

KOREA



Korean Dancers Since the 1950s, South Korea has become one of Asia's leading industrialized nations. Yet, like other modern nations, Korea has proudly preserved its cultural heritage. Here, Korean women in traditional costume perform a centuries-old fan dance.

Culture Why do you think many people work to maintain their nations' cultural traditions?

CHAPTER OUTLINE

- 1 Geographic Setting
- 2 Dynamics of Change
- 3 The Two Koreas

Korean poets praised it. Chinese visitors admired it. Families jealously guarded the secret of how to make it. All agreed that Korean porcelain had a rare beauty. Most highly prized were pieces glazed in the color known as celadon, or “kingfisher green.” In his poem “Koryo Celadon,” Pak Chong-hwa displays the pride Koreans feel in this porcelain:

“Depth of color, softly shaded;
Iridescent kingfisher;
Blue sky glimpsed through
autumn clouds
As the rain squall passes on;
Or a white cloud, fresh with
dew,
Wings its way on high.
But wake!—for this is Koryo
celadon,
This was ours for a thousand
years.”

In the 1200s, the Mongols overran Korea. Many Koreans died in the fighting and its aftermath. The Mongols destroyed the kilns, or ovens used for baking clay pottery. In the chaos of war, the secret of Korea's special celadon

was lost. Although Korean potters make fine celadon today, they have never been able to re-create the wonderful glazes of the “king-fisher” pottery.

CHAPTER PERSPECTIVE

Korea has long had close ties to its powerful neighbor, China. From China, Koreans learned to make porcelain, but the Koreans perfected the art of making celadon. Although Chinese civilization influenced Korea, Koreans adapted many of these ideas to their own uses. Later, they passed many Chinese traditions along to Japan.

As you read, look for these chapter themes:

- ▶ Geography has influenced the population patterns and economy of Korea.
- ▶ Though strongly influenced by Chinese traditions, Koreans developed a distinct language and culture.
- ▶ Since the mid-1800s, imperialism, Japanese colonialism, Korean nationalism, and the Cold War have shaped developments in Korea.
- ▶ The division of Korea after World War II has led to the emergence of two sharply contrasting nations.

Literature Connections

In this chapter, you will encounter passages from the following works.

“Koryo Celadon,” Pak Chong-hwa

Songs of Flying Dragons, Korean poem cycle

Lost Names, Richard Kim

For other suggestions, see Connections With Literature, pages 804–808.

1

GEOGRAPHIC SETTING

FIND OUT

- How has location affected Korea?
- How have physical and climate features influenced Korean life?
- What resources support the economies of North and South Korea?

Vocabulary homogeneous society

Almost no one visits Korea without being introduced to kimchee. Kimchee is made of cabbage and other vegetables, heavily spiced with garlic, onions, ginger, red pepper, and shellfish sauce. Koreans eat it with breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Koreans make several months’ supply at harvest time and store it in huge jars that can be seen on the balconies of city apartments and in country courtyards.

Preserving vegetables as kimchee is just one way Koreans developed to meet their food needs. Geography limits the amount of land that Koreans can farm. Koreans have used their land resources carefully to provide plenty of rice and vegetables.

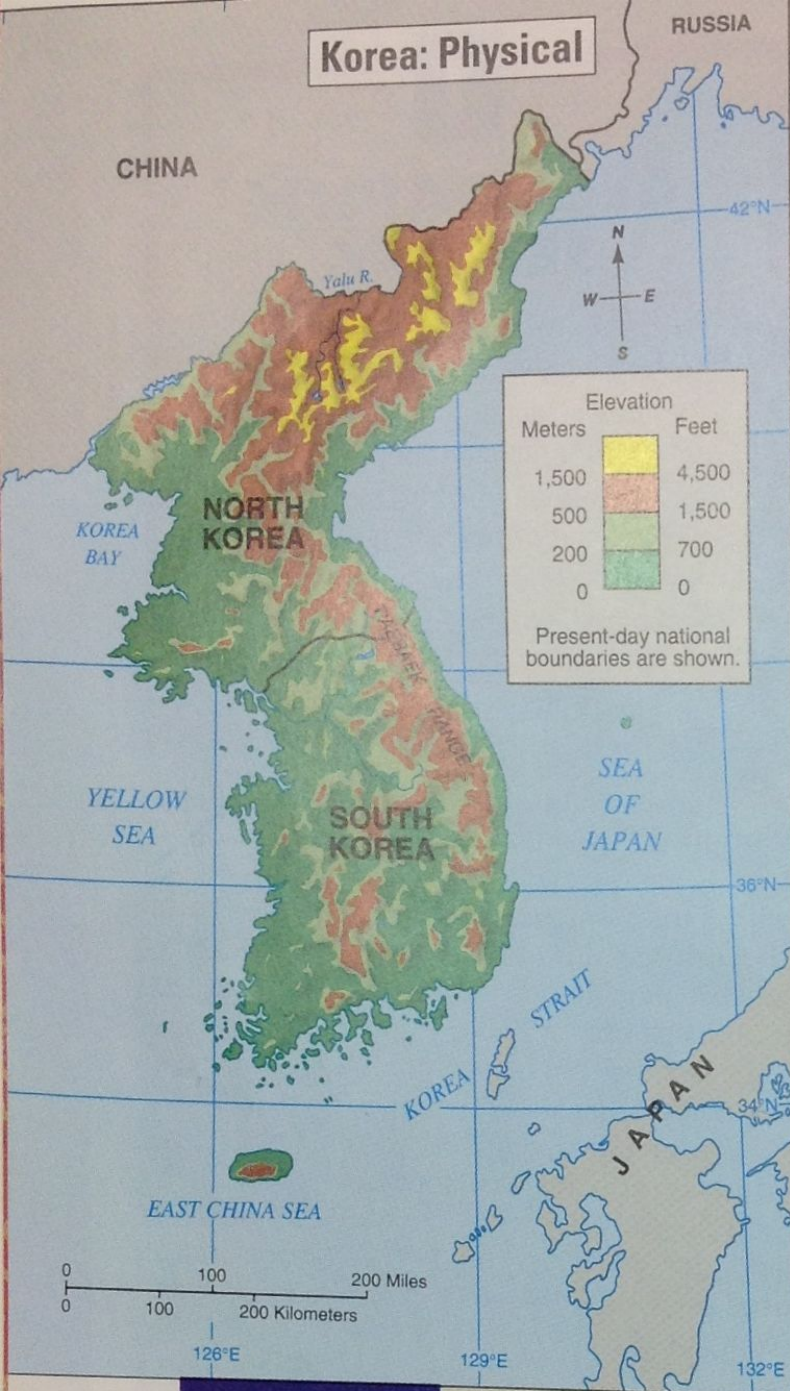
Location

Korea is a peninsula attached to the eastern mainland of Asia, between China and Japan. The Yellow Sea is to its west. To the east are the Korea Strait and the Sea of Japan.* (See the map on page 376.) Today, the peninsula is divided into two nations, North Korea and South Korea. South Korea is slightly smaller than North Korea, but has twice as many people.

