

KOREA IN THE WORLD



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한국학중앙연구원
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KOREA IN THE WORLD

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Silla-era gold crown

PREFACE

This is a brief introduction to Korea from its inception to modern day. Korea is located on the eastern edge of Eurasia, between China and Japan. Koreans are ethnically and linguistically distinct from the (Han) Chinese, whose culture has had a profound impact on Korea and other Asian countries. Korea maintained and developed a distinctive civilization and culture, inventing many technological and cultural factors that have contributed to the rest of East Asia.

For thousands of years Korea maintained its sovereignty, except for a brief period from 1910 to 1945 during the Japanese colonial period. “The Hermit Kingdom,” Korea’s nickname during the 19th century, does not accurately represent Korea when its long history is examined. Cultural heritages and relics unearthed in the old capital city of Gyeongju, in the southeast of the peninsula, show that even in ancient times there was an active exchange of people and cultures over vast areas. Architectural technology, Roman glass artifacts, and craftsmanship in golden crowns found in Korea attest to the exchanges between Korea, Central Asia, and even Europe via the Silk Road.

Surrounded by China, Russia, Japan, and the United States across the Pacific, Korea has been a focal point where the modern geopolitical interests of major powers clashed from the 19th century onward. With the establishment of the government of the Republic of Korea in 1948 came a new era of an independent, free, and democratic nation on the Korean Peninsula. The Cold War confrontation between the superpowers resulted in the Korean War (1950–1953), but the Republic of Korea has achieved economic prosperity and political democracy, overcoming many painful, turbulent times. The Republic of Korea became the first country that transitioned from being an aid recipient to a donor country, when it joined OECD’s Development Assistance Committee in 2009.



The Silk Road



I. INTRODUCTION

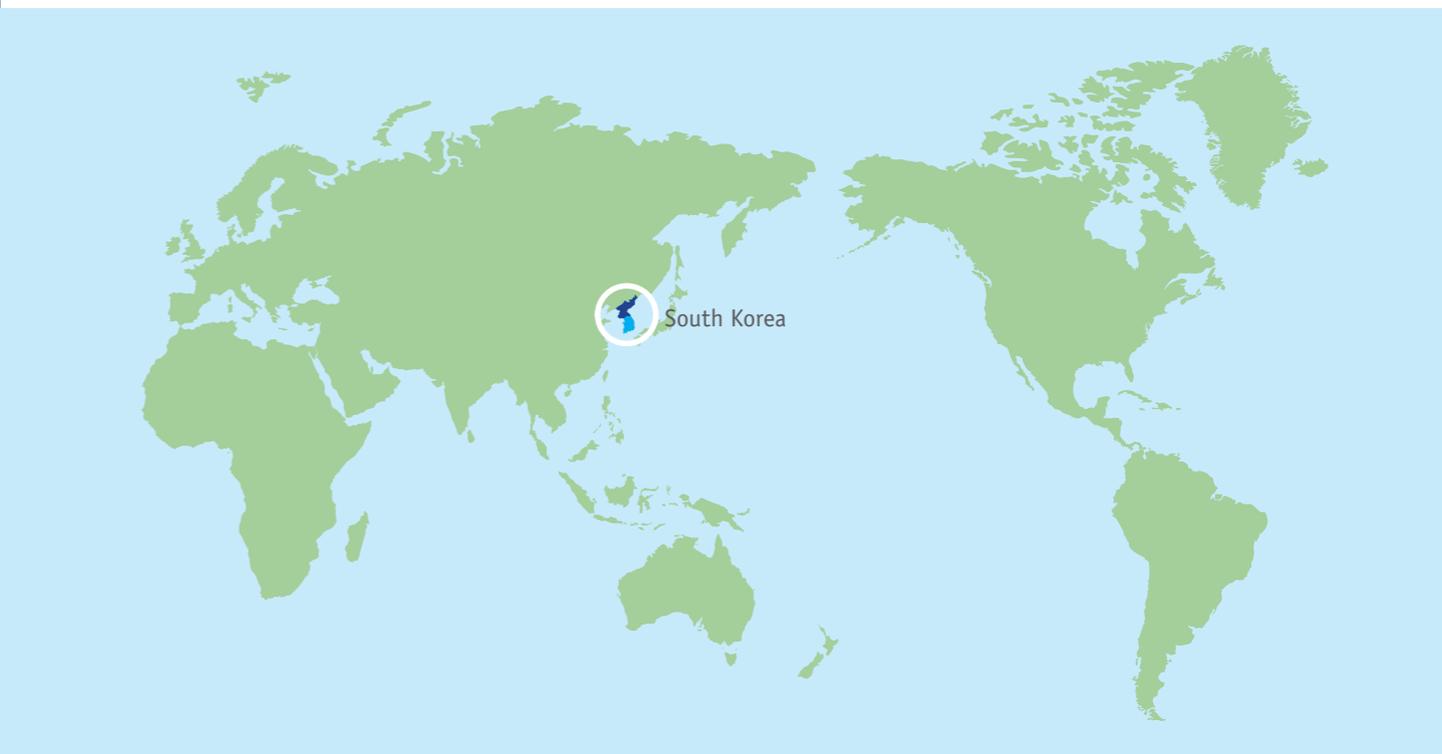


Aerial view of Changgyeonggung Palace

The Republic of Korea, or South Korea, occupies the southern half of the Korean Peninsula. Across the Yellow Sea to its west lies China. Japan is to the east, across the East Sea. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea, or North Korea, occupies the northern half of the peninsula.

The Korean Peninsula, including its islands, is roughly located between 33 to 43 degrees north and 124 to 132 degrees east, and has a total area of 223,400 square kilometers, of which South Korea has a territory of 100,295 square kilometers. The total area of both Koreas is comparable to that of the United Kingdom, or of the state of Utah in the United States. The combined population of almost 76 million Koreans is greater than that of Britain or France, and almost as big as that of Germany; there are some 51 million people in the South, 25 million in the North, and seven million living overseas. Korean is also one of the world's major languages, with some 77 million Korean language speakers.

Korea has a temperate climate. There are four distinct seasons: a hot and humid summer, a cold winter, a warm spring, and a cool autumn. Much of Korea is mountainous, and only some 30 percent of its land area is arable.

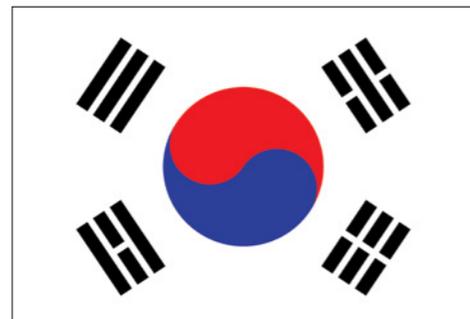


South Korea and the world

Map of Korea



Taegeukgi, the Korean flag and *mugunghwa* (Rose of Sharon), the national flower of South Korea



Country Profile South Korea

Location: Latitude 33–38° N and longitude 124–132° E

Area: 100,295 km² (2015)

Capital: Seoul (population: 9,930,616) (2016)

Population: 51,446,201 (2017)

Population Density: 509.2 persons/km² (2015)

Life Expectancy: 82.1 (total); 79.0 (male); 85.2 (female) (2015)

Language: Korean (Writing system: Hangeul)

Religion: Buddhist (15.5%), Protestant (19.7%), Catholic (7.9%), other (0.8%), unaffiliated (56.1%) (2015)

Government: Presidential republic

Mean Temperatures (Seoul): 12.5°C (annual normal); -2.4°C (January) to 25.7°C (August)

National Flag: Taegeukgi

National Flower: *Mugunghwa* (Rose of Sharon)

Economy

GDP (nominal): US\$1,411 billion (2016)

GDP Per Capita (nominal): US\$27,539 (2016)

GDP (PPP): US\$1,832 billion (2016)

