

Chapter 16

Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Republic of Korea

Chapter Preview

People

Kim Il-sung, Kim Jong-il, Kim Jong-un, Park Chung-hee, Roh Tae-woo, Kim Young-sam, Kim Dae-jung, Park Geun-hye


Places

Korean Peninsula, Pyongyang, Seoul

Terms

homogenous, Kingdom of Joseon (or Chosŏn), annex, Yalta Agreement, Cold War, coalition, stalemate, Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), self-reliance, provocation, armistice, civilian, domino theory, autocratic rule, Supreme People's Assembly, Central Court, presidential republic, National Assembly, Supreme Court, Constitutional Court, command economy, cooperative farm, famine, North Korean won, South Korean won, black market, reunification, denuclearization, multilateral, Six-Party Talks, Mutual Defense Treaty, Korea-US Free Trade Agreement

Top: The Buddhist Haedong Yonggungsa Temple was built in 1376 on the rugged Korean seacoast near Busan. **Background:** Seoul, South Korea, is the capital city and a center for technology innovation and trade.



Bottom: Pyongyang is North Korea's capital. The city is the country's largest and is located on the Taedong River about 70 miles upstream from the Yellow Sea.

From space, you can see the difference. When night falls over the Korean Peninsula, astronauts observe the lights of civilization. Cities begin to glow and seacoasts are outlined with the gleam of streetlights, small towns, and homes—all reflecting signs of life into space. The northern part of the Korean Peninsula, however, is surprisingly dark. It is as if a portion of the peninsula was ripped away, leaving a dark hole in its place. Of course, the land is there, but where are the lights, the signs of modern life on Earth? The dark area is North Korea, the part of Korea directly connected to China and the rest of Asia. The brightly lit tip of the Korean Peninsula is South Korea, a high-tech powerhouse in the modern world.

Why the difference? Why is it dark at night in the north and brightly lit in the south? Why are there even two Koreas? The answers to these questions will help you learn more about this region where tensions are often high, and the threat of war is real. It is so real, in fact, that the United States has about 29,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines stationed in South Korea. Their role is to protect South Korea and American interests in the country. Another 40,000 or so are stationed less than 1,000 miles away in Japan. These troops help to monitor issues of security and peacekeeping in the eastern Pacific region.

Korea has its roots in history dating back thousands of years. Ruled sometimes by China, sometimes by Japan, sometimes by its own kingdoms, Korea has often served as a bridge connecting people, goods, and ideas in mainland Asia with Japan.

Modern South Korea has a powerful, technology-based economy. You may have connections to this economy in your own life. Samsung makes many electronic devices, but their cell phones have challenged US-based Apple iPhone for dominance. Kia and Hyundai's high-quality cars and trucks are popular with American consumers. Kia Motors even has a manufacturing plant in West Point, Georgia.

North Korea, on the other hand, has spent its limited resources building its military strength. Its people are controlled by strict rules that limit and direct much of their daily life. The country has been ruled by the Kim family since 1948. The repressive government limits its people's contact with the outside world, and its leaders have at times allowed its citizens to starve rather than accept food aid from Western countries.

From communism to democracy, from command to market economy, and from darkness to light, the Koreas offer a fascinating look at different extremes of government and economic systems.

“

The endgame is peaceful reunification of the Korean Peninsula.

- Lee Myung-bak,
former president
of South Korea

The military might of a country represents its national strength. Only when it builds up its military might in every way can it develop into a thriving country.

- Kim Jong-un,
supreme leader of
North Korea



PASSPORT



Official Name: Democratic People's Republic of Korea (Choson-minjujuui-inmin-konghwaguk)

Capital: Pyongyang

Form of Government: communist state

Head of Government: Premier

Head of State: Supreme Leader

Suffrage: 17 years of age; universal

Currency: North Korean won (KPW)



Official Name: Republic of Korea (Taehan-min'guk)

Capital: Seoul (Note: Sejong, located 75 miles south of Seoul, is being developed as a new capital.)

Form of Government: presidential republic

Head of Government: President

Head of State: President

Suffrage: 19 years of age; universal

Currency: South Korean won (KRW)

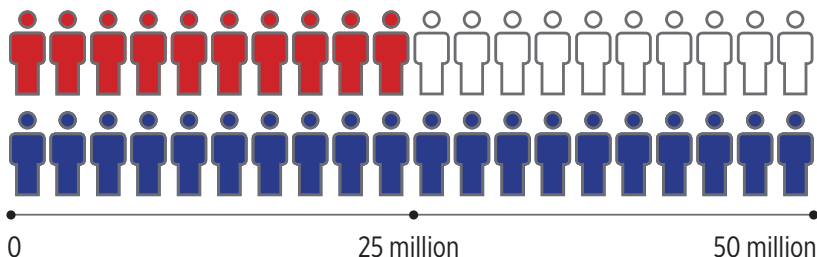


From Top to Bottom: Left: Flag of the Democratic Republic of Korea. **Right:** The North Korean Parliament meets at the Supreme People's Assembly in Pyongyang. **Right:** North Korean leader Kim Jong-un came to power in 2011. **Right:** The currency of North Korea is the North Korean won. **Left:** Flag of the Republic of Korea. **Right:** Moon Jae-in became president of South Korea in 2017. **Left:** The South Korean Parliament meets in the National Assembly building in Seoul. **Right:** The currency of South Korea is the South Korean won.



CULTURE CONNECTION

POPULATION



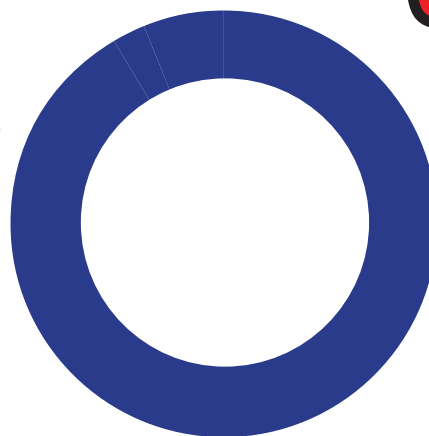
North Korea
25,115,311 (est. July 2016)
Population Rank 51

United States
324,386,000 (est. 2017)
Population Rank 3

South Korea
50,924,172 (est. July 2016)
Population Rank 28

ETHNIC GROUPS

North and South Korea are racially homogeneous

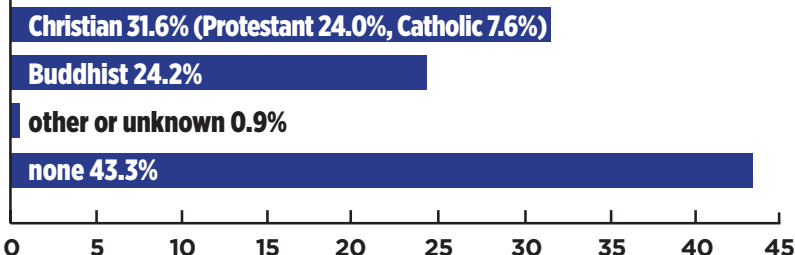


RELIGION

North Korea

Traditionally Buddhist and Confucianist, some Christian and syncretic Chondogyo (Religion of the Heavenly Way)
(Note: Autonomous religious activities are now almost nonexistent; government-sponsored religious groups exist to provide an illusion of religious freedom.)

South Korea



FUN FACTS

North Korea functions within its own time zone, called Pyongyang Time, which started being used on August 15, 2015. It is 30 minutes behind South Korea and Japan.

South Korean babies are considered one year old at birth, and they gain another year every January 1st. That means December babies are considered two years old by the time they are actually only a month old.

Official Language:

Korean

Phrases in Korean

- Hello – – Annyeonghaseyo
- Goodbye – – Annyeong
- Good morning – – Joh-eun achim
- Good afternoon – – Annyeonghaseyo
- Thank you – – Gomabseubnida
- You're welcome – – Cheonman-eyo
- Yes – – Ye
- No – – Ani



LIFE EXPECTANCY

	North	South
Average	70.4 years	82.4 years
Male	66.6 years	79.3 years
Female	74.5 years	85.8 years



EDUCATION

South Korea
Education Expenditures 4.6% of GDP
Rank 75

North Korea NA

Top Left: Japanese troops marched into northern Korea during the Russo-Japanese War in 1904. **Middle Right:** North Korean leader Kim Il-sung (left) signed the armistice to stop fighting in the Korean War in 1953. **Middle Left:** In the mid-1950s, thousands of Koreans fled south after the North Korean army invaded their villages and towns. **Bottom Left:** Kim Dae-jung was elected president of South Korea in 1998 and later was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. **Bottom Right:** Korea's Samsung was forced to recall its Galaxy Note 7 phone in 2016 due to explosions caused by faulty batteries. The problem has cost the company over \$17 billion. **Background:** The bombing of Wonsan in the Korean War in 1951.

