KOREAN CULTURES

Kyung Rhan Chung

THE ACADEMY OF KOREAN STUDIES
KOREA

- Located between China & Japan
- Language: Korean
- Capital: Seoul
- Area: 99,720 km²
- Population: 51,378,174/26 th in the world
- GDP per capita: $28,739
- Religions: Christianity (21%), Catholicism (7%), Buddhism (22%), others (no believers included) 50%
- Climate: 4 seasons of spring, summer (34 °C), fall, & winter
Korea at Present

- One of the fastest growing economies in the world
- Its GDP per capita ranks 13th in the world (1st: U.S., China, Japan, Germany, France, U.K., Brazil, Italy, India, Canada, Australia in order)
- The world’s 6th exporter (shipbuilding, automobile, steel, oil refinery, semi-conductor, LCD, cell phone, etc.)
“Hallyu (K-Wave)”: Exported cultural content since the 1990s

- Korean movies, dramas, and pop songs are getting popular at a fast rate.
- KRW 9.4 trillion of Korean cultural content (2014), the 7th largest exporter in the world (1st: the U.S., Japan, China, Germany, U.K., France, in order)

Girls’ Generation
Winter Sonata
Jewel in the Palace
The Palace
My Love from the Star
Wonder Girls
Wonder Girls
## Korean History: 5,000 years old

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2333 B.C.</td>
<td>Kingdom of Gojoseon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st century B.C.</td>
<td>Three Kingdoms (Shilla: 57 BC-935, Baekje: 18 BC-660, Goguryeo: 37 BC-668)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>668 – 935</td>
<td>Shilla (Southern part: 668-935) Balhae (Northern part: 698-926, Goguryeo migrants)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>918 - 1392</td>
<td>Goryeo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1392 – 1910</td>
<td>Joseon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910 - 1945</td>
<td>Japanese colonial rule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1948</td>
<td>S. Korea: Government of ROK founded N. Korea: DPRK established</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950-1953</td>
<td>Korean War</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>Military dictatorship, coup d’etat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>Democratization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>24th Seoul Olympic Games</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013- current</td>
<td>Park, Guen Hye administration</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dangun Myth

Hwanwoong told his father (Hwanin) that he wanted to live in the human world. He came down to the ground. One day, a bear and a tiger came to him and said they wanted to become human beings.

The bear ate garlic and sage for 100 days while the tiger could not stand and left out of the cave. The bear turn to a woman and married to Hwangwoong. She gave a birth to Dangun Wanggeom. Their son grew up to found the first nation of Korea.

Gojoseon

Dangun Wanggeom founded the nation in B.C. 2333 (from “History of 3 Kingdoms”)
Period of Three Kingdoms

- Shilla, Baekje, Goguryeo

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Kingdom</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B.C. 57 -935</td>
<td>Shilla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B.C. 18 -660</td>
<td>Baekje</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B.C. 37 -668</td>
<td>Goguryeo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Buddhism

- Was introduced in Period of 3 Kingdoms (A.D.372, spread by monks named Sundo and Ado of Qin Dynasty of China during Goguryeo Period)
- Korean Buddhism: Mahayana Buddhism (Everybody and & will become a Buddha at some point) vs. Hinayana Buddhism (focus on meditation)
- Was designated as national religion in Periods of 3 Kingdoms and Goryeo
- Had a great impact on lives, cultures, arts of Koreans.
- Has 22% of Buddhists of the total population in Korea.
- Buddha’s birthday is a national holiday (April 8th, in lunar year)
Ginseng

- “Chronicles of Three Kingdoms” indicates that 3 kingdoms traded ginseng with China.
- “Practice of Eastern Medicine (Dongui Bogam)” describes that ginseng is the best medicine that supports long life.
- Goryeo ginseng is very famous in the world.
Buluksa temple & Seokguram grotto of Shilla

- Designated as World Heritage of UNESCO
- Bulguksa temple
  - Temple built in 751 during Shilla period
  - Hold several prayer halls, bridges and pagodas which show a brilliant art of construction skills.
- Seokguram grotto
  - Is part of the Bulguksa temple complex. It was made out of granite lying east of the temple on Mt. Tohamsam in Gyeongju during Shilla.
  - Buddha is wearing a generous and calm smile.
'Mugu jeonggwang dae darani-gyeong (the Great Dharani Sutra of Immaculate and Pure Light) of Shilla

- World’s oldest print (in around 751, Korea’s first woodblock type print): 20 years earlier than Japan’s “One Million Pagodas and Darani Prayers” in 770.
Gayageum of Shilla
Baekje

- Handed down its cultures to Japan (Buddhism, porcelain & weaving techniques).