GDP Per Capita (PPP): US\$35,751 (2016)

GNI (nominal): US\$1,413 billion (2016)

GNI Per Capita (nominal): US\$27,600 (2016)

GNI (PPP): US\$1,834 billion (2016)

GNI Per Capita (PPP): US\$35,790 (2016)

Exports: US\$495.426 billion (2016)

Imports: US\$406 billion (2016)

Gini Index: 30.2 (2015)

HDI (Human Development Index): 0.901 (2015)

Major Industrial Products: Semiconductors, wireless telecommunications equipment, motor vehicles, electronics, shipbuilding, petrochemicals, steel

Currency: won (KRW, Korean Won) (US\$1 = KRW 1,145.4) (September 2017)

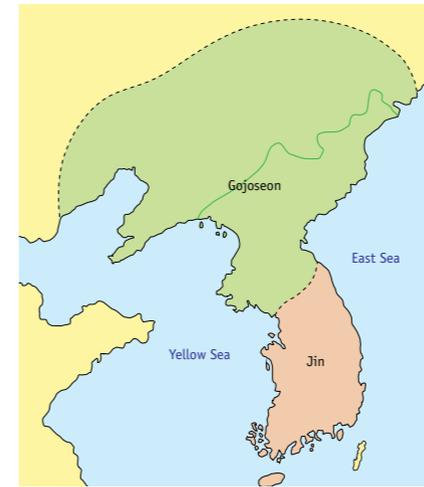


II. HISTORY BEFORE 1945



Seokgatap Pagoda amid magnolias

Map of Gojoseon, an ancient Korean kingdom (fourth century BCE)



Ancient Korea

Various artifacts of Paleolithic origin unearthed in Korea indicate that human beings inhabited the peninsula from at least 700,000 BCE. By the Bronze Age, settlers migrating down from southern Siberia had established an extensive tribal confederation called Gojoseon (Old Joseon). Koreans commonly refer to the founder of Gojoseon as Grandfather Dangun. According to the ancient story recorded in old Korean historical accounts, Dangun was the son of a bear transformed into a woman and the heavenly ruler's

son, Hwanung, who had descended from heaven to govern the people.

Gojoseon extended authority over Manchuria and the northern part of the Korean Peninsula. The ancient state prospered for centuries before being destroyed by the invasion of China's Han Dynasty in 108 BCE.

Dangun in the founding myth of Korea



Korea in the World

Map of the Three Kingdoms of Korea (fourth century)



Three Kingdoms

Three separate larger proto-states and many smaller ones over Manchuria and the Korean Peninsula coalesced from the first century BCE, developing into three kingdoms by the end of the fourth century CE. *Samguksagi* (History of the Three Kingdoms), the oldest extant Korean historical record traces Silla Kingdom back to 57 BCE, Goguryeo Kingdom to 37 BCE, and Baekje Kingdom to 18 BCE. Buddhism and Confucianism were introduced by missionaries from China and Central Asia until the fourth century at the latest. They played a decisive role in the transformation of tribal governments

into centralized kingdoms.

These three states absorbed others and fought for supremacy on the peninsula until the late seventh century. There were other rival powers to the three kingdoms, such as Buyeo Kingdom to the north and Gaya Kingdom to the south. At first, Goguryeo Kingdom became stronger and built a great nation across Manchuria and the northern part of the peninsula, but the three states were eventually unified under Silla Kingdom, which formed a military alliance with the Tang Dynasty and succeeded in destroying Baekje Kingdom (in 660) and Goguryeo Kingdom (in 668). Silla Kingdom ultimately defeated Tang forces in 676 CE, and thereafter controlled most of the Korean Peninsula. The proto-Korean territories, in what is now called Manchuria, became the Balhae Kingdom that was established by former Goguryeo people and flourished for some two centuries before being destroyed by the Khitan.

Map of North-South States (ninth century)



As such, the North-South States Period was newly opened as Silla Kingdom dominated the Korean Peninsula while Balhae Kingdom controlled Manchuria.

An extended period of prosperity and peace followed in Korea, with remarkable developments in the arts and sciences, particularly in the areas of religious scholarship, architecture, astronomy, agriculture, and literature.

Gyeongju, the capital of Silla Kingdom, became one of the world's largest and wealthiest cities in the eighth century, benefiting from international trade. The Bulguksa Temple and adjacent Seokguram Grotto in Gyeongju are unparalleled masterworks of global Buddhist

Bulguksa Temple, built in the Silla era



Gilt-Bronze Pensive Maitreya Bodhisattva and the wooden Miroku bosatu, which is preserved at Koryu-ji Temple in Japan (left)



Great Gilt-Bronze Incense Burner of Baekje (right)



Gwanggaeto Stele, which testifies to the history and territory of Goguryeo Kingdom (left)



Seokguram Grotto (right)





The Great Dharani Sutra

architectural skill, and were designated as Korea's first UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Metalwork reached a high technological level, becoming export items to all neighboring nations; the Sacred Bell of Great King Seongdeok, the two Gilt-Bronze Pensive Maitreya Bodhisattva statues and the Great Gilt-Bronze Incense Burner of Baekje Kingdom exemplify this remarkable achievement.

The culture of the Three Kingdoms was introduced to Japan and influenced the formation and development of Asuka culture. Evidence of this fact is found in the similarity between Korea's Gilt-Bronze Pensive Maitreya Bodhisattva and its wooden counterpart in Koryu-ji Temple of Kyoto (Japan's National Treasure No.1).

Map of Goryeo (11th century)

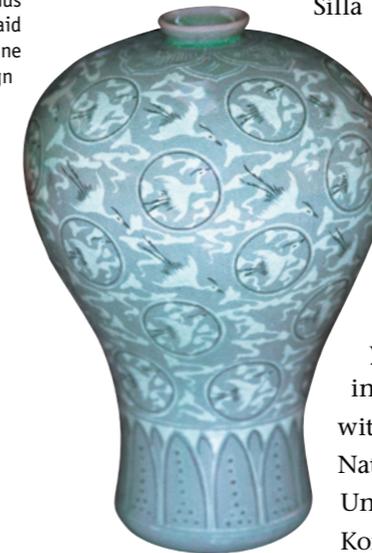


Goryeo Dynasty

The Goryeo Dynasty was founded in 918 CE and came to power in 935 CE after its army defeated its rivals and absorbed what remained of Silla Kingdom. Goryeo Dynasty was an aristocratic society where royal and noble houses monopolized government positions, land, and knowledge. The aristocracy preserved its privileged position through marriage, a protected appointment system that secured official posts for their offspring, and exemptions from paying taxes and labor duties.

Goryeo Dynasty adopted Buddhism as its state religion to an even greater extent than

Celadon Prunus Vase with Inlaid Cloud and Crane Design



Silla Kingdom. Praying for the security of the nation and hoping to ward off foreign invaders, many excellent Buddhist works of art were produced during this period. Many world-class Buddhist paintings, celadons, and other masterpieces survive today both in Korea and overseas.

The world's first book known to have been printed with metal movable type was published in the Goryeo Dynasty in 1234. This was some two hundred years before Gutenberg invented metal movable type in Europe. *Jikji*, the world's oldest surviving book printed with metal movable type in 1377, now on exhibit at the National Library of France, was also found in Korea. The United States Library of Congress houses some specimens of Korean metal movable type assumed to have been created in the earliest years.

Korea's advanced printing technology dates back to the Unified Silla Kingdom. The oldest extant woodblock print in the world is a Buddhist scroll that was created during the Unified Silla Kingdom period. It is known as the Great Dharani Sutra. Published in the eighth century, it was found in a Buddhist temple pagoda. Korea's advanced woodblock printing culminated in the production of the *Tripitaka Koreana* in the 13th century, a compilation of Buddhist doctrines and commentaries by great monks carved on woodblocks. Now recognized on the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage list, it is the world's foremost representation of Buddhist cultural heritage in terms of integrity and scale.