TIMELINE

OF KOREA HISTORY



Figure 16.1



- 668** Korean rulers united most of the peninsula
- 1234** Moveable type printing invented in Korea
- 1392** Kingdom of Joseon (Chosŏn) came into power
- 1443** Korean alphabet invented
- 1905** End of Russo-Japanese War
- 1910** Japan annexed Korea
- 1945** Yalta Agreement; World War II ended; United Nations founded
- 1948** Kim Il-sung became North Korea's "supreme leader"
- 1950** North Korean forces invaded South Korea
- 1953** Armistice ended Korean conflict; DMZ created
- 1961** Park Chung-hee took control of South Korea
- 1979** Park Chung-hee assassinated
- 1987** Roh Tae-woo won first free presidential election in South Korea
- 1993** Kim Young-sam became first civilian president of South Korea
- 1994** Kim Il-sung died; Kim Jong-il became leader of North Korea
- 1994** US-North Korea agreement on roadmap for denuclearization
- 1998** Kim Dae-jung became president of South Korea
- 2000** Kim Dae-jung won Nobel Peace Prize
- 2003** United States proposed Six-Party Talks
- 2004** South Korea joined the "trillion-dollar club"
- 2007** Severe flooding hit parts of North Korea
- 2009** Last of Six-Party Talks held
- 2009** US-South Korea Mutual Defense Treaty signed
- 2010** South Korea hosted G-20 Summit
- 2011** Kim Jong-il died; Kim Jong-un became leader of North Korea
- 2012** Korea-US Free Trade Agreement
- 2013** North Korea announced policy of developing nuclear weapons
- 2013** Park Geun-hye elected president of South Korea
- 2017** Park Geun-hye removed from office on corruption charges; Moon Jae-in succeeded her



North Korea

Area: 46,540 square miles

Rank: 99

Natural Resources:

coal, lead, tungsten, zinc, graphite, magnesite, iron ore, copper, gold, pyrites, salt, fluorspar, hydropower

Environmental Issues:

water pollution; inadequate supplies of potable water; waterborne disease; deforestation; soil erosion and degradation

South Korea

Area: 38,502 square miles

Rank: 109

Natural Resources:

coal, tungsten, graphite, molybdenum, lead, hydropower potential

Environmental Issues:

air pollution in large cities; acid rain; water pollution from the discharge of sewage and industrial effluents; drift net fishing



Map 16.1
North & South Korea

Map Skill: Which country appears to have higher mountains?

Section 1

The Geography of the Koreas



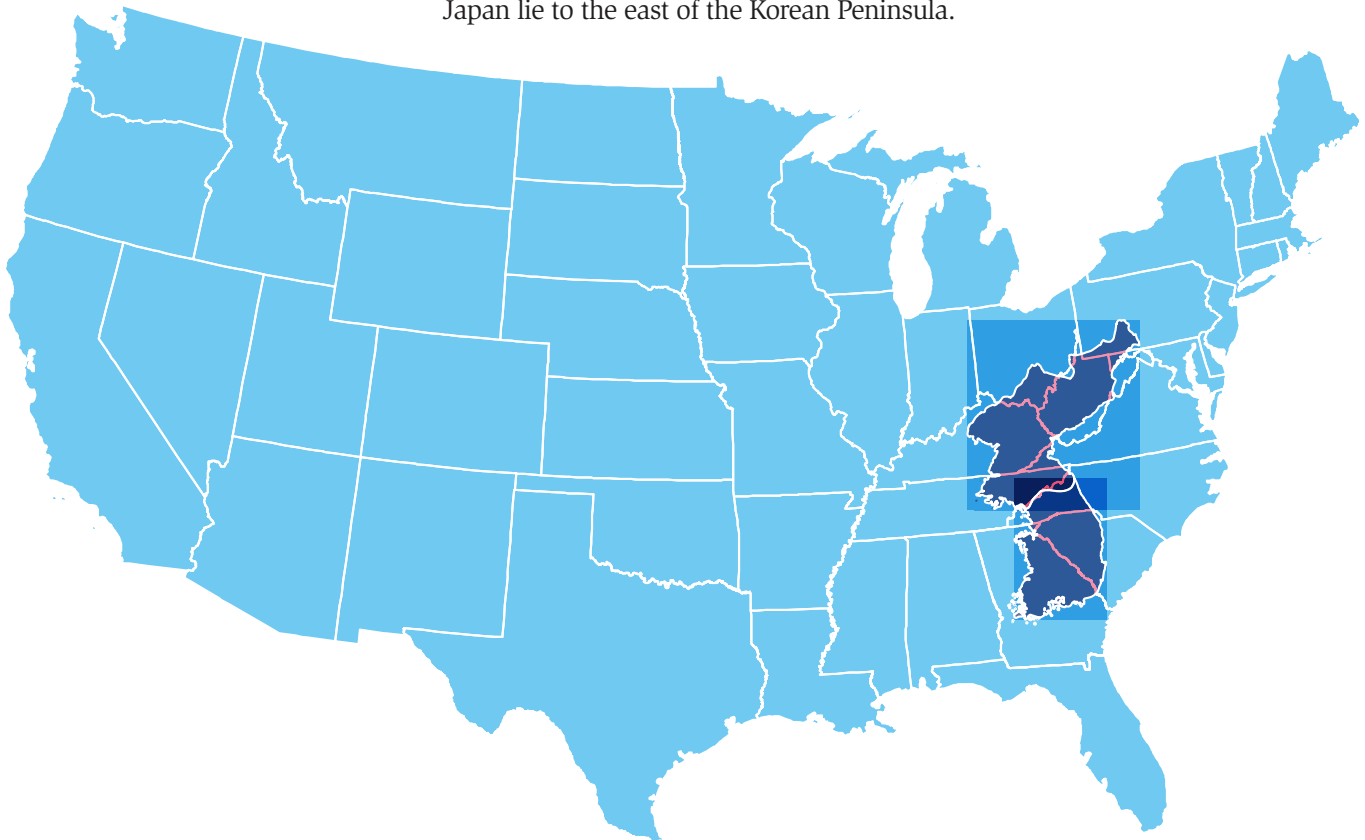
Setting a Purpose

As you read, look for

- ▶ the impact the mountains had on North Korea's development;
- ▶ where on the Korean Peninsula most people live;
- ▶ the many natural resources on the peninsula;
- ▶ why North Korea must rely on foreign aid to feed its people;
- ▶ term: **homogenous**.

Location and Size of the Koreas

North and South Korea are located on the Korean Peninsula in eastern Asia. The peninsula is in the eastern and northern hemispheres. North Korea is bordered by the Korea Bay of the Yellow Sea on the west and the Sea of Japan on the east. To the north are China and Russia and to the south is South Korea. South Korea borders the Sea of Japan to the east, the Yellow Sea to the west, and North Korea to the north. The islands of Japan lie to the east of the Korean Peninsula.



At 46,540 square miles of territory, North Korea is smaller than the state of Georgia. The land is mountainous and not as densely populated as South Korea. With an area of 38,502 square miles, South Korea is smaller than Georgia, but a bit larger than South Carolina. South Korea is less mountainous than North Korea, and a large part of the country has excellent farmland.

The Korean Peninsula is in the temperate climate zone between the Arctic Circle and the Tropic of Cancer. The southern part of the peninsula reaches south into a subtropical zone.

