FROM OPPENHEIMER TO GLOBAL POWERHOUSE

South Korea from 1945 - 2024

Dr. Elizabeth Rodgers Clarke

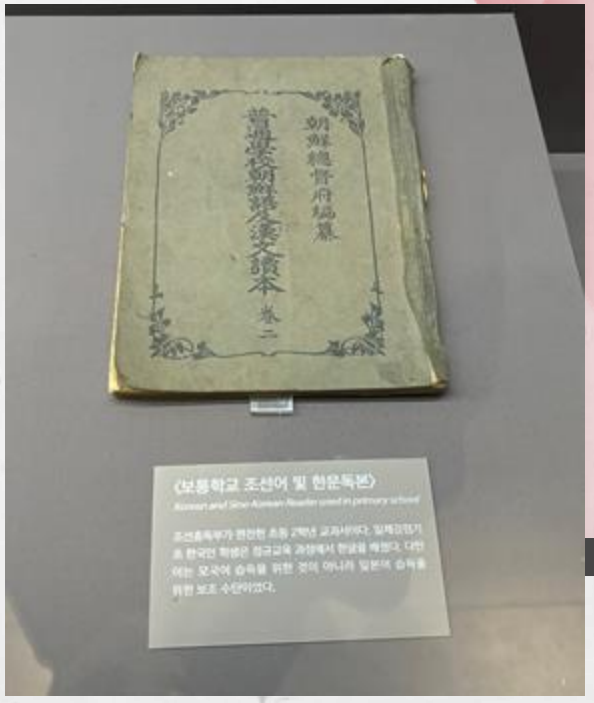
From 1961-1962, my father served in the U.S. Army and was stationed in Anyang, South Korea. At this time, South Korea was one of the poorest countries in the world. The citizens lived in slum-like conditions, had no established sewage system, and most households did not have electricity.

Based on GDP, South Korea currently has the 14th strongest economy in the world.

AUGUST 1945: The Atomic Bomb created by Oppenheimer's team was released on Nagasaki & Hiroshima, Japan. Japan surrendered, and Korea and Taiwan became independent.

DEMAND FOR EDUCATION

During the Japanese rule, the March 1st Movement - a series of protests from 1919 through 1922 - was held, which eventually led to Koreans having access to secondary and college educations, as well as newspapers. In 1938, the Korean language (Hangul) was banned in schools and public offices and Korean students were only allowed a primary school education.



In 1945, when Korea was given independence, education became the government's primary focus.

EDUCATION WAS THE DRIVING FORCE FOR CHANGE IN SOUTH KOREA

LITERACY RATES IN SOUTH KOREA

1945- 22%
1960-70%
2024-98.8%

Hangul was created in 1443 by King Sejong the Great. The purpose was to create a simple alphabet so that all citizens could be literate.

In 1866, a French naval officer, who experienced the French navy's attack of Ganghwa-do to fight against the massacre of Catholics, depicted the education fever in Korean society then as follows. "We cannot help but admire this place and found something that really crushed our ego. Here, even the poorest have books in their homes. There is almost no one who is illiterate and the illiterate are looked down upon."

Source: Republic of Korea, Ministry of Education

38TH PARALLEL DIVISION

The country was divided at the 38th parallel to be placed under an international trusteeship, which would allow the country to have assistance until they were strong enough to self rule. However, Soviet forces took control of the north, and American forces took control of the south to prevent it from being under Soviet control. The Soviets withdrew its troops North Korea in 1948, and the US in 1949.