Bluish-grey colored celadons from the Goryeo period are treasured pieces in the world of ceramics. The Goryeo potters improved upon the celadon brought from China and created the unique green color of Goryeo celadon. In addition, potters in the Goryeo Dynasty applied an inlay technique (a method that involves cutting patterns into the surface of a material such as metal, pottery, or wood and filling them with other materials like gold and silver) to celadon for the first time in world history to develop original inlaid celadon. This inlaid celadon, which boasted the unique green color of Goryeo celadon and majestic, sophisticated decorative patterns, was regarded as the most exquisite artwork of the time and became the most popular export item to China and Japan, loved by artists and the public to this day.

The dynasty maintained an open foreign policy, remaining an important and prosperous junction on the intercontinental Silk Road trading system by land and sea. The Goryeo Dynasty traded not only with the Chinese Song Dynasty but also with the Khitan of present-day northern China, the Jurchen in the eastern part of Russia, countries in Southeast Asia, and most importantly the Mongol Yuan Empire, while making contact with India, Persia, and Arabia through it as well.

As much as the link with the Chinese Song Dynasty was a military alliance against the Khitan and the Jurchen, cultural exchange was also an important part of the relationship. The Goryeo Dynasty exported gold, silver, copper, decorative rush mats, brassware, paper, ink sticks, and ginseng and imported books, silk, medicine, musical instruments, and spices.

The Mongols invaded Goryeo in 1231 after conquering a significant portion of the Asian continent. Goryeo put up a strong resistance against the Mongols. During this prolonged period of resistance, Goryeo refused to surrender despite losing much of its territory.

Eventually, a peace treaty was concluded between Goryeo and the Mongols. Goryeo maintained its independence while remaining under Mongol influence for 80 years. But thanks to frequent exchanges with the Mongolian empire, in terms of political, economic, and cultural influence, the Goryeo Dynasty was able to embrace new ideas and technologies such as Neo-Confucianism, cotton, and gunpowder.

Goryeo's name became known overseas as the standard name for the Korean Peninsula and its residents. Thus "Korea," which originated from the dynasty name, became the official name which is still used today. The Goryeo Dynasty lasted for approximately 470 years until the rise of the Joseon Dynasty at the end of the 14th century.

Tripitaka Koreana



Interior of the Janggyeong Panjeon depository at Haeinsa Temple, the structure that houses the *Tripitaka Koreana*

The *Tripitaka Koreana* is the world's most comprehensive collection of ancient Buddhist scriptures—a collection of rules, teachings, and commentaries. Carved onto 81,258 wooden blocks, this extensive work, which was completed in the 13th century during the Goryeo Dynasty, was a way of requesting Buddha's protection from the invading Mongols. Each block contains roughly 320 Chinese characters on each side. Overall, about 52 million characters were

meticulously carved with a great degree of accuracy and no known errors or errata.

The woodblocks have been stored in naturally ventilated depositories at Haeinsa Temple for the past eight centuries; both the woodblocks and the buildings are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Jikji, the oldest extant metal movable type printed book



Jikji (the world's oldest extant book printed with metal movable type)

Jikji is the abbreviated title of a Korean Buddhist document, *Jikji simche yojeol* (Anthology of Great Buddhist Priests' Zen Teachings), which is composed of dharma teachings, hymns, eulogies, epitaphs, prose, and poetry by Buddhas and monks of India, China, and Korea.

Jikji is recognized as the world's oldest surviving book printed with metal movable type. It was printed at Heungdeoksa Temple in 1377 during the late Goryeo Dynasty, which was about 80 years before Johannes Gutenberg's acclaimed 42-line Bible was printed around the 1450s. *Jikji* is currently kept at the Manuscripts orientaux division of the National Library of France. UNESCO included it in the Memory of the World Programme in 2001.

Map of Joseon (15th century)



Joseon Dynasty

The literati class emerged as a new force toward the end of the Goryeo Dynasty. Established through an alliance between the new literati class and military officers, the Joseon Dynasty came to power by dynastic revolution in 1392 and ruled the peninsula for more than 500 years.

The founders of Joseon adopted Neo-Confucianism as its ruling philosophy. It replaced Buddhism as the leading socio-political ideology, bringing great changes in thought, family structure, governance, artistic styles and literature, and social behaviors that still inform present-day Korean culture.

During the Joseon Dynasty, the social status of the general populace improved. The early Joseon period was an era of transition from a hereditary aristocratic society to a *yangban*-centered bureaucratic society. The scholarly officials of the *yangban* class (two strata of literary and military elites) were selected through state examinations.

It was a period when national borders expanded in size, and the nation's ethos



Injeongjeon Hall of Changdeokgung Palace



Clepsydra (self-striking water clock) of Changgyeonggung Palace (left)



Porcelain statue of Yi Sam-pyeong, the great potter who was kidnapped by Japan during the Japanese invasions of Korea (1592–98) and greatly contributed to the development of Japanese pottery (right)



Battle of Hansan Island by Kim Hyeong-gu, depicting how Korean naval forces defeated the Japanese navy with Geobukseon, or turtle ships (left)



Portrait of Yi Sun-sin, a famed naval commander whose victories were instrumental in repelling Japanese invasions during the Imjin War (right)

Dosanseowon Confucian Academy



developed and matured. It was also during this period that the Korean alphabet, Hangeul, was invented by King Sejong (r. 1418–1450). King Sejong promoted science and supported the development of great scientific inventions such as the sundial and clepsydra (water clock). The first two hundred years of the Joseon Dynasty saw

significant philosophical, socio-political, and artistic developments.

Under the dominance of Confucian teachings, studying Chinese and Korean classics was very important. Institutions of higher learning in Korea were established from the fourth century. During the Joseon period, various levels of schools emerged: elementary schools (*seodang*), government-run local schools (*hyanggyo*), private Confucian academies (*seowon*), and the National Confucian Academy (Seonggyungwan) in the capital.

Respect for one's elders, along with other Confucian teachings on human relations, was emphasized. Schools had shrines to express reverence for great scholars and teachers, while respect for one's ancestors was the most important part of education. Family rituals served as the main occasion for consolidating the unity of the clan and educating the younger generation.

The ultimate ritual of filial piety in the Confucian system took place for the royal family at Jongmyo Shrine, the royal ancestral shrine. Korea is no longer a monarchy, but the Jeonju Yi [Lee] Royal Family Association, which descended from the Joseon Dynasty, conducts ancestral rituals at Jongmyo Shrine in accordance with ancient, official protocols.

Commerce flourished in the *yangban*-centered Joseon society, although merchants and craftsmen were looked down upon. National defense was sometimes neglected by the rulers in a society where literary mastery was the most important gauge of competence. This meant that ultimately Joseon could not effectively respond to foreign aggressions.

In 1592, Toyotomi Hideyoshi of Japan mounted an invasion of Joseon Dynasty. It eventually repelled the Japanese force but the seven-year-long, bloody Imjin War left Korea in ruins, with many cultural treasures either pillaged or destroyed. Japan also abducted many skilled Korean potters, who later contributed to the advancement of ceramic arts in Japan. In 1636, the Manchus, dissatisfied by the Korean court's pro-Ming diplomacy, invaded Korea with a large army. After all-out resistance failed, Joseon King Injo surrendered to the Manchu emperor.

Over the course of the next two centuries, the Joseon government made major



Jongmyo Jereak (royal ancestral ritual music at Jongmyo Shrine)

attempts to rehabilitate the country. The government took reform measures to nurture agriculture and commerce. A series of tax reforms reduced the tax burden of tenant and smallholder farmers, and the introduction of new agricultural technologies greatly improved agricultural productivity. The development of free markets, trade, and the emergence of entrepreneurial merchants and economically independent artisans represented remarkable economic progress in Joseon society. These were significant, self-initiated steps toward modernization.