Physical Features of the Koreas

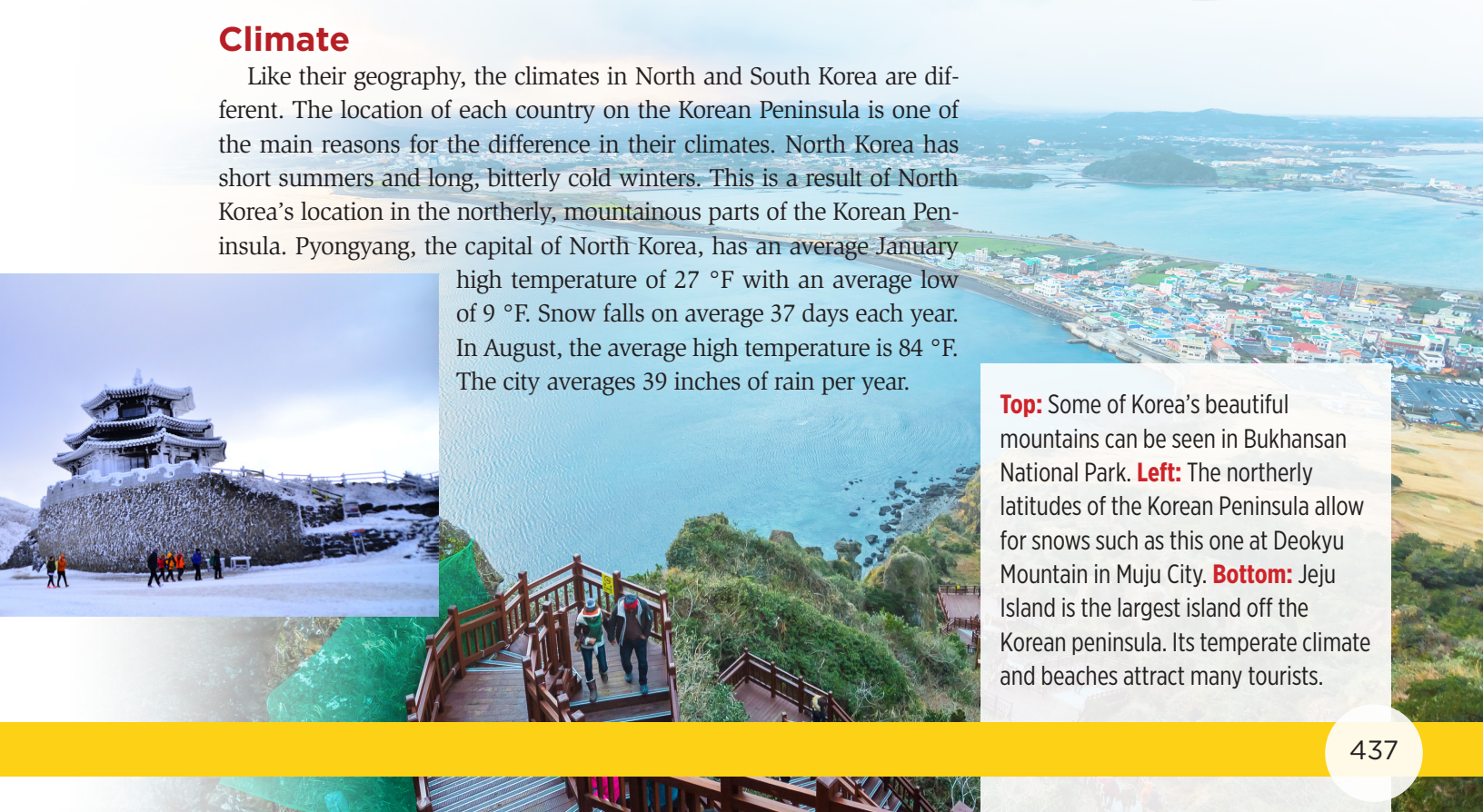
While both North and South Korea are located on the Korean Peninsula, their geography is very different. The mountains of North Korea have made it more difficult for its people to be successful with agriculture, unlike people in South Korea and in other parts of Asia. Despite the limited amount of arable land, the people of North Korea rely on this land to produce most of the food for the country. There are fast-flowing rivers in the mountains where North Koreans have developed hydroelectric power plants. North Korea earns a profit from mining coal and other minerals like iron and copper.

In comparison, South Korea has fewer mountains than North Korea. While there are mountainous areas in South Korea, there is also a hilly countryside that is home to ancient temples and flowering fruit trees. The large coastal plains in the western and southern parts of the country provide farming opportunities, and the coasts are rich in seafood. Subtropical islands can be found at the southern tip of South Korea. Like North Korea, South Korea is able to take advantage of fast-moving rivers in the mountains to produce hydroelectric power.

Climate

Like their geography, the climates in North and South Korea are different. The location of each country on the Korean Peninsula is one of the main reasons for the difference in their climates. North Korea has short summers and long, bitterly cold winters. This is a result of North Korea's location in the northerly, mountainous parts of the Korean Peninsula. Pyongyang, the capital of North Korea, has an average January

high temperature of 27 °F with an average low of 9 °F. Snow falls on average 37 days each year. In August, the average high temperature is 84 °F. The city averages 39 inches of rain per year.



Top: Some of Korea's beautiful mountains can be seen in Bukhansan National Park. **Left:** The northerly latitudes of the Korean Peninsula allow for snows such as this one at Deokyu Mountain in Muju City. **Bottom:** Jeju Island is the largest island off the Korean peninsula. Its temperate climate and beaches attract many tourists.

South Korea's climate is milder than North Korea's. Summers are hot and humid, and winters are cold but warmer than North Korea. This is mainly because of warm winds from the ocean, which North Korea does not get. One of the most important effects of the ocean winds is the monsoon season. In the summers, the ocean currents bring monsoon rains to South Korea. This rain helps farmers be successful. The capital, Seoul, has an average high January temperature of 35 °F, and an average low of 21 °F. In August, the average high temperature is 84 °F. The city averages about 57 inches of rain per year.

Natural Resources in the Koreas

Varied natural resources are found on the Korean Peninsula in both North and South Korea including coal, lead, tungsten, graphite, and hydro-power. While arable land is not a common resource, it is very important to the Korean people, especially in North Korea where they have to grow all of their food to survive. In addition to these resources, North Korea has zinc, iron ore, magnesite, copper, gold, pyrites, salt, and fluorspar. Compared to many of the countries in the world, South Korea has very few natural resources.

Environmental Issues of the Koreas

Like countries around the world, both North and South Korea have different environmental issues that their governments must work to solve. Water is one of the biggest environmental issues in North Korea. While there are rivers in parts of North Korea, in many areas there is not enough clean water for people to drink. Sometimes the water is contaminated with waterborne diseases (diseases that live in the water). The water is sometimes also polluted from mining operations. Additionally, poor agricultural practices are causing problems. For example, soil erosion is a major issue. If the soil erodes away, farmers will not be able to grow enough food to survive. In a country like North Korea, where there is already limited arable land, the impact of soil erosion can be severe.

South Korea is more industrialized than North Korea. As a result, air pollution is a major problem in cities across South Korea. Both car emissions and factories are contributing to this problem. As a result of the air pollution, acid rain is another major environmental issue. As in North Korea, water pollution is a problem in parts of South Korea. However, the causes of water pollution are different. In South Korea, water pollution is caused from industrial waste, as well as sewage that is dumped into the waterways.

Right: Dust mixed with auto and factory emissions can cause polluted air to settle on the city of Seoul.

Background: This Korean farm is growing green barley and has yellow-flowering canola along with wind turbines to generate electricity.



Impact of Geography

The geography of the Korean Peninsula greatly affects where people live in North and South Korea. North Korea is very mountainous. Most of the people in North Korea live along the western half of the country where the mountains slope down to the sea and farming is more successful. About 60 percent of North Korea's population lives in urban areas. The largest city in North Korea is the capital, Pyongyang. It has a population of about 3 million people.

About 83 percent of the people in South Korea live in urban areas. About 20 percent of South Koreans live in the capital city of Seoul, a city of almost 10 million people. South Koreans live near Seoul and other urban centers because there are better opportunities for jobs and education that are not available in rural areas.

People of Korea

Even though the Korean Peninsula has been divided since the end of World War II, the populations of both countries still share many similar qualities. For example, both populations are **homogenous**, which means they are similar and are not diverse. Korean is the language of the people in both countries. In South Korea, however, many people also learn to speak English. One of the biggest differences between the two countries is the total population. South Korea has over twice the population of North Korea. South Korea's population is over 50 million, while North Korea's population is only a little over 25 million. There is a big difference in religious practices between the countries. In South Korea, Christianity is the largest practiced religion, followed by Buddhism. However, over 40 percent of the population does not practice any religion. In North Korea religion is not a part of life. The North Korean government creates some religious groups so it appears there is religious freedom in North Korea, but in reality, there is no religious freedom.



Reviewing the Section

1. What impact have the mountains had on North Korea's development?
2. Where do most people live in South Korea? Why?
3. North Korea has many natural resources. Why do you think they have to rely on foreign aid to feed their people?
4. Compare and Contrast: Based on the passage, how is the geography different between North and South Korea? What adaptations have Koreans made to be successful with their geography?

Top: Colorful houses cling to the hillside along narrow roads and alleys at Gemcheon Village near Busan.

Above: The Yoido Full Gospel Church (Assemblies of God) claims about 780,000 members. Christianity is the largest practiced faith in South Korea. Religious practices are discouraged in North Korea.

Section 2

A Brief History of the Koreans



Setting a Purpose

As you read, look for

- ▶ who controlled Korea before the 1900s;
- ▶ which country controlled Korea during World War II;
- ▶ why Korea was divided after World War II;
- ▶ the Cold War;
- ▶ how the histories of the two Koreas are similar and different;
- ▶ the status of reunification of the Koreas;
- ▶ terms: **Kingdom of Joseon (or Chosŏn), annex, Yalta Agreement, Cold War, coalition, stalemate, Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), self-reliance, provocation, armistice, civilian.**

DID YOU KNOW?

