



Korea: A Divided Peninsula


Current Events Wednesday
April 17, 2019







Korea: One Language, One Culture,
Two Countries

- Why are there two Koreas?
- What differentiates them?
- Why was the Korean War all about?
- Why does North Korea have nuclear ambitions?
- What is the world doing about it?



Korea Divided

- 1910: Japan occupied the Korean peninsula.
- 1945:
 - Japan defeated in WWII.
 - USSR occupied the north; US occupied the south.
 - Coincides with the start of the Cold War.


The Korean War

- 1948: Soviets withdrew from NK. Kim Il-sung became leader.
 - Kim was a communist guerilla who fought the Japanese.
- 1950 (June 25): NK invaded SK to forcibly unify.
- 1950 (June 27): The UN authorized intervention. Led by the US.
- 1953 (July 27): armistice signed. The borders remained as they were.



Korean War Casualties

- 1.2 million including civilians.

The Koreas Since the War

- 1985: NK signs Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).
- 1986: NK starts nuclear research.
- 1994: Kim Il-sung dies. Replaced by his son, Kim Jong-il.






North Korea Famine

- 1994–1998.
- Reasons:
 - Natural disasters.
 - Loss of Soviet support.
 - Economic mismanagement.
- Deaths: 500,000–3,000,000.




North Korea

- 2011: Kim Jong-il dies. Replaced by Kim Jong-un, the second son.
 - Age 29–31.
 - Attended school in Switzerland under assumed name.


The Two Koreas

| | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Korea <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – HDI rank: 18 – GDP pc: \$39,500* – Military: 500,000 – Fragile state index: 156th** – US troops: 28,500 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Korea <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – HDI rank: 156 – GDP pc: \$1,700* – Military: 1.2 million (4th in world) – Fragile state index: 28th** |
|--|---|

* US: \$57,300
** FSI: lower number=more fragility





 North Korea

- Four key characteristics:
 1. Self-reliance.
 2. Demonization of US.

What North Koreans learn about the US →





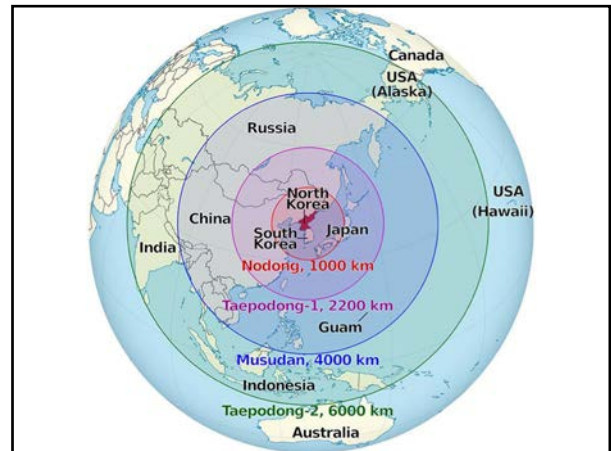
North Korea

- Four key characteristics:
 - Self-reliance.
 - Demonization of US.
 - Nuclear ambitions.

NK Nuclear Program

- 2006: 1st underground nuclear test followed by UN sanctions.
- 2007: deal – fuel for shutting down reactor.
- 2009: 2nd nuclear test.
- 2012: Unsuccessful missile test.
- 2013: 3rd nuclear test.
- 2014: Two successful medium-range missile tests.
- 2017: Two successful long-range missile tests.

Bombs
 Missiles



Global Response


- Sanctions, sanctions, sanctions.
 - NK continues its nuclear development program.
- Deals.
 - Temporary effect only.
- SK "Sunshine policy" 1998–2008.
- Six-party talks (NK, China, US, Russia, Japan and SK).

North Korea

- Four key characteristics:
 - Self-reliance.
 - Demonization of US.
 - Nuclear ambitions.
 - Total dictatorship.


Human Rights Violations*

- Arbitrary arrest.
- Torture.
- Executions.
- Forced labor.



Grainy video capture of forced labor camp, 2004

* Human Rights Watch:
<https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2019/country-chapters/north-korea>



Omnipotent leader.
Sycophantism.



Trump Becomes President

- Hostile exchange of words and insults ("little rocket man" with President Trump ("old lunatic" and "dotard").






Last Year

- Offer by NK to resume talks with SK.
- NK participated in Winter Olympics in SK.
- SK/NK joint women's hockey team.





Trump and Kim

- Two summits
 - March 2018 in Singapore.
 - February 2019 in Vietnam.
- Failure to reach agreement on what "denuclearization" means.
 - For the US, NK should stop its program.
 - For NK, the US should pull out its weapons (and all troops).

28,000 US Troops in South Korea

US/SK Joint Training with Live Fire





Trump and Kim

- NK has now resumed its nuclear program.



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