A new school of thought known as “Practical Learning” (Silhak) emerged. Scholars of this group pointed out the many ills facing society and sought to find solutions to them. Two kings—Yeongjo and Jeongjo in the 18th century—supported the scholarly efforts of Silhak and cultural development.

Korean envoys traveled to Beijing regularly, and they brought products of Western civilization such as maps and clocks back with them. Catholicism also reached Korea, in an unusual process where Koreans voluntarily embraced the new religion prior to the arrival of Western missionaries. The new religion slowly spread, and the newly converted Catholics built churches and carried out organized evangelical campaigns.

The late 19th century marked the high point of European power and aggressions, as the nations of Europe rushed to gobble up the last remaining unclaimed pieces of the world in a frenzy known as New Imperialism. Japan unilaterally claimed a “sphere of influence” that included Korea, Manchuria, and part of China, and launched a vigorous program of military aggression.

Hangeul: the Korean Script

Perhaps Korea is the only country on earth to have a writing system intentionally created by the king for the people (1443). Called Hangeul, the Korean script is a precious piece of heritage and a source of national pride for Koreans. The Korean language is different from Chinese. It belongs to completely different language family—closer to Japanese, but as different from Chinese as it is from English. Thus, Chinese characters were difficult and inconvenient for common Koreans’ daily use. The innovative writing system of Hangeul, which represents the sounds of the Korean language, would eventually replace the more complicated Chinese characters and make it easier for ordinary Koreans to learn to read and write. This is why King Sejong, the inventor of the writing system, called it Hunminjeongeum, meaning “proper sounds for educating people.”



King Sejong the Great

Scholarly elites of the yangban class, who preferred classical Chinese, at first looked down upon this easy-to-learn writing system. However, Hangeul was used widely in many official documents such as property transaction contracts and family property distribution, as well as in personal diaries and letters between families.

Religion in Contemporary Korea

It was not until the 17th century that Christianity was introduced to Korea, which was traditionally a nation of Buddhism and Confucianism. Books related to Catholicism were imported to Korea and studied in the 17th century, and the first believers appeared in the late 18th century. On the other hand, Protestantism was introduced by Presbyterian and Methodist missionaries in the late 19th century. Today, around 30 percent of South Koreans consider themselves to be Christians. Both Protestant and Catholic churches are more successful and influential than in most other Asian nations. Meanwhile, Buddhism experienced a revival throughout the 20th century and remains popular in modern South Korea, with about a sixth of its citizens being Buddhists. Korean Buddhism has even globalized, with over a hundred teaching-and-practice centers spread throughout every continent since the 1990s. Some Koreans still follow shamanism, the primitive religion with elements of animism and syncretism. Confucianism continues to influence social norms, especially the Korean work ethic, and traditional veneration ceremonies continue to be held nationwide. A variety of other religions are freely practiced in South Korea, including Islam.

Modern South Korea is extraordinary in that a variety of religions, both foreign and indigenous, coexist in harmony. There is a respectful relationship among Protestant and Catholic churches, Buddhism, Won Buddhism, Confucianism, Cheondogyo, and Islam.

The Japanese Occupation and the Independence Movement

With a neighbor that was aggressive and well versed in warfare, the dawn of the modern era did not bode well for the pacifist and defensive Korean nation. After implementing measures to disable Korean sovereignty, Japan colonized Korea in 1910 and exerted ruthless military control over the country. Koreans protested against this illegal, forced annexation and ruthless reign by Japan. The resistance movement during this period was influenced by the growth of nationalism in Asian colonies amid World War I and Woodrow Wilson's principle of national self-determination.

On March 1, 1919, the Korean Declaration of Independence, which was signed by 33 prominent Korean leaders, was announced. This precipitated the March First Movement, nationwide demonstrations denouncing the Japanese occupation and demanding independence. The number of participants is estimated at two million, with 7,500 people killed and some 16,000 injured. In the same year, following the movement, the Provisional Government of the Republic of Korea, based on a republican system, was established in Shanghai, China, as a center of efforts to regain independence.

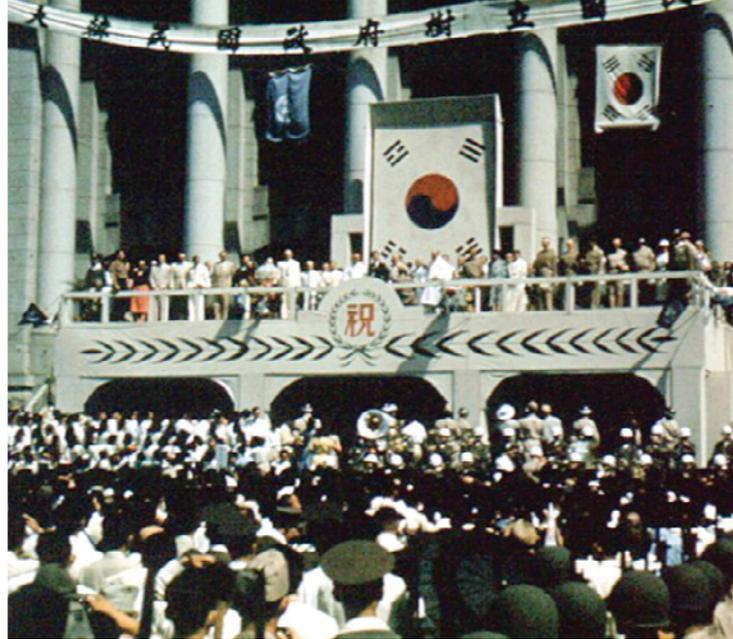
As the Japanese advancement into China started in earnest with the outbreak of the Second Sino-Japanese War in 1937, Korean independence movement groups operating in China settled their ideological disagreements and staged a campaign against Japanese oppression.

Separate from the political struggle for independence, changes in society, culture, and other areas have continued since Korea opened its doors to foreign countries in the late 19th century. Korea faced rapid modernization and a process of Westernization. Towards the end of the Joseon Dynasty and during the Japanese occupation (1910–1945), a traditional culture based on discrimination and separation between classes, genders, and seniority underwent radical changes.



The March First Movement, or Manse Demonstrations, held in front of Deoksugung Palace (left)
Central figures of the Provisional Government of the Republic of Korea (right)

III. THE LIBERATION PERIOD AND THE KOREAN WAR



Koreans celebrate their independence from imperial Japan in 1945 (top left)

The ceremony to celebrate the establishment of the Government of the Republic of Korea (top right)

The North Korean army entering into the streets of Seoul (center)

Siblings during Korean War (bottom left)

The scene of the Battle of Incheon, where military personnel and equipment disembarked from landing crafts (bottom right)



The peninsula was liberated on August 15, 1945 following Japan's surrender in World War II. As the United States dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Soviet Union declared war against Japan and advanced into Manchuria, North China, and the Korean Peninsula. American troops stationed in Okinawa moved to Korea after the war. The division of the peninsula at the 38th parallel occurred almost immediately when Soviet and American troops proceeded to demobilize the remnants of the Japanese army. Artificially divided, Korea was now a geopolitical victim squeezed between the two world superpowers.

On August 15, 1948, the southern half of the peninsula was reborn as the Republic of Korea, an independent nation with democratic principles and a free market economy. Under the supervision of the United Nations, the South Korean people elected a National Assembly. This assembly then appointed Dr. Rhee Syngman, a US-educated leader of the independence movement, as the country's first president. Meanwhile, in the north was a communist government established with the Soviet-backed Kim Il-sung at the helm.

As previously classified documents have revealed, North Korea staged a sudden attack on South Korea on June 25, 1950, with the unofficial support of the Soviet Union. This marked the beginning of the Korean War, which quickly developed into an international conflict. Within three days, Seoul had fallen to North Korean troops. By August, all of South Korea was occupied by the North Korean army, with the exception of Busan, a port city in the southeast, and a few areas nearby.