The efficient Korean alphabet called Hangeul was invented in 1443.

An Ancient and Distinct Culture

The Korean culture is thousands of years old. At times, the peninsula has been ruled by Korean kingdoms. At other times, the Chinese ruled Korea. The Koreans, however, have maintained their own spoken and written language and culture. Ancient temples and palaces from these ancient times still dot the landscape.

Around the year 668, Korean rulers united most of the peninsula into a single kingdom. Buddhism grew in importance in the unified kingdom. In 1392, a new ruling family came to power. The **Kingdom of Joseon (or Chosŏn)** adopted the teachings of Confucius as the official philosophy of the country. Koreans refined their alphabet and made advances in mathematics, science, and art. The Joseon dynasty ruled Korea until the Japanese invasion in 1910.



Above: Buddhism is important to the history of Korea. The Naksansa Buddhist Temple on the eastern side of the Korean Peninsula was founded in the year 671. **Right:** Gyeongbokgung Palace, built in 1395, was the home of the Joseon dynasty.



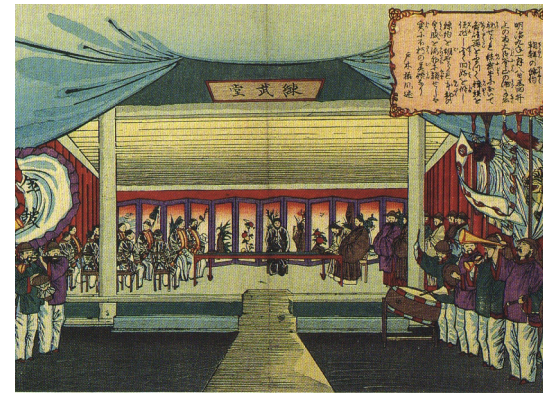
Europeans knew little of Korea until the mid-1600s. Once its existence was known in the West, Roman Catholic missionaries were sent to spread Christianity. The religion spread across the peninsula. However, Christian beliefs were not aligned to Confucianism. Officials had missionaries and their converts harassed, jailed, or even executed, but the religion continued to spread into the 1800s. Meanwhile the government was becoming unstable due to a series of young and inexperienced rulers. Encounters with American and French ships were usually met with resistance, and the Koreans worked to keep outsiders from their shores.

At the end of the Russo-Japanese War in 1905, Japan occupied Korea. Five years later, Japan took full control of the Korean Peninsula by **annexing** (taking over another country's land) it. Korea would not become independent again until Japan surrendered to the United States in 1945, ending World War II. While the Japanese surrender meant that the Japanese no longer controlled Korea, it did not mean the end of problems for Korea's people. In fact, many problems were just beginning.

World War II and Korea

As World War II was coming to an end in 1945, the leaders from the United States, the Soviet Union, and Great Britain got together at Yalta, a small resort on the Black Sea. During this meeting, the leaders drew up an agreement about how they would cooperate and work together to help repair the damage caused by Germany and Japan during the war. This plan would become known as the **Yalta Agreement**. It called for each country to temporarily occupy the areas where they had troops when the war ended. Each of these three countries would work to restore peace in the areas they controlled and would hold free elections so the people of each country could decide what type of government they wanted. They also discussed how the newly created United Nations (UN) would be organized and what its purpose would be. All three countries agreed they would join the United Nations and work together to restore and create peace in the world.

The terms of surrender for Japan called for Japanese forces north of latitude 38° North to surrender to Soviet troops. South of this line, the Japanese were to surrender to American troops. What was to be a temporary line became a border dividing the peninsula.



Above: This image depicts the signing of the Japan-Korea Treaty of Amity (1876) between the Empire of Japan and the Joseon Kingdom of Korea. The treaty gave Japan access to Korea in new ways and eventually resulted in Japan annexing Korea in 1910. **Left:** Korean volunteers fought with the Imperial Japanese Army during World War II.

The Cold War and Korea

While it seemed the United States and Soviet Union were in agreement about how things would be handled at the end of the war, each country had very different goals. After suffering through World War II and having millions of citizens killed and farms and factories closed, the Soviet Union wanted to make sure they would never be invaded by Western Europe again. At the end of the war, the Soviet Union occupied most of the countries in Eastern Europe and did not want to remove its troops after peace was declared. The Soviet Union also wanted to make sure these new countries would be their allies, so they wanted to make sure the new countries would be communist.

These actions made the United States believe the Soviet Union had broken the Yalta Agreement, which made the United States angry. As a result, the **Cold War** (the period of distrust and misunderstanding between the Soviet Union and its former wartime allies in the West) began. The competition to get as many governments in place around the world that followed their choice of government type was set in motion. Korea was one of the countries where the superpowers competed for control during the Cold War.

On June 25, 1950, North Korean forces invaded South Korea. Led by the United States, a United Nations **coalition** (temporary alliance between countries) of sixteen countries came to help defend South Korea. China entered the war as an ally of North Korea, which led to a **stalemate** (a “deadlock” where no action can be taken or progress made) that lasted for two years and ended with an armistice on July 27, 1953. There were an estimated 4,000,000 casualties from the war, both civilian and military. A peace treaty has never been signed.

North and South Korea have had a difficult and sometimes bitter relationship since the Korean War. The two countries are separated by a **Demilitarized Zone (DMZ)**, an area where it is forbidden to have any kind of military presence. During the postwar period, both Korean governments have repeatedly shared their desire to reunify the Korean Peninsula. Until 1971, however, the two governments had no direct, official communications or other contact.



DID YOU KNOW?

About 50,000 prisoners of war held by UN forces during the Korean War did not want to return to their home communist countries.

Top: Helicopters were used extensively in the Korean War to move people and goods throughout the Korean Peninsula. **Above:** The Arch of Reunification in Pyongyang celebrates the idea of a reunified Korea. **Bottom:** In 1950, the USS *Missouri* fired into North Korea in an attempt to cut the country's communication lines.



Brief History of North Korea

At the end of World War II, Korea was divided into north and south. The northern half was under Soviet-sponsored communist control, while the southern half was supported by the United States. In 1950, North Korea, formally called the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, launched an unsuccessful attack to conquer South Korea.

The first leader of North Korea, President Kim Il-sung, began a policy of **self-reliance** to limit the amount of outside influence on the country. Using propaganda tactics, the North Korean government portrayed the United States as evil and a threat to North Korea. That policy continues to this day. The goal of North Korea was to one day reunify North and South Korea. This goal is the focus of all political, economic, and military policies in North Korea.

Kim Il-sung's son, Kim Jong-il, was named as his father's successor in 1980, and he became the leader of North Korea following his father's death in 1994. The current leader of North Korea, Kim Jong-un, the son of Kim Jong-il, became the leader in 2011 after his father's death.

Despite a policy of self-reliance, North Korea has had to rely heavily on international aid to feed its people since the mid-1990s. In 2002, the government showed signs of allowing more economic freedom by allowing semiprivate markets, but those reforms were removed in 2005 and 2009.

Today, North Korea is a cause of concern for the international community. There is a long history of military **provocations** (things that anger others) that include long-range missile development, weapons of mass destruction programs that include testing nuclear devices in 2006, 2009, 2013, and 2015, and a massive buildup of armed forces. In 2013, the regime announced a new policy calling for the development of nuclear weapons. By early 2016, North Korea was claiming to have tested a hydrogen bomb, and it continued to launch satellites, which many people fear are tests for rockets.



Top: Statues of Kim Il-sung (left) and Kim Jong-il (right) stand about 165 feet high overlooking Pyongyang, North Korea. **Left:** North Korea spends a great deal of its budget on the military. This parade in 2013 showcased weapons and soldiers.

special Feature

The DMZ

When the DMZ was created in 1953, it was never seen as a permanent solution to the Korean War; however, it still exists over sixty years later. When the armistice agreement was signed on July 27, 1953, the Korean Peninsula was divided, just like it had been before the Korean War. Each side withdrew 1.2 miles from the official Military Demarcation Line (MDL) that separates North and South Korea, creating the Demilitarized Zone, or DMZ. Running for 148 miles from the mouth of the Han River in the west to south of the North Korean town of Kosong in the east, the DMZ is the most heavily fortified border in the world. The 2.5-mile-wide DMZ is a buffer zone that is off limits to large numbers of troops and heavy weaponry, like tanks and artillery. Land mines, barbed-wire fences, and guard posts dot the border of the DMZ on each side. Within the DMZ, however, land that was once farmland has returned to nature. Some of the best-protected ecosystems in Asia are found in the DMZ, along with endangered species like the white-naped and red-crowned cranes.