Because of its location, Korea has served as a cultural bridge between China and Japan.

* Koreans call the Sea of Japan the East Sea.

Korea: Physical



MAP STUDY

The Korean peninsula juts southward from East Asia. Most of Korea is mountainous, but plains stretch along much of its long coastline.

- 1. Place** What river separates Korea from China?
- 2. Location** (a) Name the bodies of water that surround the Korean Peninsula.
(b) Name and give the relative location of the body of water that separates Korea from Japan.
- 3. Analyzing Information** Why do you think China has had a strong impact on Korean history? (See the map on page 321.)

As early as 100 B.C., Chinese civilization began to spread to Korea. The Koreans transformed Chinese civilization and passed it on to Japan. This peaceful transmission of Chinese traditions had a major influence on Korean culture.

Location has also made Korea a frequent battleground for forces seeking control of East Asia. In the 1950s, Korea became a battleground in the Cold War struggle between the United States and the Soviet Union.

Landforms

The two major physical features of Korea are its mountains and its plains. Because it is a peninsula, Korea also has a long coastline.

Mountains. A Korean proverb says, "Over the mountains, mountains!" Steep, but low, mountains cover nearly 70 percent of the Korean peninsula. The most important mountain chain, the T'aebaek Range, runs from the north to the south. Smaller ranges branch off to form hilly areas, especially in the southwest. Because farming on the steep slopes is difficult, only about 25 percent of Koreans live in the mountains or in mountain valleys. North Korea is more mountainous than South Korea, which is one reason it has fewer people.

Plains. Most Koreans live on the coastal plains. There are three separate areas of plains: in the northeast, along the west coast, and at the southern end of Korea. The west coast plain is Korea's major farming region. Pyongyang (pee AWNG yahng), the capital of North Korea, and Seoul (sohl), the capital of South Korea, are also located along the west coast plain.

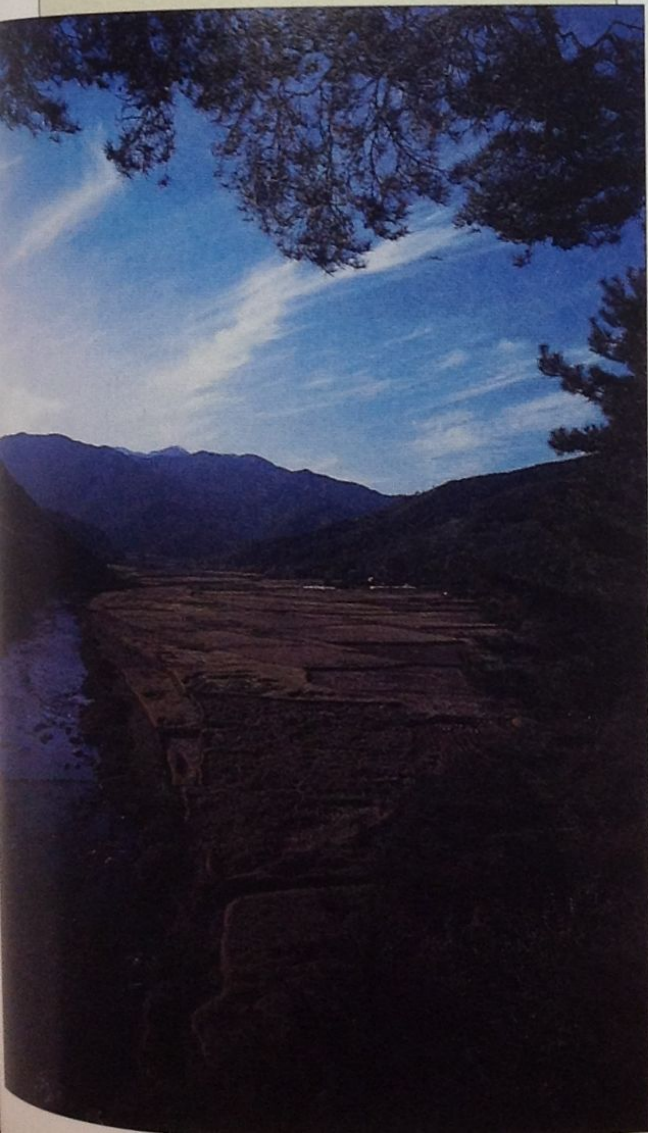
A long coastline. The Korean peninsula has a 6,000-mile (9,656-km) coastline with many good harbors. In addition, about 3,000 islands dot its offshore waters. Many Koreans make a living by fishing. South Korea has the world's third-largest fishing industry, after Japan and China. Korean and Japanese fishing boats compete fiercely in the waters between the two nations.

Climate and Resources

Korea has a temperate climate, with hot summers and cold winters. Compared to the south, North Korea has harsher winters, with heavy snows and bitter winds.

Differences in climate affect crop production. In the north, farmers can harvest only one crop a year. In the south, the milder climate offers a longer growing season. As a result, farmers produce some crops twice a year. South Korea's rice yields are among the highest in the world.

Korean Landscape This valley in southeastern Korea forms part of the coastal plain near the city of Pusan. Even here, however, mountains are nearby, as the photograph shows. One early foreign visitor to Korea compared the peninsula's mountainous land to "a sea in a heavy gale." **Geography** What part of the coastal plain is the major farming region of Korea?