Hirakata City of Osaka, Japan: historic site of Baekje. A famous shrine of the last King of Baekje.

Osaka, Japan. In Japanese Baekje is “Gudara”. Still many names of places in Japan are reminiscent of Baekje.
Geomungo of Goguryeo
Goryeo Period

- Shilla unified Goguryeo and Baekje and was changed to Goryeo
- Worshipped Buddha

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Kingdom</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>918 - 1392</td>
<td>Goryeo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Palman Daejanggyeong (Korean Tripitaka) of Goryeo

- Was designated as World Heritage of UNESCO
- Was engraved on 80,000 woodblocks to fight back Mongol when the empire invaded Goryeo (1st in 123, 2nd in 1232 and 3rd in 1235-1239) with the power of Buddha
- 81,258 woodblocks to print Korean Tripitaka
- Took 16 years to complete the Tripitaka (1236-1251)
- Woodblocks were treated specially to preserve in long term (Layers of salt and charcoals.)
Porcelain of Goryeo

- Light jade green Sanggam pottery was made during Goryeo period in the 10th century.
Metal type Printing Technology of Goryeo: “Jikji”

- Was designated as Memory of the World of UNESCO
- Korea’s metal blocks were invented during Goryeo (before 1232) or in the 13th century (Goguemsangjung yemun in 1234, not available now)
- “Jikji”, a world’s oldest metalloid book, printed in 1377 in Korea.
- 78 years prior to Gutenberg’s 42-line bible from Germany (1456)
Gasiri: Goryeo’s folk song (from Siyonghyang-akbo)

- A song about saying good bye to one’s lover
Joseon

- Its territory expanded to Northern Yaluk River.
- Worshipped Confucianism.
- King Sejong invented Hangul in 1446.
- *Sijo* (3-line poems) was popular, written at the end of Goryeo.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Dynasty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1392 - 1910</td>
<td>Joseon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Daedong Yeojido* map produced in 1592 (Japan's invasion to Joseon)
Social Classes
- Nobles, middle class, commoners, outcasts

Threshing Rice by KIM Hong-doh
Confucianism

- Joseon Dynasty honored Confucianism as its national philosophy.
- It selectively introduced ethics, society, politics, philosophy, and religion of Confucianism from China.
- The thought became an ethical standard, a way of life and laws of Joseon.

Royal descendants worshipping Joseon Kings in Jongmyo Royal Shrine (Jongmyo Jere)
Virtues of Confucianism (3 bonds (samgang) and 5 relationships (oryun))

- There should be affection between father and son..
- There should be royalty between King and servants.
- There should be distinction between wife and husband. (wife respecting her husband like gods)
- Adults should be respected over children.
- There should be trust between friends.
(Confucianism) Korean from overseas: A Country That Respects Seniors

- Seats for the senior on a subway train
(Confucianism) First question Koreans would ask a person s/he meets first time

- How old are you?
- Define a relationship between me and the other
Hangul (Korean Alphabet)

- Phonetic symbols
- 14 consonants
  - ㄱ, ㄴ, ㄷ, ㄹ, ㅁ, ㅂ, ㅅ, ㅇ, ㅈ, ㅊ, ㅋ, ㅌ, ㅍ, ㅎ
- 10 vowels
  - ㅏ, ㅑ, ㅓ, ㅕ, ㅗ, ㅛ, ㅜ, ㅠ, ㅡ, ㅣ
- Scientifically invented in accordance with shapes of vocal organs.
- 좋아: Good
- Celebrates October 9th as Hangul Day, a national holiday
Joséon Wangjo Sillok (Annals of Joseon Dynasty)
-
Records of 470 years of Joseon Kings from 1st Taejo to 25th Cheoljong. Designated as Memory of the World of UNESCO, a total of 1,893 volumes

Fairy tale about an elephant

The emperor of Japan gave an elephant for present to Joseon in 1411.

The elephant stepped on a noble and he died.

The Joseon King ordered to send Haedo island for the killing.

The elephant did not eat and cried when looking at people.

A servant who controlled the elephant was kicked to death, the animal again was sent back to the island.
Cheugugi (Rain Gauge)

- Was built during Sejong period (1441) and 200 years earlier than the Italian invention (1639).

