

North Korea in World Geography Courses

■ Country in Crisis

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EAST ASIA



KOREA



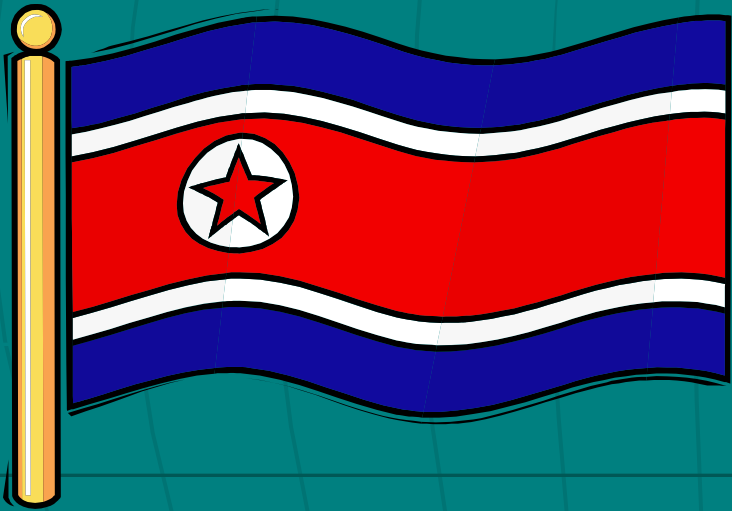
LAND USE PATTERNS



Historical Evolution

- Three Kingdoms Period (1st-13th centuries CE): Koguryo, Paekche, Silla.
- Strong cultural & political ties with Imperial China; transmitter to Japan.
- Choson period (1392-1905): Yi Dynasty, feudalism, Confucianism, Seoul made capital.
- Japanese colonization (1910-1945).

Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea (DPRK)



History of DPRK

- 1945-1950: Liberation & Foundation
- 1950-1953: Korean War-Division along 38th Parallel.
- 1958-1970: Recovery & Growth
- 1970-1990: Stagnation & Decline
- 1990-present: Crisis & Collapse
- Totalitarian Leadership:
 - ⑩ Kim Il Sung "Great Leader"
 - ⑩ Kim Jong Il "Dear Leader"

Basic Geographic Concepts

■ Regional Complementarity

- ⑩ North Korea—raw materials & industry
- ⑩ South Korea—agriculture & population

Juche Ideology--independence, self-reliance, isolationism, nationalism, communism, absolute obedience to leader and party.

NORTH-SOUTH CONTRASTS

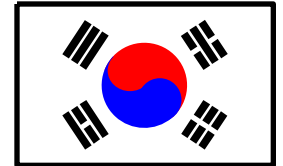
■ NORTH KOREA

- 55% of the land, 1/3 of the population, extremely rural
- Antiquated state enterprises
- Inefficient, non-productive agriculture
- Limited trade – former Soviet Union and China

■ SOUTH KOREA

- 45% of the land, 2/3s of the population, highly urbanized
- Modern factories
- Intensive, increasingly mechanized agriculture
- Extensive trade – US, Japan, and Western Europe

THE KOREAS



■ **POPULATION** 23,700,000 50,200,000

■ **GNP (BILLIONS)** \$ 21.3 \$ 508.3

■ **GNP/CAPITA** \$ 920 \$ 8,600

■ **AGRICULTURE** RESTRICTIVE GOOD

- (as % of GNP) 25 % 8 %
- (% work force) 36 % 21 %



Profile of a dictator: Kim Jong Il

■ Official version

- ⑩ Birth marked by double rainbow and new star
- ⑩ Composer of six operas
- ⑩ Designer of huge tower in capital (Pyongyang)
- ⑩ Protector of Juche ideology and brilliant general

■ Unofficial version

- ⑩ Playboy reputation —permed hair and platform shoes
- ⑩ Allegedly responsible for nation's nuclear program
- ⑩ Suspected of ordering a number of atrocities

Relations with other Nations

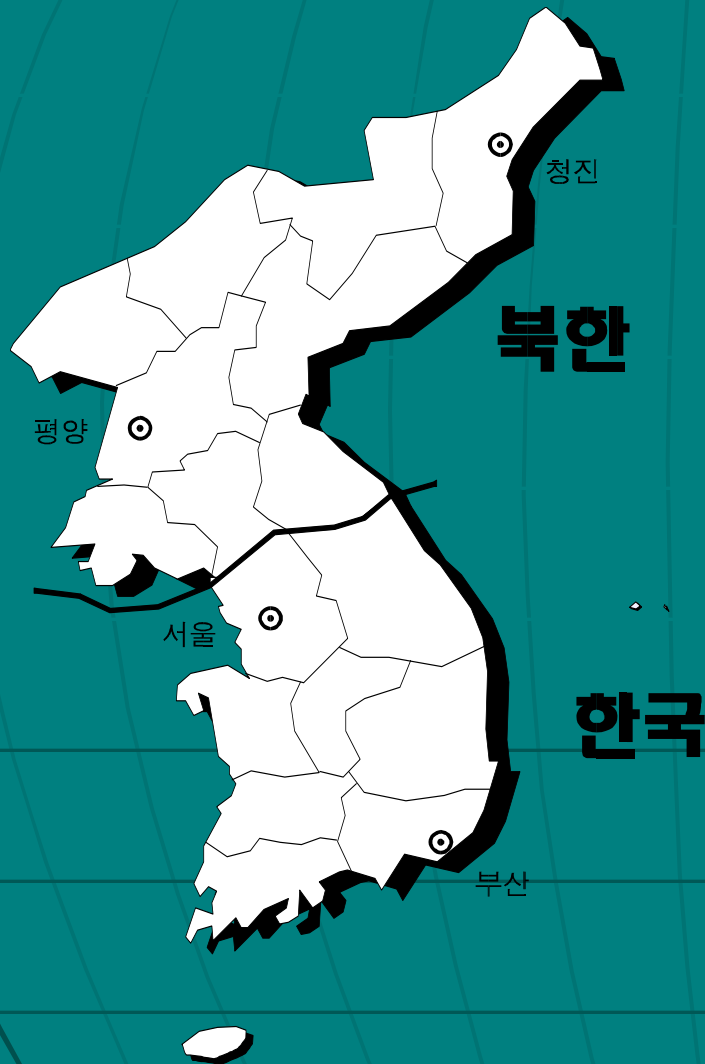
- China
- Russia
- Japan
- South Korea
- United States
- Non-aligned movement
- Current Issues: nuclear weapons, militarism, famine, human-rights violations, refugees.

What allows N. Korea's foundering economy to keep ticking?

Weapons sales	\$560 million/year
Legal non-military trade	\$600 million/year
Food Aid	NA
Illegal drug trafficking	\$100 million/year
Money counterfeiting	\$100 million/year
Remittances from overseas	Up to \$100 million/year

	DPRK	ROK	USA
Population (Millions)	23	50	290
Land Area (Square km)	121,540	98,480	9,629,091
GDP (billions of dollars)	22	931	10,082
Defense Budget	4	14	396
Defense % of GDP	34	3	3.3
Active-duty troops (millions)	1.1	.685	1.4
Reservists	6	4.5	1.0

Prospects for the Future?



- Implosion
- Explosion
- Assimilation
- Reunification

- Foreign policy:
How to deal with
the regime.
- Is there a grand
bargain?