In the center of the DMZ is the “truce village” of Panmunjom, which contains the Joint Security Area (JSA). The bright blue buildings at the JSA are where meetings between North and South Korean leaders have taken place. Inside the JSA, each country is limited to having thirty-five soldiers at one time, although often fewer are present.



Above: The Joint Security Area at the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) on the border between North and South Korea provides a neutral site for meetings of military leaders in the two countries.

Background: The DMZ is the strip of land separating North and South Korea.



If you ever travel to South Korea, you can take a tour of the DMZ. When visiting the DMZ, there are some general rules to follow. Trying to communicate with North Korean soldiers is a bad idea, as is bringing anything that looks like a weapon (including umbrellas and pens). Ripped jeans are not allowed. North Korean officials have taken photos of Westerners in ripped jeans and used them as propaganda posters showing that Westerners cannot afford to buy new pants. On a guided tour, you will be given the chance to enter one of the United Nations meeting rooms, step around the table in the center of the room, and cross into North Korea. Just be sure not to go through the door on that side of the room. If you do, the North Korean army will arrest you. There are also two observation towers along the DMZ in the south that allow you to see into North Korea. One tower offers a view of a propaganda town that North Korea built to demonstrate how great communism is; no one lives there, however. Another point of interest would be the four infiltration tunnels North Korea dug underneath the DMZ. When South Korea discovered the tunnels in the 1980s, North Korea claimed they were coal mines. What do you think would be the most interesting place to visit in the DMZ?



Top: A sign in English and Korean marks the DMZ. **Above:** DMZ Tunnel 3 was discovered by South Koreans in 1978. The North Korean government claimed it was a coal mine; the South Korean government viewed the tunnel as a path for invaders to enter the country.

Brief History of South Korea

South Korea, formally called the Republic of Korea, was created at the end of World War II with a democratic-based government. During the Korean War, US and UN soldiers fought alongside South Korean soldiers, while North Korea was supported by China and the Soviet Union. The 1953 **armistice** (cease-fire) divided the Korean Peninsula and created the 160-mile long Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) between the two countries.

Unfortunately, the first democracy in South Korea did not last long. In 1961, Park Chung-hee took control of the country. Despite Park's authoritarian rule, South Korea had rapid economic growth during his regime in which the per capita (per person) income rose to about 17 times the level of North Korea. Park Chung-hee was assassinated in 1979, but democracy was not restored in South Korea until 1987.

In 1987, former army general Roh Tae-woo won South Korea's first free presidential election under a revised democratic constitution. In 1993, Kim Young-sam became the first **civilian** (nonmilitary) president of South Korea, which began a new democratic era for South Korea. President Kim Dae-jung, elected in 1998, won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2000 for his contributions to South Korean democracy and his "sunshine" policy of engagement with North Korea.

President Park Geun-hye, daughter of former President Park Chung-hee, was elected in February 2013 as South Korea's first female leader. Park was removed from office in 2017, however, on charges of corruption.

Provocations by North Korea have stopped most inter-Korea relations for much of the last decade. Examples of the provocations include the North's attacks on a South Korean ship and island in 2010, multiple nuclear and missile tests, and the exchange of artillery fire across the demilitarized zone.

Reviewing the Section

1. Who controlled Korea before the 1900s?
2. Which country controlled Korea during World War II?
3. Why was Korea divided after World War II? How was this related to the Cold War?
4. Compare and contrast the history of North and South Korea. How are their histories similar? How are they different?
5. What do you think the future holds for North and South Korea? Do you think they will ever reunify into one country again? Why or why not?

Top: This monument in Seoul honors the war veterans in North and South Korea. **Above:** South Korea's busy streets, like this Namdaemun market area in Seoul, reflect the country's prosperity. **Bottom:** Protesters rallied against President Park Geun-hye's corruption in 2016. The first female president was removed from office in 2017.

special Feature

Reunions between Korean Relatives Separated since the Korean War

When the Korean War armistice was signed in 1953, the Korean Peninsula was split into two parts along a Demilitarized Zone. The border between the two countries was quickly fortified, effectively ending all transportation between the zones. When the border closed, many Koreans were separated from their families and loved ones with no chance of seeing or even communicating with each other again. Parents and children, brothers and sisters, even husbands and wives were separated. In 1988, an estimated 127,000 South Koreans believed they had family members in North Korea.

In 2000, after a meeting between leaders of North and South Korea, a series of reunions between relatives from the north and south was proposed. Since 2000, an estimated 19,000 Koreans have been reunited in face-to-face meetings, and 3,750 others have been reunited through video links. To have the opportunity to meet with long-lost loved ones, South Koreans must enter a lottery system. That system takes into account the age and family background of the applicants. Most South Koreans who are interested in the reunions are in their eighties and nineties, so the reunions are the last chance most of them have of seeing their loved ones again.

The most recent reunions occurred in October 2015. They occur over three days at the Mount Kumgang Resort in North Korea. The Red Cross organizes the reunions and provides rules for the relatives about what to discuss with each other (never politics!). South Koreans are encouraged to bring their North Korean relatives gifts like cash, watches, winter clothes, toothpaste, sugar, and vitamins. Relatives are allowed to see each other for six two-hour meetings over the three-day weekend, for a total of twelve hours. During the meetings, North Korean officials carefully monitor and listen to all conversations. For many people, this is the first time they have had any communication with their relatives in over sixty years. Imagine that you were being reunited with a sibling or parent after sixty years. What would you say to them?



Above: Joyful reunions are a rare but exciting event in Korea. **Background:** As the North invaded South Korea in the 1950s, many families became separated.

Section 3

The Governments of the Koreas


 Setting a Purpose

As you read, look for

- ▶ the allies of North Korea and the allies of South Korea;
- ▶ the domino theory;
- ▶ how the rights of citizens in North and South Korea differ;
- ▶ terms: **domino theory, autocratic rule, Supreme People's Assembly, Central Court, presidential republic, National Assembly, Supreme Court, Constitutional Court.**

Type of Government

At the end of World War II, the Soviet Union controlled the northern half of the Korean Peninsula and the United States controlled the southern half. Even though the peace treaty ending World War II called for elections to be held to unify Korea into one country, the Soviet Union wanted a communist government, and the United States wanted a western-style democracy. Because they could never agree on how to hold elections, the Korean Peninsula was simply divided into two countries.

North Korea's Government

North Korea became a communist country allied with the Soviet Union. South Korea became a western-style democracy allied with the

United States. The United States insisted on supporting a free South Korea. The United States believed that, if any additional countries in Southeast Asia became communist, others would quickly follow. This idea was called the **domino theory**, which means that

if one country fell to communism the neighboring countries would fall as well. War broke out between North Korea and South Korea in 1950. After three years of fighting, a truce redrew the original boundary, where it remains today.



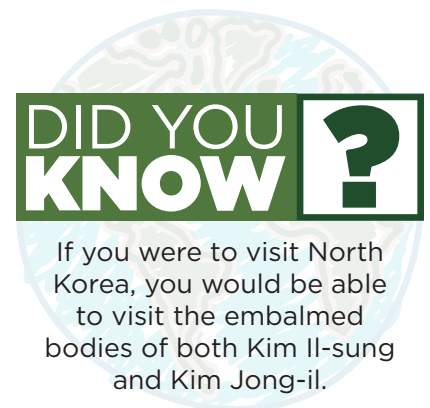
Above: The Supreme People's Assembly meets in the Mansudae Assembly Hall in Pyongyang.

Today North Korea is still a communist country under the **autocratic rule** (a system of government where supreme power is concentrated in the hands of one person) of the supreme leader. The country has heavy industry and a well-armed military, but there are many other problems, including poor farm production and frequent problems with famine. The country remains the ally of other communist countries including the People's Republic of China. However, most other communist countries have moved away from the strict type of rule North Korea maintains. Citizens have no voice, or vote, in selecting the country's leader. Leadership has passed from father to son for three generations. North Korea has a constitution that outlines the rights of its citizens, but this document is ignored.

The executive branch of North Korea's government is made up of the premier, the chief of state, and the cabinet. The premier is listed as the head of government; however, Kim Jong-un is chief of state and is fully in charge of all government functions. Elections are held in North Korea, but in March 2014 when Kim Jong-un was elected to power, there was no one running against him. North Korea's executive branch includes positions for Kim Jong-un's grandfather and father even though they are dead. Kim Il-sung is listed as the eternal president, and Kim Jong-il is listed as the eternal general secretary.