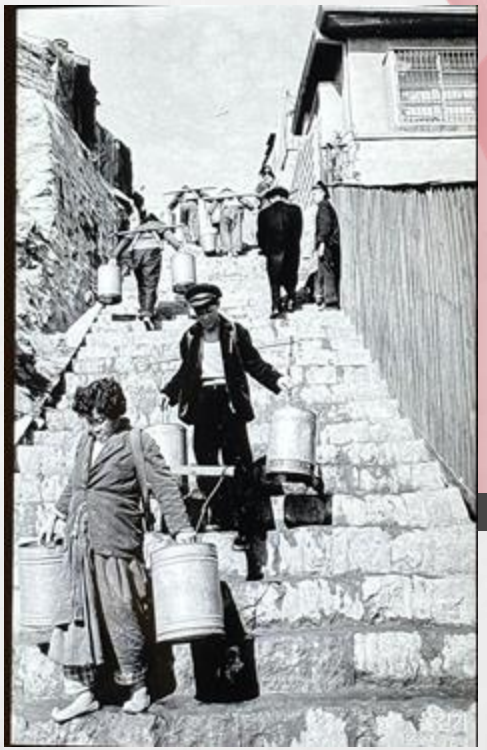
KOREAN WAR 1950-1953

The Korean War started on 6-25-1950, when with the help of Communist China and the Soviets, North Korea invaded South Korea. The US and other countries in the UN came to South Korea's aid in an effort for containment to prevent the further spread of communism.

The Korean War never officially ended. An Armistice Agreement was signed to stop the fighting.

REBUILDING THE ECONOMY IN SOUTH KOREA

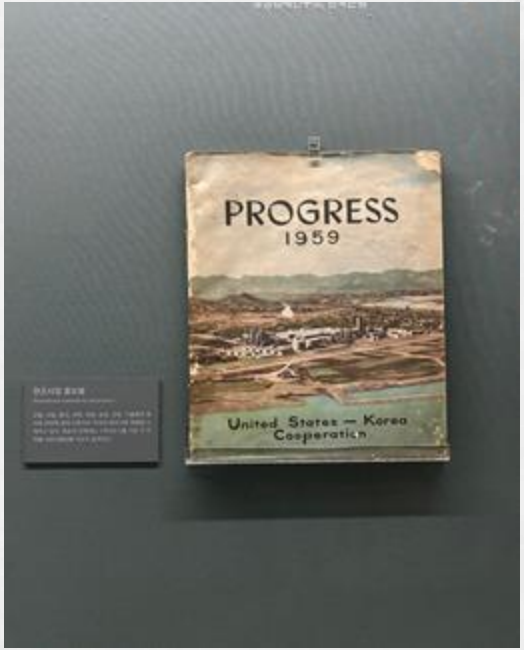
After the Korean War, South Korea was one of the poorest countries In the world. It had an agrarian economy with few natural resources and relied heavily on foreign aid. They relied on North Korea for electricity, but that abruptly ended in 1948. In 1962, South Korea created an economic development plan to create an infrastructure.



ECONOMIC PLAN 1962-1966:
Export-Oriented Industrialization- South Korea found their niche in the world economy. Their top exports were textiles, plywood and wigs made from human hair.

In 1966, South Korea created many technical centers to promote research and technical knowledge.

ECONOMIC PLAN 1967-1971:
The South Korean governments invested more in heavy industry, including the chemical, steel, and machinery industries.



Prototypes

SAMSUNG

HYUNDAI

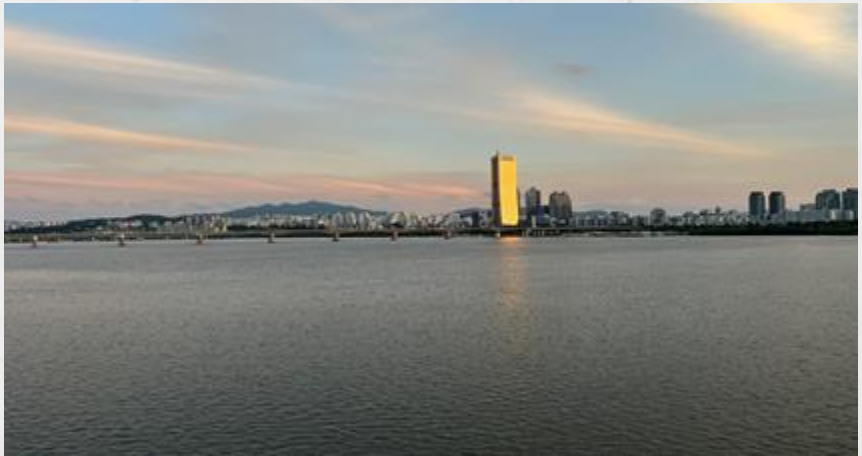
LG

1996: South Korea became a member of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Semiconductors:
Semiconductors are South Korea's largest export & they are the 2nd largest semiconductor exporters in the world.

