

Fall union supported
kim il-sung in the
north.



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Fall 2017 POLS 102 Helen Sharpe Prof. Fornella-Oehninger The

Democratic People's Republic of Korea, also known as North Korea, was established on September 9th 1948. Before then, North Korea and South Korea were together to form their own Korea.

It was until the end of WW2 that the US and Russian forces had to set up their occupation areas to defeat the Japanese forces. Korea was split along the 38th parallel with the Soviet Union taking the northern half while the United States took the southern half. After both forces tried to help the country govern itself after 36 years of the Japanese rule, tensions began to rise between the communists and the capitalists. In the South, the US supported Syngman Rhee as the Soviet Union supported Kim Il-Sung in the North. After the North refused to participate in the UN led elections, the South decided to have their own and elected Syngman Rhee as their president. Shortly after, the North chose to have an election and brought Kim Il-Sung to power.

In the early months of 1948, communists that were still in South Korea created a bloody rebellion but were eventually defeated with Rhee's forces in 1949. In 1950, both Stalin and Kim then invaded South Korea, which is known as the Korean War. This war ended in a stalemate and sealed the separation of the two Korea's. Under the rule of the Kim regime, this country is anything but democratic. "... The two views of political classification which are both in theory and in reality. In theory, Kim Jung-Il and his late father, Kim Il-Sung had over 50 years to perfect their political system.

They created the idea that their dictatorship can afford to grant its people both social and political equality but as well they constructed a more elaborated model of 'political stratification, discrimination, and persecution' than most dictatorships compared to other countries. In North Korea's case, the only way to achieve socialism or equality is to be personally loyal to Kim Jung-il and his regime. In the year 1967, Il-Sung then classified his country into three classes. A core class, a wavering class, and a hostile class. Then after this, each member of society is then into 51 different sub-categories based on whether or not they owned land, were communists, or lived in 'South Korea' before 1945. In this idea, all of the leaders in the past and future were able to locate who was truly loyal to power and who was not. A citizen's loyalty was also examined based on how they approached authority such as applying for a job or owning a house.

Only these people who were loyal to the government were able to obtain responsible positions in the DPRK. Sadly the loyalty doesn't influence the state to be a socialist one. In fact, the socialist economy does not work. 85% of the country lives in poverty and millions are starving. Those who are loyal and work for the government tend to bend and break the rules to make their lives better for themselves and their immediate family. The country also runs on bribery such as getting out of jail with money and also illegally buying necessities such as employment, healthcare, food etc.

The North Korean Society is unstable in general and most of the DPRK are not allowed to flee the country. The reason for this is that the Kim Regime would not want its people to see the possible political alternatives rather than living in North Korea (Oh)." The DPRK's government has a strong pull on its people
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since the majority respects and obeys its leaders. For example, it is illegal for the North Korean people to leave the country without the regime's consent. The same goes for traveling inside of the country.

In order to even travel to a different province, you must have permission from the regime. The only other way to leave the country is to escape and not get caught." Since the famine, North Koreans who have been able to have been fleeing the country in their thousands, even risking their lives to do so.

Over 28,000 North Korean refugees have made it all the way to South Korea, with an unknown number still in limbo in China.... They have provided much of the information we know about North Korea today. In addition, because it is illegal to leave the country without state permission, crossing the border is an act of defiance against the repressive government. As more North Koreans become aware of the rising numbers of their fellow countrymen ' voting with their feet' and leading better lives in more affluent neighboring countries, this presents a growing challenge to the legitimacy of the North Korean regime (Liberty in North Korea)." Due to having the constraint over its people, the DPRK is currently ruled under a dictatorship of the Kim Regime. Kim Jong-Un, the current supreme leader of North Korea, learned from his father and grandfather on how to keep his hold on the people. Along with ' trapping' the citizens in their respective provinces.

Most of the people of the country genuinely believe that their leaders are the equivalent to the modern day Messiah, the supreme leader being their God. When children are in school, they are forced to learn that South Korea

and the United States of America are the 'bad' guys. That they exist only to destroy all North Koreans including their God. But when it comes to their identity, they claim themselves to be 'Korean' just like the South Koreans do. They plan to always defend their country, no matter what the cause.