Even though North Korea is an autocracy, there is a legislative branch. It is a unicameral parliament called the **Supreme People's Assembly**. There are 687 members of the Supreme People's Assembly. Each member serves a five-year term. However, all members are selected by the Workers' Party of Korea, which means that, even though there are elections, the people do not have a choice in the person they vote for.

There is also a judicial branch in North Korea's government. It has a Supreme Court, which is also called the **Central Court**, made up of a chief justice and two People's Ambassadors. Sometimes three judges are also part of Supreme Court cases. The judges are elected by the Supreme People's Assembly for a period of five years.



Above: The Juche Tower in Pyongyang honors the teachings of North Korea's communist "great leader" Kim Il-sung.

Left: The Grand People's Study House in Pyongyang is devoted to Juche studies, or the works of "great leader" Kim Il-sung and his son, "dear leader" Kim Jong-il.

special Feature

Life in North Korea

Imagine not having a cell phone or tablet or ever having access to the Internet. Imagine never being able to listen to music, except for music approved by the government. Imagine only being able to have a government-approved hairstyle. Imagine living in a constant state of fear knowing that, if you or a family member commits a crime against the state, you could be sent to a political prison camp for life. All of these things may seem hard to even imagine, but it is a taste of what life is like in North Korea.

As you have already learned, a dictator rules North Korea: Supreme Leader Kim Jong-un. As a dictator, Kim Jong-un maintains his power through force and fear. North Koreans must show complete submission to Kim Jong-un and other leaders from the Workers' Party of Korea or suffer the consequences, which often include death. The entire government power of North Korea relies on a cult of personality; Kim Jong-un's father and grandfather are revered as almost god-like. Both of their bodies have been embalmed and rest in glass cases. Citizens can visit them and show their loyalty. Across North Korea, statues, pictures, memorials, and photos dot the landscape of cities, villages, and even homes.

Among the worst-kept secrets of North Korea are their political prisoner camps. While North Korea denies that they exist, satellite imagery has shown that at least four political prisoner camps exist and have expanded in recent years. It is estimated that between 80,000 and 120,000 North Koreans are detained in these camps. Prisoners face punishments that include starvation, beatings, forced labor, torture, and execution. Sometimes three generations of a family will be sent to the labor camp as a result of one person's crime against the state. Crimes against the government include actions that would not be criminal in any other country, like listening to South Korean pop music, trying to make a phone call to someone outside of North Korea, and creating a photo of one of the leaders. What do you think would be the most difficult thing about living in a country like North Korea?



Top: Pyongyang is strictly controlled to make it a showcase city. The 105-floor Ryugyong Hotel, begun in 1987, rises unfinished, however. **Above:** North Koreans in rural farm areas suffer from poverty. They lack the technology and resources of farmers in South Korea. **Background:** North Korean army officers gathered in 2012 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Kim Il-sung's birth.

South Korea's Government

In stark contrast to North Korea, South Korea, with free elections and a democratic constitution, has been more prosperous because it has had trade and foreign aid from the United States and other wealthy Western countries. Since the 1980s, South Korea has moved toward political and economic freedom. Pro-democracy activities intensified in the 1980s, and South Korea transitioned into a strong, democratic country. The relationship between the United States and South Korea is based on the ideas of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.

South Korea has a **presidential republic**. Citizens age nineteen and over are able to vote in presidential and legislative elections. The executive branch is made up of the president, prime minister, and cabinet. The citizens directly elect the president for a term of five years with a limit of one term. The next elections will be held in December 2017. The prime minister is appointed by the president and approved by the National Assembly.

The legislative branch is made up of the **National Assembly**, which is also called the Kuk Hoe. There are 300 members in the National Assembly. Members are elected by citizens for a term of four years.

The judicial branch of South Korea's government is made up of the **Supreme Court** of South Korea and the **Constitutional Court**. The Supreme Court of South Korea has one chief justice and thirteen other justices. The chief justice and justices are appointed by the president and approved by the National Assembly. The chief justice's term is for six years with a limit of one term, while other judges serve terms of six years and can serve more than one term. The nine justices of the Constitutional Court are appointed: three each by the president, National Assembly, and Supreme Court chief justice. The head of the Constitutional Court serves until age seventy. The other justices serve six-year terms that can be renewed until age sixty-five.

In 2017, the president of South Korea, Park Geun-hye, was removed from office. She was impeached by the National Assembly on charges of corruption that included bribery (giving money to officials in order to get special favors), extortion (obtaining money through threats), and abuse of power. After removal from office, she was imprisoned. Such treatment of a government leader could not happen in North Korea. The supreme leader may have officials jailed or executed on his order. If it were thought that the supreme leader was guilty of a crime, there is no authority who can remove him from office.



Reviewing the Section

1. Who was North Korea's biggest ally during the Korean War?
2. What was the domino theory? Which war did it lead to?
3. Compare and Contrast: How are the rights of citizens in North and South Korea different? Why?
4. How do you think your life would be different if you lived in North Korea?

Top: South Koreans have the right to vote in elections with multiple parties and candidates. **Middle:** The legislature of South Korea meets in the National Assembly building in Seoul. **Above:** The main conference room of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea.

Below: Farmers in North Korea are unable to produce enough food to feed all the citizens of the country. The United Nations estimated in 2017 that 41 percent of North Koreans are undernourished.



Section 4

The Economies of the Koreas

Setting a Purpose

As you read, look for

- ▶ how economic sanctions hurt North Korea;
- ▶ why countries place sanctions on North Korea;
- ▶ how the economies of North and South Korea differ;
- ▶ terms: **command economy, cooperative farm, famine, North Korean won, South Korean won, black market.**

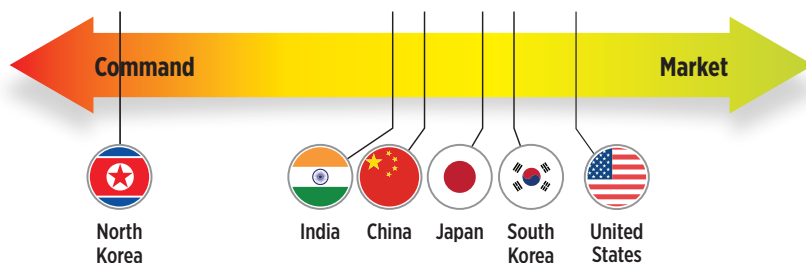
Type of Economy: North Korea

The Democratic People's Republic of North Korea has one of the least open and most government controlled economies in the world today. The Communist Party controls the government and the economy, though the ultimate power rests in the hands of the "supreme leader." North Korea's economy is a **command economy**. The government owns all the land and the factories, and the government decides what jobs will be done and who will do them.

Agriculture in North Korea does not produce enough to feed the population. Farms are organized into cooperatives that are owned by the government. A **cooperative farm** is organized as a unit and worked by a community under state supervision. The farmers are told what to grow, though some do manage to have small gardens. In the 1990s, North Korea had several years of poor harvests. As a result, thousands of people faced starvation. The government would not take aid from the countries in the West. Their main trading partner had been the Soviet Union. When that country was no longer able to help them, the people of North Korea had nowhere else to turn. As a result, the people of North Korea experienced a famine (an extreme scarcity of food) that killed an estimated 3 million people.

Figure 16.2

Economic Systems in Southern and Eastern Asia



In March 2016, the North Korean government warned its citizens to prepare for another famine after the UN Security Council voted to enforce stricter sanctions on North Korea after several missile and nuclear tests. North Korean citizens were told they needed to show their loyalty to the supreme leader, Kim Jong-un, by donating about two pounds of rice to the state warehouse every month.

Severe flooding in parts of North Korea in 2007 only made the suffering worse. In recent years, leaders of the country have tried to build up North Korea's industry. The country does have some rich mineral resources like coal and iron. Steel production and the manufacture of machinery are leading industries in the country, as well as some production of textiles. The government has also worked in recent years to develop nuclear power plants.

One reason for the difficulty in correcting many of the economic problems facing North Korea is that the government has spent millions on the military rather than investing the money in other aspects of the North Korean economy. Because of autocratic rule, the economic situation in North Korea is likely to remain difficult. Another reason North Korea faces economic problems is that so few countries are willing to trade with it.



Type of Economy: South Korea

Since the late 1970s, South Korea has experienced economic growth that led to the development of a high-tech industrialized economy. In the 1960s, GDP per capita was similar to that of the poorer countries of Africa and Asia. By 2004, however, South Korea had joined the “trillion-dollar club” (countries that have a GDP greater than \$1 trillion). A system of close government and business ties made this success possible. The government promoted importing raw materials and technology, instead of consumer goods, and encouraged personal saving and investing instead of spending.