The United Nations Security Council decided to assist South Korea immediately after the outbreak of the war, sending troops and medical personnel from more than 21 member countries. Following Gen. Douglas MacArthur's now-famous amphibious landing at Incheon in September, South Korean and US-led UN troops pushed the North Koreans back to the Chinese border.

As they arrived at the border, nearly completing the reunification of a democratic Korea, China entered the war to re-establish the North Korean regime, and the South Korean and UN troops were again pushed south, with terrible losses. In January 1951, Seoul once again fell into the hands of the North Koreans.

South Korean and the UN troops then pushed the North Koreans and Chinese back to around the 38th parallel at a great cost to both sides. In addition to the catastrophic loss of life and social upheaval, the peninsula had been reduced to rubble.

The fratricidal war was put on hold with an armistice agreement in July 1953. A peace agreement has yet to be reached due to the northern regime's refusal to negotiate directly with the Republic of Korea. A border called the Military Demarcation Line (MDL) was agreed upon near the prewar border which the United States and the Soviet Union had established along the 38th parallel. It is surrounded by a



(From left)
Kim Dae-jung and
Kim Jong-il at the
first South-North
Korea summit

4-kilometer-wide demilitarized zone (DMZ), which serves as a buffer-zone for the heavily armed border region between the two Koreas. The Korean War did not officially end, but was rather put on hold with the Armistice Agreement.

The combined casualties of South and North Korea are estimated to be three million, or 10 percent of the total population. The United Nations sent about two million soldiers during the three years of war, of which some 40,000 died in

combat and some 100,000 were wounded. The United States, which deployed the largest numbers of soldiers in the war, became one of the most important allies of South Korea after the war by offering both military and economic assistance through the 1950s and 1960s.

After the signing of the armistice, South Korea has made efforts to ease tensions with North Korea, establish a lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula, and set the stage for reunification. In July 1972, the two Koreas jointly announced the three principles of unification: independence, peace, and nation-wide unity. In December 1990, the two nations jointly declared the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. In June 2000, a summit of the two Koreas was held for the first time since their division. In the spirit of reconciliation, reunions of South and North Korean families, having been separated by war decades ago, were held and economic exchanges between the two Koreas were facilitated. This culminated in the establishment of the joint-venture Gaeseong Industrial District. Unfortunately, North Korea resumed development of its nuclear weapons program, which led to an increase in tensions on the peninsula and a halt to dialogue and exchanges between the two Koreas. Korea had been one homogenous country for 1,100 years, but for the last 70 years it has remained divided into North and South. We hope that the two nations will again become one and that there will be sustained peace on the peninsula.

IV. ECONOMIC GROWTH



Night view of the Hangang River and Lotte World Tower, South Korea's highest building at 123 floors and 555 meters

Since its liberation from Japanese occupation in August 1945, Korea has achieved rapid economic growth after overcoming a great many difficulties. In order to briefly introduce the reader to this process, it is best to divide this period into three stages. The first stage of “reconstruction” was in the 1950s after the Korean War, when the nation began restoring its war-stricken lands and dilapidated industrial facilities by relying on foreign assistance. The second “take-off” stage was in the 1960s and 1970s, a time when the nation started to industrialize in earnest. The third stage can be subdivided into two parts: 1) the 1980s, when the nation promoted economic liberalization and autonomy and 2) the 1990s and the 2000s, when the nation overcame a series of economic crises and actively pushed for globalization.

During the first stage, South Korea was one of the most impoverished nations in the world, as its industries and infrastructure had collapsed during the Korean War. Koreans had to rely on foreign assistance from the United States and the United Nations.

By utilizing foreign assistance, the Rhee Syngman government carried out a policy of import substitution industrialization in order to promote economic revitalization and self-reliance. Import substitution industrialization is a trade and economic policy which advocates replacing foreign imports with domestic production in order to promote the local production of industrialized items and to help reduce the outflow of foreign currency. Thanks to this policy, the 1950s saw the development of the milling and sugar-refining industries and the cotton textile industry, which received raw materials in assistance from the United States. Import substitution industrialization was a typical development model for underdeveloped nations; South Korea was not an exception. The Rhee Syngman government was also highly interested in promoting

Downtown Seoul
ravaged by the
Korean War



exports in order to overcome the nation's adverse balance of payments. However, it could not find solutions for this unfavorable situation.

The second stage of economic development was carried out during the reign of President Park Chung-hee from the mid-1960s to the 1970s. Between 1963 and 1979, the nation recorded an annual economic growth of more than eight percent. Foreigners who saw the rapid economic development of this previously impoverished nation coined the expression "the Miracle on the Hangang River," a term reminiscent of West Germany's "Miracle on the Rhine." Some of the main factors for the achievement of this brilliant growth were as follows: the government's export-first and investment promotion policies, external conditions favorable to the nation's growth, and abundant human resources.

First of all, in 1963 the government began to put top priority on expanding exports for the acquisition of foreign currencies as a way of overcoming a crisis resulting from a lack of foreign exchange reserves. After domestic enterprises showed that they excelled at exports, the government adopted strong export-oriented industrialization strategies from the mid-1960s. The government held "expanded" meetings every month for the promotion of exports between 1965 and 1979 and endeavored to expand overseas markets and establish policies to support exports. They used the expression "expanded" because not only were officials from the related government ministries participating, but also businessmen and academic experts. President Park himself presided over these monthly expanded meetings.

In 1964, much earlier than first expected, South Korea saw annual exports of US\$100 million, followed by US\$1 billion in 1970 and US\$10 billion in 1977, thus creating a "myth of exports." The nation's exports rose further to US\$100 billion in 1995 and US\$500 billion in 2011. In terms of trade value of both exports and imports, the figure amounted to more than US\$1 trillion, raising the nation's ranking to ninth in the world.

The rapid increase in exports was attributed to the South Korean government's ongoing efforts for trade promotion. South Korea participated in multilateral free trade by joining the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in 1967 and becoming a member country of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 1994. The nation first signed free trade agreements (FTA) with Chile in 2004, followed by Singapore and EFTA (2006); ASEAN (2007);

India (2010); the EU and Peru (2011); the United States (2012); Turkey (2013); Australia (2014); Canada, China, New Zealand, and Vietnam (2015); and Colombia (2016). It is noteworthy that South Korea is the only nation in the world that has concluded an FTA with the three biggest global markets: North America, Europe, and China. It is not possible to explain the history of South Korea's economic growth without mentioning "trade" and "openness."

The second biggest factor in the nation's impressive growth rate was investment, since a higher rate of investment could help facilitate development. The accomplishment of a high rate of investment was possible thanks to a higher rate of savings. Moreover, a higher rate of investment could be maintained for a longer period when bolstered by foreign loans and investments from overseas. Thanks to these investments, from 1962 the government was able to carry out its Five-Year Economic Development Plans for decades and map out projects that invested heavily in core industrial sectors.

This continuous level of investment provided South Korean businesses with the capital necessary for the purchase of machinery, equipping facilities for the production of high value-added goods, and improving their technological competitiveness through research and development (R&D). In particular, the government's large-scale investment in the heavy chemical industry in the 1970s allowed Korea to move beyond light industry-oriented development and secure a global standard in its technological capabilities in that industry. As a result, the nation's shipbuilding, automobile, steel, petrochemical, electronics, machinery, and construction sectors achieved high added value and were established as the nation's representative industries.