"We would never think of eating for pleasure," North Korea defector admits. In North Korea, the people believed that the dictator Kim Jong-Un knew all. He could read everyone's thoughts and that if a person would think badly about the government, they must turn themselves in or face harsh punishment or even death. In the households of the DPRK, a picture of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il is proudly placed onto the walls of the living room. This idea is that they are always watching the people to see if they were communicating with the outside world or to be planning an attack inside the country. Kim Hak Min, a defector who now lives in South Korea states that only 10% of the people of the country have access to foreign media and that 9.5% of that is illegal.

People can face the North Korean Death Penalty if they are caught with any foreign media that is banned from the country. This article shows that the right to privacy does not exist in North Korea post WW2 and that its government is very restricted when it comes to possessing any form of it. The unfiltered media can definitely cause an uproar in the DPRK community and that is the last thing that they want and need (Maresca). In modern time, there are many issues facing the DPRK today.

One of them, being widely known, is the famine. Over 90 percent of the population is currently affected by the famine and yet the people are

supposedly fine with it. In the beginning of the 1990's the DPRK entered a dark time where necessities were available to the public.

Everything that was donated by the United Nations was given to the Government and never seen by the eyes of the people. At this time, more than 3/4ths of the country had little to no access to food, clothing, etc. The famine was caused by the state's inability to fulfill the 'economic obligations that it had assumed, forcing institutions, enterprises, and households to cope with the ensuing challenges of maintaining stability with limited cooperation between the Korean government and the international community.' The response to this crisis that was caused by the famine then led to thousands fleeing the country. This book goes into depth on the cruel government that the DPRK has adopted and how the citizens are definitely unhappy. It also came from the interviews of those who escaped this terrible crisis so it is very much reliable (Haggard).” The cause for the famine one of the main topics currently being discussed within the United Nations due to being a Human Rights violation.

Another issue that is happening in North Korea is the tensions with the United States and Nuclear War. For the past few months, President Donald J. Trump and Leader Kim Jong-Un have been constantly arguing with each other through different forms of social media with the idea of nukes being involved. Lately the use of threats, sanctions, and missile tests have been introduced and used but the only thing different between now and the Cold War is that each country knows what the other is thinking. With the help of Soviet Russia, the DPRK have begun developing a nuclear site in the 1980's, known as Yongbyon.

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North Korea claimed that it was peaceful at the time then even signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty in 1985 then enacted in 1991 that promised not to produce or use nuclear weapons, which South Korea also signed onto. In later years, the International Atomic Energy Agency then wanted access to the DPRK nuclear sites but then the country threatened that they would leave the NPT. In the early years of the Clinton Administration, Bill decided to negotiate with the DPRK to end its nuclear program.

They even threatened to send a strike to Yongbyon but was terminated when Kim Il-Sung died and his son took over. The negotiations eventually came to be with the Agreed Framework in late 1994. This Framework then collapsed in 2002 when President George W.

Bush came into office and took a hardline approach to North Korea. The country as a whole took this as a threat and pulled out immediately. In the summer of 2006, North Korea finally decides to start its first nuclear test. The explosion was less than a kiloton, so they did not officially break any treaty. But the United Nations did respond with a resolution for North Korea to stop testing their nuclear weapons and to tear down their program. The DPRK believed that this was in reaction to the pressures that the United States has put upon them. Eventually the DRK had shutdown its nuclear facilities in Yongbyon and it also agreed to disable the facilities for any future needs.

When President Barack Obama began his presidency, only three months in, North Korea decided to launch another nuclear test. The launch did fail and the United Nations did tightened their sanctions for any future needs. When President Barack Obama began his presidency, only three months in, North

Korea decided to launch another nuclear test. The launch did fail and the United Nations did tighten their sanctions. But when it came to the Trump administration, everything turned for the worst. Threats began to become more common and more countries began to get involved. Both the citizens of the US and the DPRK are in danger now. Wikipedia.

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