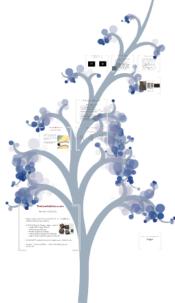
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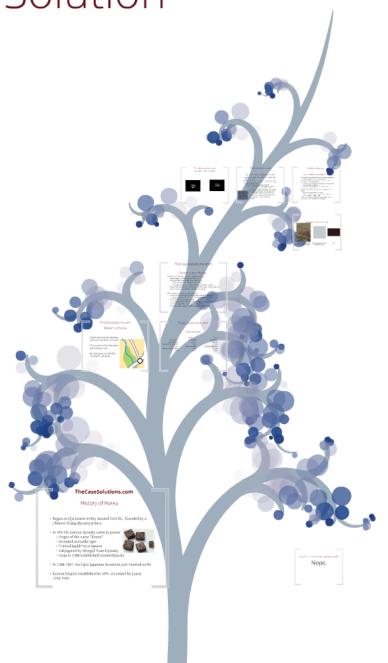
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Vital statistics

Population
Area (sq km)
Pop. density (/sqkm)
GDP (PPP)
GDP per capita (PPP)
HDI

DPRK
24,554,000
120,540
198.3
40,000,000,000
1,800
0.766

ROK
50,004,441
100,210
491
1,687,000,000,000
33, 580
0.909

History of Korea

- Began as Gija Joseon entity around 2333 BC, founded by a Chinese Shang dynasty prince
- In 918 AD, Goryeo dynasty came to power
 - Origin of the name "Korea"
 - Invented movable type
 - Printed Buddhist scripture
 - Subjugated by Mongol Yuan Dynasty
 - Coup in 1388 established Joseon Dynasty
- In 1388-1897, multiple Japanese invasions and internal strife
- Korean Empire established in 1897, colonized by Japan 1910-1949



TheCaseSolutions.com Division of Korea

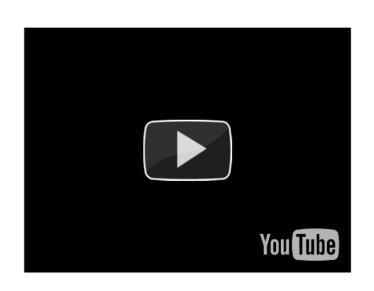
- The Soviets kept the northern half, the Americans the South
- The creation of satellite states led to Korean War
- By 1953 Korea was divided into North and South

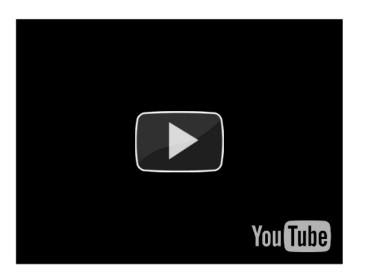


Recent Korean History

- Both Koreas ruled by dictatorial regimes early on
 - Kim il-Sung ruled North Korea until 1994
 - Syngman Rhee ruled ROK from 1948-1960
 - Park Chung-hee ruled from 1961-1979
 - Gwangju massacre of 1980 ended dictatorship in ROK
 - Under Kim Jong-il (1994-2012) and son Kim Jong-un (2012-) North Korea remains an autarkic command economy
- Flare-ups between the two sides include
 - 1983: Korean Air Flight 858, bombed by North Korea while carrying a member of the U. S. House of Representatives
 - 1999: First Yeonpyeong incident
 - 2000: Inauguration of the Sunshine Policy, six-party talks
 - 2010: Sinking of the Cheonan, an ROK vessel
 - 2013: Tensions escalate, DPRK performs nuclear tests

TheCaseSolutions.com ...and the rest is history





Factors in favor of geographic luck

- Contains several large rivers (Taedong, Yalu, Tumen, Injin)
- Little seismic activity
- Relatively high precipitation (>600 mm/year everywhere)
- Located in the Old World, giving it easy access to rice, wheat, and other domestic animals
 - Had large numbers of rice farms in particular
 - According to Malcolm Gladwell's Outliers, rice farming can help to build intelligence and self-discipline.
 - Wheat farming in Europe came with a short growing season and plenty of breaks. Rice farming involves hard, backbreaking work for over 350 days a year.
 Gladwell identifies this as the reason why Asians appear to be more "intelligent" than their peers-it's just a hard work ethic passed through the generations.

Factors against geographic luck

- Korea (and North Korea in particular) is mostly mountainous, and arable land plots are few and far between.
- Located near China, Japan, and Russia, all of which have invaded or occupied it in the past.
 - These countries remain major global powers today, and do not have the best relations.
 - Any conflict involving Korea could quickly involve regional and global players.
- Borders South Korea, which is heavily guarded by NATO troops
 - Has less arable land than South Korea
 - South Korea has far more precipitation than North Korea
- Broken to nonexistent infrastructure and public services outside the capital, and bad water management