Natural resources. South Korea is less mountainous than the north, giving it more arable land. About 60 percent of the land in the south is suited to farming, compared with only about 20 percent in the north.

The mountains of North Korea, however, are rich in mineral resources. They contain large amounts of coal, iron, lead, copper, and zinc. Rivers flowing out of the mountains also offer excellent sources of hydroelectric power.

People. Korea's most valuable resource is its skilled and educated population. Korea has a literacy rate near 95 percent. Almost all Korean children attend elementary school. Most complete high school.

Korea is a **homogeneous society**—that is, the people share a common ethnic and cultural background. They speak their own language, which differs from both Chinese and Japanese. For much of its long history, Korea was united. Despite the present-day division between the north and south, Koreans consider themselves one people.

SECTION 1 REVIEW

- 1. Locate:** (a) Yellow Sea, (b) Korea Strait, (c) Sea of Japan, (d) North Korea, (e) South Korea, (f) T'aebaek Range, (g) Pyongyang, (h) Seoul.
- 2. Define:** homogeneous society.
- 3.** Describe two ways in which location has affected Korean life.
- 4.** How does geography influence population patterns in Korea?
- 5.** How have differences in climate and resources led to different economic patterns in North Korea and South Korea?
- 6. Applying Information** Is the geography of North Korea or South Korea more favorable? Give reasons to support your answer.
- 7. Writing Across Cultures** Look up the word "pluralistic" in a dictionary. Then jot down some of the advantages and disadvantages of living in a homogeneous society, such as Korea, as compared with a pluralistic society, such as the United States.

DYNAMICS OF CHANGE

FIND OUT

How did Chinese culture influence Korea?

What are some achievements of Korean civilization?

How did imperialism affect Korea?

Vocabulary isolationism, annex

In *Songs of Flying Dragons*, Korea's leading poets celebrated the achievements of the great general Yi Song-gye (ee song keh). They portrayed him as a model ruler who practiced Confucian virtues:

“ Though he was busy with war,
He loved the way of the scholar.
His work of achieving peace
Shone brilliantly. . . .
Upon receiving an old scholar
He knelt down with due politeness. ”

Like most peoples of East Asia, Koreans looked on China as the center of civilization and absorbed many of its traditions. At the same time, they developed their own distinct identity. In fact, *Songs of Flying Dragons*, though influenced by Chinese ideas, was the first work written by Koreans in their own alphabet.

Early Traditions

In ancient times, small bands of nomadic hunters migrated to Korea from Central Asia. They settled in villages and began to grow rice. Over thousands of years, Koreans developed their own culture.

From about A.D. 100 to A.D. 668, three kingdoms dominated Korea. Koguryo (koh guh ree oh) dominated in the north, Paekche (pehk chay) in the southwest, and Silla (shil

lah) in the southeast. During this period, Korea absorbed many ideas and customs from China, including Buddhism, Confucianism, and Chinese written script. Through trade and other peaceful contacts, elements of Chinese culture were transmitted from Korea to Japan.

Chinese culture spread into Korea in several ways. At times, China ruled parts of northern Korea. During periods of turmoil at home, Chinese refugees fled to Korea, bringing their customs with them. Also, Buddhist missionaries carried Mahayana traditions and other Chinese ideas to Korea. Finally, many Koreans went to study in China, where they learned the Chinese language and read Confucian texts. These scholars brought home knowledge of Chinese achievements as well as political and social ideas.

Koreans adapted Chinese traditions to their own beliefs. An example is the belief that spirits resided in natural objects such as rocks and trees. Among the most revered spirits was the mountain god. In Korea, Buddhism absorbed this belief, and Korean Buddhist temples include a shrine to the mountain god. (See Connections With Literature, page 806, “The Silence of Love.”)

Powerful Dynasties

In 668, the Silla kingdom united all of Korea. Korea then remained a single, unified state until 1945. Unlike China, with its many dynasties, Korea had only three periods of dynastic rule—the Silla, Koryo (kor ee oh), and Choson (choh suhn).*

Silla. During the Silla dynasty (668–918), Korea enjoyed a golden age. Traders flocked to Korean ports from all parts of Asia—even the Middle East. The Silla capital at Kyongju grew into a large city with fine palaces and tall pagodas, or Buddhist temples. Buddhist beliefs influenced architecture, sculpture, and literature and helped to unite the people.

Koryo. Korea takes its name from the Koryo dynasty, which ruled from 918 to 1392. The first Koryo ruler was a soldier named

* Many scholars outside Korea refer to this as the Yi dynasty.

Wang Kon. He built a capital at present-day Kaesong (keh song) and encouraged culture and the arts. As you have read, potters perfected the making of celadon porcelain during this period.

In 958, the king introduced the Chinese system of civil service examinations to attract the most talented scholars to government service. (See page 339.) Koreans modified this system to suit their own culture. Korea had a strong tradition of aristocratic rule. As a result, only the sons of aristocrats were allowed to take the civil service exams.

Buddhist influence reached its height during the Koryo dynasty. Temples flourished, and religious writings multiplied. The royal family had printers carve more than 81,000 wooden blocks containing the entire Buddhist scripture. The blocks can still be seen in a Buddhist temple today. The Koreans later improved printing by developing movable metal type.*

The Koryo kingdom had to fight off constant invasions from the mainland and defend its coasts against Japanese pirates. In the 1200s, the Mongols conquered Korea. Although Mongol rule was harsh, the Koreans learned from the invaders how to grow cotton and use gunpowder.

