
- Military plays a big role in political decision making

POLITICAL STRUCTURE-LEGISLATIVE

Legislative — Unicameral National Assembly

- Supreme People's Assembly
- 687 members
- Elected for five year terms
- Meets twice a year for a few days
- Standing committee operates when not in session
- Negotiates and ratifies party policies
- A “rubberstamp” organ of the executive branch

POLITICAL STRUCTURE--EXECUTIVE

Eternal President, Premier & Cabinet

- One leader
- A totalitarian government under National Defense Commission
- A complex interconnected system of ministries, committees and organizations to articulate central power
- A number of ministries within the cabinet

POLITICAL STRUCTURE-JUDICIAL

- Under the legislative branch, that appoints judges to the Central Court for five year terms.
- Intermediate provincial courts elected for three year terms
- Local “people’s courts”
- Prosecutors grouped into separate parallel commands at county and provincial levels
- Prosecutors subordinate to the Central Procurator’s Office

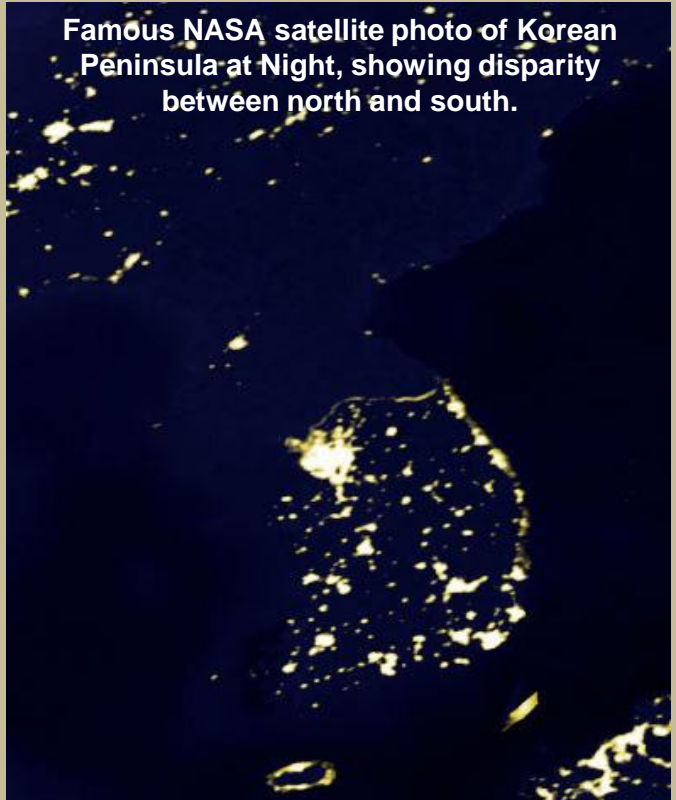
POLITICAL STRUCTURE-ADMINISTRATIVE

- Three levels of administrative organization
- First level with nine main provinces, two directly governed cities and three special administrative areas
- Second level consists of counties (Gun), either rural or cities within provinces
- Third level are rural areas of cities and counties organized into villages, neighborhoods, towns and worker's districts

Geo-political North Korea

- North Korea borders South Korea to the south and China and Russia to the north and northeast. It also shares a common maritime border with China via its islands in the Yellow Sea
- North Korea has a long standing mass paranoia about Japanese interference and American aggression, by which the North Korean leadership mobilizes its national population in a chronic state of emergency
- North Korean military units and spies have repeatedly infiltrated and attacked targets or kidnapped people in South Korea and Japan
- North Korea has test-fired ballistic missiles over the Sea of Japan and the Japanese mainland, disturbing regional political stability and provoking diplomatic crises
- Neither North nor South Korea recognizes the other government as legitimate, and both claim the entire Korean peninsula as being under their own territorial sovereignty

Famous NASA satellite photo of Korean Peninsula at Night, showing disparity between north and south.





**Vice Chairman of the
Supreme Peoples
Assembly
Kim Wan Su**



**Foreign Minister
Pak Ui-chun**



**Vice Foreign
Minister
Kim Kye Gwan**

The Supreme Leader of North Korea since December 17, 2011, Kim Jong-un, is a man of mystery—little that is factually certain is known about him, and the outcome of his leadership is yet to be determined., yet he is the third successor of the modern Kim Dynasty

The currently known (2013) members of the various ministries of the executive cabinet and of the National Defense Commission (NDA) and the Supreme People's Assembly (SPA) are listed on the following pages

Photographs of these members are not readily available, and membership/leadership as well as organizational structure may change unexpectedly

A few available images are shown here



National Defense Commission (NDC)

Gen. Sec., Korean Workers' Party	KIM Jong Il
Eternal Chmn., National Defense Commission (NDC)	KIM Jong-il , <i>DPRK Mar.</i>
First Chairman	KIM Jong-un
Vice Chmn., NDC	JANG Song Thaek , Secretary, WPK Administrative Department
Vice Chmn., NDC	KIM Yong Chun , <i>KPA VMar.</i>
Vice Chmn., NDC	O Kuk Ryol , <i>KPA Gen.</i>
Vice Chmn., NDC	RI Yong Mu , <i>KPA VMar.</i>
Member, NDC	Ri Myong-su , General of the Army and Minister of State Security
Member, NDC	Choe Pu-il , General of the Army
Member, NDC	Kim Kyok-sik , Minsitery of the People's Armed Forces
Member, NDC	PAEK Se Bong
Member, NDC	Pak To-chun
Member, NDC	Kim Won-hong
Member, NDC	Ju Kyu-chang , 1 st Deputy Secretary, WPK Department of Military Industries

Supreme People's Assembly (SPA)

Pres., Supreme People's Assembly (SPA) Presidium	Minister
Vice Pres., SPA Presidium	KIM Yong-nam
Vice Pres., SPA Presidium	Kim Yong Dae
Vice Pres., SPA Presidium	YANG Hyong Sop
Honorary Vice Pres., SPA Presidium	KIM Yong Ju
Sec. Gen., SPA Presidium	Thae Hyong Chol
Supreme People's Assembly (SPA)	Minister
Chairman	Choe Tae-bok
Vice-chairperson	Kim Wan Su
Vice-Chairperson	Hong Son Ok

Cabinet Premiers (NDC)

Cabinet	Ministers
Premier, Cabinet	Pak Pong-ju
Vice Premier, Cabinet	HAN Kwang Bok
Vice Premier, Cabinet	JO Pyong Ju
Vice Premier, Cabinet	JON Ha Chol
Vice Premier, Cabinet	KANG Nung Su
Vice Premier, Cabinet	KIM Rak Hui
Vice Premier, Cabinet	PAK Su Gil
Vice Premier, Cabinet	RI Thae Nam
Vice Premier, Cabinet	RO Tu Chol
Vice Premier, Cabinet	Kang Sok Ju
Vice Premier, Cabinet	Ri Song Ho
Vice Premier, Cabinet	Re Chol Man
Vice Premier, Cabinet	Kim in Sik

Executive Cabinet Ministries & Ministers

Cabinet Ministries	Minister
Min. of Foreign Affairs	Pak Ui Chun
Min. of Public Health	Choe Chang-sik
Min. of Finance	Pak Su-gil/ Choe Kwang-Jin?
Min. of Post and Transportation	Sim Chol-ho
Min. of Land and Marine Transportation	Kang Jong-gwan
Min. of Railways	Jon kil-su
Min. of Extractive Industries	
Min. of National Resource Development	
Ministry of Power and Coal Industries	Hur Tack
Min. of Light Industry	
Min. of Trade	Ri Seong-ho
Min. of Foreign Trade	
Min. of Labor	
Min. of Culture	Kang Nung-su
Ministry of City Management	

Executive Cabinet Ministries & Ministers (continued)

Cabinet Ministries	Ministers
Min. of Capital City Construction Development	
Min. of Atomic Energy Industry	
Min. of Metal Industry	KIM Thae Bong
Min. of Construction and Building Materials Industries	
Ministry of Electronics Industries	Kim Jae-seong
Ministry of Agriculture	Hwang Min
Min. of Forestry	Kim Kwang-yong
Min. of Oil Industry	KIM Hui Yong
Min. of Fisheries	Pak Tae-won.
Min. of Land and Environment Preservation	
Min. of State Construction Control	
Min. of Procurement & Food Admin.	

Executive Cabinet Ministries & Ministers (continued)

Cabinet Ministries	Ministers
Min. of Foodstuffs and Daily Necessities	
Min. of State Inspection	
Other Offices	Ministers
State Planning Commission	RO Tu Chol
Pres., National Academy of Sciences	
State Commission for Physical Culture and Sports	Ri Jong-moo
State Education Commission	
Dir., Central Statistics Bureau	
Pres., Central Bank	RI Kwang Gon
Cabinet Secretariat	
Cabinet Political Bureau	Jon Pyong-ho
Organization and Guidance Department	

PROMINENT POLITICAL PARTIES

- The North Korean constitution formally recognizes three official parties in Korea, but also makes the central party, the Worker's Party of Korea (WPK, or Korean Worker's Party, KWP), the dominant party to which the others must refer. The popular front of the WPK is referred to as the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland, and all elected members officially belong to this organization. This organization was begun after 1995, as part of the internal reorganization of North Korea with the death of Kim Il-sung and the consolidation of authority and power by his son, Kim Jong-il. The KWP is the ruling party of North Korea, constitutionally, with Kim Jong-il as its secretary general, who runs the party with minimal formal meetings.
- The last general assembly of the KWP was in 1980, and its Central Committee met last in 1994, after which the "Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland" became established, an umbrella organization for the KWP, the Chongu Party, and the Korean Social Democratic Party, the three legal parties permitted in North Korea

Country Profile: North Korea, Library of Congress Federal Research Division, July 2007: pg. 15



PROMINENT POLITICAL PARTIES

WORKER'S PARTY OF KOREA (CHŎSON RODONG-DANG)

- The Worker's Party of Korea was formerly called the Worker's Party of North Korea and formed from the merging in 1946 of the Communist Party of North Korea with the New People's Party, which in many respects was more moderate but more popular to a broader range of Korean people
- The Worker's Party of Korea (WPK) is officially named under article 11 of the constitution as the leader of the government, and this party continues to assume a guiding role in government, directing its employees in policy and practice. Most importantly, the WPK are the ideological leaders of the DPRK, and it is this ideological function which is seen as critical to the survival and long-term success of the DPRK. The WPK has direct control over the selection of all candidates who run for office, from all parties, and all elections are de-facto single-candidate elections, all Korean citizens above 17 in age being guaranteed constitutionally universal suffrage and a secret ballot

PROMINENT POLITICAL PARTIES

WORKER'S PARTY OF KOREA (CHŎSON RODONG-DANG)

- Succession to power of the heads of state has taken place within the framework and structure of the party and it is from the party that Kim Jong-il derives his most popular and greatest support. Recent constitutional revisions have only strengthened and reaffirmed the relationship between the government and the party, and assure the continuing power of its military-based cadre over that of rising technocrats. Consistent refusal of North Korea to join the international community, following very limited policies of economic openness, entails that the relationship between the WPK and the government of the DPRK will continue unchanged and probably become strengthened in the future
- The WPK is also the main organ in control of the North Korean Military since the Korean War when its officials oversaw military units as communist information officers and ideologues. WPK party committed began organizing within the Korean military, and purges of factions opposed to Kim Il-sung in 1956 and 1959 within the military further strengthened the function of this party organization. The constitutional revision of 1980 adopted article 46 (The Party Act) which stated that the “KPA is the revolutionary armed forces of the KWP.” Kim Jong-il’s Songun policy which put the military first, entailing his detailed involvement with military affairs, is thought to have weakened the larger WPK at the expense of a stronger North Korean Military

PROMINENT POLITICAL PARTIES

Korean Social Democratic Party (Chōson Sahoeminju-dang)

- Before 1981, known as the Democratic Party of Korea, the Korean Social Democratic Party originated on November 3, 1945
- It was formed by an organization of small businessmen, entrepreneurs, petty administrators, craftsmen, and peasants, with the express intention of bringing about democratic government in Korea after the end of the Japanese occupation. Soviet Occupation of North Korea began in August of 1945, under the Soviet Civil Authority.

Inaugural Convention of the Social Democratic Party



The Soviets set up provisional committees across the countryside and cities, and put communist party members into key positions. Kim Il-sung was the chair of the North Korean Provisional People's Committee which provided a provisional government of North Korea from February, 1946. The Korean Social Democratic Party subsequently and gradually shifted its platform and language in alliance with the dominant WPK, and it is considered for all intents and purposes subservient and synonymous with the WPK, with nothing but its leader's name published

PROMINENT POLITICAL PARTIES

CHEONDOIST CHONGU PARTY (CH'ÖNDOGYO CH'ÖNG'U-DANG)

- The Cheondoist Chongug Party was founded on February 5, 1946, by followers of the Ch'ondogyo religion, which by 1945 was the second largest religion in North Korea, under the leadership of its founder, Kim Tarhyon. Within a few months, its membership went from almost 98,000 to over 204,000 by December, 1946. The Cheondoist Chongu Party had been subsequently made a united front party of North Korea, and is officially labeled a democratic party by the government of North Korea. In July 1946, it was one of the four parties of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland, formalizing its subordination to the Communist Party, which later became the Workers' Party of Korea.
- Ch'ondogyo was a religious movement of the late 19th Century resulting from Christian missionary activities that quickly became a hotbed for political activities and Korean nationalist movements. Members of the Ch'ondogyo came principally from peasants of the Korean countryside, and these people actively participated in the rebellion of 1894 and later in 1919, against Japanese occupation. This movement was seen by the Korean and Soviet Communists as a “utopian peasant movement”
- By 1947, more than 5% of the elected deputies of the local level people's committees belonged to the Cheondoist Chongu party. Kim Tarhyon, founder of the party, became one of two deputy chairmen of the People's Assembly. By the time of the constitution of the DPRK in 1948, the Cheondoist Chongu Party gained more than 16% of the seats on the Supreme People's Assembly

PROMINENT POLITICAL PARTIES

CHEONDOIST CHONGU PARTY (CH'ÖNDOGYO CH'ÖNG'U-DANG)

- Connections with religious leadership of the party in South Korea, which was anticommunist in orientation, led to mistrust of the party by communist officials and leaders, who suspected it of having counter-revolutionary elements. As a consequence, party members and officials across North Korea were purged, with elements of the party going underground in an attempt to initiate guerrilla warfare
- Kim Taryon and his followers reaffirmed their allegiance to the DPRK, and the entire Cheondoist Chongu Party of the Peninsula united together under his leadership in 1950. Alignment and secret support by some of the party members with Seoul, and defection to the South, resulted in continuing distrust and unpopularity with non-communist parties in the United Front, leading to the severe restriction of the Cheondoist Chongu Party to conduct any political activity
- By 1956, there were less than 3,000 members of an estimated 10 to 50,000 Ch'ondogyo followers. With its funding from the state cut off, it ran an iron foundry and a printing house and had about 200 full time employees. By 1958, the party was purged once again following allegations of a conspiracy against the DPRK leadership. It is believed that, with their guilty pleas and revocation of parliamentary immunity, they were executed and “disappeared” by the state
- Since 1958, the party virtually exists in North Korea in name only, under the control of the Workers Party of Korea, and is involved in no activities unless directed by the government

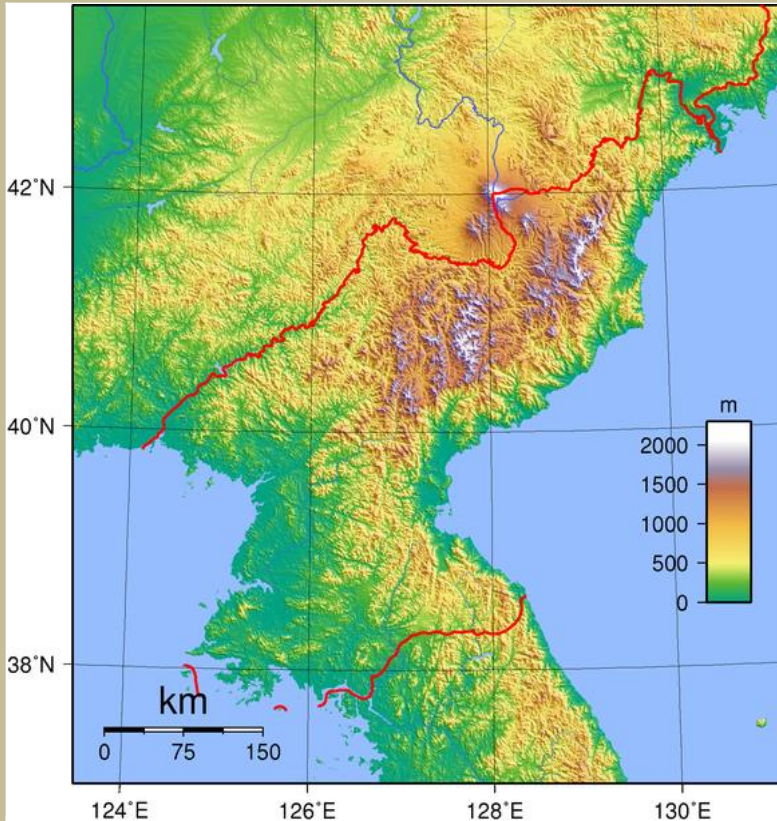
POLITICAL CONCERNS:

HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES, CONCENTRATION CAMPS, HUMAN EXPERIMENTATION

- North Korea does not recognize human rights, claiming as a socialist state that it serves and represents the true interests of the people North Koreans enjoy no individual freedoms or liberties—state control is total
- Internment Camps distinguished between “*kwan-li-so*” for political prisoners and “*kyo-hwa-so*” or reeducation (revolutionizing) camps for criminal offenders of the state.
- North Korea has several (six) active Concentration Camps merged from 12 previous camps (*Bukchang* Camp 18; Camp 15, or *Yodok* Concentration Camp; Camp 22 or *Kwan-li-so No. 22 haengyong*; *Kaechong* Camp 14; *Hwasong* Camp 16; and *Chongjin* Camp 25) mostly located in central and northeastern North Korea
- Each concentration camp holds between 3,000 and 50,000 political prisoners, segregated into revolutionizing and total control zones, as well as into small subsections. Satellite images of these camps reveal barbed wire and high walls encircling the areas, electrified and with guard towers. Guards carry assault rifles and grenades, and regularly abuse and torture prisoners
- It is believed, based on eye-witness testimony, that there are a total of 150,000 to 200,000 political prisoners in North Korea who are considered “politically unreliable”
- Multiple generations of entire families are permanently interred in these camps, including families of repatriated Japanese Koreans, and political prisoners who expressed opposition to the Korean Worker’s Party
- An estimated 20% of these prisoners die from exposure, malnutrition, torture, work accidents, neglect, untreated illnesses, execution and hardship each year, to be replaced by new political prisoners
- Eyewitness reports indicate that the North Korean government has been performing systematic human experimentation on entire families of political prisoners, including poisoning, poison gas, and medical practice/experimentation

COUNTRY DATA

LOCATION AND BORDERING COUNTRIES



Location:

- The northern half of the Korean Peninsula, with islands along the western coasts, bordering, the Yellow Sea and Korea Bay on the east coast and the Sea of Japan on the west coast

Border Countries:

- South Korea
- Russia (Duman River)
- China (Amnok River)

Neighboring Countries

- Japan

COMPARATIVE AREA



Area: 98,477 sq. km

Combined land mass of about 120,538 square kilometers, slightly smaller than the state of Mississippi

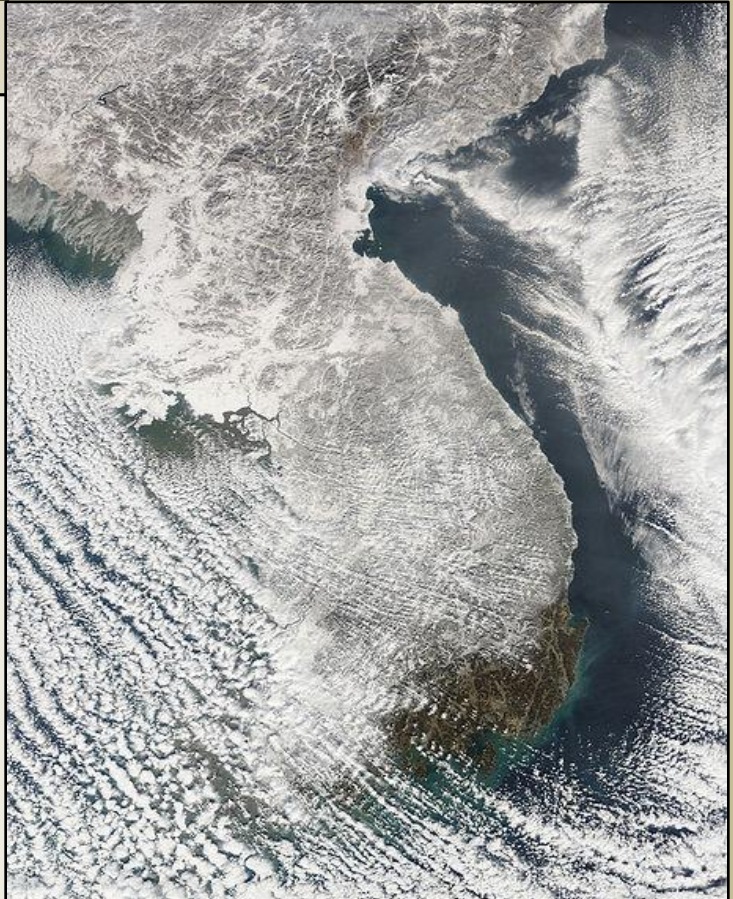
Korean Peninsula (North & South Korea combined) is about the size of Minnesota.

Claims 12 nautical miles as territorial seas and 200 nautical miles as an exclusive economic zone

Military boundary line in the Sea of Japan for 50 nautical miles and exclusive economic zone in the Yellow Sea ban foreign vessels

CLIMATE

- **Temperate Continental**
 - Four distinct seasons
 - Influenced more by continental Asian air mass than by marine air masses.
 - Long, cold and dry winters
 - Short, hot and humid summers
 - Pleasant but short springs and falls
- **Seasonal impact**
 - **Dry (October-May)**
 - cold and relatively dry
 - Late spring droughts
 - **Wet (June -September)**
 - Monsoon flooding
 - Typhoons
 - Daily rainfall
 - Heaviest in August, with flooding



Record snowfall in Korea on Jan. 5, 2010

SOCIAL STATISTICS

Population:

24,720,407 (2013 estimate)

0-14 years: 21.7%

(male 2,736,275/female 2,650,143)

15 to 24 years: 16.4%

(male 2,059,388/female 2,0005,987)

25 to 54 years: 43.8%

(male 5,411,221/female 5,415,744)

55-64 years: 8.5%

(male 988,922/female 1,108,156)

65 years and older: 9.5%

(male 798,363/female 1,556,208)

Total Fertility Rate:

1.99 children born/woman (2013 est.) world rank
131st

Population Growth Rate:

0.53% (2013 est.)

Infant Mortality Rate:

25.34 deaths/1,000 live births (76th rank)

Life Expectancy at Birth:

total population: 69.51 years, Rank 155th

male: 65.65 years

female: 73.55 years (2013 est.)

Literacy:

total population: 99%

male: 99.%

female: 96.% (1991 estimate)

Labor Force by Occupation:

Agriculture: 35%

Industry & services: 65% (2008 est.)

Urban Population:

60.3% (2011 est.)

Rate of Urbanization:

.63% annual rate of change (2010-15 est.)

Education expenditures: NA

Labor force: 12.2 million (2009 est.)

Unemployment Rate: NA

Population below poverty line: NA

ECONOMY

- A centralized, managed economy
- Highly dependent on foreign aid
- External debt:
 - \$12.5 billion (US dollars, 2001 estimate)
- Inflation rate:
 - NA
- GDP (Purchasing Power Parity):
 - \$40 Billion (U.S.)
 - Country comparison 104th
- GDP Composition by Sector:
 - agriculture: 23.3%
 - industry: 42.9%
 - services: 33.6% (2012 est.)
- GDP Per capita:
 - \$1,800 (2011 est.)
 - country comparison to the world: 197th



Above: Pyongyang
Below: Pyongyang Metro



ECONOMY

- Imports – partners:
 - China, 61.6%; South Korea, 20%; European Union, 4% (2011)
- Exports – partners:
 - China, 67.2%; South Korea, 19.4%; India, 3.6% (2011)
- Import Commodities
 - Petroleum, coking coal, machinery & equipment, textiles, grain
- Export commodities
 - Minerals, metallurgical products, manufactures (including armaments), textiles, agricultural products, fishery products
- Exchange rates for the North Korean won (KPW) per US dollar:
 - 155.5 (2012); 156.1 (2011, official rate); 145 (2010); 3,630 (2008)
- Communications:
 - Telephones: 1 million (2011est.)
 - Country rank 155th
 - Internet hosts: 8 (2012)
 - country comparison to the world: 227th
 - Television Broadcast Stations : 4 (2003 est.)

ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

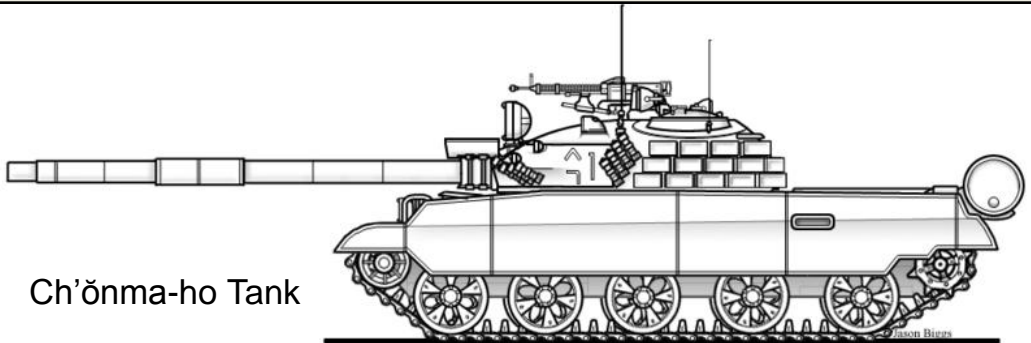
- **Chronic Economic Disparities**
 - Large-scale military budget draws off revenue for investment and development, combined with closed and centrally managed economy, and obsolescence of machinery has resulted in declining power outputs and industrial-agricultural productivity
 - Most humanitarian food aid programs have been terminated by end of 2005
- **Chronic Malnutrition, Substandard Living & Human Trafficking**
 - Chronic and commonplace throughout countryside
 - Source country for men, women & children trafficked for forced labor and commercial sexual exploitation, primarily into China
 - Human rights abuses are not acknowledged by the North Korean government
- **Drug Trafficking**
 - North Korea linked to illicit shipments of heroin and methamphetamine
 - Diplomatic employees of the DPRK abroad apprehended in narcotic trafficking

MILITARY OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENT



KOREAN PEOPLE'S ARMY (KPA)

- The largest component by far of the KPA are the ground forces, which consist of approximately 1,003,000 people organized into 20 corps divided into 176 divisions and brigades
- More than 70% of this entire force is stationed within 100 kilometers of the DMZ, oriented as an invasion force.
- The KPA has been gradually but steadily expanding the size and equipment of its military forces, particularly its ground forces, in response to improvements in the South Korean army during the 1970's from US equipment. They began production of their own indigenous tank design, derived from Soviet and Chinese T-62 model, named the Ch'onma-ho or "Chollima Tank" (Sky Horse, or Pegasus). Not much is known of its design, though it has spaced-armor and some form of reactive armor. By 2000, there were approximately two thousand tanks of mixed variety deployed in the foreign zone of the DMZ
- During the 1980s, the KPA ground forces apparently redistributed their two armored divisions into an armored corps and multiple brigades, and consolidated heavy self-propelled artillery into multi-brigade artillery corps. New tanks, trucks, artillery and armored equipment began augmenting a growing and relatively large stockpile of older weapons. During the 1980s, its ground forces were reorganized and deployed forward to the DMZ. During this time period, it increased its tank forces by 1000 tanks, over 2,500 armored personnel and infantry fighting vehicles, and about 6,000 artillery/rocket launching units
- The mobile forces were deployed in a more compressed fashion closer to the DMZ and the deployment of numerous restructured tank, mechanized and artillery brigades immediately behind the front line forces of infantry created a powerful invasion force capable of rapidly exploiting breakthroughs along the DMZ



Ch'ŏnma-ho Tank



KOREAN PEOPLE'S ARMY (KPA)

- In 1992 there were 16 corps commands, two special operations forces commands, and nine regional military district commands under the Ministry of the People's Armed forces. There were approximately 145 divisions and brigades. At that time, the North Korean military forces had twice as many tanks and artillery as the combined US-South Korean forces, and a 1.5 to 1 ratio in infantry fighting forces. By 1993, about 60% of its forces were deployed forward, representing a shift from Soviet based order of battle and military tactics, which depends on rapid mobility of large tank forces behind an initial wall of artillery fire. North Korean forces have been historically deployed in depth, and poised for both defensive, counteroffensive and offensive strikes along the DMZ
- By 1996, there were an estimated 153 divisions and brigades with 10 corps consisting of sixty divisions/brigades deployed in the forward regions of the DMZ. These were divided into 60 infantry divisions/brigades, about 25 mechanized infantry brigades, 13 tank brigades, 25 Special Operations Force brigades and 30 artillery brigades
- Currently, there is a single armored corps and four mechanized corps along with an artillery corps in a second echelon, behind a front line of infantry deployed in four corps
- It is believed that much of the heavy equipment of the KPA is aging and in need of repairs. Evidence suggests that chronic fuel shortages limit training exercises and maneuvers

4.25



KOREAN PEOPLE'S ARMY (KPA)

- Aug. 20, 1947 Aviation unit of the KPA first formed, creating the basis of Air Force Foundation Day on April 20th of each year
- Feb. 8, 1948 The Korean People's Army (KPA) is officially established
- Sept. 9, 1948 An independent Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK, or North Korea) established constitutionally
- June 25, 1950 The KPA, equipped with modern, Soviet weapons, including tanks, artillery and aircraft, invades South Korea, easily defeating existing lightly-armed and ill-equipped South Korean and US military forces using guerrilla style infiltration tactics backed by heavy armor
- 1968 North Korean squadrons deployed to North Vietnam, along with two artillery brigades, to serve in the air-defense over Hanoi and surrounding areas

KOREAN PEOPLE'S ARMY (KPA)

TIME LINE



- 1970s North Korea begins a major reorganization and equipment development of its armed forces in response to the South Korean military receiving new equipment from the US
- 1976 North Korean army units attack South Korean and American guards in the Panmunjon Joint Security Area, triggering a sudden escalation of forces on both sides in the area and a showdown between American and North Korean forces
- 1980s North Korean Military Forces modernize, expand, and reorganize to reflect a shift in strategic-tactical policies of North Korea, with a greater emphasis upon mechanized invasion and counteroffensive forces
- 1993 International security concerns and controversy over North Korea secretly producing weapons grade plutonium from its spent fuel rods.
- 1994-5 Songun, or "Military First" policy, first promulgated by Kim Jong-il, after the death of Kim Il-sung in 1993, shifts Juch'e ideology from the proletariat mass to the military as the principle instrument of state revolution. Agreed Framework signed, providing fuel oil to North Korea in exchange for it shutting down its two nuclear reactors
- 2003 Restarting of North Korea nuclear reactors leads to plutonium production and renewal of its nuclear arms program
- 2006 First North Korean nuclear weapon test
- 2009 Second North Korean nuclear weapon test, substantially larger than the first, coupled with test firing medium range ballistic missiles over Sea of Japan and over Japan, and a failed space-satellite rocket launch, sets



KOREAN PEOPLE'S NAVY (KPN)

The Korean People's Navy (KPN) is largely a shallow water navy that operates normally within 50 kilometers of its coastline. It is classified as mostly a coastal or "green water" navy, and is divided into five operational commands. There are approximately 148,000 navy personnel and about 704 ships, including 630 combat ships, 60-100 submarines, and over 340 support craft, including a variety of patrol boats, landing craft and small infiltration boats. Over 60% of the KPN's combat forces are deployed near the DMZ

The KPN is divided into two commands, an East Coast and West Coast command, of which the East Coast navy is the largest in size and numbers of ships and these two navies operate in theaters totally disconnected from one another. The Navy also maintains coastal defenses consisting of artillery (between 122 mm and 152 mm) and surface-to-surface missiles, maintains a naval aviation brigade and ship works, training and maintenance units. There are 2-4 outdated frigates, the largest boats in the KPN, destroyers, 3 cruisers, and 6 corvettes, built or acquired at a time when North Korea had blue-water ambitions for its navy. The cost of achieving this goal proved prohibitive and hence the KPN remains a low-priority branch of its services





KOREAN PEOPLE'S NAVY (KPN)

- Its most effective units are a small fleet of guided missile patrol boats that are equipped with anti-ship guided missiles and are capable of rapidly responding to situations within their 50 mile exclusion zone.
- It also has large fleets of torpedo boats, patrol craft, fast-attack craft and amphibious landing craft
- It has a unique fleet of over sixty fire-support craft consisting of missile launching platforms in fire support of troop landings
- It also has a small fleet of diesel powered attack submarines from the Soviet Union and China, supplemented by a larger fleet of midget coastal submarines, and has begun production of its own Soviet-style submarines capable of carrying torpedoes and mines
- It has also a fairly sizeable fleet of landing-amphibious craft capable of clandestinely delivering small-troop units, supplemented by several larger landing craft capable of carrying several tanks each
- A primary purpose of many of these crafts is the insertion of small clandestine units behind enemy lines
- It is estimated to have about 130 amphibious hover-craft capable of landing special force units in difficult coastal terrain conditions or of supporting major amphibious operation



KOREAN PEOPLE'S AIR FORCE (KPAF)



The KPAF has about 110,000 people strong and has about 1700 aircraft, including a range of attack-fighter craft, mostly of Soviet or Chinese origin, including about 40 modern MIG29s, about 90 larger helicopters, many of which are converted into gunships, about 140 light combat/transport copters, medium range bombers capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction, ground-support aircraft, and a unique, large bi-plane designed for carrying

The KPAF aircraft today are considered to be obsolete, under equipped, and their pilots lacking in basic flight and fighter training. The air-wing of the KPA also maintains a system of air defenses including radar and numerous anti-aircraft sites, including both missiles and conventional anti-aircraft guns, mostly of Soviet make, and comprising one of the densest air-defense networks in the world, the missiles of which, though, are also considered mostly out of date



KOREAN PEOPLE'S AIR FORCE (KPAF)

- The KPAF is organized into six Air Divisions, of which two provide air transport responsibilities and four are primarily for Air defense and training
- These air divisions operate on more than 89 bases, highway airstrips and helipads. Many of these bases have underground facilities that are protected from air attacks, including underground runways. The first three of the Air divisions fly combat aircraft and protect the western, eastern and southern regions of the nation, respectively, and a fourth division flies trainer craft and flies in the northern region of North Korea. The last two divisions, the 5th and 6th, operates transport aircraft. Air Koryo, the official civil airline of the DPRK, is controlled by the KPAF through its Civil Aviation Bureau

North Korean MiG-29



While historically the goal of the KPAF was defense of the skies over North Korea, it is believed that it may have shifted strategic focus to providing close-combat support for its army units and for attacking South Korean targets and cities, providing a greater deterrent role than that of defense

KPA Artillery Guidance Bureau (AGB)

- The KPA Artillery Guidance Bureau manages the strategic missile forces in North Korea
- It primarily services about a thousand various Scud type ballistic missiles with different capacities, with a maximum range of 2000 km, either on major launch pads along the East coast or north along the border with China, or on mobile-carriers and smaller launch sites throughout the countryside
- North Korea is in the process of development of its own generic ICBM missile, with a range under 7000 km, test-firing a successful prototype over Japan in April of 2009 and critically jeopardizing the security of the entire region

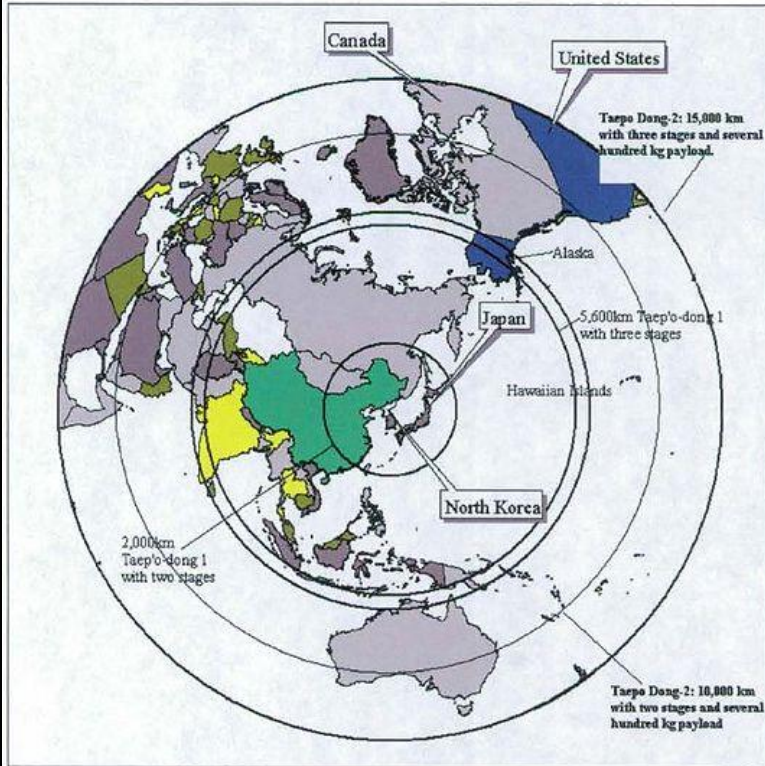


Screenshot of Taepodong 1 missile (Fair Use Policy)



Hwasong-6 Missile, exported widely to many nations, SRBM range 700 km

Potential North Korean Long-Range Missile Capabilities



This Congressional Research Service map was updated on September 19, 2006 to reflect comments by the U.S. Intelligence Community.