South Korea's export-focused economy was hit hard by the 2008 global economic crisis, but quickly rebounded by 2010. Between 2012 and 2014, the economy did not grow very much as a result of low consumption and investment within South Korea. The government is now facing the challenge of balancing South Korea's heavy reliance on exports with developing new areas, like services. Today, South Korea has a growing and developing market economy.



Top: Flooding ruined these North Korean homes in 2012. **Left:** Food available in this street market in Daegu, South Korea, shows that food is readily available for consumers.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Kaesong Industrial Complex (KIC) was created in 2003 as a special zone just inside the DMZ. At the KIC, 125 South Korean companies employed over 50,000 North Korean workers. The KIC was closed in 2016 by South Korea in protest of North Korea's weapons testing.

Like North Korea, South Korea faces economic challenges. Some of the long-term challenges facing South Korea include a rapidly aging population, an inflexible labor market, the dominance of large business, and the heavy reliance on exports, which comprise about half of GDP. Only about 50 percent of GDP comes from households in South Korea purchasing goods and services produced in the country.

Trade in the Koreas

Trade in North and South Korea is very different. There are very few countries in the world today that will trade with North Korea due to ongoing embargoes. North Korea's largest trading partner, by far, is China. The goods that North Korea exports to China include minerals (mainly coal), manufactured goods, textiles, and agriculture products. The major imports include petroleum, coal, machinery and equipment, and grain. In order to trade, countries must change their currencies. North Korea's currency is called the **North Korean won**. Exchanging currency in North Korea is complicated. There are special currencies for foreigners and those using electronic payments such as debit cards. In 2017, by one estimate, 1 US dollar could be exchanged for 900 North Korean won.

The United States imposed an almost complete economic embargo on North Korea in 1950 when North Korea attacked the South. Over the years, some US sanctions (economic punishments) were eased, but others were imposed. The United States imports no goods from North Korea; however, it has exported goods such as food and emergency relief supplies. In 2014, exports from the United States to North Korea totaled about \$24 million. After North Korea's cyberattack targeting Sony Pictures Entertainment, the United States imposed new sanctions against the government of North Korea and the Workers' Party of Korea. The United States has added new restrictions as a result of North Korea's testing of missiles and nuclear weapons. In 2016 and 2017, the United States exported only about \$100,000 in goods to North Korea.

South Korea has benefited significantly from free trade. In fact, it is the sixth-largest exporter in the world. Some of South Korea's top export partners include China, the United States, Japan, and Vietnam. Their top exports include semiconductors, automobiles and auto parts, wireless communication equipment, flat display screens, computers, electronics, and plastics. To make up for their lack of natural resources, South Korea must import crude oil and petroleum products, as well as coal and natural gas. Other imports include chemicals, computers, and textiles. The top countries that export goods to South Korea are China, Japan, the United States, Germany, and Saudi Arabia. In order to trade, South Korea must change its currency to other countries' currencies. South Korea's currency is called the **South Korean won**. In 2017, 1 US dollar could be exchanged for about 1100 South Korean won.

Right: The Friendship Bridge across the Yalu River connects North Korea with its largest trading partner, China.



The state of Georgia has no trade connections with North Korea but has many with South Korea. Governor Nathan Deal traveled to South Korea in 2011 and 2013 to promote trade and investment relationships. First Lady Sandra Deal visited schools and met with social organizations in South Korea. In 2014, Georgia exports to Korea totaled \$1.24 billion. South Korea is the 9th-largest export market for Georgia. Top exports from Georgia to South Korea include civilian aircraft, engines and parts, gas and vapor turbines, wood pulp, electric machinery, and plastics. In 2014, Georgia's imports from South Korea totaled slightly more than \$6.2 billion. The country is the 3rd-largest import market for Georgia. Top imports from Korea include motor vehicles, tractors, bulldozers, plastics, and articles of iron or steel.

Natural Resources in the Koreas

The Korean Peninsula does not have large amounts of natural resources. The few resources available include coal, lead, tungsten, graphite, and hydropower. In North Korea, there are also deposits of minerals, like zinc and copper. Arable land is an important and scarce resource in North Korea. Since very few countries will trade with North Korea, the people must grow enough food to feed themselves or face starvation.

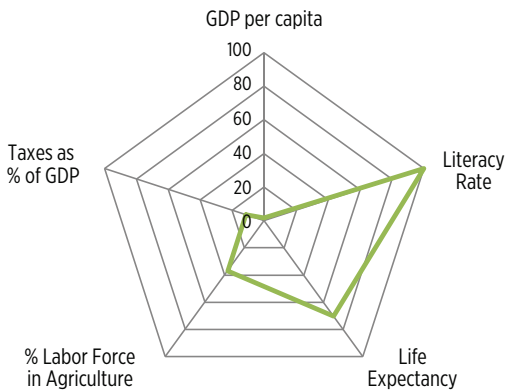
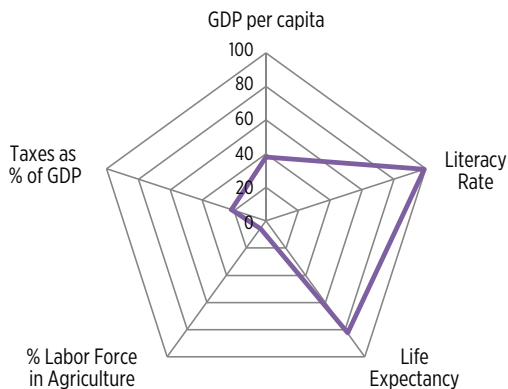
South Korea has similar natural resources to North Korea. South Korea, however, is able to benefit from trade with countries around the world to make up for their lack of natural resources. In fact, some of their most important imports include petroleum, coal, and natural gas.

Human Capital in the Koreas

Investment in human capital is an important part of economic growth. Since North Korea is virtually shut off from the rest of the world, it is very hard to know what investments in human capital the government is making. According to the North Korean government, the literacy rate in North Korea is 100 percent, and students attend school for twelve years. However, there is no real way of knowing if this is accurate. We do know that North Korea's government controls everything inside the country including information from the outside world, which means that whatever education the people are receiving is very biased and limited. The Internet is unavailable to most people in North Korea. One of the major concerns of reunification of the Koreas is what to do with the people of North Korea who have had little education and no real knowledge of the outside world.



Top: In 2017, South Korean car manufacturer Kia announced that its plant in West Point, Georgia, had built its one-millionth Kia Sorento. **Above:** North Korean boys and girls learn to read and write in primary school. The country reports a literacy rate of 100 percent for boys and girls. **Left:** The library at Seoul National University has over 600,000 square feet of space. Such a library is a big investment for the university's 28,000 students.

Figure 16.3**North Korea Spider Graph****Figure 16.4****South Korea Spider Graph**

On the other hand, South Korea has invested in human capital. The high-tech industries that are the basis of South Korea's economy require highly trained and skilled employees. As a result, South Korea spends almost 5 percent of its GDP on education. Students attend school for seventeen years. The literacy rate is nearly 100 percent. Students are staying in school longer and longer. There are over one million people enrolled in universities found in the major cities of South Korea.

Capital Goods in the Koreas

Investment in capital goods is important to economic growth. While North Korea wants to have economic growth, it does not always invest in capital goods. Much of the money that the North Korean government spends is on the military and industry that will support the military. If the North Korean government wants to help their economy grow, it should begin to invest in other types of capital goods instead of just those that support the military.

Once again, South Korea is the opposite of North Korea. The government of South Korea has invested in capital goods as part of a push to help its economy grow. The economy is based on high-tech industries so it is important to have up-to-date technology. This investment is one of the reasons South Korea has one of the most stable and growing economies in Asia.

Entrepreneurship in the Koreas

Entrepreneurship is one of the four factors of production. Once again, the Koreas present a stark contrast. Since North Korea is an autocratic, communist country, entrepreneurship is illegal. The government controls all parts of the economy. Even so, a **black market** has grown there in recent years. A black market is one where goods are illegally traded or sold. Severe punishments are issued to anyone trading on the black market in North Korea.

Entrepreneurship is becoming more and more important and common in South Korea. The government wants to create an economy that relies on the people's creative ideas. However, many businesses that are opening are similar to businesses that already exist. For example, in Seoul, there are eight fried chicken restaurants for roughly every half mile. The government of South Korea needs to help people develop new ideas if they want their economy to continue to grow.

Reviewing the Section

1. How have economic sanctions hurt North Korea? Why do other countries, like the United States, place sanctions on North Korea?
2. Compare and Contrast: How are the economies of North and South Korea different? Why?