Excerpt from Sejong sillok (May 28, 1441)

“… installed a copper cylinder inside the palace and measured amount of rain in the container.”
Geobukseon (Turtle Ship)

- World’s first warship covered with metal plates looking like a turtle. Was built by Admiral Yi Sun Shin in 1592 during the fight against the Japanese navy.
- Its ability upgraded with iron spikes on the back (roof) of the ship and many gun ports installed to increase defense and cannon firing capacity.
- The warship drove the Japanese navy back home.
Seowon: Private mid-level educational institution for nobles

Seodang: Private village school at primary, middle level.
Hyanggyo: Government-run provincial school

Sungkyunkwan: National university, higher education
Gwageo Jedo (Civil Service Examination)
- Nobles must pass the test for themselves and their family’s honor
Jongmyo, Jongmyo jerye, Jongmyo jeryeak (Shrine, memorial service, music performance)

- A shrine dedicated to memorial services for the deceased kings and queens of Joseon Dynasty. Designated as Memory of the World of UNESCO
Pansori: Musical Storytelling

Designated as Memory of the World of UNESCO
Clothing

- Summer: fabrics of ramie and hemp

- Jukbuin (bamboo pillow)
  - Son must not use his father’s jukbuin.
Clothing

- Winter: padded clothes
Clothing

Wedding costumes

Funeral clothing: rough hemp clothes
(Due to parents’ death, descendants cannot wear quality clothes.)
Food

- Rice, soup (stew), side dishes
  - 3-12 side dishes
- Gimchi
  - A traditional fermented Korean side dish made of vegetables with a variety of seasonings
  - Major seasonings: soy sauce, soybean paste, red pepper paste
Food

- Winter: rice
  Summer: barley
- Bean protein: soybean paste, soy sauce, tofu
- Scallion, garlic & pepper seasonings detox body system and stimulate appetite.
- Seasonal food
  - Spring herbs: bitter,
  Summer: vegetables,
  Fall: fruits, Winter: sweets
Gimjang (traditional process of Gimchi preparation and preservation)

- A culture to prepare large quantities of gimchi to provide nutrition throughout winter where no vegetables were available. Designated as Memory of the World of UNESCO
Housing (Winter: Ondol (underfloor heating))
Housing (Summer: Maru (board-floored room))
Housing: Chogajip (house with straw-thatched roofs), Giwajip (house with tiled roofs)
Christianity

- Catholicism was introduced to Korea by baptized Lee, Seung-hun (1756-1801) who visited China.
  - Thousands of Catholics were persecuted and executed during the late Joseon.
  - 103 martyrs were canonized by Pope John Paul II in 1984.

- Protestant missionaries came to Korea under the Japanese colonial rule in the early 20th century.
  - They engaged in educational and medical work.

- Catholics & protestants lived in urban areas and were well-educated (education, medical areas)
Japanese Colonial Rule (1910 - 1945)

- Japan forced Korea to sign Korea-Japan Treaty in 1905 in an effort to deprive Korea of its diplomatic sovereignty. The Japanese emperor annexed Korea with force in 1910.

- Japan banned speaking Korean language to eradicate consciousness of national identity as Koreans and forced to change their names in Japanese in 1937.

- Anti-Japanese sentiments and animosity towards the Japanese government's actions was well displayed in a form of literature and music.
  - Literature: Poems of HAN Yong-wun, Yun Dong-ju, LEE Yuk-sah
  - Music: National Anthem of AHN Ik-tae, Bongseonhw a (Balsams) of HONG Nahn-pah, Arirang (oral folk song)
Sex Slaves

- Japan deceived Korean women to use as sex slaves for Japanese soldiers from the 1930s to 1945 when it lost to Asia Pacific War.

“Arirang” sung by former sex slave women
Independence & Division

- Freed from Japan on Aug. 15, 1945
- 1945 Potsdam Conference held by the U.S., the Soviet union and the U.K decided to divide the peninsula at 38th parallel without consent of Koreans.
- In 1948, Provisional Government of ROK was established in the South while DPRK in the North.
Korean War (1950-1953)

- On June 25, 1950, North Korea invaded South Korea.
- The U.N. advocated the South.
- 10 millions of Korean family members were separated by the War.
- **Miari Hills**, a song that conveys tragedy of the war and lost families.

In 1951, having a class on an empty lot because there was no classroom.
Korean War (1950-1953)
63 allies who backed South Korea
S. Korea in the 1950s

- Heavily dependent on U.S. aid (agricultural product and consumer goods)
Modern Korea

- From a recipient in the 1950s to a donor in 2014
- Economic development plan began during the military dictatorship in 1961 (Saemaeul Movement)
- GDP per capita was less than $100 in the 1960s.
- GDP per capita is amount to $30,000 in 2014 ranking 13th in the world.
S. Korea in the 1960s

- It was ruled by military dictatorships from 1961 to 1987.
- To turn the economy around, the government sent miners and nurses to Germany to earn foreign currency.
S. Korea in the 1970s