AGB Strategic Capabilities

- North Korea has between 80 and 100 Medium Range Ballistic Missiles with a reach of 2000-2500 km as well as an unknown number of longer range ballistic missiles capable of reaching between 4 and 10,000 km
- It has an arsenal of over 1000 short range ballistic missiles capable of reaching South Korea or Japan
- These missiles may be armed with conventional, nuclear, chemical or biological warheads

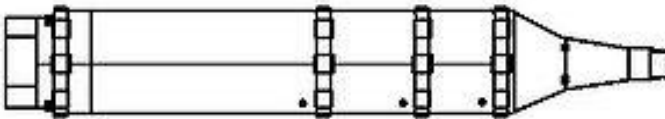
AGB Strategic Capabilities

The AGB is believed to have a number of ballistic missile launching capabilities, potentially usable on coastal-inland targets around the world:

- Mobile launchers
- Launch pads
- Silo launchers
- Submarine launchers
- Ship-based launchers

North Korea has a number of known missile launching facilities:

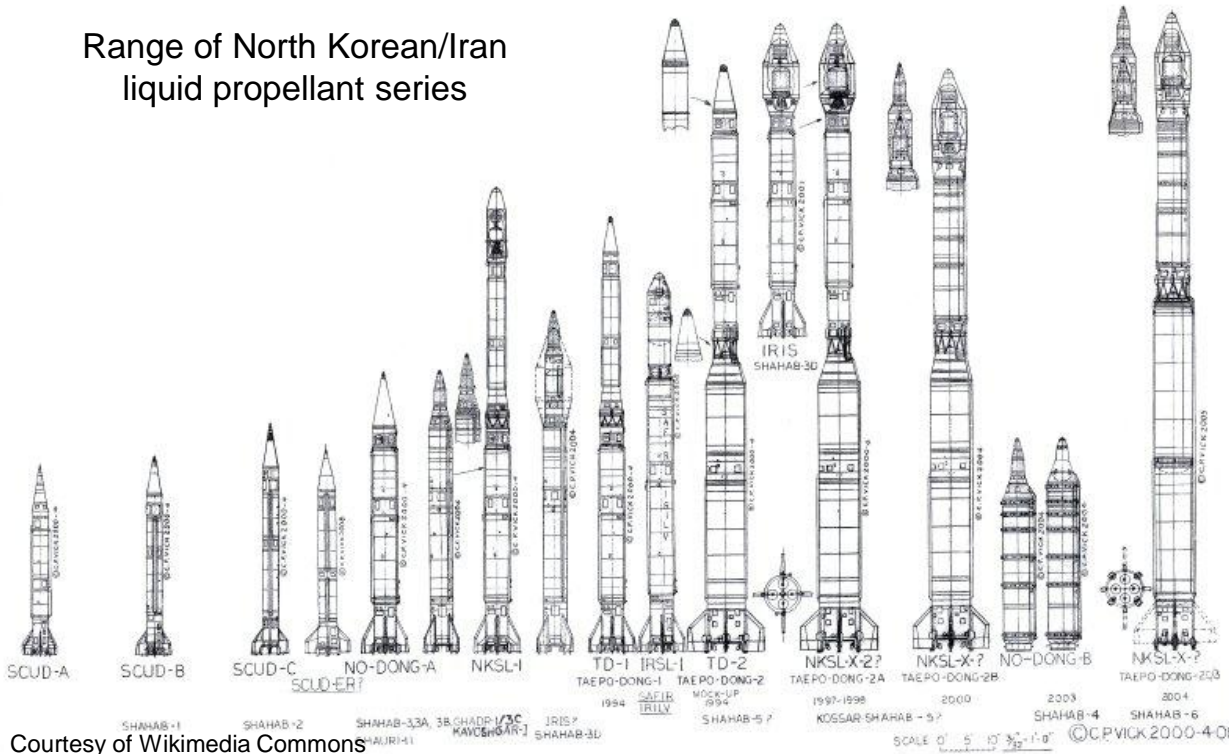
- Musudan-ri at 40° 51'N, 129° 40'E in North Hamgyong Province
- Kittaeryong in Kangwon Province, for short to medium range missiles
- Kalgol-dong in Chagang province for Hwasong 5/6 missiles against South Korea
- Kusun in North P'yongan for Rodong missiles against US forces in Japan
- Okp'yong-dong in Kangon province with Hwasong & Rodong missiles
- Pondong-ri on west coast, 50 km south of Korea-Chinese border
- Tongch'ang-dong space booster launch site with three stage missile launch capacity
- Yongjo-ri/Yongo-dong, Ryanggan province, south of Chinese border, MRBM site
- Numerous other, smaller sites throughout countryside, for mobile launching pads



Soviet 7-27, basis for the Musudan mobile launched IRBM

AGB Strategic Capabilities-Missiles

Range of North Korean/Iran liquid propellant series



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

AGB Strategic Capabilities--Submarines

- 1-3 Golf 11 Soviet ballistic missile submarines capable of launching 3 Musudang SLBM (4000 km range).
- 4 Converted Whisky Class Soviet submarines, with 2 to 4 external launch tubes.
- 22 Romeo class China-built submarines.
- 33 Active home-made Sang-O Class midget submarines, 10 Yono & 4 Yugo Class midget subs for SOF



SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES (KPSOF)

- A sub-branch of the ground forces, the Special Operations Force (SOF) consists of approximately 90,000 personnel, and is considered the second largest Special Operations Force in the world
- The exact size of the SOF forces in North Korea remains a question for the experts as it is surrounded in secrecy
- As of 1996, there were two separate Special Operation Force commands, and approximately 25 SOF brigades
- Little is published about the SOF
- As of 2007, there are eight sniper brigades, two amphibious and two airborne, 17 reconnaissance battalions, one airborne battalion, and eight Bureau of Reconnaissance SOF battalions
- They are thought capable of landing amphibious along the coasts of South Korea, and can be airlifted in squad-sized units by a special fleet of 300 bi-wing An-2 airplanes that can fly slowly and silently and take off and land under conditions of very short runways

SOF STRATEGIC MISSIONS

SOF Missions include the following:

- Seizure or destruction of enemy command, control, communications and intelligence.
- Interdiction, seizure or control of strategic targets.
- Raids against US military bases in Japan, Okinawa, and even in Guam, Hawaii and the continental US.
- Seizure of important topographical features.
- Interdiction, seizure and control of ROK/US lines of communication
- Targeting for long range artillery and WMD
- Intelligence networking and insurgency operations in the ROK
- Delivery of biological weapons
- Assassination/abduction of ROK senior leaders and command
- Strategic reconnaissance and intelligence
- Kidnapping and diversionary operations
- Military training to foreign entities in revolutionary and terrorist organization.
- Protecting Kim's inner circle (body guards and security)
- Assistance to allied nations and organizations (PLO, Zimbabwe, Burundi, etc.)

WORKER PEASANT RED GUARD(KPAF)

- The Worker-Peasant Red Guard is estimated to involve between 3.5 and 7 million civilians of the DPRK
- Organized upon provincial, town and village levels into units of brigades, battalions, companies and platoons
- Many of these units possess small arms, often including mortars and anti-aircraft weapons

DPRK WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

- North Korea has pursued development of nuclear weapons technology since the early 1960s
- North Korea has been processing and extracting plutonium from its spent fuel rods irradiated uranium fuel rods since 1986
- In 1967, the Russians built a research reactor at the Yongbyon Nuclear Scientific Research Center. This reactor produced irradiated uranium, which was then used for plutonium separation experiments in 1975, though the primary purpose of the reactor was not the production of plutonium. Estimates range from a few hundred grams to a couple of kilograms of plutonium that might have been produced at this reactor
- The second reactor is larger Magnox type reactor with a core of 8,000 fuel rods and a maximum yield of 27-29 kg of plutonium. Such a reactor can produce about six kilograms of plutonium per year though plutonium separation would require shutting down and unloading the fuel rods before extraction takes place
- North Korea has unloaded the cores three times, in 1994, 2005 and 2007, before maximum burn up of its rods, and a secret core may have been previously unloaded between 1989 and 1990
- The first two cores underwent plutonium separation in 2003 and 2005, respectively, and reprocessing for the final core was halted by negotiations. North Korea was in the process of building two more, larger reactors, before negotiations interfered with the construction. The time-table for the completion of these larger reactors, the smaller of which would be capable of producing enough plutonium for ten small nuclear bombs per year, and the second, for as many as forty bombs per year, though it is thought to be at least several years off, with several critical components having to be rebuilt as a result of the original cessation of construction

DPRK WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

- In 1993, North Korea had announced plans to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) but, from pressure with the US and the UN, signed the Agreed Framework in 1994, which promised North Korea light water reactors and fuel oil from the US and South Korea, which reactors would allow simpler monitoring of uranium usage and waste, and hindering the diversion of the waste into reprocessing for plutonium. North Korea shut down its main reactors from 1994 to 2003, though it maintained them in an operable condition. Though it is thought to have abandoned its plutonium production program during this time frame, it was claimed by the US to have begun a uranium enrichment program, which obviated and violated the terms of the Agreed Framework. Oil Shipments were suspended, and by the end of 2002, the terms of the Agreed Framework had not yet been met, and North Korea announced its intention of reusing its reactors for production of plutonium
- North Korea is known to have at least eight nuclear-research/production sites which may be used for potential nuclear testing, and many of the North Korean test sites and nuclear experimentation sites are underground, and it is believed that extensive activities have taken place in these underground sites
- North Korea is known to have tested on Oct. 3rd, 2006 a small nuclear fission bomb with about five kilograms of uranium and of a yield of from 3 to 10 kiloton, having withdrawn from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in 2003

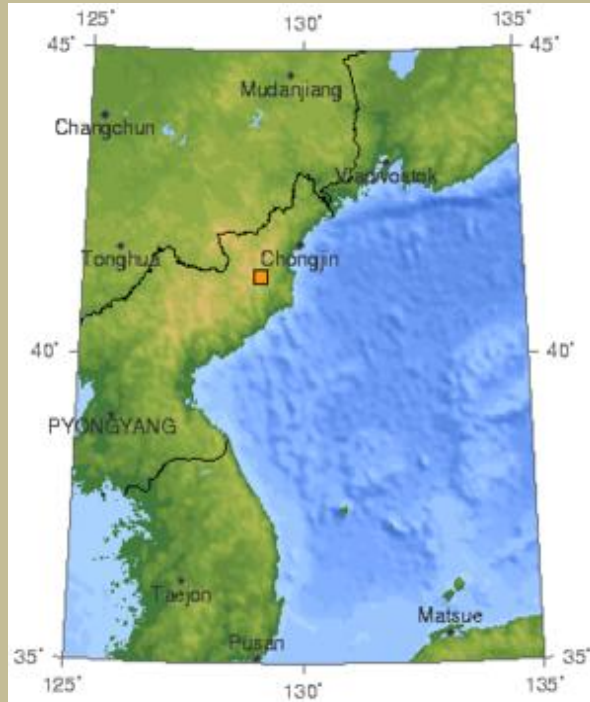
DPRK WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

- By February, 2007, North Korean reactors are believed to have produced a total of from 46 to 68 kilograms of plutonium of which about 3/4s (33-55 kilograms) were in a separated form for use in nuclear weapons, more than 90% of which was probably produced since the end of the freeze on plutonium production in late 2002. It is estimated that this stock might produce between 5 and 12 small scale nuclear weapons, with each weapon utilizing 4-6 kilograms of plutonium
- The total amount of plutonium separated by North Korean nuclear research facilities before 2003 is unknown, with evidence of removal of spent fuel rods before the inspected removal in 1994. These suspicions formed the basis for the original international controversy over North Korea's nuclear weapons program in 1993, resulting in the 1994 inspections
- In 2007, North Korea agreed to shut down its main reactor site at Yongbyon in exchange for fuel aid and normalization of negotiations with the US and Japan, in large measure to help offset North Korea's increasing energy deficiencies. Further disagreement between the US and North Korea over disarmament led to blocking inspections of the nuclear sites and to the reactivation of the nuclear facilities on April 25, 2009

"The North Korean Plutonium Stock, Feb. 2007" David Albright & Paul Brannan, Institute for Science and International Security, Feb. 20, 2007.

DPRK WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

- A month later, on May 25th, 2009, it is believed to have conducted a second nuclear bomb test in the same location (Chongjin), somewhat larger in magnitude than the first, comparable in power to the bombs dropped by the US on Hiroshima and Nagasaki
- It is believed that North Korea may have the nuclear fissile materials sufficient to build between 6 and 12 small nuclear fission bombs, depending on the amount of plutonium used per bomb (between 4 and 6 kilograms, on average)
- It is also believed that it has the capacity to arm ballistic missiles with nuclear warheads based on technology received from Pakistan, and may have the capacity to arm from four to eight such primitive nuclear missiles, creating a significant deterrence primarily aimed at defending North Korea from possible invasion from the south, and to distance Japan and the US from involvement in a future Korean war



DPRK WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

- Nuclear weapons in the hands of Kim Jong-il or his heir-apparent would prove to be dangerous for the stability of the region, and possibly, for world peace. Its test firing of ballistic missiles over Japan has served to further destabilize the situation and has put the Japanese on notice
- Already, possession or alleged possession of nuclear weapons, and the capacity to deliver these weapons by medium-range missiles, has created a powerful deterrent effect against counter-strikes or intervention by the US or other governments in the region, in main part for fear of massive retaliation by North Korea's conventional armed forces
- Even though North Korea signed the Biological Weapons Convention in 1987 and the Geneva Protocol in 1989, it is believed that North Korea may have developed and stockpiled significant numbers of chemical (with production facilities for tabun nerve gas and mustard gas since the 1950s) and biological weapons, which it might deploy upon invasion by or of South Korean forces across the DMZ, largely through artillery. It is thought to possess a full array and arsenal of advanced nerve agents, and it has equipped its armed forces with chemical protection gear

Table of North Korean Plutonium Development

North Korea is believed to have between 30 and 40 kilograms of plutonium extracted from its Yongbyon nuclear processing complex, enough to produce 7-14 small nuclear devices

Plutonium Discharge		Plutonium Separated		Possible Bombs	
Date	Amount (kg)	Date /Number	Amount (kg)		
Prior 1990	1-10	1989-1992/0-10			0-2
1994	27-29	2003-2004/20-28			4-7
2005	13.5-17	2005-2006/13-17			2-4
Remaining	10-13				13-17
Sub-totals	51.5-69	--- / 33-55			6-13
After Test	46-64	---/28-50			5-12

Yongbyon Nuclear Scientific Research Center



Image Courtesy of IAEA

DPRK BALLISTIC MISSILE PROGRAM

- North Korea has been expanding and developing its missile technology and systems, receiving its first tactical missiles, capable of WMD delivery, from the Soviet Union, and later purchasing Scud missiles from Egypt, which formed the basis for its own manufacture of similar missiles
- It has intensified its efforts at missile development in the last decade, attempting to launch a satellite into space, which failed in its third stage launch. North Korea can strike with ballistic missiles all areas of South Korea, and most areas of Japan, and the interior of China
- Recently, it has test fired experimental cruise missiles and “Scud-type” ballistic missiles into the Sea of Japan, and it is believed that North Korea may be capable of deploying mobile ICBMs capable of reaching the US with seven to nine years.
- This deterrent effect upon the US may induce South Korea to capitulate ultimately to North Korea, with the entire Korean Peninsula then falling under control by the North Korean government
- The US, Japan and South Korea are the obvious diplomatic targets of its missile and nuclear programs, but China is the unknown diplomatic and strategic card. North Korea may be concerned with undue Chinese influence and the possibility of a counterstrike from the north and west