Section 5

Relationships between the United States and the Koreans



As you read, look for

- ▶ the relationship between the United States and North Korea;
- ▶ efforts to bring about denuclearization;
- ▶ the purpose of the Six-Party Talks;
- ▶ the Mutual Defense Treaty;
- ▶ how the economies of South Korea and the United States are connected;
- ▶ terms: **reunification, denuclearization, multilateral, Six-Party Talks, Mutual Defense Treaty, Korea-US Free Trade Agreement.**



US-North Korea Relations

The United States and North Korea have no formal relations. They do not have embassies in each other's capital cities. President Trump's administration adopted plans to increase diplomatic and economic pressure on North Koreans. The stated goal was to persuade the North Koreans to stop their nuclear weapons and missile programs.

Korean Unification

The United States supports the peaceful **reunification** of Korea on terms acceptable to the Korean people. It believes that the future of the Korean Peninsula is primarily a matter for them to decide. The United States believes that a constructive and serious conversation between North and South Korea is necessary to improve inter-Korean relations and to resolve outstanding problems, including the North's attempts to develop a nuclear program and its human rights abuses.



Top: Samsung is one of South Korea's largest technology companies. **Above:** North Korea has invested heavily in its military. **Left:** South Korea's shipyards build massive ships such as this one built for a company in Lithuania.

Denuclearization

In 1994, the United States and North Korea reached an agreement on a roadmap for the **denuclearization** (removal of nuclear weapons) of the Korean Peninsula. In 2003, the United States proposed **multilateral** (including several countries) talks on the North Korean nuclear issue. Several rounds of **Six-Party Talks** have been held since then, with the last round occurring in 2009. The Six-Party Talks were held in Beijing and were attended by China, North Korea, Japan, Russia, South Korea, and the United States. They focused on the disarmament of North Korea's nuclear weapons. Although North Korea has occasionally said it will take steps toward denuclearization, later nuclear tests and ballistic missile launches contradict those statements. The United States has called on North Korea to follow the denuclearization steps toward fulfillment of the 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks, including UN Security Council resolutions to stop their provocative behaviors and to improve relations with their neighbors.



Diplomatic Relations

The United States and North Korea do not have diplomatic relations. The Swedish Embassy in North Korea is the US protecting power and provides limited services to US citizens who may be in North Korea. North Korea has no embassy in Washington, DC, but it is represented in the United States through its office at the United Nations.



US-South Korea Relations

In 1953, at the conclusion of the Korean War, the United States and the Republic of Korea signed a **Mutual Defense Treaty**. The two countries share a long history of friendship and cooperation based on common values and interests. The United States has maintained Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marine personnel in South Korea in support of its commitment under the Mutual Defense Treaty to help South Korea defend itself against external aggression.

In 2013, the two countries celebrated the 60th anniversary of the US-South Korea alliance. A Combined Forces Command coordinates operations between US and South Korean armed forces. The United States and South Korea coordinate closely on the North Korean nuclear issue and the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.



Top: In June 2017, US President Donald Trump welcomed South Korean President Moon Jae-in to the White House in Washington, DC, to discuss economic and security issues.

Above: In 2016, a US Air Force B-52 Stratofortress from Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, conducted a low-level flight over the Korean Peninsula in response to actions by North Korea.

Right: Korea's ongoing tests of missiles and nuclear material have strained its relations with the United States and other countries.

As the South Korean economy has grown, trade and investment ties have become an increasingly important part of the US-South Korea relationship. In recent years, the US-South Korea alliance has expanded into a deep, comprehensive global partnership, and South Korea's role as a regional and global leader continues to grow. South Korea hosted the 2010 G-20 Summit, the 2012 Nuclear Security Summit, and other important international meetings. South Korea is a committed member of various international nuclear nonproliferation groups. The United States and South Korea are also expanding cooperation on development assistance and aid.

People-to-people ties between the United States and South Korea have never been stronger. South Korea, on a per capita basis, sends the highest number of students to the United States to study of any industrialized country.

The United States provides no development assistance to South Korea. In fact, South Korea, which received US assistance in the years after the Korean War, is a development aid donor today.

Bilateral Economic Relations

South Korea has experienced a high level of economic growth and is now the United States' sixth-largest trading partner with a trillion-dollar economy. Major US firms have long been leading investors in South Korea, while South Korea's top firms have made significant investments in the United States. There are flows of manufactured goods, agricultural products, services, and technology between the two countries. The **Korea-US Free Trade Agreement** of 2012 shows a high level of connections in trade. The agreement is expected to increase exports by billions of dollars annually for both sides and create new export-related jobs in both South Korea and the United States.



Reviewing the Section

1. How would you describe the relationship between the United States and North Korea? Why?
2. What is denuclearization?
3. What are the Six-Party Talks?
4. What is the Mutual Defense Treaty?
5. Why do you think South Korea and the United States are closer than North Korea and the United States?
6. How are the economies of South Korea and the United States connected? Give three examples.

Top: In March 2016, over 315,000 South Korean and US soldiers participated in the largest military drills ever staged on the Korean Peninsula. **Above:** Electric fences, cameras, and land mines form the barrier between North and South Korea.

Chapter Review

Chapter Summary

Section 1: The Geography of the Koreas

- North Korea and South Korea are located on the Korean Peninsula.
- Although they are neighbors, North Korea has less arable land because of mountains and harsher weather.
- Both countries use Korean as the primary language but have many differences in religion and education level.

Section 2: A Brief History of the Koreas

- North and South Korea were once a single country that was annexed by the Japanese in the early 20th century.
- After World War II, the United States and Soviet Union fought over Korea as the Cold War started.
- In 1953, the countries declared an armistice, but the war has never officially ended.

Section 3: The Governments of the Koreas

- After the armistice, North Korea became a communist country and South Korea a democracy.
- North Korea has a supreme leader, a position passed down in a single family, and citizens have few rights.
- South Korea is a presidential republic where citizens nineteen and older can vote for the president and members of the National Assembly.

Section 4: The Economies of the Koreas

- North Korea has a command economy, which has resulted in heavy investment in the military.
- North Koreans face harsh conditions because they cannot grow enough food, the government refuses aid, and few countries are willing to trade with them.
- South Korea's economy has grown because it exports many products and invests in human capital.

Section 5: Relationships between the United States and the Koreas

- The United States is working with other countries to denuclearize North Korea, and the relationship is tense.
- South Korea and the United States have had a strong military and political relationship since 1950.

Activities for Learning

Reviewing People, Places, and Things



Write each word defined below, and circle each letter on a red line. Write out the word these letters spell and the definition.

1. _____ - The Koreas are on this physical feature that sticks out in a body of water.
2. _____ - South Korea has more of this variety of land, which is good for farming.
3. _____ - The first leader of North Korea, who focused on “self-reliance.”
4. _____ - The economic system in North Korea.
5. _____ - The capital city of South Korea.
6. _____ - American idea that communism spreads to neighboring countries.

7. _____ - South Koreans elect this person directly for a five year term.
8. _____ - Type of economy where the government makes all economic decisions.
9. _____ - An extreme scarcity of food.

Understanding the Facts



1. Why is South Korea's climate milder than North Korea's climate?
2. What are the two main differences between the people of North and South Korea?
3. What was the Yalta Agreement?
4. How was Kim Il-sung influential on the Korean Peninsula?
5. What type of government does South Korea have?
6. What are cooperatives?
7. What are sanctions?
8. Is North Korea working towards denuclearization?
9. The Mutual Defense Treaty is between which two countries?
10. What are the capitals of North Korea and South Korea?

Developing Critical Thinking



1. The standard of living in South Korea is much higher than in North Korea because of geographical features and economic decisions. Identify an example of each and explain which you think has more of an effect on the standard of living.
2. Although there was a cease-fire in 1953, the Korean War never officially ended. How do you think this affects how North Korea and South Korea view each other? How do you think this affects how their allies view the peninsula? Use examples to support your claims.
3. The United States still hopes for the reunification of the Korean Peninsula. Do you think this is possible? Using examples, explain why or why not.

Writing across the Curriculum



1. Write a short report describing North Korea's history of provocations. Include examples and how other countries have reacted.
2. Write a short report describing the legislative, judicial, and executive branches of governments in South Korea.

Applying Your Skills



1. Make a Venn diagram to compare and contrast North Korea and South Korea. Include five facts including language and religion.
2. Decide which four events were most influential in the history of the Korean Peninsula. Create a chart ranking them from most to least important, list the year, and state why the event is important.

Exploring Technology



1. Use Google Maps to view the political map and satellite images of North and South Korea. What physical features do you notice? Locate (a) Seoul, (b) Pyongyang, (c) Yellow Sea, (d) Korea Bay, and (e) Sea of Japan.
2. Visit the CIA's Factbook website at tiny.cc/ciafactbook. Select one category and compare North Korea and South Korea. Was this what you were expecting to read? Why or why not?