The third factor in the growth of the Korean economy was the global conditions favorable to South Korea between the 1960s and the 1970s. As mentioned previously, since the 1950s South Korea had received military and economic assistance from the United States based on its special status of being divided into the South and the North after the Korea War under the order of the Cold War. Although the amount of assistance gradually decreased, the international community continued to provide the nation with a great number of opportunities after the 1960s. Strictly speaking, the productivity of South Korea accounted for some 15 percent of its US counterpart in the 1970s. However, it registered more rapid economic growth than South America, whose productivity was more than 30 percent of the US, because South Korea had access to many low-end US markets. As of 1971, exports to the United States and Japan accounted for more than 75 percent of the nation's total exports. Also, in the 1970s Korean companies made inroads in the Middle East construction market, earning foreign currency to improve the international balance and increase the national income. Moreover, in the late 1960s and 1970s, as developed countries transitioned to high-tech industries, their heavy and chemical industries began to decline; Korea could then enter and grow in these sectors.

The fourth factor for the growth of the Korean economy was its abundant human resources. When the nation started to industrialize in the 1960s it had a large labor

President Park Chung-hee, presiding over an export promotion meeting





Panorama of KAIST

force and the number of laborers continued to grow. After the government adopted a mandatory elementary school education system in the 1950s (under the catchphrase of “building the nation through education”) to address the importance placed on education by the public, the nation was equipped with an impressive number of educated workers. From the 1960s, the government established vocational high schools and technical colleges in order to cultivate skilled technicians. At the same time, there was an increase in the number of college graduates who became office workers and business managers. The workers, employed in all sectors of the nation’s industries, devoted themselves to their work and contributed greatly to the nation’s economic growth. Alongside these developments, many research institutes and colleges, including the Korea Institute of Science and Technology (KIST) and the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), helped promote the continuous growth of the nation by developing source technologies through research and by cultivating the skilled manpower required for various industries.

Thanks to the four factors mentioned above, the nation’s industrial structure experienced tremendous change. Looking at the long-term trend of the share of each industry relative to GDP, the proportion of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries reached 50 percent in the 1950s but then fell to 15 percent in 1980 and to 2.5 percent today. On the other hand, the mining and manufacturing industries were less than 10 percent in the early 1950s, but have continued to increase since the 1960s and have remained at around 30 percent since 1980. In addition, the share of social overhead capital and the service industry increased from 40 percent in the 1950s to about 60 percent from 1980.

During the second development period, the nation saw rapid economic growth and the enhancement of the living conditions of ordinary Koreans. However, the gap between the rich and the poor widened and social disparities increased. The Park Chung-hee government stepped up its oppression of society and the public under the pretext of promoting the heavy chemical sector and the defense-related industry. The government had to let domestic businesses lower their production costs in order to maintain continuous economic growth and facilitate exports, thus preventing wage increases. As a result, laborers worked for longer hours at lower rates of pay. The working conditions for blue-collar workers were especially poor, placing them at a financial disadvantage. Some workers struggled to improve their working conditions, but their labor movements were restricted by law.

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It was only in the mid-1980s that the nation saw an increase in the number of labor unions, and it was not until 1987, when the military dictatorship was coming to an end, that labor movements rose up in earnest. Thanks to their activism, labor-management dialogue and agreements, and the government’s efforts at mediation the workers subsequently saw improvements in their labor conditions and the promotion of their rights. The development of democracy in Korean society, including the vitalization of labor movements, was pointed out as a major factor that widened the economic gap between South Korea and North Korea. The heated call for democratization of the nation helped strengthen the anti-corruption surveillance system and the reform-minded mechanisms among the public, which eventually contributed greatly to the effective utilization of human resources in society.

The third stage refers to the period between the 1980s and the present day. From its launch in 1981, the Chun Doo-hwan government shifted its economic policy from a growth-oriented scheme to a stability-centered one. The government initiated the restructuring of the heavy chemical industry sector and carried out industrial rationalization in order to cope with the economic crisis of the late 1970s. In the process of the rationalization of the industry, the government promoted the development of small- and medium-size companies and as a result saw an increase in the number of manufacturing companies that produced parts and components, as well as intermediary goods. This also facilitated inter-industry connections between small- and medium-size companies and large conglomerates. The plan for industrial rationalization was unable to achieve the desired result in some industrial sectors due to strong opposition from related enterprises. This indicated that the government’s industrial policy would not be successful without voluntary cooperation from businesses.

Between 1986 and 1988, South Korea enjoyed unprecedented economic growth thanks mainly to changes in global markets, including lower oil prices, lower US exchange rates, and lower interest rates. The weak dollar against other major currencies helped raise the price competitiveness of Korean export items in the global market, while lower oil prices helped reduce the cost of purchasing raw materials. Lower interest rates reduced the burden of repaying foreign loans. Thanks to prosperity

based on the phenomenon of the above-mentioned “three lows,” South Korea achieved a surplus in its trade balance for the first time since it opened a port to foreign trade in 1876. A country once categorized as one of the newly industrializing countries (NICs) in the 1970s, South Korea reached a new level of success during this period.

Gold collection movement to overcome the 1997 financial crisis





Signing ceremony of the EU-South Korea Free Trade Agreement, held at the headquarters of the European Council in Brussels, Belgium

From a long-term perspective, South Korea suffered from periodic economic crises in the process of accomplishing rapid economic growth. During the 15 years between 1965 and 1980 when the nation entered a phase of “high growth rates,” the nation also suffered three sudden periods of economic decline. According to the official estimation of the Bank of Korea, the nation’s business cycle hit bottom three times in May 1972, June 1975, and December 1980, respectively. Especially between the late 1970s and the early 1980s, the nation recorded a minus growth due to the second global oil crisis and corporate insolvencies in the 70s that resulted from excessive and overlapped investments in the heavy chemical industry. Then in 1997, a year after it became a member country of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the nation became mired in unprecedented economic crisis. The Asian financial crisis, which devastated Southeast Asian nations, also dealt a heavy blow to South Korea. Having been vulnerable to external shocks in the aftermath of rapid liberalization that had been pushed for since 1993, the nation experienced a sharp decline in its foreign exchange reserves. In order to prevent a sovereign default, the government agreed to take the International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailout package to help overhaul its economic structure.

In order to overcome this unprecedented economic crisis, the nation had to implement reforms to improve its overall economic conditions. These reform measures, which were carried out by the Kim Dae-jung administration, can be summarized as follows: the restructuring of the financial industry, renovation of corporate governance, and the liberalization of capital markets. First, the government eliminated or rearranged any unsound financial institutions and saw that companies observe their capital adequacy ratio to ensure stable operations. The government also encouraged companies to increase transparency in their accounting practices and lower debt ratios. It had large companies resolve their mutual payment guarantees among affiliates and reorganize overlapping sectors through business swaps. In the end, the government completely opened the foreign exchange market and the capital market by easing regulations on foreign exchange rates and abolishing the ceiling for foreign investment in stocks. Apart from the government’s efforts, the private sector also played a role in redeeming foreign loans by staging a gold collection campaign through which millions of

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Assembly line at the Kia Motors manufacturing plant in Žilina, Slovakia



An employee carries mother glass, which will be used in smartphone displays, at an LG Display production plant



Panorama of a shipyard (bottom left)

Night view of the Yeosu National Industrial Complex (bottom right)



Korean volunteers participate in a campaign to drill wells in Cambodia



South Koreans went to banks to sell or donate their gold to raise badly needed dollars.

Boosted by high-intensity restructuring and an increase in exports, as well as the efforts of citizens to help the nation overcome the foreign exchange crisis, South Korea quickly repaid its debts and successfully extricated itself from the IMF bailout package system. Various reform policies adopted during the restructuring process were established in the form of laws and systems, and later served as a foundation for the growth of the Korean economy. South Korea subsequently continued to see economic growth and overcame the global financial crisis of 2007–2008 with relative ease.