EXOTIC WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

- North Korea may also have been experimenting in exotic weapons of mass destruction, such as dirty-bombs involving nuclear waste material, as well as in the construction of dams north of the DMZ that can be burst to flood across the DMZ, potentially opening up large swaths of destruction
- Even though North Korea signed the Biological Weapons Convention in 1987 and the Geneva Protocol in 1989, it is believed that North Korea may have developed and stockpiled significant numbers of chemical (with production facilities for tabun nerve gas and mustard gas since the 1950s,) and biological weapons, which it might deploy upon invasion by or of South Korean forces across the DMZ, largely through artillery
- North Korea is thought to possess a full array and arsenal of advanced nerve agents, including a miscellaneous stockpile of tabun, sarin, soman, VX and other gases, and it has equipped its armed forces with chemical protection gear
- North Korea is believed to have a stockpile of 5,000 tons of chemical weapons, produced at a number of sites, and stored in half a dozen underground sites connected by up to 170 mountain tunnels. It is believed capable of producing 4,500 tons of chemical agents per year, with peak wartime production of 12,000 tons in a year

NORTH KOREAN WMD--CHEMICAL

- Chemical weapons produced annually by North Korea include:
 - Adamsite (DM)
 - Chloroacetophenone (CN)
 - Chlorobenzylidene malononitrile (CS)
 - Hydrogen cyanide (AC)
 - Mustard-family (H, HD)
 - Phosgene (CG and CX)
 - Sarin (GB)
 - Soman (GD)
 - Tabun (GA)
 - V-agents (VM or VX)
- It is believed the North Korea has concentrated on the production of mustard, phosgene, sarin and V agents for operational and technical purposes
- During the 1990s North Korea believed to have begun production of binary agents
- North Korea is believed to be committed to a policy of deploying chemical weapons in the advent of war, on both a selective, tactical and blanket strategic basis, in support of its war aims of conquering South Korea

NORTH KOREAN WMD--BIOLOGICAL

- In 1980, accelerated development of biological weapons program, which now includes a Pyongyang focused biotechnology infrastructure capable of producing both toxins, viral and bacterial agents
- Active military biotechnology research since early 90s at North Korean medical institutes and universities (National Defense Research Institute and Medical Academy, NDRIMA) focusing on:
 - Anthrax
 - Cholera
 - Bubonic Plague
 - Small Pox
 - Yellow Fever
- In 1987 North Korea acceded to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)
- Believed to have limited concentration on Biological Warfare due to the lack of technical expertise or capacity for handling and management, and for the risks of deployment in the field
- Believed to use agents like plague, anthrax or yellow fever against water and food supplies in the interior of South Korea, as well as possibly abroad on foreign targets

CURRENT SECURITY CONCERNS

SMUGGLING, TERRORIST INVOLVEMENT, WEAPONS SALES

- Connections through illegal drug networks involving international drug smuggling (Kim family business, including heroin, opium and amphetamines), money laundering and large scale counterfeiting, military contraband, black markets, and other illicit affairs make the possibility of North Korean involvement in International terrorism highly possible
- North Korea has been implicated in massive arms sales of missile technology, gun boats, anti-tank missiles, and rocket artillery to Iran, South American, African and Middle Eastern nations, primarily through the Korean Mining and Development Trading Corporation (KOMID) based in Central District Pyongyang with branches in Beijing and sales offices around the world
- Involvement in international kidnappings in Europe, China, Southeast Asia and Japan, as well as repeated commando raids and terrorist bombings in South Korea, essentially make South Korea a rogue or criminal state with its own terrorist agendas
- The KPA has also used the company *Hap Heng*, whose top executives were high-ranking North Korean government officials, for overseas weapons sales, selling technology to Pakistan and Iran. Pakistan's medium-range ballistic missile is considered a knock-off clone of the generic North Korean missile
- North Korea is thought or known to have exported its ballistic missile technology or missile systems to Pakistan, Iran, Libya, Nigeria, Congo, Cuba, Sudan, Syria, the United Arab Emirates, Vietnam, Yemen, and Egypt

UNDERGROUND NORTH KOREA

- North Korea is a communist ice-berg. What is able to be seen from satellite images above ground may be only a small fraction of what exists below ground, or at least beneath roofs of large, expansive and interconnected building structures which are opaque to sky-based surveillance
- North Korea probably has secret tunnels and tunnel complexes which serve a variety of military tactical and strategic purposes
- The discovery of four invasion tunnels deeply beneath the DMZ, with a capacity of moving divisions of infantry within hours, and the suspicion that there may be as many as 15-17 more as yet undiscovered invasion tunnels, lends credibility to the notion that the KPA has largely gone underground
- This is reinforced by the fact that one of the main functions of the KPA has been to undertake large scale construction projects which has included buildings and highways

CURRENT SECURITY CONCERNS – DMZ



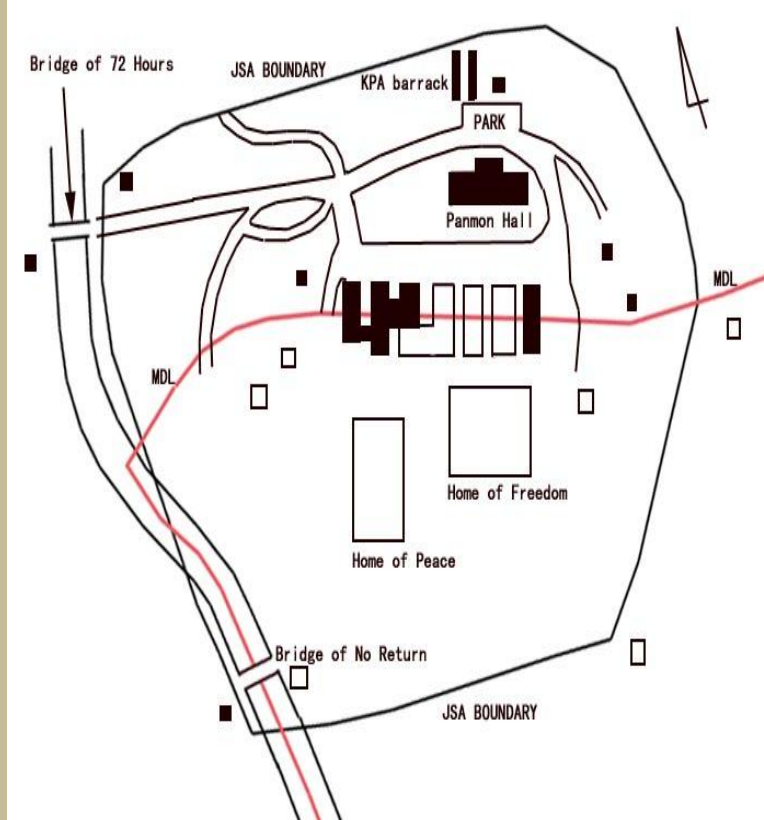
- a neutral “no-man’s-land”
- about 4000 meters wide, stretching 238 km along the 38th Parallel
- partition extends off west coast to separate islands
- official separation of North & South Korea
- technically, North & South Korea have been in a state of “cold war” since the Armistice Agreement of 1953
- most heavily militarized and defended real estate on earth
- secret tunnels deep underground from North to South Korea have been discovered
- numerous border incidents & incursions instigated by North Korean forces

Panmunjeom



- Site of the signing of the Armistice, near a village within the DMZ that was evacuated and now no longer exists
- Site now of the “Peace Museum”
- North Koreans have erected nearby the world’s tallest flagpole at an empty “propaganda” village

Joint Security Area (JSA or “Truce Village”)



- Neutral Zone of DMZ for diplomatic purposes
- Negotiations between UN Command & North Korea until 1991
- Location of numerous incidents between North and South

Border Incidents



There have been many border incidents along the DMZ and centered at the Panmunjeon JSA, mostly involving attacks by North Korean guards and military against South Korean & American military personnel. These have included commando raids across the border

Secret Incursion Tunnels

- A total of four secret “invasion” tunnels have been discovered between 1974 & 1990 underneath the DMZ, at a relatively deep level, leading from North to South Korea
- Successive tunnels show improvement in construction and design
- These tunnels are well developed and permit soldiers (2,000 per hour) in large numbers to pass safely at a relatively high volume underneath the heavily defended DMZ
- It is believed that there may be as many as 16-17 more of these tunnels yet to be discovered
- American-South Korean teams regularly search for evidence of these tunnels by drilling underground within the DMZ

Human Trafficking & Defections

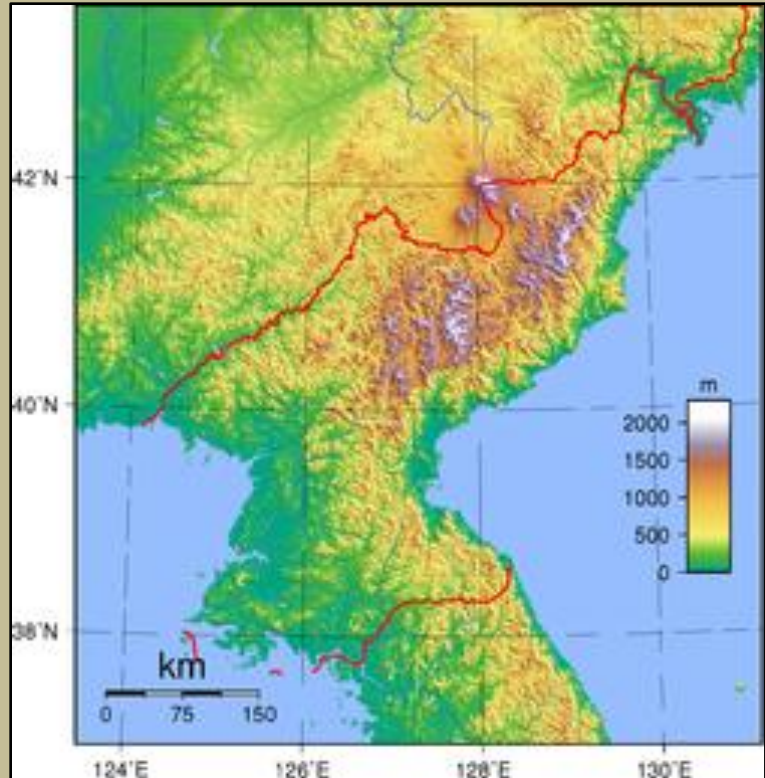
- Believed to be a widespread, underground problem
- Pleasure brigades, recruited from high school age, serve the elites in the many palaces and estates
- International kidnappings by North Korean authorities has been a chronic problem
- Increasing number of Chinese women brought into North Korea, and North Korean women in China
- Increasing defection rates in last decade, into China, and eventually back to South Korea
- Women returned by Chinese are treated harshly and imprisoned
- Defectors given protection, support and sanctuary in South Korea

Social Concerns in North Korea

- Prostitution is believed to be widespread in city areas
- State-run “satisfaction teams” (*kippumjo* or *gippeumjo*) of young, high-school age girls (approximately 2000 women between 13 and 40 years of age) selected and trained to work at the palaces of Kim Jong-il to serve the pleasures of the high government and military elite
- State managed business front the transfer of advanced weapons technology and illegal drug trafficking
- State mandated teams of commandos, assassins and kidnapers have periodically struck across international boundaries in South Korea, Japan and Southeast Asian and European countries
- Widespread famine, especially in hard-hit rural areas, with a failed state run system of food redistribution
- Medical care systems are believed to be inadequate, ill-equipped and sub-standard
- A widespread black market economy is believed to have taken hold in North Korea with widespread and rampant corruption
- Gulag system of political prisons permanently contains entire families simply accused of “anti-state” philosophy or feelings
- Countryside is believed to contain numerous “forced labor” brigades
- Increasing “defections” of North Koreans to China. If caught, women are imprisoned and often killed. If pregnant, their pregnancies are forcibly terminated or the baby killed after birth

Major Terrain Features of North Korea

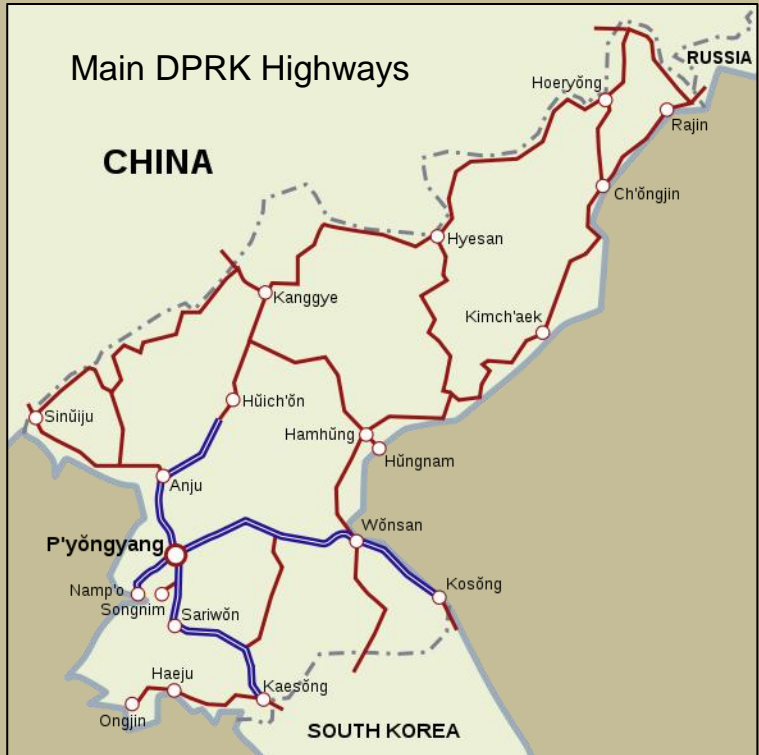
- North Korea has a west and east coast that are not connected
- North Korea is mountainous (80% of area in hills or mountain ridges), with the tallest mountains rising in the north
- Baekdu-san, tallest mountain in North Korea (2,744 meters)
- North Korea has several large, navigable rivers (Amnok, Duman & Daedong)
- North Korea has limited arable lands (about 22% of total area), primarily along the west coast lowland areas, and a thin strip along the east coast
- Less than 8% of arable land is in permanent agricultural



MAJOR LINES OF COMMUNICATIONS



- North Korea has 37 airports with paved runways and 42 airports with unpaved runways.
- It has a merchant marine fleet of 167 ocean transport vessels of various kinds
- It has a network of 5,300 kilometers of railroad track
- It has trams and trolleybuses in urban areas
- It has a road network estimated at 31,200 kilometers



RELIGION IN NORTH KOREA

- The North Korean constitution nominally guarantees religious freedom though religious practice in North Korea is *de facto* illegal, with many temples being closed
- Traditionally Buddhist and Confucianist, Korean culture was heavily influenced by Christian missionary activity, and later by Japanese Shintoism, as well as by *Cheondoism* (“Religion of the Heavenly Way”) a 20th Century Korean religious movement that had its beginnings in the 19th Century *Donghak* movement founded by Choe Jue and having origins in peasant uprisings beginning in 1812 during the *Joseon* Dynasty
- The North Korean state, being communist, is officially atheist in orientation, and Christians are said to face persecution by the North Korean government, including executions (reported by North Korean refugees)
- Because of the traditional alignment of Buddhism with Korean national culture, Buddhist worship is tolerated
- The North Korean government is said to only sponsor nominally religious activities to present the illusion of religious freedom, with four state-sanctioned churches being allowed as showcases for tourists
- Approximately 64% of the North Korean Population is classified as “Irreligious” (most of whom are adherents to the official state *Juche* ideology, a component of “Kimilsungism”); 16% practice Korean shamanism; 13.5% practice *Cheondoism*; 4.5% practice Buddhism; and 1.69% practice Christianity, of which there are reported 10,000 Protestants and about 4,000 Roman Catholics

Shared Religious Beliefs & Customs

- Traditional Korean religion consists of a common substrate of shamanism overlaid with the Koreanized Chinese “Conflation of the Three Teachings”—
 - Taoism
 - Buddhism
 - Confucianism
- Indigenous religions (Shamanism, Cheondoism and Koshindo) are also found, and in North Korea, the state promulgates an official ideology and cult of personality that functions as a kind of secular religion
- Korean shamanism has played an important role in Korean traditional culture, and remains strong in the Korean countryside
- Christianity was particularly strong influence in Korea, and there remains a following in North Korea of Christians

Korean Taoism (Togyo)

- Korean Taoism is known to have been practiced in Korea at least since the 7th Century AD, with the arrival of a Taoist priest at the Koguryŏ Kingdom
- Taoism syncretistically fused with Korean shamanism and with Buddhist and Confucianist beliefs and customs
- Strongly influenced Korean symbols (for instance, the South Korean flag) and art (shipchangsaeng, or ten animals and objects of long life)

CHEONDOISM

- Cheondoism is a 20th Century religious movement derived from the 19th Century Donghak movement (Eastern Learning movement) founded in 1860, by Ch'oe Jeu, an aristocrat-scholar from Kyŏngju who was disillusioned by the social climate of his day, with origins in peasant rebellions in the first half of the 19th Century as a consequence of period famines, floods and droughts coupled with over taxation of the peasantry by the largely defunct Choseon dynasty. Efforts were made to address problems of abuse and government reforms, but not before widespread rebellions broke out across Korea
- Choe Jeu formulated Donghak (“Eastern Learning”) ideology in reaction to the predicament of Korean peasants and poor with the aim of creating a new state characterized by political and social stability. Choe set his teachings to music so that illiterate peasants could readily comprehend and embrace this thinking, promising those who embraced his teachings with salvation. It is a movement rooted in Korean shamanism, Taoism, Buddhism and Christianity
- Cheondoism became popular as part of a nativistic Korean nationalism, and was officially sanctioned by the North Korean government as a legitimate peasant rebellion. Ch'oe Jeu actually took concepts from the Three Teachings (Confucianism, Taoism and Buddhism) combined native shamanistic beliefs, in reaction to Western Catholicism which was seen as a threat to the established way of life of Joseon Korean society

CHEONDOISM

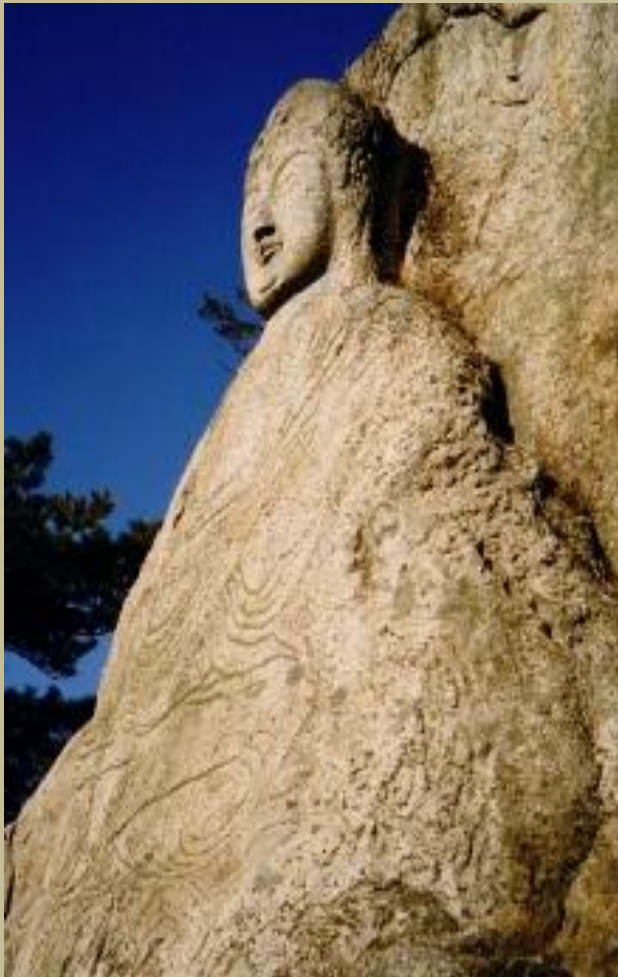
- Jeu gained enlightenment in 1860 and began preaching his religious revelations and wisdom to the Korean people, rapidly gaining a significant following from the countryside.
- The Korean authorities viewed his radical teachings and preaching as a threat, and he was executed in 1864 for misleading the people and inciting discord.
- A popular Cheondoist based uprising occurred in 1894, which, though defeated, went underground until Son Pyŏng-hŭi, a successor to Jeu, proclaimed the new revitalized religion by the name of Ch'ŭndogyo
- Cheondoism follows a similar concept of a supreme being (*Hanullim*), or God, as Christianity, that is immanent in oneself, rather than residing outside of oneself or a capricious spirit-being that decides human fate. Humanity and Hanullim are one and the same
- Currently, Cheondoism had about 1.13 million followers at its height in the early 20th Century, though the current estimates are as low as 49,000 followers with a network of about 280 churches in South Korea, and about 2.8 million followers in North Korea.