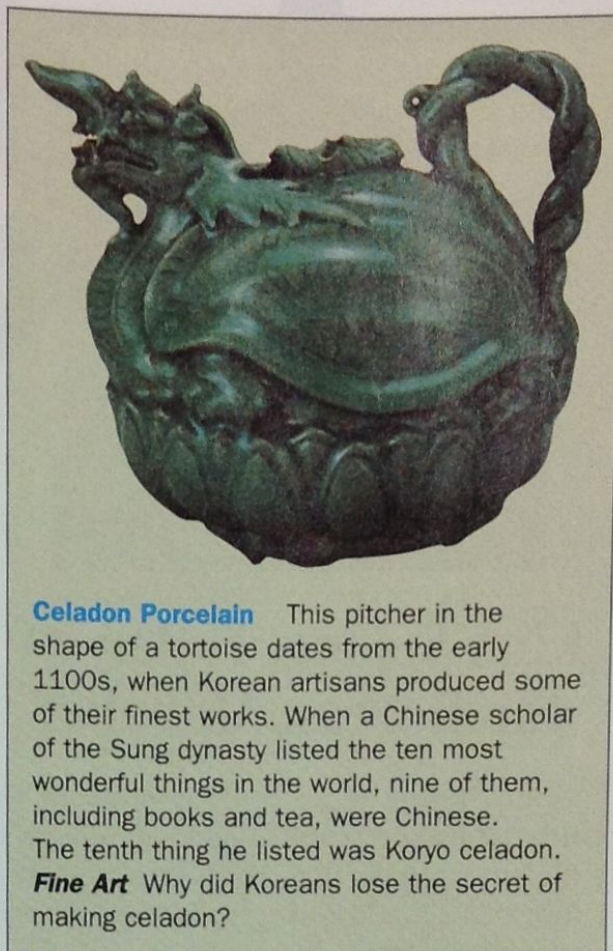
Choson. In 1392, an able Korean general, Yi Song-gye, set up the Choson dynasty. With its capital at Seoul, the Yi royal family ruled Korea until 1910.

During the Choson dynasty, Confucianism replaced Buddhism as the dominant system of social ethics. Koreans adopted Confucian teachings on moral conduct and the duties of the superior and the inferior person. These teachings guided Koreans' relationships in the family, community, and government.

At this time, Korea acknowledged China's superior power. As a result, for nearly 500 years, relations with countries other than China were discouraged, and Korea came to be known as the "Hermit Kingdom."

Following Confucian teachings, Koreans treated China with the respect that a younger

* Although the Chinese invented movable type in about 1045, they did not at first use metal pieces.



Celadon Porcelain This pitcher in the shape of a tortoise dates from the early 1100s, when Korean artisans produced some of their finest works. When a Chinese scholar of the Sung dynasty listed the ten most wonderful things in the world, nine of them, including books and tea, were Chinese. The tenth thing he listed was Koryo celadon. **Fine Art** Why did Koreans lose the secret of making celadon?

brother owed to an older brother. Yet, Koreans maintained their own identity. The Choson ruler Sejong (say jong) showed this independence when he called on scholars to develop *han'gul*, a phonetic alphabet suited to the Korean language. (See the feature on page 380.)

Invasions and Isolation

In 1592, a powerful Japanese ruler tried to attack China by way of Korea. For the next six years, the Koreans fought off the Japanese invaders. A Korean admiral invented "turtle boats," the first metal-plated ships, to defeat the Japanese navy. Finally, with Chinese help, the Koreans drove off the invaders. The war, however, destroyed much of Korea.

Greatly weakened, the Koreans were unable to fight off the Manchus, who invaded in the early 1600s. The Manchus overran first Korea and later China, as you have read. Although the Choson dynasty remained in power, to secure peace, Korea paid tribute to the Manchu rulers of China.



King Sejong, Father of the Korean Alphabet

South Korea is the only country in the world that has dedicated a national holiday to its alphabet. More than that, Han'gul Day—October 9—is a tribute to Korea's greatest ruler, King Sejong.

During his reign (1418–1450), Sejong encouraged advances in agriculture, government, science, music, medicine, and astronomy. He ordered scholars to invent a rainfall gauge and publish a 112-volume encyclopedia. His highest achievement, however, was the development of a simple Korean alphabet.

Until the 1440s, Korean scholars used a form of Chinese writing. To be literate, a person had to learn at least 20,000 Chinese characters. King Sejong wanted a simpler and more efficient method of writing the Korean language. He asked scholars to invent a

writing system based on the way Korean was pronounced. The result was an alphabet with 17 consonants and 11 vowels. King Sejong called it han'gul, or "Korean Script."

Many Koreans who had become Confucian scholars scorned han'gul. They warned against "dragging the Chinese classics in the dust of vulgar script." King Sejong, though, was pleased with han'gul. He said:

“A wise person can learn han'gul in a few hours. Even a foolish person can learn it in ten days.”

King Sejong used different methods to popularize the alphabet. According to one story, he had the alphabet written in honey on the leaves of trees in his garden. Overnight, insects chewed through the leaves as they ate the honey. The next day, visitors to the garden were startled to see han'gul inscribed on the leaves of the trees!

Today, Koreans have simplified han'gul even further, to 14 consonants and 10 vowels. Its use has helped make Korea one of the world's most literate nations.

1. Why did King Sejong encourage the invention of a Korean alphabet?
2. **Applying Information** King Sejong had poems, Buddhist scriptures, and Chinese classics written in han'gul. How might this new literature have promoted use of the new script?

In response to these attacks, Korea turned to further isolationism. **Isolationism** is a policy of avoiding foreign involvements and contacts. For almost 200 years, Korea closed its ports to foreign ships and resisted foreign ideas. Korean rulers also banned Christianity, which reached Korea by way of China in the 1700s. Korean Christians then had to worship in secret.

Imperialism and Nationalism

The Age of Imperialism put Korea at the center of a new struggle. By the mid-1800s, western powers wanted the Hermit Kingdom to open its ports to foreign trade. With the Choson dynasty in decline, Korea could not resist the imperialist powers.

In the past, China had supported Korea's isolation. However, China could no longer

help itself, let alone Korea. As in China, imperialist powers forced Korea to sign "unequal treaties." In this way, foreigners won trading rights and special privileges, such as extraterritoriality.

Japanese rule. As Japan modernized and expanded its power, it competed with China and Russia for control of Korea. By 1905, Japan had defeated its rivals and won control over Korea. Five years later, it ousted the Choson dynasty and annexed Korea. To **annex** means to add a territory to one's own country.

The Japanese imposed harsh rule on Korea. Like other imperialist powers, Japan introduced modern improvements to serve its own interests. The Japanese forced the Koreans to build factories, roads, and railroads for Japan's benefit. They encouraged education to make Korean workers more productive. The Japanese also improved farming methods, but then took half of Korea's yearly rice crop to support Japanese expansion.