The Republic of Korea overcame the calamities of colonization and war to enter the ranks of developed countries in a remarkably short period of time. In fact, South Korea is one of the few countries since World War II that has gone from a low-level foreign-aid recipient to a top-level foreign-aid donor within a single generation. As of 2015, South Korea ranked 11th and 26th in the sectors of nominal gross domestic product and per capita GDP. In 2015, South Korea was the fifth largest exporter and ninth largest importer in the world. Major South Korean export items include electronics and semiconductors, automobiles, petrochemical goods, and shipbuilding. Some of the major large business groups are Samsung, Hyundai Motor Company, LG, SK, and Lotte. As of 2017, South Korea is endeavoring to achieve economic democratization by solving the problem of deepening income inequality and consolidation of the chaebol (family-owned conglomerates) system, while seeking new growth engine industries and improving productivity for long-term sustainable economic development.

V. DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOCRACY



The candlelight movement

As South Korea achieved rapid economic growth, the nation also experienced a quick transition to a democracy. South Korea was able to become a democracy thanks to political developments that were subject to economic growth. To put it concretely, the rapid economic growth of the 1960s and the 1970s served as a cornerstone for the nation's democratization process in the 1980s and the 1990s. It is noteworthy that since the 1960s the nation has implemented a condensed and sequential development model of economic growth and political development. But what should also not be overlooked is that democracy in South Korea has been achieved thanks to the active participation of its citizenry. The nation's democratic system was made possible by citizens who opposed the military dictatorship by protesting in the streets and who later quietly judged the regime at the polls, consolidating their democratic power.

Korean democracy began with the process of the establishment of the Constituent National Assembly by means of elections and the appointment of the president by the Assembly after liberation from Japanese rule in 1945. In 1948, Rhee Syngman became the first president, but he extended his regime through two illegal amendments. In April 1960, South Koreans protested against the illegal election, and after the president resigned the Rhee government collapsed.

As a result of the April Revolution, the dissatisfaction and will of the people, which was suppressed under the Rhee Syngman government, manifested itself in diverse movements and demands. However, the government of the Democratic Party, which ruled after the revolution, did not properly cope with the situation due to internal divisions and conflicts.

In May 1961, General Park Chung-hee staged a military coup d'état with his fellow military officers and usurped the government of the Democratic Party. Having headed a military regime for two years, Park was elected president in 1963 and won reelection in 1967 and again in 1971 by the direct vote of the people. In October 1972, Park declared martial law, disbanded the National Assembly, banned the activities of politicians and political parties, and installed the repressive and authoritarian Yusin ("Revitalization

The protesters heading towards the Blue House during the April Revolution





Park Chung-hee (middle), who led the May 16 coup

Reform”) regime. With a new Yusin Constitution, he had sweeping administrative, legislative, and judicial powers. He was entitled to take emergency measures whenever necessary—irrespective of the constitutional order—with which he could temporarily suspend even the constitution. College students and intellectuals, as well as some reform-minded opposition lawmakers, continued to oppose the Yusin Constitution. President Park Chung-hee took emergency measures to oppress and imprison those who called for the democratization

of the nation. Following protests in both Busan and Masan, the Yusin regime collapsed in October 1979 with the assassination of Park Chung-hee.

After the death of President Park, the democratic movement became stronger. This process, however, was halted by a military coup d’etat led by General Chun Doo-hwan in December 1979. In May 1980, students and citizens held street demonstrations in Seoul and across the nation to protest the military regime of Chun Doo-hwan. The military authorities responded by expanding emergency martial law to the entire nation, banning political activities, and closing the National Assembly. The students and the citizens of Gwangju, however, ignored these oppressive measures. They staged a protest calling for the abolition of martial law and the release of those who fought for democratization. The bloody suppression of these protestors by the military authorities smashed the pro-democracy movement. Chun Doo-hwan was ultimately elected president through an indirect election under the Yusin Constitution. The Constitution was later revised to include a seven-year single-term presidential system.

Boosted by the export-drive system of the 1960s and the promotion of the heavy and chemical industries of the 1970s, as well as to the global economic boom in the 1980s, South Korea saw further economic growth and the establishment of the middle class. In order to consolidate political power, Chun immediately upon taking office began cracking down on democratization movements. The middle class was more concerned with political stability and economic growth than democratization. Thus the democratic movement of that time languished. Nonetheless, due to economic growth and urbanization, improvement of education levels, and development of the media resulting from economic growth, citizens’ political expectations and desire for political participation increased.

This growing awareness of the necessity of people’s participation in politics led to calls for the revision of the Constitution in favor of a direct presidential election system. In May of 1987, it was revealed that the Chun Doo-hwan government repressed and manipulated the truth of the case of torture and murder of a university student. Citizens who were angry at the cruelty of the government took to the streets en masse to participate in the struggle for democratization. In the wake of the so-called June Democracy Movement participated in by both college students and members of the