Taejonggyo (Koshindo)

- Taejonggyo is perhaps the oldest religion in Korea, (estimated 4,300 years old, dating to 2,400 BC) and is linked to Korean national identity and the national origin myth of Tan-gun (*Dangun*) as described in key texts like the *Samguk Yusa* (“Memorabilia of the Three Kingdoms”) promulgating a national legend which has been tied to patriotic mobilization of the Korean people as a consequence of their suffering under the Mongol invasions
- Dangun is also a deity of Cheondoism, and is the second pattern (*tul*) of the ITF form of Korean Taekwondo. Dangun’s birthday was called Daejonggyo on the Korean calendar and is given as October 3rd, later made into a South Korean Holiday called National Foundation Day
- The religion was originally called “Koshindo” until *Na Cheol*, leader in the resistance movement against the Japanese, organized the religion and renamed it Taejonggyo in 1909
- It was repressed under systematic policies of cultural imperialism by the Japanese occupation, but revived on a small scale as a minor Korean religion after Korean liberation

Taejonggyo (Koshindo)

Koshindo was originally a set of shamanistic rituals and beliefs tied to the worship of Dangun with a small following that largely died out by the 15th Century. It lacked any clearly defined set of ritual practices or institutional organization characteristic of religions. Koshindo was otherwise a relatively disorganized set of monotheistic beliefs and doctrines centered on a creed of *Hanul*, the “Sky-god” or “God of Heaven,” who was a single god and creator and teacher. This god was the son of the King of Heaven, *Hwanung*, who descended to earth with three thousand follows on Baekdu Mountain, and, yearning to be on earth, took human form and became called Dan-gun, the original teacher, father and King of Korea and of the Korean people, given them the arts, medicine and agriculture. A tiger and bear prayed to Hwanung to become humans. Hwanung gave them each 20 cloves of garlic and a bundle of mugwort, telling them to eat this sacred food only and remain secluded from sunlight for 100 days. After twenty days, the Tiger relented and left the cave in search of prey. The bear remained and became transformed into a woman. This woman made offerings to Hwanung in gratitude, but was sad for lack of a husband. Hwanung took pity upon her, made her his wife, and give birth to a son, *Dangun Wanggeom*, the original and first King of the ancient Korgoryeo Empire. Dangun’s birth was given in the Samguk Yusa as 2,333 BC. His mother was a woman whom Hwanung wed, who became transformed into a bear, *Ungnyeo*. Dan-gun ruled for over a thousand years before ascending himself to heaven, building the walled city of Asadal on Mount Baegak (Mt. Gunghol) near current day Pyongyang. The ancient kingdom was called Joseon (Old Joseon or Gojoseon). After 1,500 years, King Wu of the Zhou Dynasty of China enfeoffed Jizi to Joseon, and Dangun moved his capital to Jangdanyeong. Later he returned to Asadal to become a mountain god at the age of 1,908 years



Korean Buddhism (Pulgyo)

- Buddhism was introduced by the 4th Century AD into Korea, and was eventually adopted by the Koryŏ, Silla and Baekje kingdoms
- Originally Mahayana Buddhism (Great Vehicle)
- Later other forms, including Amida, or prayer Buddhism and Sŏn (Zen) or meditative Buddhism, was introduced
- Korean Buddhism developed its own distinctive traditions and flavors
- Korean Buddhism fused readily with other religious orientations, especially Taoism and Shamanism

Korean Confucianism (Yugyo)

- Confucian influence from China existed since early historic and late prehistoric times in Korea
- Confucian models influenced the organization of Korean states and social structure
- Neo-Confucian models, adopted since the founding of the Joseon Dynasty, emphasized a strongly conservative form of state government, and exam systems
- Confucianism as a state-religion reinforcing kingship existed during the Choseon Dynasty
- Confucianism remains today as a core set of traditional Korean social values that emphasize respect for hierarchy, obedience and conformity

Korean Shamanism

- Korean Shamanism consists of a spirit-healer, most often a woman, who enters a trance state of spirit-possession in order to communicate with the supernatural world of spirits and deities for the sake of living people
- Korean shamans typically undergo a customary ceremony or “k(g)ut”
- K(g)ut ceremonies vary regionally over Korea
- Being a shaman is a life-long calling & is often monetarily remunerative even if shamans were traditionally considered to be of an inferior class
- Korean shamanism is regionally variant and well developed as a traditional institution

North Korean National Culture

- North Korean national culture can primarily be described as state mandated and state controlled didactic culture that is mainly administered through the Propaganda and Agitation Department or the Culture and Arts Department of the Central Committee of the Korean Workers' Party, the main communist party organ of the North Korean state
- The KWP's General Federation of Korean Literature and Arts Unions is the parent organ for all literary and artistic organizations in North Korea, and control all cultural activities
- In the last three or four decades, the cultural and artistic life of North Korea has largely been the sole provenience of the younger Kim Jong il, who himself has produced several stage productions and has had a long time interest in North Korean cinema and western cinema in general
- The main purpose of North Korean art and literature is the promotion and symbolic reinforcement of the official state ideology of Juche as well as in the cult hero worship and promulgation of the national cult of "Kimilsungism"
- There are no known underground literary or cultural movements in North Korea

North Korean National (Mass) Culture

- **Kim Il-sung and his son Kim Jong-il have deliberately developed over the decades Korean “mass” national culture**
- **All aspects of North Korean society are defined by principles of this mass culture**
- **Arts and media under the organs of central propaganda agencies**
- **Monumental architectural and sculptural forms reflect values of central state planning**
- **“Big Brother” State Control & Monitoring are an accepted norm of this mass culture**

Arirang Festival (Mass Games)

- Arirang is a popular Korean folk song with several versions
- Arirang is the name for the North Korean Mass Games, involving hundreds of thousands of participants, which are conducted over a period of months in Pyongyang
- Arirang Festival serves as a mass cultural performance reinforcing state ideology
- Arirang celebrates the birthdays of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong-il

Juche Ideology (circa 1965) & the New Constitution (1972)

- Kim Il Sung's earliest reference to Juche Ideology is in 1955, but written references begin appearing around 1965 in response to the Sino-Soviet split
- Juche become official ideology promoting North Korean self reliance in all structural matters (political, economic, social and military)
- Kim Il Sung reorganizes his government around a new constitution consolidating his power as president
- Chooses his son, Kim Jong-il, as successor, which he groom and allows to gradually assume greater and greater authority over the daily running of the government
- Sympathetic to the North Vietnamese during the Vietnam war, Kim Il sung launches a series of commando raids and border incursions across the DMZ, attempting an assassination of South Korean President Park Chung-hee

Juche Ideology

- Juche is the National Ideology of North Korea, first appearing in 1955
- Promulgated by Kim Il-sung by the mid-60s
- Further developed & elaborated by Kim Jong il in the 70s-80s
- Juche emphasizes:
 - 1. Political independence and autonomy of the North Korean State
 - 2. Economic self-sufficiency
 - 3. Military self-reliance
- Juche comes to inform and define all aspects and values of Korean mass national culture, including the arts, the media
- Juche derived from earlier Marxist-Leninist-Stalinist philosophy, but represents a unique Korean form of communist ideology



Son'gun Policy

- Record breaking flooding between 1995-6 and then a severe drought in 1997, connected with loss of aid from both the former Soviet Union and the economic realignment of China with South Korea, results in a widespread famine in North Korea and a crippling of its entire economic redistribution system
- Kim Jong-il adopts a “military first” (Sŏn'gun) policy which consolidates his relationship with the military in control of the government, which managed to post economic gains since its adoption in 1996
- Kim Jong-il adopts limited “socialist market economic reforms” and revises the constitution to underscore Sŏn'gun policy
- Kim Jong-il embarks on a long-term program for development of nuclear weapons as well as ballistic missile systems for their long range delivery

Son'gun Policy

- “Military First” Policy promulgated by Supreme Commander Kim Jong-Il circa 1996
- Largely evolved and replaces Juche Ideology, shifting focus of “mass” national culture from the people to the military
- The Military instead of the people becomes the main driving force of socialist revolution
- All aspects of society must therefore be geared toward the promotion of the military
- Promulgated as a consequence of the general structural failure of the North Korean economic system of food redistribution and mass starvation
- Seen as a means for Kim Jong-il to reinforce his leadership and authority with the military during a period of extreme structural instability
- Constitution is rewritten to include Sŏn'gun as the overarching ideological frame of reference for the North Korean state
- Has sustained the North Korean governmental system, and resulted in continuing economic growth, but at high social costs
- Has resulted in extreme totalitarianism, social paranoia and isolation of North Korean state
- Provides a context of justification for the development and deployment of WMD

Kimilsungism & Kimjongilism

- Kimilsungism & Kimjongilism refers to the deliberate national culture hero worship of Kim Il-sung and Kim Jong-il and its promotion through state-controlled propaganda and media
- Follows similar mass media national propaganda campaigns as Hitler's Nazi Germany, Mussolini's fascist Italy, and Stalin's Soviet Union
- Apotheosis of both Kim Il-sung & Kim Jong-il as god-like, and larger than life, both figuratively and literally
- All arts, media & culture oriented to the celebration and worship of Kim Il-sung and Kim Jong-il

Reunification & Anti-Americanism

- Underlying North Korean national ideology is the question of the legitimacy of the North Korean state under a communist model that is anti-American vis-à-vis the South Korean Republic that is anti-communist and pro-American
- An ultimate goal of the North Korean nation is reunification under the North Korean government
- North Korean people are taught from a very early age to hate the Americans as imperialist aggressors whose interference has prevented reunification
- Americans constitute an officially targeted out-group reinforcing the hierarchical relations of the North Korean totalitarian state and justifying the continuing sacrifices of the North Korean people

CULTURE AND COMMUNICATION

Baseline of Traditional Korean Culture

Traditional Korean culture is difficult to characterize because it has shifted from one historical period to the next.

Nevertheless, a base-line culture, evident since the mid 19th Century, includes the following focal aspects:

1. a common hearth culture
2. a common family system
3. shared core religious beliefs and customs
4. shared annual rites and rites of passage
5. a common musical tradition
6. a common tradition of literature and language

Korean Hearth Culture

Korean hearth culture can be described as the village house culture of the ondol, or heating system used to keep Korean village dwellings warm in the winter-time

It is characterized by:

- A distinctive house building and home-living style centered on the kitchen & courtyard
- A distinctive cuisine centered on a set of main dishes, and preservation of foods using salting-pickling in jars
- A wet-rice agricultural system supplemented by vegetables, diverse grains, fish, livestock and wild meat
- Distinctive everyday wear and festival costumes

KOREAN FAMILY LIFE

- Patrilineal Identity in kin-based group & neighborhood is the basis of social structure and individual identity
- Father is head of family, makes important decisions and is responsible for the well being of the family
- Women are second-class citizens, mother is the manager of the household
- Korean families tend to be small, with one to three children
- Eldest son has responsibilities to parents and siblings
- Family welfare outweighs individual needs
- Families maintain extended and detailed genealogical records



Korean Family System

The Korean family system is central to the understanding of Korean society and culture

It is:

- a clan-based, segmentary patrilineal system
- patrilocal and primogenitorial residence patterns
- patriarchal and age/gender stratified, as evidenced by:
 - Encoding in language styles with 7 levels of status marking
 - Customary patterns of etiquette, deference and parent and ancestor worship
 - All Korean families and lineages traditionally maintain a family or kin-ship record book, that goes back many generations and traces a family's genealogical connections to other families

Traditional Social Customs in Korea

- Korean social hierarchy and speech levels:
 - Korean society is traditionally hierarchical stressing age, social status and gender stratification
 - Koreans employ seven speech styles depending upon the received relative ranks of speaker and audience
- Korean social manners and customs:
 - Koreans are inveterately polite
 - Koreans give gifts at celebrations, often of money
 - Koreans will not open gifts or money packets in public
- Korean table etiquette:
 - Koreans are fairly informal in dinning, except there are certain faux pas to be strictly observed
 - Koreans have definite drinking and serving customs based on age and social status

The Concepts of *Kibun* & *Nunchi*

- Korea social relationship are based on harmony—even if it means telling a white lie to preserve mutual face in a relationship
- *Kibun* is a Korean concept meaning “pride, face, mood, feelings, or state of mind”
- *Kibun* influences all aspects of Korean society
- Hurting another person’s *kibun* causes mutual loss of face
- It is important to know how to judge the state of someone else's *kibun*, how to avoid hurting it, and how to keep your own *kibun* at the same time
- *Nunchi* is the intuitive ability to evaluate another’s state of *kibun* by being sensitive to body language and listening to the tone of voice as well as what is said
- A superordinate’s *kibun* is damaged if his subordinates do not show proper respect. A subordinate's *kibun* is damaged if one is criticized in public
- Having *Nunchi* is critical to maintaining successful social relationships

Traditional Korean Core Values

- The Confucian code of hierarchy specifies five traditional relationships which form the model for traditional Korean society: father and son, king to his subjects, husband and wife, senior and junior brother, and friend to friend
- Family forms the central organizational model for traditional society, and filial piety, or devotion and obedience to one's parents, ancestors, and leaders, forms the core value orientation governing social relationships
- Kinship and social titles are marked by age stratification
- A core value in traditional Korean society is the maintenance of social harmony, which precludes the expression of strong emotions or deep feelings
- Considerations of "face" govern interpersonal relationships, and preserving respect and harmony often takes precedence over telling the truth or the expression of one's personal feelings or opinions

Korean Annual Rites

- Traditional Korean Annual rites includes a relatively long list of celebrations according to the Lunar Calendar
- Because the Lunar Calendar is not the same length as the Solar Calendar, the exact date of the festival days vary from year to year relative to the Solar Calendar
- In general, annual rites reflect the agricultural traditions of Korea, and mark the times for planting, growing and harvesting
- Annual rites in traditional Korea follow the Lunar Calendar and were largely related to the agricultural cycle
- New annual rites include national holidays and, especially in South Korea, Christian holidays like Christmas

KOREAN HOLIDAYS

- Söl-nal: 1st day of the 1st Lunar Month—Lunar New Year
- Taeborŭm: 15th day of the 1st Lunar Month
- Hanshik: 105th day of the Lunar Calendar
- Ch'op'ail: 8th day of the 4th Lunar Month
- Tano: 5th day of the 5th Lunar Month
- Ch'obok: 5th day of the 6th Lunar Month
- Chungbok: 15th day of the 6th Lunar Month
- Ch'ilsök: 7th day of the 7th Lunar Month
- Malbok: 9th day of the 7th Lunar Month
- Ch'usök: 15th day of the 8th Lunar Month--Harvest Moon Festival

KOREAN RITES OF PASSAGE

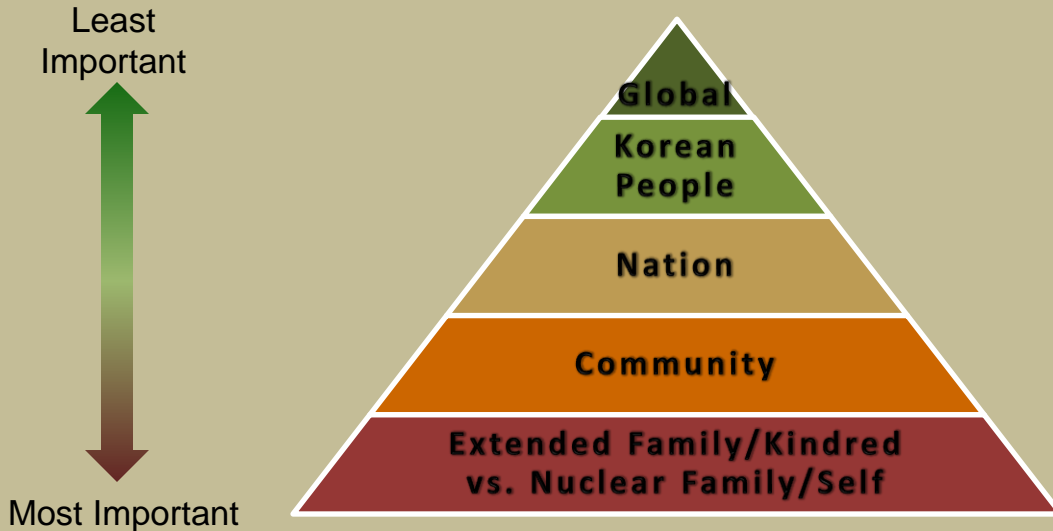
- Rites of Passage include significant events in a person's life marked by ceremonial celebrations, and include birth, birthdays, marriage and death rites and celebrations
 - Korean Rites of Passage include:
 - The day of birth
 - The hundredth day after birth
 - The first New Years day after birth
 - Marriage
 - The sixtieth Birthday
 - Death
 - Post-death Ritual Celebrations & Worship
- Modern Rites of Passage might include graduation ceremonies and promotion celebrations