Korean nationalism. Koreans bitterly resented Japanese rule. Nationalists campaigned to win freedom for their country. On March 1, 1919, Korean nationalists held a huge, peaceful demonstration to demand independence. The Japanese responded by killing 2,000 Koreans and jailing 19,000 others.

During the years that followed, the Japanese hunted down leaders of the March 1st Movement, as the Korean nationalist movement was called. Many nationalist leaders fled to the United States, China, and the Soviet Union.

In the 1930s and 1940s, Japan expanded its empire across much of Asia. During World War II, it forced Koreans to fight in its armies and used Korean resources to power its war machines. The Japanese also tried to suppress Korea's identity. They forbade Koreans to speak their own language in public and made them take Japanese last names. Writer Richard Kim described this attempt to erase Korean culture in his autobiographical novel *Lost Names*.

Up Close

Lost Names

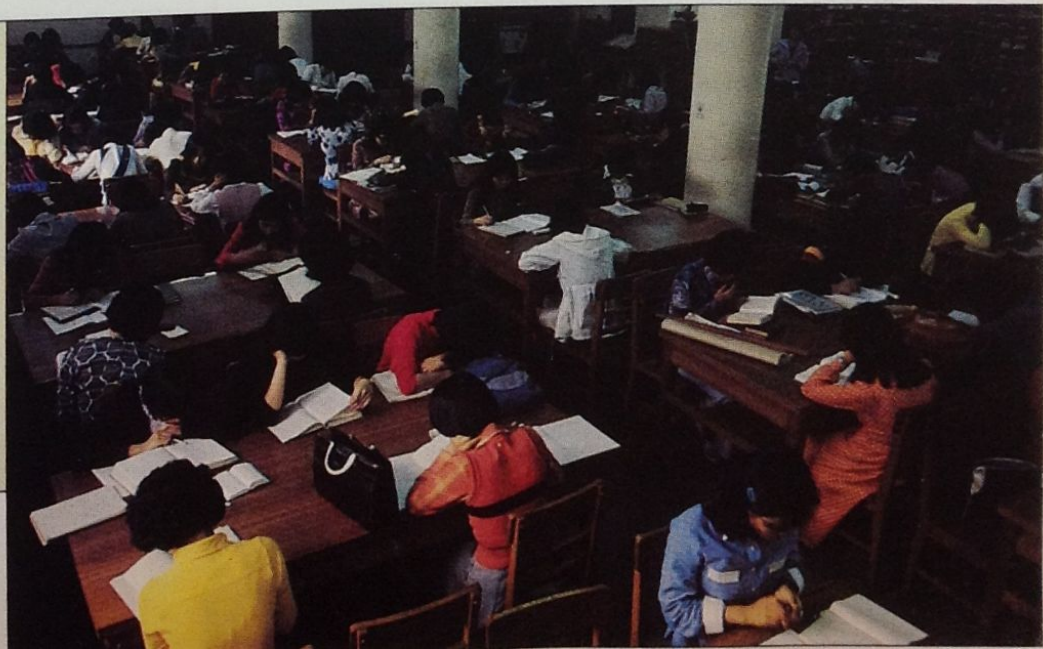
Young Richard Kim never forgot that day in school. The teacher, a young Japanese man, came into the freezing classroom before the bell rang. The boys knew something was about to happen.

The bell rang. The boys rose, bowed to the teacher, and resumed their seats. Then, without looking at the students, the teacher spoke:

“ Today, I must have your new names. . . . I shall call your old names, and those who are called will be excused from the class immediately, so that they can go home and return with their new names, which have been properly registered with the proper authorities. ”

Students in Seoul These young women attend Ewha University, one of the largest women's universities in the world. Koreans, who have always placed a high value on education, preserved their cultural identity even when the Japanese tried to weaken it.

Culture What steps did the Japanese take to suppress Koreans' sense of identity?



THE TWO KOREAS

FIND OUT

How did Cold War rivalries affect Korea?

What economic progress has South Korea made?

What basic goal have North Koreans pursued?

Vocabulary armistice

Young Kim ran home to find out his new name. All the way, the same thought pounded in his head: "I am going to lose my name; I am going to lose my name, we are all going to lose our names."

Kim and his father had to go to the police station to register the family's new name. It sounded strange to his ears.

“ ‘Iwamoto.’ I mouth the name. Our new name. My new name. ‘Iwa’—rock. ‘Moto’— . . . foundation. ‘Rock-Foundation.’ So this is our ‘new’ surname, our Japanese ‘family’ name. ”

Later, the boy went with his father and grandfather to visit the graves of their ancestors. His father brushed off the snow, and the three knelt. His grandfather said to the ancestors, "We are a disgrace to our family. We bring disgrace and humiliation to your name. How can you forgive us?" With tears spilling from their eyes, the two older men bowed to their ancestors.

Scenes like this one occurred throughout Korea during the years of Japanese rule. Yet, the harder the Japanese tried to undermine Korean culture, the stronger the Koreans felt attached to their own ways. ■

SECTION 2 REVIEW

- 1. Identify:** (a) Silla, (b) Koryo, (c) Yi Song-gye, (d) han'gul, (e) Hermit Kingdom, (f) March 1st Movement.
- 2. Define:** (a) isolationism, (b) annex.
- 3.** How did Buddhism and Confucianism affect Korean culture?
- 4.** Describe two achievements of Korean civilization.
- 5.** What happened to Korea during the Age of Imperialism?
- 6. Making Inferences** How do you think Japanese efforts to undermine Korean culture contributed to Korean nationalism? Why?
- 7. Writing Across Cultures** Imagine that you are a member of the March 1st Movement who has fled to the United States. Write a speech urging Americans to support Korean nationalism.

“ **T**he whole atmosphere was forbidding and ugly. I could very well imagine how the mood sometimes explodes into violent incidents. ”

A Korean-born journalist was describing tensions at Panmunjom, on the dividing line between North Korea and South Korea. For almost 40 years, this artificial line has separated families as well as governments. Yet, Koreans cherish the hope that someday their country will be reunited.

A Divided Land

In 1945, Koreans celebrated the Japanese defeat in World War II with joy and great hope for the future. Soon, however, Korea again became a battleground between strong powers. As the war ended, the United States and its wartime ally, the Soviet Union, agreed that Korea should regain its independence. Both nations sent troops to Korea to accept the Japanese surrender. Soviet troops occupied the region north of the 38th parallel. American troops occupied the southern part of Korea. The occupation was to last only until elections could be held.