- As economic development shifted to urban areas, there was a big income gap between rural and urban areas in the 1960s.
- From 1970, Saemaeul Movement, a regional social development initiative started.
S. Korea in the 1970s

- Built one-story slab houses, no apartments
- Used briquettes for heating and newspapers for toilet paper
- Watched black and white TVs and had female bus conductors
- No air conditioners, no personal cars
- Trips abroad were rarely allowed
- Men’s hair length was regulated, night curfew after 12 am, miniskirt in fashion
S. Korea in the 1980s

- Built apartment complexes
- Developed industries of semi-conductor and automobile
- “Campaign in search of Separated Families” inside South Korea (1983)
- Family planning campaign of “two children only “due to its over population
- Era of professional sports began.
- Military dictatorship ended in 1987 and democratization set sail
- Seoul Olympic Games in 1988
S. Korea in the 1990s
- Joined OECD in 1996
- Korean conglomerates collapsed and financial crisis in 1997. Received IMF Bail out. Many people unemployed.
- Gold Collection Campaign
- K-pop stars like Seotaeeji, HOT, GOD emerged.
S. Korea in the 2000s
- GDP per capita hit $10,000 in 2000 and exceeded $20,000 in 2007
- Held 2002 World Cup (gained the 4th)
- Campaign of having 3 children
- 84 students of 100 went to university in 2008
S. Korea in the 2000s

- K-Wave: globally known K-pop stars (Wonder Girls, Dong Bang Shin Ki (TVXQ), Bing Bang, Girls’ Generation, Kara, Tiara)
- BAN, Ki-moon, first Korean Secretary General of UN (2006–present)
S. Korea from 2010-2015

- Mega hit of Gangnam Style sung by PSY in 2012
- Global K-Wave: food, online games, character products, publications, tourism, medical tourism, beauty products
- Enrollment ratio to high school: 93.7% (2014)
- Held World Education Forum from May 19–22, 2015 participated by education delegates from 139 countries.
Koreans’ Shopping Today: **Click Online Supermarket**

- Place orders online and get them delivered within 3 hours
Koreans’ Food Today: Delivery Culture
Koreans’ Way of Releasing Stress

Singing room (Karaoke)

Cherry blossom ending, Gwanghwamun sonata, What about my age?, My only love is leaving.

Jjimjil bang (Korean spa)
Registry to World Heritage (12 items)

- Seokuram grotto & Bulguksa temple (1995)
- Jongmyo shrine (1995)
- Changdeok Palace (1997)
- Hwaseong fortress (1997)
- Kyeongju Historical District (2000)
- Dolmen remains in Gochang, Hwasun, Ganghwa (2000)
- Royal tombs of Joseon (2009)
- Historical villages: Andong & Yangdong (2010)
- Namhansanseong fortress (2014년)
- Volcano island and Lava tubes in Jeju (2007)
- Baekje Historic Areas (2015)
Registry to World Heritage (11 items)

- Hunminjeongeum (Korean alphabet) (1997)
- Seongjeongwon Ilgi (Journal of the Royal Secretariat) (2001)
- Buljojikjisimcheyojeol Vol 2 (2001)
- Uigwe of Joseon Dynasty (Royal Protocols) (2007)
- Goryeo Daejanggyeongpan and Jegyeongpan (Tripikana and its private copy version) (2007)
- Dongui Bogam (Practice of Eastern Medicine) (2009)
- Ilseongnok (a chronicle of the king's activities and state administrations) (2011)
- Human rights and May 18 Democratic Uprising documents, 1980 registered to World of the Memory (2011)
- Nanjung Ilgi (War Diary of Admiral Yi Sun-sin) (2013)
- Saemaeul Movement documents (2013)
UNESCO Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity (17 items)

- Jongmyo jerye (memorial service) and Jongmyo jeryeak (music performance) (2001)
- Gangneung Danoje Festival (2005)
- Ganggangsullae dance (2009)
- Namsadang Nori (mask dance & puppet plays) (2009)
- Yeongsanjae (Buddhist ceremony) (2009)
- Jeju Chilmeoridang Yeongdeunggut (Shamanism ritual) (2009)
- Cheoyongmu (mask dance of Cheoyong) (2009)
- Gagok (lyric song cycles accompanied by an orchestra) (2010)
- Daemokjangt (traditional wooden architecture) (2010)
- Falcon hunting, as living heritage of humanity (2010)
- Taekkyeon (a traditional Korean martial art) (2011년)
- Tightrope walking (2011)
- Weaving of Mosi in Hansan region (2011)
- Arirang (folk song) (2012)
- Kimjang (making and sharing kimchi) (2013)
- Nongak (community band music, dance and rituals) (2014)
감사합니다