Koreans



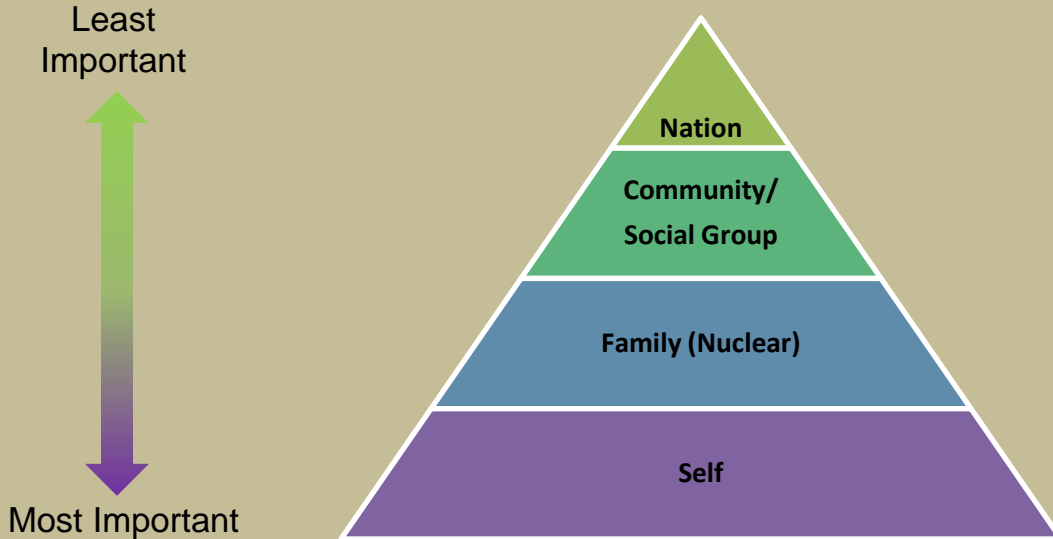
KOREAN IDENTITY

Loyalty and Decision-Making



Allegiance and loyalty is stratified and divided between different and often competing interests; family is a central value of a Korean's identity and is a key factor in decision-making. Family, community, region and position define one's loyalty; however, nationalistic sentiment is easily found within the population of the relatively young state. Self is not the least important consideration, but competes with familial and community identity, especially in structural transition of society. One cannot say that one set of values is more or less important, but depend primarily upon the situational context in which identity is construed.

AMERICAN IDENTITY

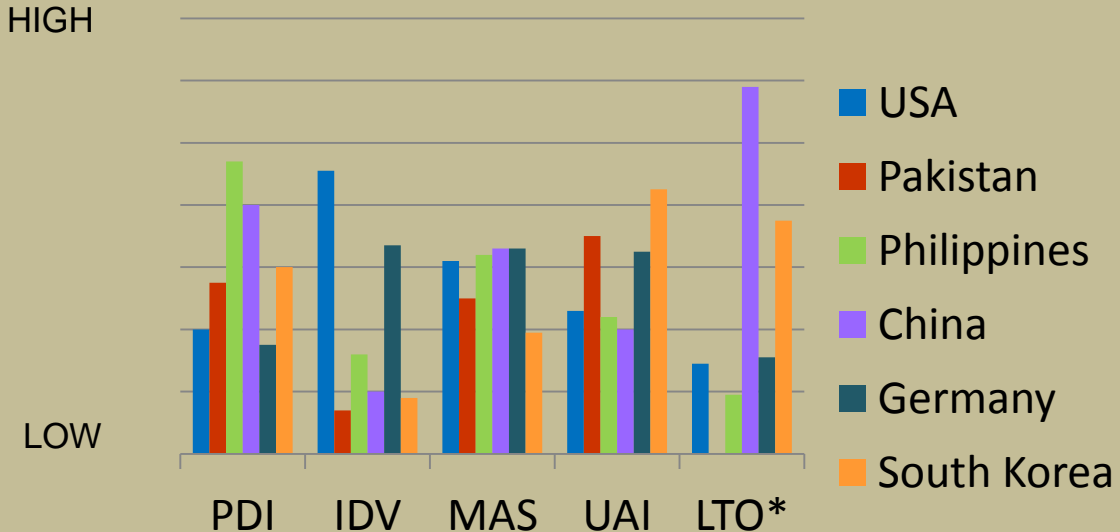


While Korean society is in general collective and group-oriented, individualism and independence are characteristic of American culture and permeate most aspects of American society. Independence is of great value in America, and Americans place emphasis on individual liberties and personal freedoms. In general, in America, individuals represent themselves, and family names usually carry less significance in America than they would in Korea. The nuclear family, more often than the extended family, serves as the primary support for most individuals in America, but individuals are expected at some point in their early adult life to support themselves. Additionally, in America an individual's social network is an important factor that builds their identity. Americans share a strong sense of national unity, and most Americans will possess a strong sense of nationalism.

KOREAN CULTURAL VALUES

- *Sadaejuui*—“dealing with the great” entails “loving and admiring the great and the powerful” a concept arising with nationalism in the late 19th Century but associated with the restoration and retention of core traditional Korean values focused upon positive regard and deference for hierarchy and authority
- Patrilineal Kinship System—sibs and clans linked by relation to fictive ancestors, mythology
- Clan based segmentary lineage system discourages extraneous relations
- Religious values and worldviews reinforce traditional ties of kinship and identity
- Primogenitorial inheritance
- Age Stratified—deference to elders is mandatory
- Language has seven levels of hieratic speech styles
- Sasang Typology is traditional medical typology which sorts personalities on the basis of character traits (sorrow, anger, gladness and enjoyment)
- Shamanistic tradition is strong and deeply rooted, dealing with misfortune and anti-structure that reinforces an otherwise stratified and strict social structure through permissible rites of reversal
- Educational achievement is highly valued—Confucian ethos
- Process and relationship oriented: great amounts of time are spent on building personal relationships and trust before any business is done
- Familial independence and individual identity linked to national independence.
- Blood links all Koreans together, and Koreans are a single, pure race, united by a common language and culture, the traditions of which the Koreans are quite proud.

Hofstede's Cultural Value Country Comparison



PDI - Power Distance Index

IDV - Individualism

MAS - Masculinity

UAI - Uncertainty Avoidance Index

LTO - Long-Term Orientation

* For Long Term Orientation (LTO), Pakistan has a rank of zero.

GEERT HOFSTEDE'S FIVE DIMENSIONS OF CULTURE

- Low vs. High Power Distance (PDI)
 - North Korea is a moderately high power society as hierarchies and positions are adhered to and are well established
- Individualism vs. Collectivism (IDV)
 - North Korea is a collectivist society governed by loyalties and responsibilities to the family and the corporate; individuals answer to the group as a whole
- Masculine vs. Femininity (MAS)
 - North Korea is a relatively masculine society with defined gender roles; however, women are progressively performing roles that are traditionally male (public leadership, government)
- Low vs. High Uncertainty Avoidance (UAI)
 - A high uncertainty avoidance society like North Korea prefers rules and structured activities such as tribal laws and religious values to dictate daily life; uncommon opinions are not readily tolerated; superstitions can also play a role
- Long vs. Short Term Orientation (LTO)
 - North Koreans are a relatively long term oriented society where saving face, respect for tradition, and immediate stability are important

Application of the Five Dimensions of Culture

- High Power Distance
 - It is critical to identify the power broker of a community, whether it be a military or government official, religious leader, businessman, or the eldest male; directly dealing in a positive manner with those with power will increase the effectiveness of meetings and negotiations
- Collective Society
 - For any decisions of significance, expect a consensus approach that may require patience on the part of Soldiers
- Masculine Society
 - In North Korea, men and women have distinct gender roles and norms of interaction that may not conform to Western values; consult your Rules of Interaction should any situations of concern arise
- High Uncertainty Avoidance
 - Soldiers should attempt to provide full explanations, assurances, and demonstrate beneficial outcomes when introducing new concepts. Soldiers should not criticize, however constructively, religious and traditional beliefs and ways. It is also advisable to arrange meetings that do not disrupt daily religious and cultural rituals, such as paying homage to the “Eternal President”
- Long Term Orientation
 - At the end of a meeting, do not expect command decisions to be made in a timely manner; all processes must adhere to the implicit rules of social harmony in the North Korea

KOREAN SOCIAL ETIQUETTE

- In general, courtesy and formal politeness is all important in the Korean household as well as in all Korean defined social settings
- Koreans will normally line up to thank their hosts for a nice dinner party or gathering
- One does not write a person's living name in red ink, because a deceased person's name is crossed off the books in red ink
- Traditionally, Koreans bowed when greeting, a straight-backed slow motion bow, with the chin cupped at one's chest, and hands cupped together at the waist or lap. In modern times, Koreans will shake hands in greeting, in the Western style
- Koreans consider it impolite and bold to make direct eye contact in conversation, but generally make conversation while avoiding eye-contact
- In the countryside of traditional Korea, visiting without notice was acceptable, though it is common in the city to give a telephone call beforehand
- Koreans do not normally touch one another in public, unless a relative or very close friend. Children are an exception to this rule, and children can be fondled and touched and grabbed fairly indiscriminately, as a sign of affection and as a complement of the child's good looks

KOREAN SOCIAL ETIQUETTE-VISITING

- It is common for guests to meet at a common spot and travel together
- You may arrive up to 30 minutes late without giving offence
- Remove your shoes before entering the house
- The hosts greet each guest individually
- The host pours drinks for the guests in their presence. The hostess does not pour drinks
- The hosts usually accompany guests to the gate or to their car because they believe that it is insulting to wish your guests farewell indoors
- Send a thank you note the following day after being invited to dinner
- One always removes one's shoes upon entering a Korean household or temple, and never puts one's shoes back on with one's back facing the place of worship

KOREAN SOCIAL ETIQUETTE-GIFTS

- Gifts express a great deal about a relationship and are always reciprocated. It is inconsiderate to give someone an expensive gift if you know that they cannot afford to reciprocate accordingly
- Bring fruit or good quality chocolates or flowers if invited to a Korean's home
- Gifts should be wrapped nicely. Wrap gifts in red or yellow paper, since these are royal colors. Alternatively, use yellow or pink paper since they denote happiness
- Do not wrap gifts in green, white, or black paper
- Koreans exchange gifts as an important part of wedding celebrations and one-year or sixty-year birthday celebrations, but do not open the gifts in public
- A small white envelope with money is a customary gift for weddings and funerals. Money should never be given openly from hand to hand except in a cash transaction at a store or market
- Since the number four is unlucky, gifts should be given in odd sets, or in pairs, but not in fours or multiples of fours. Giving 7 of an item is considered lucky
- If one gives a gift or something to another person, it is customary and polite to do it with both hands, usually with the right hand holding the object, supported by the left hand
- Do not sign a card in red ink
- Use both hands when offering a gift
- Gifts are not opened when received

DINING WITH KOREANS

- Koreans dine on low tables while sitting on pillows on the floor. Breakfast, lunch or dinner all follow the same basic dining patterns
- Koreans will use chopsticks and a bowl of rice, to which they will take bits and pieces of a variety central plates and dishes served at the table
- Koreans may exchange a spoon or a fork for chopsticks, but using one's fingers or hands is rude. Koreans will not place their chopsticks on the table until they are finished with their meal, but will rest them on the edge of their bowl or dish
- Sticking a pair of chopsticks into a bowl of rice to rest is considered emblematic of the worship of the dead, and should be avoided. Never point or cross chopsticks, or pierce food with them. Chopsticks are placed on the table every few bites or when talking or drinking
- It is customary to bring the hostess a gift, which will be normally put away without being opened, though one may tell the hostess what the gift is and grant permission for her to open it.
- Wait to be told where to sit. There is often a strict protocol to be followed
- The eldest are served first. The oldest or most senior person is the one who starts the eating process.
- Do not pick up food with your hands. Fruit should be speared with a toothpick. Bones and shells should be put on the table or an extra plate. Try a little bit of everything. It is acceptable to ask what something is
- Refuse the first offer of second helpings. Finish everything on your plate. Indicate you are finished eating by placing your chopsticks on the chopstick rest or on the table. Never place them parallel across your rice bowl

DINING WITH KOREANS

- Koreans do not blow their nose at the dinner table, which is considered rude and mildly offensive, but take their leave from the table
- It is considered a sign of good food to slurp one's soup and to smack one's lips during a meal, but not in a too obvious a manner
- One does not tip in a restaurant
- One should avoid talking loudly or too much during dinner, but maintain polite conversation in a low voice
- Going "Dutch" to a restaurant is not common in Korea, but it is considered polite to pay discretely if one has invited others to dinner
- At a dinner party in a home, a host will normally deprecate the food, saying that it is not good enough to be eaten, though it is expected that one helps oneself to the food and though continuously urged to take more, it is expected and polite to firmly refuse
- When it comes to accepting second servings of food, it is customary in Korea to refuse the first offer
- But if you want more, accept the second offer. It is a compliment to go back for more
- Table manners in South Korea say that you don't leave anything on your plate
- Only put enough food on your plate that you can finish
- Once a person has finished eating, they usually have a glass of water and leave the table without much ceremony
- In a restaurant or more formal setting however, people will always wait till everyone is seated and no one will not leave the table until everyone has finished
- Once everyone has finished eating, everyone usually gets up and leaves the table quite abruptly

DRINKING WITH KOREANS

- Koreans do not pour their own drinks at the dinner table, but wait to pour their neighbor's at the dinner table
- If the person who pours you the drink is socially higher ranked (richer, older, higher ranking, etc.) it is customary to hold the drink to the person with both hands on the glass, and then it is customary to face away from that individual when drink what has been poured
- If you are pouring a drink to an elder, it is customary as well to hold the bottle or container with both hands while pouring
- If receiving a drink from a person, it is polite to rest the glass in the left palm and to hold it with the right hand, or to hold it with both hands, with a slight bow of the head
- If you are a senior in relation to a junior, then when pouring a drink, or with peers, then receiving and giving a drink with the right hand is typical and acceptable practice
- Using two hands is more polite, even when among intimates or friends, and especially when the situation is considered formal
- If a Korean says "one shot" when drinking socially, and it is customary for all people to finish their drink in a single gulp. If the glass is not completely empty, it should not be refilled. If it is empty, it should be refilled right away. Leaving a glass empty is considered rude and impolite
- It is sometimes customary for a social superior or a peer to give a person an empty shot glass, and sometimes for a junior to give a shot glass to a senior if they are close. This implies that the giver of the glass is going to fill it and wants the receiver to drink the shot. One must eventually pretend to drink from the glass before placing it on the table, even if it is unfinished
- After finishing the glass, it is returned to the giver and then refilled by the receiver. Keeping the glass for a long time after finishing it is rude

MEETINGS AND NEGOTIATIONS

- South Koreans prefer to do business with people with whom they have a personal connection
- It is therefore crucial to be introduced by a third-party
- Relationships are developed through informal social gatherings that often involve a considerable amount of drinking and eating
- Individuals who have established mutual trust and respect will work hard to make each other successful
- South Koreans treat legal documents as memorandums of understanding
- They view contracts as loosely structured consensus statements that broadly define agreement and leave room for flexibility and adjustment as needed
- Under no circumstances insult or to criticize in front of others
- Sensitive matters may often be raised indirectly through the intermediary that first made the introductions
- South Koreans are extremely direct communicators. They are not averse to asking questions if they do not understand what has been said or need additional clarification
- This is a culture where "less is more" when communicating. Respond to questions directly and concisely
- Since there is a tendency to say "yes" to questions so that you do not lose face, the way you phrase a question is crucial. It is better to ask, "When can we expect shipment?" than "Can we expect shipment in 3 weeks?", since this question requires a direct response

GREETINGS

To foster rapport and willingness to cooperate:

- Greetings follow strict rules of protocol
- Many Koreans shake hands “Western style” with expatriates after the bow, thereby blending both cultural styles
- The person of lower status bows to the person of higher status, yet it is the most senior person who initiates the handshake
- The person who initiates the bow says, "*man-na-suh pan-gop-sumnida*", which means "pleased to meet you"
- Information about the other person will be given to the person they are being introduced to in advance of the actual meeting
- Wait to be introduced at a social gathering
- When you leave a social gathering, say good-bye and bow to each person individually

BUSINESS MEETING ETIQUETTE

- Appointments are required and should be made 3 to 4 weeks in advance
- You should arrive on time for meetings as this demonstrates respect for the person you are meeting
- The most senior South Korean generally enters the room first
- It is a good idea to send both an agenda and back-up material including information about your company and client testimonials prior to the meeting
- The main purpose of the first meeting is to get to know each other, and to foster rapport for the future
- The first meeting is not meant to get “down to business”
- Meetings are used to understand a client's needs and challenges
- Initial meetings lay the foundation for building the relationship
- Do not remove your jacket unless the most senior Korean does so
- Have all written materials available in both English and Korean

DRESS ETIQUETTE & BUSINESS CARDS

Dress Etiquette

- Conservative business attire is a must
- Men should wear dark- colored, conservative business suits with white shirts
- Men should avoid wearing jewelry other than a watch or a wedding ring
- Women should dress conservatively and wear subdued colors.