Cold War rivalries led to a permanent division of Korea. During the Japanese occupation, Korean nationalists had split into communist and non-communist factions. In 1945,

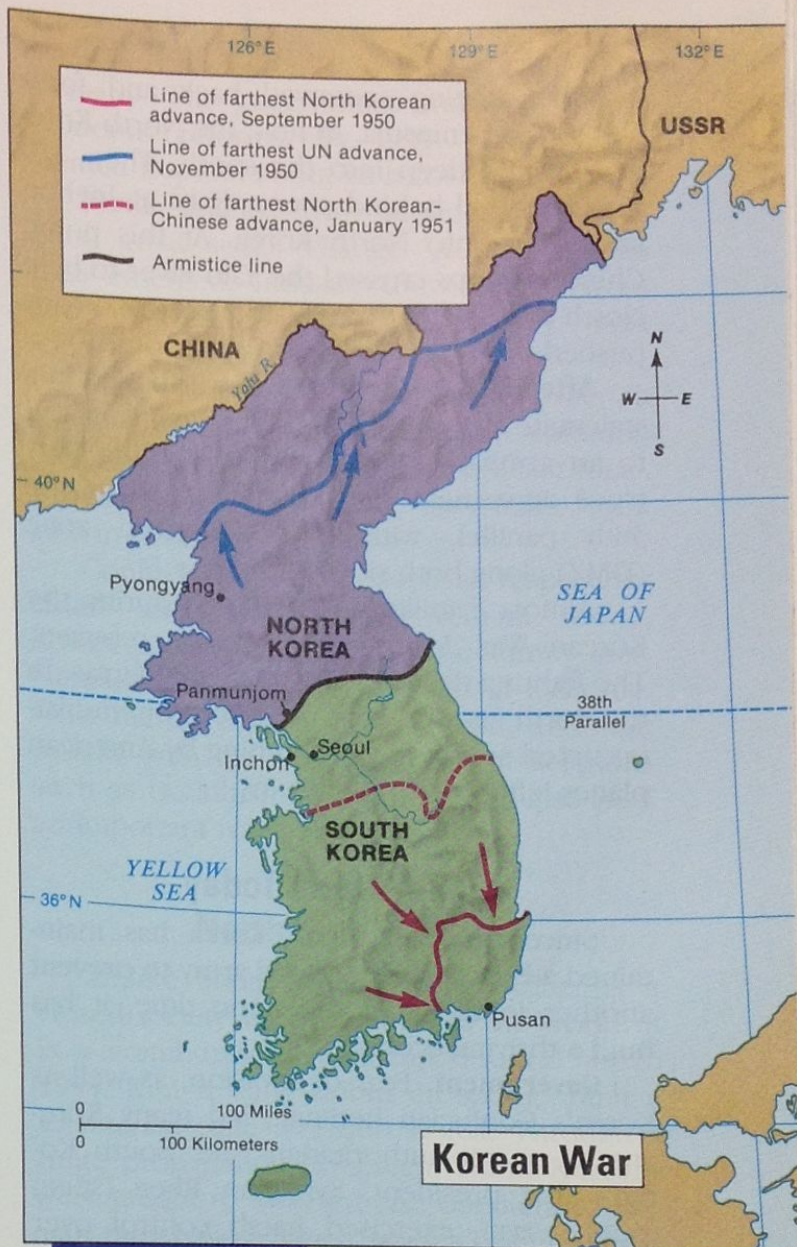
the Soviet Union helped Korean communists gain power in the north. At the same time, the United States backed non-communist Koreans in the south. By 1948, Korea officially split into the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, or North Korea, and the Republic of Korea, or South Korea.

War in Korea

After the split, clashes occurred between North Korean and South Korean troops along the 38th parallel. In 1950, North Korea launched an all-out invasion of South Korea to reunite the country by force. Surprised and poorly equipped, South Korean soldiers retreated.

UN involvement. The United States and its allies saw the North Korean invasion as part of a worldwide communist threat. China had been taken over by communist forces the year before. The Soviet Union had armed and trained the North Koreans. At the urging of the United States, the United Nations voted to send troops to South Korea. An American general, Douglas MacArthur, took command of the combined UN and South Korean troops. In the end, more than 15 nations sent troops to Korea. American and South Korean soldiers, however, did most of the fighting.

Effects of War The war in Korea brought bloodshed to towns and villages in all parts of the Korean peninsula. As this photograph shows, the war and everyday life were closely intertwined. **Power** What were the economic results of the Korean War?



MAP STUDY

In 1950, communist North Korean armies invaded South Korea. The UN sent an army largely made up of American troops to aid South Korea. After three years of bitter fighting, the war ended in a stalemate.

- Interaction** What geographic features made fighting in the Korean peninsula difficult for both sides?
- Movement** (a) Describe the position of the UN forces' deepest advance into North Korea. (b) Describe the position of North Korea's deepest advance into South Korea.
- Drawing Conclusions** (a) Which side seemed to be winning the war in September 1950? In November 1950? (b) How do you explain this great change?

The fighting seesawed back and forth across the peninsula. At first, the North Koreans pushed deep into the south. Then, UN forces landed behind enemy lines at Inchon and swept into North Korea. At this point, Chinese troops crossed the Yalu River to help North Korea. The Chinese and North Koreans pushed the UN forces back to the south.

Aftermath of the war. The war ended in a stalemate. In 1953, both sides finally agreed to an **armistice**, or an end to fighting. The truce agreement left Korea divided at the 38th parallel, with a demilitarized zone (DMZ) along both sides of the line.

Almost 4 million people died during the Korean War. Many more became refugees. The fighting destroyed factories and farms. In the north, as well as in the once communist-occupied south, heavy bombing by American planes left most cities in ruins.

South Korea Today

Since the war, South Korea has maintained a large, well-equipped army to prevent another invasion. At the same time, it has built a thriving economy.