"Miracle on the Han River"

In 51 years, South Korea progressed from being one of the poorest countries in the world to the Top 30 Global Economies.



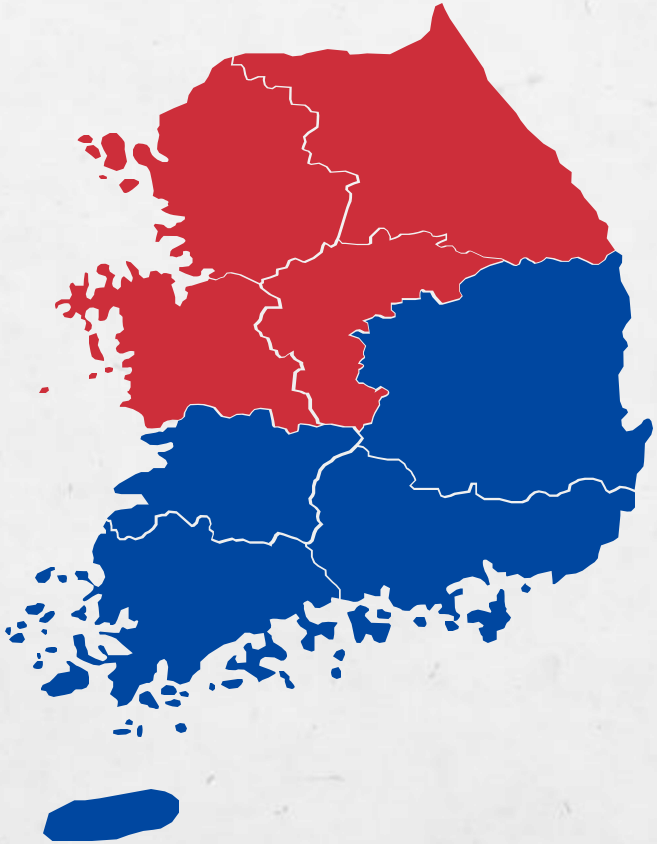
The Port of Busan is the 6th largest container port in the world.

River Street -Savannah, GA, July 2024

KOREA

North Korea

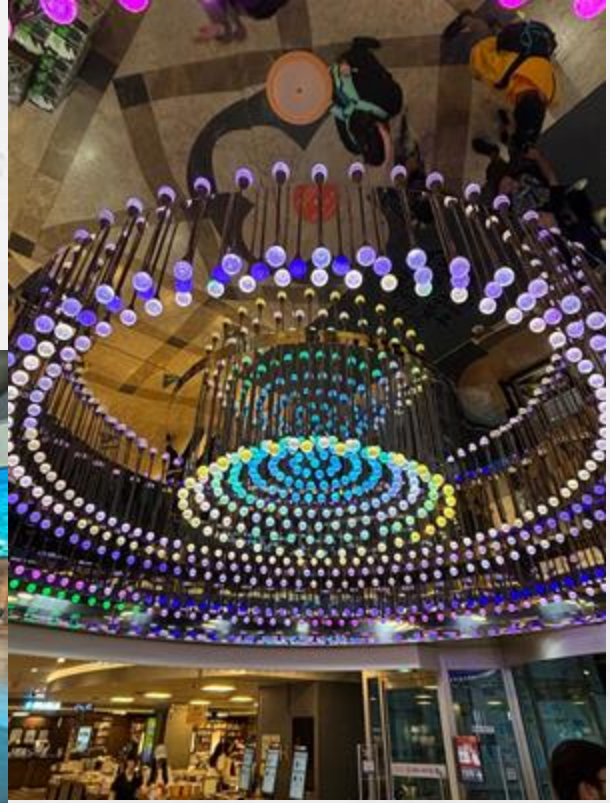
Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)



South Korea

Republic of Korea (ROK)

EV CHARGING STATION



2023-2024 한국관광 100선 선정
Welcome to 부산 엑스 더 스카이
BUSAN X the SKY | 전망대
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OBSERVA

DOOSAN
TimVitz
UBORA
HANCOM
캐스퍼

SEOUL