Business Cards

- Business cards are exchanged after the initial introductions in a highly ritualized manner
- The way you treat someone's business card is indicative of the way you will treat the person
- Have one side of your business card translated into Korean
- Present your business card using both hands with the Korean side facing up so that it is readable by the recipient
- Examine any business card you receive carefully
- Put the business cards in a business card case or a portfolio
- Never write on someone's business card in their presence

KOREAN ETHNICITY

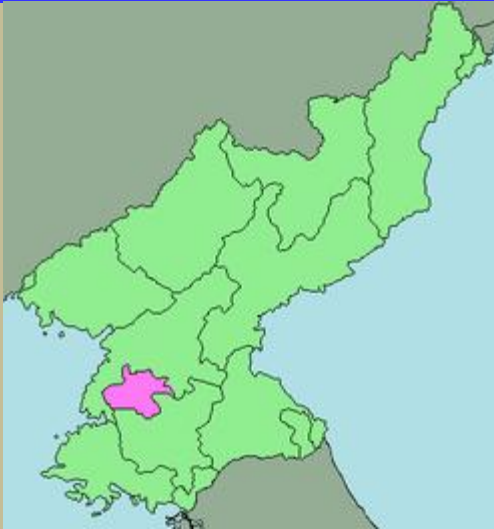
- Koreans are 99% racially and ethno-linguistically homogeneous
- Koreans, north and south, take great pride in their racial and cultural homogeneity, and link this identity of blood and tradition to their sense of nationhood
- Koreans have since the middle of the 19th Century (onset of Western and Japanese imperialism) formed diaspora refugee and immigrant communities that are far flung, and yet still retain some sense of connection to their Korean homeland

KOREAN ADMINISTRATIVE PROVINCES



- North Korea is administratively organized into three levels
- At the highest level are 9 provinces, two directly governed cities, and three special administrative areas
- At the second level are cities, counties, wards and districts
- At the third level are towns, neighborhoods, villages and worker's districts

P'YŎNGYANG



Politics Directly governed city, capital of North Korea, originally founded in 1122 BCE; population (2008) 3,245, 388; divided into 19 wards and four counties.
Area: 3,194 sq. km

Economy: Administrative-redistributive capital of North Korea and core metropolitan region: Administrative services; Industry including DPRK's weapons industry; cooperative farms

Health: Chronic shortages in food distribution system for the region; Problems of energy, pollution and disease in core area

Dangers/Concerns: Center of North Korean political system; well defended in the advent of war; most densely populated region in North Korea

Significance: An ancient city, with almost continuous successive occupation, the city was completely rebuilt following the Korean war and exemplifies Juche ideology in state construction projects

Kaesŏng



Political: Directly Governed City
Area: 1,309 sq. km.
Population: 308,440 (2008)
24 districts (dong) & 3 villages (ri)

Economy: Kaesong Industrial Region (jewel processing, embroidery, porcelain, textiles, food processing, including drinks & alcohol, resin, timber, shoes, musical instruments, glass, school supplies, agricultural machinery & tractor parts; strong agricultural region with irrigation and pumped water supply (maize, rice, soybeans, wheat & barley, vegetables, ginseng fruits, including peaches, apples and persimmons, livestock and sericulture, food processing,

Health: General health concerns of North Korea

Dangers/Concerns: General concerns of North Korea: situated along the DMZ: border separated by a river

Significance: Neolithic settlement; realm of Mahan confederacy; Only one of two areas of foreign tourists; Distinctive cuisine

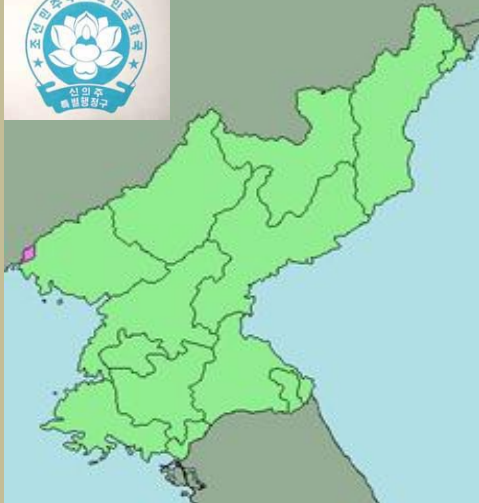
Kŭmgangsan



Politics:	Special tourist region, basis of relations between North & South Korea
Economy:	Popular tourist region, part of Taebaek mountain range, known for its scenic landscape
Health:	General national health concerns
Dangers/ Concerns:	Tourist killed by soldiers on the beach after straying away from main area
Significance:	Presence of Mount Geumgan, and tourist region, many scenic spots



Sinŭiju



Political: Special Administrative Region established in 2002, directly governed

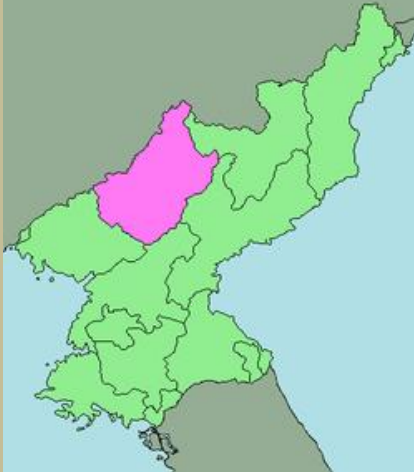
Economy: Reforms planned by the North Koreans were put on hold after the arrest of Chinese-Dutch business man Yang Bin for fraud by the Chinese government. Though the administrative area still exists, it is believed as of 2008 that the North Koreans have abandoned the economic reform project.

Health: NA: General health concerns shared by the rest of North Korea

Dangers/Concerns: On the border with China: one of the few infrastructural linkages between North Korea and outside.

Significance: Modeled after China's Special Administrative Regions, represent an attempt by the North Korean government to introduce market economics into North Korean society in a controlled way.

Chagang



Political: Capital: Kanggye
Population: 1,299,830
Area: 16,613 square km
15 counties and 2 cities; rugged, mountainous region (98% total land area); severe climate.

Economy: Lumber processing, timber; mining (lead, zinc, gold, copper, molybdenum, tungsten, antimony, graphite, apatite, alunite, limestone, calcium carbonate, anthracite, iron, crystals and gems), fresh water resources, machine tool production, silk milling, glassware, livestock (cattle, chickens), beekeeping, dry-field farming (maize, potatoes, wheat, soybeans, cabbage, radish, pepper, sesame, cucumber), mining, chemical industry, hydroelectric power

Health: Strongly affected by food redistribution; widespread malnutrition

Dangers/Concerns: Risk of refugees fleeing into China; presence of Taepodong Missile base, capable of reaching Okinawa

Significance: Area of industrial relocation before the Korean war. Common border with China; Poor agricultural region; location of Kogoryo tombs

North Hamgyŏng



Political:	Capital: Ch'ongjin Population: 2,327,362 Area: 20,345 square km 3 Cities and 12 counties
Economy:	Orchards (pears), wet rice, dry-field farming (millet, wheat, barley, maize, soybean), sericulture,, potatoes, livestock, fishing, coal mining (lignite), copper, quartzite, limestone, gold, fishing, timber, ceramic manufacturing, iron mining, chemical production
Health:	General health concerns; pandemic malnutrition
Dangers/ Concerns:	Site of North Korea Nuclear Weapons tests; Coastal sites of Ballistic Missile Launching pads; refugees across to China
Significance:	Location of paleolithic sites and tomb sites from the Korgoryeo period; presence of ballistic missile launch sites, borders Russia, China and the Sea of Japan; region well connected by railroad lines

Rasŏn



Political: North Korean City, location of Rajin-Sonbong Economic Special Zone; Directly Governed City

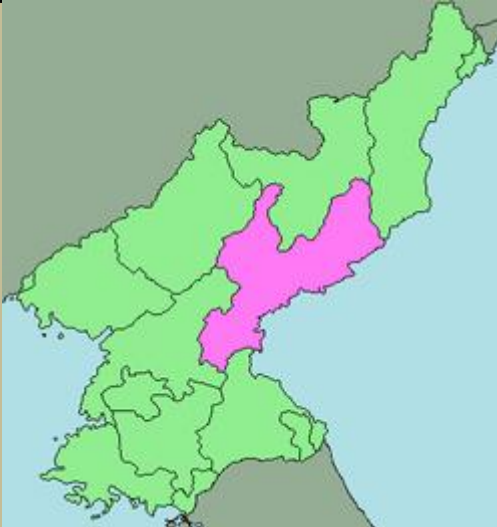
Economy: Industrial manufacturing; uranium; electrical power (coal-based)

Health: General health concerns

Dangers/Concerns: General concerns; defection of North Korean refugees

Significance: Rail linkage to Russia, connecting to the Trans-Siberian Railroad system

South Hamgyŏng



Political: Capital: Hamhung
Population: 3,066,013
Area: 18,970 square km.
Five cities, 2 districts and 15 counties; mountainous region, highly forested

Economy: Timber, lumber production, mining (silver, iron, graphite, jade, gold, cuprite, fluor spar, limestone, silver, copper, zinc, lead, lignite, talc, silica, quartzite), fishing, rice, red beans, vegetables, silkworms, orcharding, livestock, dry-field farming (potatoes, oats, millet, barley, soybeans, maize, oats; hydroelectric power; machine industry; manufacturing

Health: General health concerns

Dangers/Concerns: Location of Yodok Concentration Camp

Significance: Long eastern coast along Sea of Japan; mild climate; mountains feed many small streams

North Hwanghae



Political: Capital: Sariwŏn
Population: unknown
Area: 18,970 square km
Recent reports (2010) indicate 19 counties and 4 cities/urban districts

Economy: Agriculture; highly urbanized area; industrial region

Health: Bears some of the burden of food-shortages/distribution to Pyongyang, north of the province

**Dangers/
Concerns:** Southern border demilitarized zone; high population densities in region, severe weather conditions

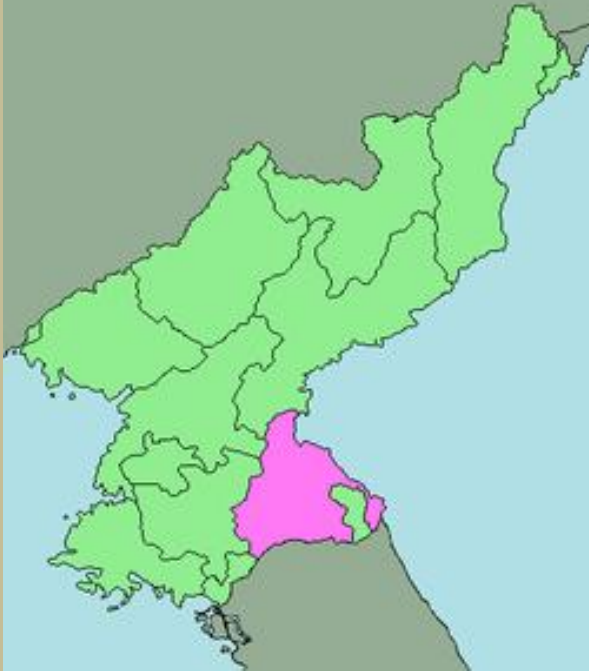
Significance: Many historical landmarks—tombs of many Koryo kings, fortresses and temples; Presence of Kaesong Special Economic Development Zone

South Hwanghae



Political:	Capital: Haeju, largest port in southern North Korea; Population: 2,310,485 est.; One main city and 19 counties
Economy:	Mainly agriculture: vegetables, fruit orchards, grain (wheat, maize), rice, cotton, fishing, gold, silica sand, marble
Health:	Area not as adversely affected by the “Arduous March” of the 90s, yet malnutrition and poverty are probably an endemic concern
Dangers/Concerns:	Southern border is demilitarized zone; South Korean islands off western coast; Region heavily hit by famine and starvation in the 1990s-2000s
Significance:	“Bread basket” of North Korea: location of ancient burial mounds, cultural artifacts, Buddhist temples; region where Christian Protestantism first took hold in Korea

KANGWŎN



Political: Capital: Wŏnsan
Population: 1,477,582
Two cities and 15 counties

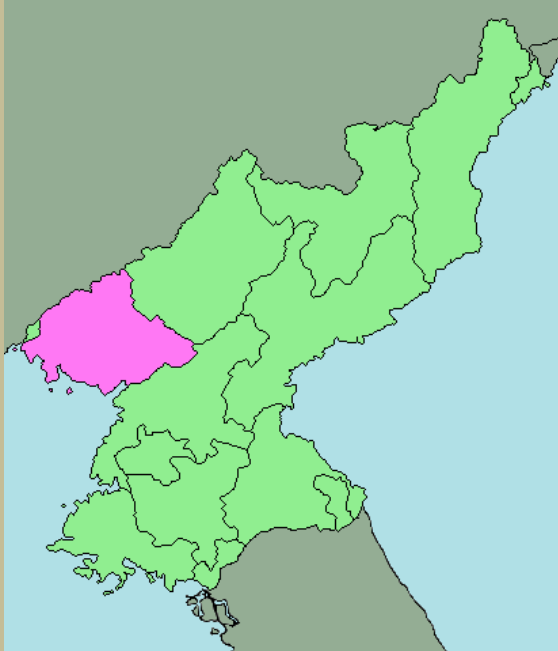
Economy: Region dominated by the Taebaek Mountains: Rice farming, maize, soy beans, wheat, barley, oats, millet, sericulture, lumber, orchards, tile manufacturing; gold, anthracite, silver, zinc, lead, barite, graphite, tungsten, molybdenum, hydroelectric production

Health: General health concerns of North Korea: widespread malnutrition.

Dangers/Concerns: Location of chemical weapons storage facilities with numerous underground tunnels, as well as possible host to biological weapons.

Significance: Originally formed as one of the 8 Choseon Provinces in 1395. Split from South Korea Kangwon-do in 1945, previously a single province Kumgangsan Tourist area split off in 2002

NORTH P'YŎNGAN



Political: Capital: Sinuiju
Population: 2,726,662
Area: 12, 191 sq. km
3 cities, 22 counties

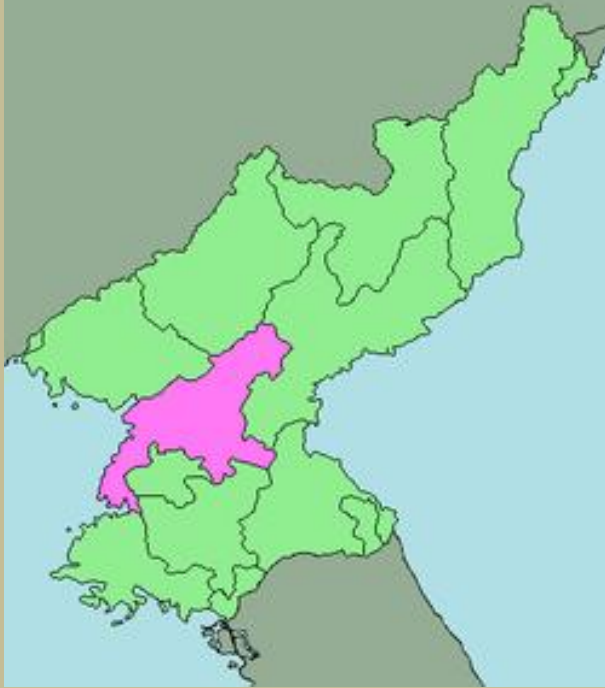
Economy: Sericulture, agriculture (maize, rice, peanuts, peppers, sweet potatoes); gold tungsten, coal, lumber, sheep, alcohol, fish

Health: General risk of malnutrition; untreated, unreported diseases; human rights abuses

**Dangers/
Concerns:** Risk of border crossings by refugees into China; presence of ballistic missile launch sites

Significance: Presence of Sinuiju Special Administrative Region, Friendship Bridge; mutual border with China; presence of coastline with Bay of Korea

SOUTH P'YŎNGAN



Political

Capital: P'yŏngsŏng
 Population: 4,051,696
 Area: 12,330 sq. km.
 Five major cities, 19 counties,
 1 special city and 3 districts

Economy:

Agriculture (dry field farming, mainly maize, sweet potatoes, rice); lumber; tungsten, gold, copper, zinc; textiles & ironware; manufacturing

Health:

Poverty, malnutrition, high population densities

**Dangers/
Concerns:**

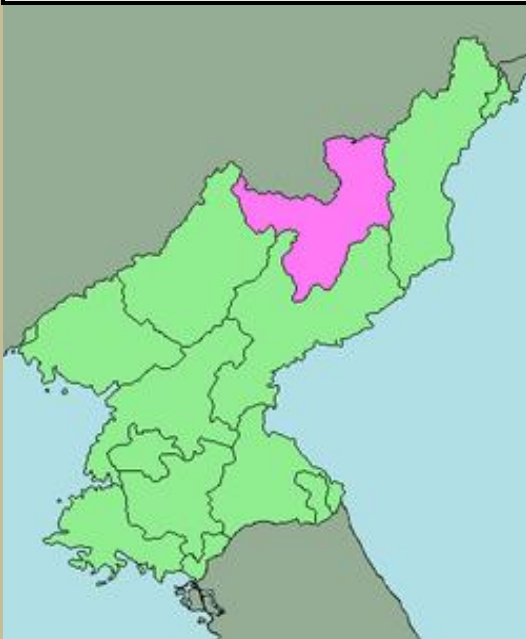
None

Significance:

Borders Yellow Sea and Korea Bay



Ryongyang



Political: Capital City: Hyesan
Population: 719,269 (2008)
11 counties
Area: 14,317 sq. km.

Economy: One of the poorest provinces of North Korea;
mountainous, rugged landscape: timber, mining (copper, coal), farming (hops for export)

Health: One of areas hardest hit by famine in the mid 90s

Dangers/Concerns: Many refugees have fled from this province into China across the Yalu

Significance: Birthplace of Kim Jong-il;
presence of Baekdu Mountain

LANGUAGE GUIDE

Korean Language Guide

- Official & National language – Korean
- Dialectical Differences between North and South Standards are a function of differences between the Seoul and Pyongyang standards, official policies affecting standardization and functional organization of North and South Korean languages, particularly in the north, and in the different histories of North and South Korea since partition, with different loan words, different political or social vocabulary
- Dialectical differences between North and South are found in alphabets, pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, spacing of words, and spelling
- Korean vocabulary is constituted by three main classes of words. It is estimated that from 30 to 60% of the vocabulary is derived either directly from written Chinese or indirectly coined using Chinese or Japanese characters. From 40 to 70% of the vocabulary is constituted by native Korean words, mixed with the third class of words made by means of onomatopoeia or by mimesis
- A small set of words have been borrowed from Sanskrit, Mongolian, and, more recently, from English, Japanese and German, a few of which words were borrowed indirectly via Japanese

Dialectical Differences between North & South Korean

Different Vocabulary

Word		Meaning	
North pronun.	South pronun.		
munhwajutaek (munhwajut'aek)	apateu (ap'at'ü)	Apartment	(appateu/appat'ü) is also used in the North.
joseonmal (chosŏnmal)	han-gugeo(han'gugeo)	Korean language	
gwakbap (kwakpap)	dosirak (tosirak)	lunch box	

Words written similarly but pronounced differently.