Government. Fear of invasion, as well as Korea's Confucian heritage, led many Koreans to accept authoritarian rule. South Korea's first president, Syngman Rhee (SIHNG muhn REE), exercised harsh control over

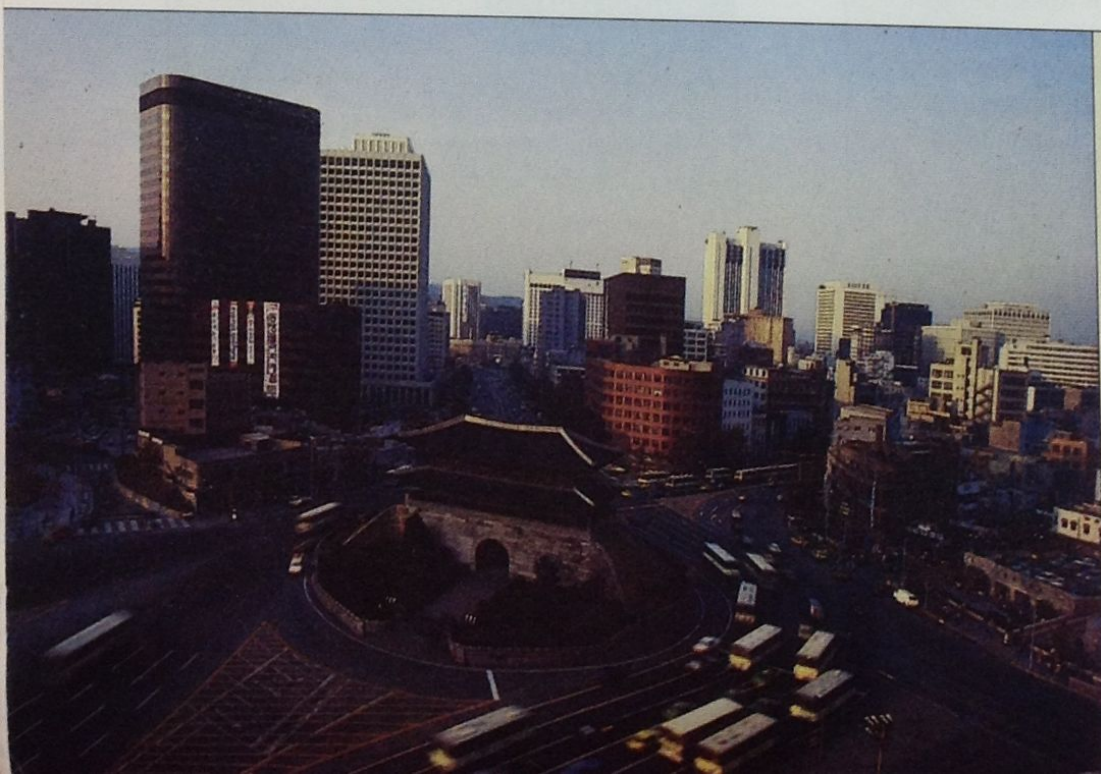
people's lives. He and his successors, beginning with President Park Chung Hee, cracked down hard when South Koreans demanded greater freedom. They believed strong measures were needed to maintain stability and promote rapid economic growth.

Despite this repression, demands for democratic freedoms continued. In 1960, massive protests by students and other groups forced Rhee to resign. In the 1980s, the government gave in to demands for more democratic elections. Today, the government remains powerful and restricts human rights, although opposition groups have won some rights.

Economic growth. In 1953, South Korea faced the enormous task of rebuilding its shattered villages and cities. As you have read, it has only limited natural resources. Also, it had to absorb millions of refugees who had fled the fighting or escaped from North Korea. With massive United States aid, South Korea made progress.

Since the 1960s, South Korea's economic success has been spectacular. Today, it ranks with Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Singapore as one of the "four Asian tigers" that have rapidly industrialized.

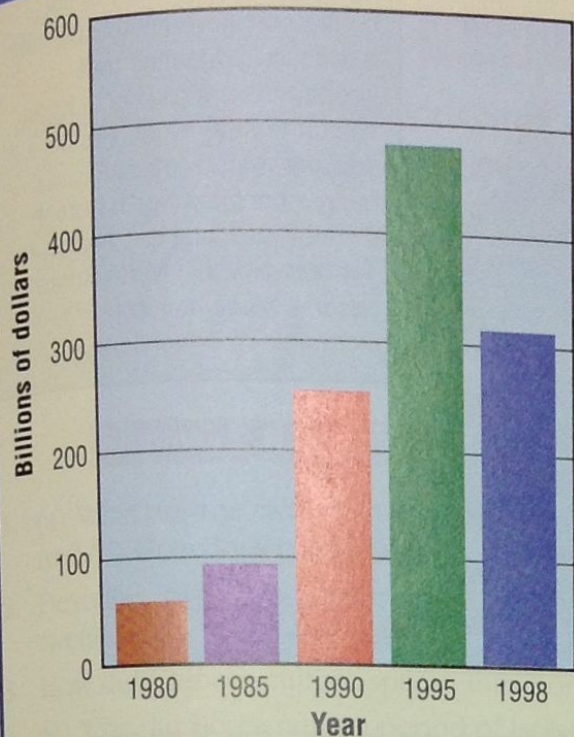
Although South Korea has a free market economy, the government has kept tight control over it. South Korea stresses manufacturing for export. Its skilled work force produces



Downtown Seoul Modern buildings surround the South Gate, which dates from the founding of Seoul in the late 1300s. South Korea's capital, which has a metropolitan population of more than 16 million, is the world's fourth-largest city. Nearly 25 percent of the population of South Korea lives in Seoul.

Environment Why might the government wish to discourage Seoul's further growth?

Gross National Product South Korea



Gross national product (GNP) is the total value of goods and services produced by a nation in a year.

Source: Korea National Statistical Office

Graph Skills South Korea rebuilt and modernized its economy after the devastating Korean War. Today, South Korea is an industrial nation selling its products around the world. ▶ According to this bar graph, how did South Korea's GNP in 1995 compare with its 1980 GNP?

export goods such as textiles and electronics equipment. Because it relies on exports and needs raw materials and foreign capital, South Korea is interdependent with the world economy.

Economic success brought a rising standard of living. Still, South Koreans paid a price for progress. They worked long hours for low pay, although labor unions slowly won higher wages. The environment suffered much damage. Chemicals pollute the air and water around Seoul.