Gwangju Democratization Movement



Former presidents Roh Tae-woo and Chun Doo-hwan before court



June Democracy Movement

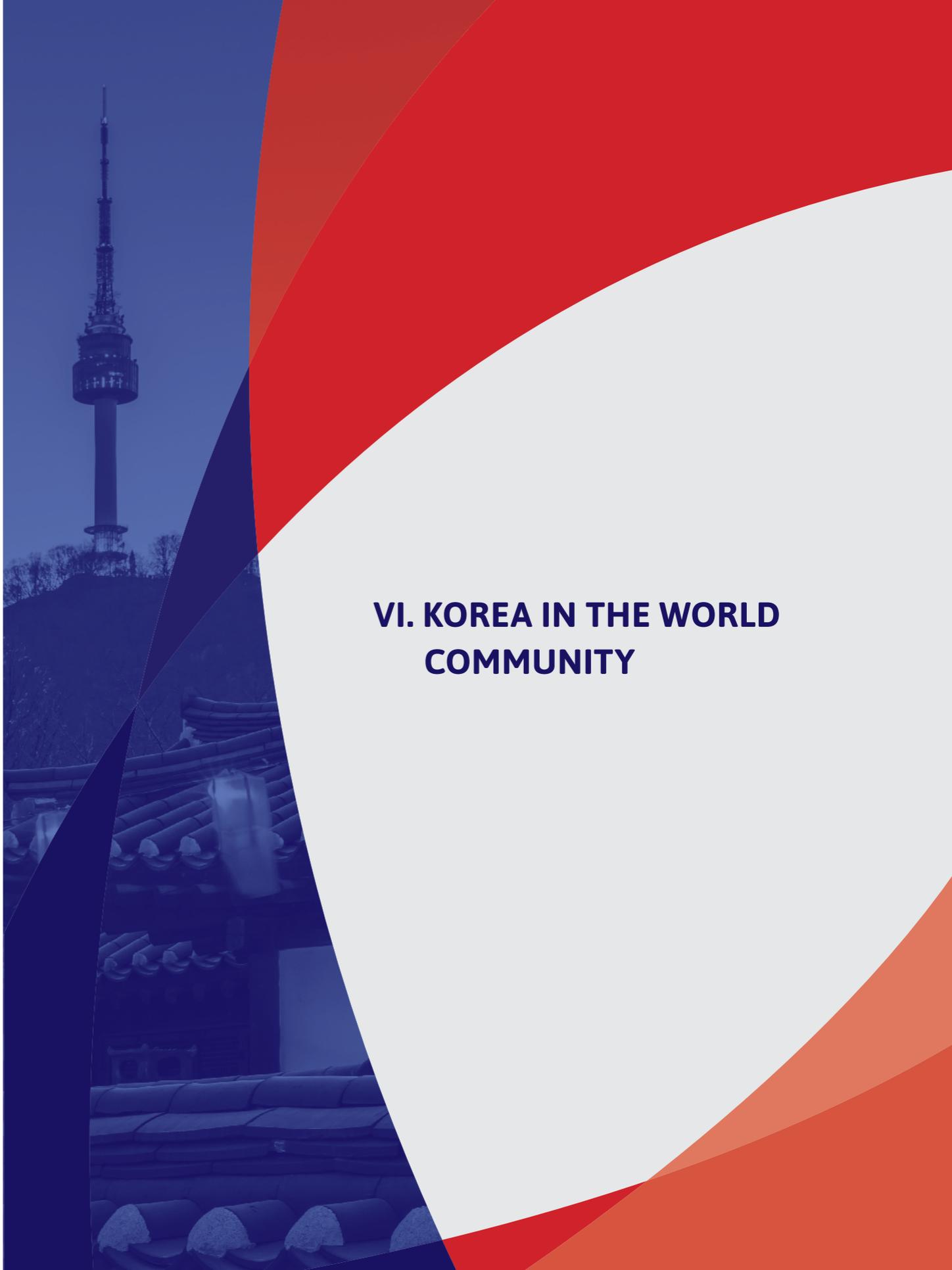


middle class, the Chun Doo-hwan government finally accepted the public demand for a direct presidential election system, and thus the road to South Korean democracy was opened. However, Roh Tae-woo, another military strongman and leader of the 1979 coup, was elected president in the first direct presidential election since 1971 because the opposition camp had failed to agree on a single candidate. Nevertheless, democratic changes and reforms continued.

In March 1990, long-time opposition leader Kim Young-sam compromised with the military forces and merged three ruling and opposition parties. He ran for president as the candidate of a new mega-sized ruling party to become the first civilian president in a generation in December 1992. During his term, President Kim Young-sam disbanded Hanahoe (the Group of One), an unofficial private group of military officers headed by Chun Doo-hwan and the birthplace of the military coup in 1979. Under the catchphrase of “setting the history right,” Kim convicted his two predecessors—Chun Doo-hwan and Roh Tae-woo—on charges of committing the crime of initiating a military coup.

In December 1997, South Korea achieved the nation’s first peaceful change of government with the election of another long-time opposition camp leader Kim Dae-jung as president. The nation’s progressive political camp continued to hold power with the election of Roh Moo-hyun as president five years later. In 2007, President Lee Myung-bak was elected as president, and a second horizontal regime change, this time from the progressive to the conservative camp, was achieved peacefully. The conservative party prolonged its political influence with the election of Park Geun-hye, the ruling party candidate, as the nation’s first female president. Park, the daughter of the late President Park Chung-hee, gained strong support thanks to the political legacy of her father. In October 2016, however, she was faced with candlelight protests demanding her resignation as president, after it was revealed that she ran the government through unofficial channels. As a result of nationwide candlelight demonstrations involving a large number of students and citizens, the National Assembly passed a motion to impeach President Park Geun-hye in December 2016. Her impeachment was later upheld by the Constitutional Court in March 2017. In May, opposition party candidate Moon Jae-in was elected President, which marked the third democratic change of government.

The candlelight protests in 2016 show how Korean democracy has matured, in that the movement led by the citizens to have the president removed from office was carried out peacefully and within the framework of democratic laws and institutions. Although the democratization of South Korea owes much to its economic growth, it goes without saying that its citizens played a leading role in developing and consolidating democracy based on their heightened political consciousness. South Korean democracy has at times been hampered by military regimes or authoritarianism, but grassroots participation by its citizens and peaceful elections have consolidated its democratic political system.



VI. KOREA IN THE WORLD COMMUNITY



The Hallyu (Korean Wave) celebrities, Bangtan Boys (BTS) (top left)

Korea's representative martial art, taekwondo (top right)

A hanbok fashion show (center)

Hallyu superstar Psy performs "Gangnam Style" (bottom)



Korea was known as the “Hermit Kingdom” during the 19th century. Nevertheless, trade and immigration have always taken place. Cultural artifacts and ancient records reveal that a great deal of intercultural exchange occurred, including the mass migration of tribes from China, settlement of Arab merchants, and the arrival of Southeast Asians.

The Silla capital of Gyeongju in the southeastern corner of the peninsula was the easternmost mainland terminal of the Silk Road, a trading route that passed from Europe through the Asian continent. Previous research considered Xi’an in China to be the eastern terminal of the trade route, but recently discovered artifacts show that the link extended to Gyeongju, the southeastern end of the Eurasian Continent, possibly even to the Japanese cities of Nara and Kyoto across the Korea Strait.

In more recent times, South Korea has emerged as a leader in global electronic communications, which is the modern-day equivalent of the Silk Road. South Korea is one of the most advanced nations in the world when it comes to Internet access. Its infrastructure is broad and far-reaching. Koreans share their thoughts, experiences, and knowledge with citizens of the world via such communication channels, adding a new layer of richness to the Korean culture that has been passed down through the generations. Throughout history, cultural exchange has always been a key element in international contact. This continues to be true in today’s increasingly interconnected world. South Korean pop music (K-pop), movies, and television dramas have garnered a dedicated international following as Hallyu (the Korean Wave) sweeps the world. In turn, South Korea continues to absorb cultural elements from the rest of the globe.

With changes in the global economic and ecological environment, South Korea faces new challenges—an aging population, a low birth rate, income redistribution, pursuit of new growth engine industries, and a shortage of energy and water resources. Most daunting of all is the unpredictable leadership and policies of North Korea, which even now is developing nuclear weapons. The overall outlook for the global economy also is not bright. But history has shown that the Korean people can overcome all sorts of challenges.

Korea's Cherished Traditions

Korean people in general have a strong cultural pride. Koreans wear modern clothing in everyday life, but traditional Korean clothing, or *hanbok*, is worn on special occasions such as weddings and traditional holidays. The *hanbok* consists of a short jacket and a long dress for women and a jacket and loose pants tied at the ankles for men. Bright silk colors are employed to create a cheerful and elegant effect.

Korean food in general is called *hansik* and is gaining an enthusiastic global following. A typical Korean meal consists of rice, soup, savory braised or fried meat or fish, a variety of vegetable side-dishes, and kimchi (fermented cabbage with spices, or other variations of which there are some 220 official kinds), and is eaten with metal chopsticks and a spoon.

The traditional Korean house, or *hanok*, is experiencing renewed popularity these days, although apartment complexes are the most common housing option for Koreans due to the country's high urban density. *Hanok* feature charming wooden buildings with granite foundations, a unique under-floor heating system called *ondol*, and gray tiled roofs. Excellent examples of these structures, which are designated for preservation, can be found in a number of urban neighborhoods and rural towns such as Andong Hahoe Folk Village. Since ancient times, Koreans have used the excellent traditional *ondol* floor-heating system, and this technology is used even today in modern homes. Floor heating has been popular in many Western countries for its healthy effects.



Photographs

Cultural Heritage Administration

17 (bottom-right), 22 (middle-left)

Cultural Heritage Administration, Hyeonchungsa Shrine Office

22 (bottom-right)

Getty Image Bank

cover (first), 10 (bottom-left, bottom-right), 14, 19, 22 (top), 23, 39 (bottom-left), 51 (top-left, bottom-left, bottom-right)

Image Today

cover (third, fourth), front flap, 8, 17 (top), 48 (top-right), 50, 51 (top-right, middle-left, middle-right), back flap

Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology

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22 (middle-right)

National Archives of Korea

28 (top-right), 30, 34, 45 (middle)

National Museum of Korea

4, 17 (middle-left, middle-right)

Robert Koehler

cover (second), 32

The Independence Hall of Korea

26 (bottom-left), 28 (top-left)

The War Memorial of Korea

22 (bottom-left)

Understanding Korea Project

15 (bottom)

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17 (middle-center), 20, 28 (bottom-left), 44

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Yonhap News

17 (bottom-left), 18 (top), 21 (top), 24, 26 (bottom-right), 28 (middle, bottom-right), 33, 37, 38, 39 (top, middle, bottom-right), 40, 42, 43, 45 (top, bottom), 48 (top-left, middle-center, bottom)

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