Meaning	Pronunciation
	North (RR/MR)
wide	neolta (nŏlta)
Amnok River	amrokgang (amrokkang)
independence	dongrip (tongrip)
idea / sense / conception	gwallyeom (kwallyŏm)
innovative	hyeoksinjjeok (hyŏksintchŏk)

Dialectal Differences between North & South Korean

Differences in Grammatical Construction

Word		Meaning	Remarks
North pronun.	South pronun.		
doeyeotda (toeyötta)	doeeotda (toeötta)	past tense of 되다 (doeda/toeda), "to become"	All similar grammar forms of verbs or adjectives that end in ㅣ in the stem (i.e. ㅣ, ㅁㅣ, ㅂㅣ, ㄷㅣ, ㅌㅣ and ㄴㅣ) in the North use 여 instead of the South's 어.
gomawayo (komawayo)	gomawoyo (komawöyo)	thanks	ㅁ-irregular verbs in the North use 와 (wa) for all those with a positive ending vowel; this only happens in the South if the verb stem has only one syllable.

Differences in Transcription of Place Names, with South Korean tending more towards English pronunciation and North Korean toward the original pronunciation.

Original name	North Korea transliteration	English name	South Korea transliteration
	Pronunciation	Spelling	Pronunciation
København	koeppenhabeu (k'oeppenhabŭn)	코펜하겐	kopenhagen (k'op'enhagen)
al-Qāhirah	kkahira (kkahira)	카이로	kairo (k'airo)

Dialectical Differences between North & South Korean

Vocabulary with different spelling and pronunciation.

Word		Meaning	Remarks
North pronun.	South pronun.		
ryeongryang (ryŏngryang)	yeongnyang (yŏngnyang)	strength	Initial <i>r</i> 's are dropped if followed by <i>i</i> or <i>y</i> in the South Korean dialect.
rodong (rodong)	nodong (nodong)	work	Initial <i>r</i> 's are demoted to an <i>n</i> if not followed by <i>i</i> or <i>y</i> in the South Korean dialect.

Words with different spellings but similar pronunciations.

Meaning	Pronunciation (RR/MR)	Remarks
sunshine	haepit (haepit)	The "sai siot" ('ㅅ' used for indicating sound change) is almost never written out in the North.
Hallasan	hallasan (hallasan)	When a ㅌ-ㅌ combination is pronounced as <i>ll</i> , the original Hangul spelling is kept in the North, while the Hangul is changed in the South.
rules	gyuyul (kyuyul)	Where the original hanja is spelt "열" or "를" and follows a vowel, the initial ㅍ is not pronounced in the North, making the pronunciation identical with that in the South where the ㅍ is dropped in the spelling.

Key Phrases-Vocabulary

English	Romanized Korean	Phonetic Pronunciation
Korean	Hanguk-mal (language)/hanguk-saram(people)	Hahn-gook-mahl/Hahn-gook-sah-rahm
English	yeongeo	Yuhng-uh
What is your name?	Ee-ru-mee moo-ot-shim-nee-ka	Eh-ruh-mee muh-oht-shim-nee-kah
Good morning!	An-nyong ha-se-yo	Ahn-neeyong hah-seh-yoh
Good noontime!	An-nyong ha-se-yo	Ahn-neeyong hah-seh-yoh
Good afternoon!	An-nyong ha-se-yo	Ahn-neeyong hah-seh-yoh
Good Evening!	An-nyong ha-se-yo	Ahn-neeyong hah-seh-yoh
Thank You!	Kam-sa-hap-ni-da	kahm-sah-hahp-nee-dah
How much?	I-go alma-imnikka	Ee-goh ahal-mah-eem-nee-kkah?
yes	neh	neh
no	Ah-nio	Ah-neeoh
Where's the bathroom?	Hwa-jang-sil eodi-ae-i-sum-nikka	Hwah-jahng-s(sh)eel uhdee-ae-ee-soom-nee-kkah?

Korean Numbers—0-19

English	Romanized Korean	Sino-Korean
0	yuhng	Cheh-roh
1	Hana (hah-nah)	il
2	Dul (d(t)ool)	i
3	Set (seht)	Sam (sahm)
4	Net (neht)	Sa (sah)
5	Tah-sot	oh
6	Yo-sot	yuk
7	Eel-kop	chill
8	Yo-dolp	pahl
9	a-hop	koo
10	yol	ship
11	Yol-hah-na	Ship-il
12	Yol dul	Sibi
13	Yol set	Sip sam
14	Yol net	Sip sa
15	Yol daseot	sibo
16	Yol yeoseot	Simn yuk
17	Yol ilgop	Sip chil
18	Yol yeodeol	Sip-pal
19	Yol ahop	Sip gu

Korean Numbers—20-1,000,000

English	Romanized Korean	Sino-Korean
20	Su-mool	ee-ship
30	So-run	Sahm-ship
40	Ma-hun	Sah-ship
50	sheen	o-ship
60	Yeh-soon	Yook-ship
70	ee-run	Chil-sip
80	Yo-dun	Pahl-ship
90	Ah-hun	Koo-ship
100	paek	paek
200	ee-paek	ee-paek
400	Sah-paek	Sah-paek
600	Yook-paek	Yook-paek
1000	chon	chon
2000	ee-chon	ee-chon
10,000	mahn	mahn
100,000	Ship-mahn	Ship-mahn
1,000,000	Paek-mahn	Paek-mahn
100,000,000	jal	eok
100,000,000,000	ul	jo

Korean Counter Words

Revised Roman	English Equivalent
beol	Clothing items/pieces
bun	People (polite)
cheok	Boats or ships
chae	houses
dae	Vehicles (cars, planes) or machines
dan	Bunches of onions (green or Welsh)
gae	“things” in general, if unsure of right counting word to use
geuru	trees
gwa	lessons
gwon	books
jang	paper
jaru	Long handled things (writing implements, shovels, swords, rifles, knives, pistols)
kyeolle	Gloves/socks
mari	animals
myeong	People (informal)
pil	Uncut cloth/fabric
pogi	Chinese Cabbages
pun	pennies

Key Phrases--Shopping

English	Romanized Korean
I'm glad to meet you	Mahn-nah-so bahn-gah-wo-yo
Good-bye (by host)	Ahn-nyong-hee kah-seh-yo
Good-bye (by guest)	Ahn-nyong-hee kay-seh-yo
How much (does this cost)?	Ol-mah ee-nee-ka?
Do you have...?	...itsum-nee-ka?
Show me another one.	Tarun-got johm po-yo ju-seh-yo
This is expensive?	Pee-sah-yo.
I would like to buy...	...sahgo see-pun-deh-yo
Please show me another one	Dah-run-gut itsum-nee-ka
Please show me a cheaper one	do-san-gut itsum-nee-ka
Can you reduce the price?	Chom sah-keh-he ju-seh-yo
Give me my change.	Jahn-dawn ju-seh-yo
Do you take an order?	Mah-chool-su itso-yo?
Can you wrap it up for me?	Chom sah ju-she-yo?

Key Phrases--Taxi

English	Romanized Korean
Would you call a taxi for me, please?	Taxee johm, bul-lo ju-shee-get-so-yo?
Please take me to the nearest US military installation.	Kah-hah-woon mee-koon-boo-dae-ro kahp-shee-dah
I want to get off in Itaewon	Itaewon-eh-so neh-ryo ju-seh-yo
Stop here	Yo-kee se-wo ju-she-yo
What is this place called?	Yo-gee-gah o-deem-nee-kah?
Please take me to Itaewon	Itaewon kahp-shee-dah
Please take me to Folk Village	Min Sok-chon kahp-shee-dah
Please take me to City Hall	She-chong kahp-shee-dah
Please take me to Train Station	Seoul yuk kahp-shee-dah
I am sorry	Mee-ahn hahm-nee-dah
Come here	ee-ree o-ship-shi-o
I like you	Dahng-shee-nul jo-ah haham-nee-dah
Please help me	Jom, dough-wah joo-seh-yo
Call a policeman for me please	Soon-kyong chom bul-lo-joo-seh-yo
I am sorry	Mee-ahn hahm-nee-dah

Key Phrases—Restaurant & Travel

English	Romanized Korean
May I have the bill?	Keh-sahn-so ju-she-yo
Please bring me a can of coke	Cola ju-seh-yo
Give me a bottle of beer	Maek-ju Hahn-byon ju-seh-yo
Give me a glass of cold water	Naeng-soo Hahn-john ju-seh-yo
It is delicious	Ah-ju mah-shit-sum-nee-dah
I'd like to order Bulgogi	Bug-go-gee ju-she-yo
May I see a menu in English, please?	Yong-oh menu johm bo-yo ju-seh-yo
It is hot (spicy).	Mae-wo-yo
English	Romanized Korean
Would you show me how to get to?	...o-dee-ro gahm-nee-ka?
One ticket to Pusan, please	Pusah Hahn-johng ju-she-yo
Go straight ahead	Dok-bah-ro kah-she-yo
Right....Left	o-run-jok.....when-jok
Which way should I go?	Onu-jo-ku-ro kahm-nee-ka?
Turn right at the corner.	Mo-tung-ee-eh-so o-run-jo-ku-ro kah-seh-yo

Key Phrases--Lodging

English	Romanized Korean
Bathroom	Yok-shil
Toilet	Hwa-johng-shil
Hot Water	On-soo
Meal	Shik---sah
Dining rom	Shik-dahng
Room charge	Sook-bahng-ryo
Parking lot	Ju-cha-johng
Reservation	Ye-yahk
Western-style room	Cheem-dae bahng
Eastern-style room	On-dol bahng
English	Romanized Korean
Hello?	Yo-bo-she-yo?
Just a moment, please	Jahm-kahn mahn kee-dah-ree seh-yo
Where is the nearest phone booth?	Kah-kah-wun gong-joong?
May I use your telephone?	Jon-wha o-dee itso-yo?
My I have your number?	Jon-wha myot-bon eem-nee-ka?
Call this number for me, please?	Ee bon-ho-ro jon-hwa jom, heh-joo-she-yo?

Key Phrases--Statements

English	Romanized Korean
What is this?	Ee-gut-sun moo-ot-shim-nee-ka?
What time is it?	Myot shee eem-nee-ka?
Do you speak English?	Young-oh haham-nee-ka?
Where is the Police Station?	Kyong-chal-so o-dee itsum nee-ka?
Where is the restroom?	Hwa-johng-shil o-dee itsum nee-ka
Where is the bus terminal?	Ko-sok bosu tome-nahl o-dee itsum nee-ka?
May I smoke, please?	Dahm-beh pee-wo-do jo-sum-nee-ka?
Do you have cigarettes?	Dahm-beh itsum-nee-ka?
Yes, sir (ma'am)	Neh (ye)
No, sir (ma'am)	Ah-nio
Thank you, sir (ma'am)	Kam-sah ham-nee-dah.
You are welcome	Chon-mah-neh-yo
You are pretty	Cham yeh-po-yo
That's good	Jo-ah-yo
That's bad	Nah-boom-nee-dah

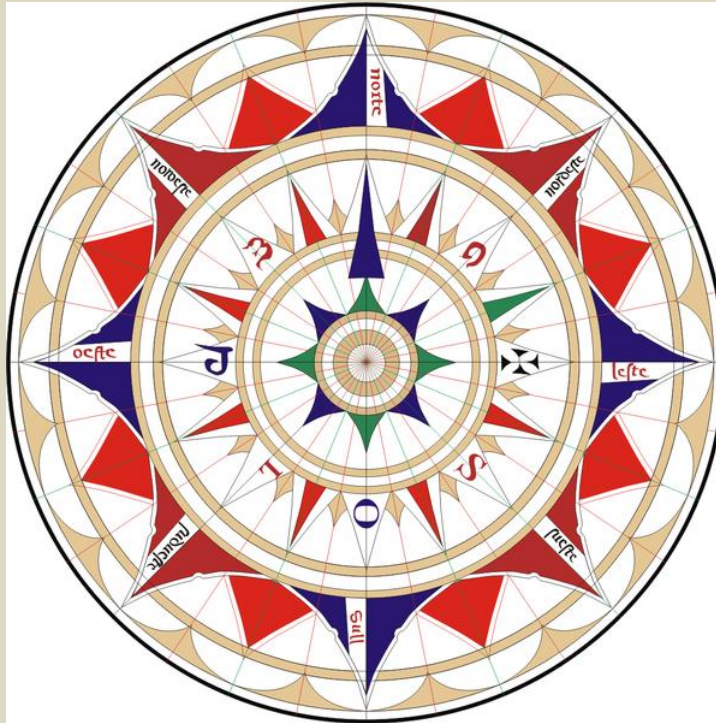
Directions

Northwest
seobuk

North bukjjok

Northeast
dongbuk

West
seojjuk



East
dongjuk

Southwest
seonam

South namjjok

Southeast
dongnam

Korean Cultural Proverbs

- **“Don’t try to cover the whole sky with the palm of your hand”** *Sonbadaneuro haneuleul gariryeohhanda*
- **“When tigers die, they leave leather behind. When people die, they leave their names behind.”** *Horangineun jugeumyeon gajoneul namgigo, sarameun jugeumyun ireumeul namginda*
- **“Beans come out from where beans are planted, and red beans come out from where red beans are planted”** *Kong simeundae kongnago, padd simeundae padd nanda*
- **“Even monkeys may fall from trees”** *Weonsungido nauseo ddeoleojinda*
- **“Trying to find Sunknyung from the well”** *Umulgaseo suknyiungcheojneunda*
- **“Drinking Kimchi-water first before eating Ddeok”** *Ddeokboda meonjeo kimchiguikbuteo mashinda*
- **“Having one’s foot struck by a much-trusted ax”** *Itneun doggaeo baldeung jjinhinda*
- **“Duck egg in the NakDong River”** *Nakdonggan urial*
- **“Coming words will be beautiful if gone words are beautiful”** *Ganeunmali noweomali dopda*
- **“Repaying a 1000-Nyang with one word”** *Malhanaro jinnyangbij gapneunda*
- **“A one thousand li journey starts with one step”** *Heonritgileun han geoleumbuteo*
- **“To take off one’s shichimi”** *Shimchimi ddeoda*
- **“To show a duck’s foot”** *Utibal naemilda*
- **“One will get caught if one’s tail is too long”** *Ggoriga gilmyeon japhinda*
- **“Birds listen to day-words and rats listen to night-words”** *Nijmaleun saega deudgo bammaleun juiga deudneunda*

Korean Superstitions

- Don't throw your toenail clippings in the fireplace or else your grandchildren will be retarded
- If a baby loses a tooth, the grandmother must throw it on the roof.
- Girls and women should not sit on a gold stone surface because it will make them infertile
- Don't wear white ribbons in your hair as it is bad luck (white is the color associated with funerals death)
- If you see crows or ravens when leaving your house to go to school or to work early in the morning, you will be in trouble and have bad luck that day
- If you see magpies or listen to their calls when you go somewhere early in the morning, you will have good fortune for the day
- Do not cut your nails at night else animals will eat the nails and steal the person's spirit
- If you sing a song at night, snakes will appear before you
- Don't give a boyfriend or girlfriend a pair of shoes or they will break up with you
- Don't wash one's hair on the day of an examination, else the memory will be wiped clean by the water
- Don't marry someone five years difference in age (won jin sal) or you'll fight everyday and end up divorced
- Don't marry someone six years difference in age (sang chun sal) or you will be beggars the rest of your life

Notes:



TRADOC CULTURE CENTER

Purpose

- Provide mission-focused culture education and training
- Build and enhance cross-cultural competency and regional expertise
- Increase effectiveness of US Soldiers in coalition and joint environment; stability, security, and humanitarian operation

In its effort to support US Soldiers, the TRADOC Culture Center offers the following training and products for initial military training:

Region-Specific Training Support Packages Covering Countries in:

CENTCOM

AFRICOM

SOUTHCOM

PACOM

EUCOM

Core Culture Competency Training Support Packages

What is Culture/Who Am I

Influences on Culture

Cross-Culture Communications

Rapport Building

Cross-Culture Negotiations

The TRADOC Culture Center is committed to fulfilling the needs of US Soldiers and is able to provide culture training tailored to specific requests.



TRADOC Culture Center (TCC)

For more information:

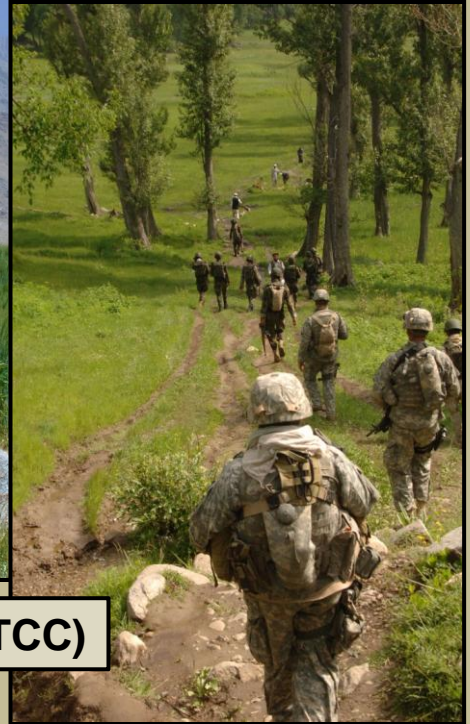
Phone: 520 538 8275/ 520 533 5413

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<https://ikn.army.mil/CultureCenter>

To schedule Culture Training:

520 533 5225



TRADOC Culture Center (TCC)