In late 1997, the Asian financial crisis struck South Korea. Businesses went bankrupt. Unemployment rose, bringing hardship

to many. The government undertook harsh economic reforms. By 1999, South Korea seemed hopeful about its recovery.

Social change. With economic progress came great social change. A new middle class emerged. Industry drew people from farms to jobs in urban areas. Today, most South Koreans live in cities.

Urbanization has affected family life. In cities, nuclear families are more common than extended families—the Confucian ideal. Women won more rights, and many took jobs in factories.

Confucian traditions such as respect for elders and for education remain strong, however. Koreans enjoy close family ties. Families look after the old and ill at home. Most marriages are still arranged, although usually with the couple's consent. Religions such as Buddhism and Christianity also play an important role in people's lives.

North Korea Today

Unlike South Korea, North Korea is a closed society with few links to the world. It is a communist dictatorship. From 1948 to 1994, Kim Il Sung (kih-m ihl soong) built a totalitarian state in North Korea. Through a huge propaganda campaign, North Koreans were taught to be loyal and obedient to the man they called "Great Leader." After Kim Il Sung died, his son, Kim Jong Il, became ruler and continued similar policies.

Kim Il Sung preached *juche* (joo chay), or self-reliance. To achieve this goal, he avoided ties with foreign countries, even other communist states. Kim tried to make the economy self-sufficient. North Korea built heavy industry to supply its own needs. It imports and exports few goods.

Like South Korea, North Korea made economic progress. It industrialized and became more urbanized. Yet its standard of living lagged far behind that in the south.

From 1995 on, weather-related problems such as floods brought famine and death to North Koreans. As much as 10 percent of the population may have died.



50 Years of Communist Rule
In 1998, North Korea marked the fiftieth anniversary of its communist government. Despite a widespread famine that gripped the nation, North Korea celebrated the event. Here, soldiers march before a banner honoring North Korean dictator Kim Jong Il. **Political System** How did North Korea become a communist dictatorship?

Because it is a closed society, we know little about life in North Korea. Kim Il Sung outlawed all religions and tried to replace Confucian values with communist beliefs. Still, some observers think that old Korean traditions may have survived.

Outlook for the Future

With a common history and culture, most Koreans hope to reunite their land someday. During the 1990s, the two Koreas held some talks. They signed a nonaggression pact and even arranged meetings for some long-separated families. Other talks focused on a peace treaty to replace the armistice ending the Korean War. South Koreans sent aid to ease North Korea's terrible famine.

Many obstacles separate the two Koreas. Most important are the different directions each has taken since 1945. Each believes the other wants to overthrow its system of government. North Korea has tried to develop nuclear weapons. It agreed to stop this effort in 1994 but secretly continued. The nuclear threat raises fears in both South Korea and Japan.

No one yet knows the long-term effect of North Korea's terrible famine. Some high-level North Koreans have defected, or escaped. Yet the country's totalitarian rulers remain firmly in control.

SECTION 3 REVIEW

- 1. Locate:** (a) 38th parallel, (b) Inchon, (c) Yalu River
- 2. Identify:** (a) Syngman Rhee, (b) "four Asian tigers," (c) Kim Il Sung.
- 3. Define:** armistice.
- 4.** (a) Why did the United States and the Soviet Union divide Korea in 1945? (b) How did the division become permanent?
- 5.** In what three ways is South Korea linked to the world economy?
- 6.** How did Kim Il Sung pursue the goal of *juche* in North Korea?
- 7. Analyzing Ideas** How do you think Confucian traditions contributed to authoritarian rule in both South Korea and North Korea?
- 8. Writing Across Cultures** Write an editorial for or against sending United States troops to Korea in 1950. Consider what might have happened without UN intervention.

CHAPTER 17 REVIEW

Understanding Vocabulary

Match each term at left with the correct definition at right.

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 1. homogeneous society | a. phonetic alphabet suited to the Korean language |
| 2. han'gul | b. end to fighting |
| 3. isolationism | c. culture in which people share a common background |
| 4. annex | d. add on |
| 5. armistice | e. policy of avoiding foreign involvements and contacts |

Reviewing the Main Ideas

- (a) What are the two main landforms of Korea? (b) How does each affect people's lives?
- Describe two geographic differences between North Korea and South Korea.
- How did Chinese culture spread into Korea?
- (a) Why did Korea enter a period of isolation in the 1600s? (b) How did this isolation affect the spread of Christianity in Korea?
- (a) What economic progress has South Korea made since the Korean War? (b) What have been some costs of this rapid progress?
- (a) Why do Koreans hope for the reunification of North and South Korea? (b) What obstacles to reunification exist?

Reviewing Chapter Themes

- Geography has influenced Korea's history and economy. Describe the effects of two of the following: (a) its location between China and Japan, (b) its major landforms, (c) its long coastline.
- For centuries, China strongly influenced Korean culture. (a) Describe three practices or ideas that Koreans borrowed from Chinese culture. (b) Describe one way in which Koreans adapted Chinese traditions.
- Outside influences have affected Korea since the 1850s. Describe the effects of two of the following: (a) imperialist rivalries, (b) Japanese expansionism, (c) World War II, (d) Cold War tensions.

- North and South Korea have followed different paths. Compare North Korea and South Korea in terms of: (a) government, (b) economy, (c) foreign policy.

Thinking Critically

- Analyzing Ideas** Korea has been both a cultural bridge and a battleground in Asia. (a) Give examples that support this statement. (b) Why do you think Korea has maintained its unique identity despite foreign influence?
- Making Global Connections** Since the 1950s, the United States has given economic aid to South Korea and kept military bases there. Why do you think the United States continues to support South Korea?
- Forecasting** (a) Do you think Korea will eventually reunite? (b) If it does, do you think the reunited country will have an economy and government more like that of North Korea or that of South Korea? Why?

Applying Your Skills

- Recognizing Points of View** (a) What does the nickname "Hermit Kingdom" show about the attitude western nations have toward Korea? (b) What name might Koreans have given to outsiders?
- Understanding Causes and Effects** Create a cause-and-effect chart for the Korean War. (See Skill Lesson 13, page 628.)