

eForum: The United Nations Peacebuilding Commission (UNPBC)

Issue #14-02: Measures to stabilize the tensions in the Korean Peninsula.

Student Officer: Maria Cecilia Gudino

Position: Chair of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission

Introduction

Currently, the Korean peninsula is divided, mainly because of the Korean War. After the war, tensions between the Republic of Korea (ROK) and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) has increased because the war has not officially come to an end. However, there have been some efforts to improve the political relations between the two states, such as the Inter-Korean Summits and North Korea and the United States summit in June 2018.

After the appointment of President Moon, there have been many negotiations between the ROK and DPRK. There have been a total of five Inter-Korean Summits between the two leaders of the two states, Moon and Kim. The most significant outcome of the many meetings was to reduce military tension; "no-fly zones" will be established along the border and other military drills close to the demilitarized zone **(DMZ) will be terminated**. In addition, another important agreement was that North and South Korean troops began removing some of the land mines planted near the DMZ. It is important to take into consideration that there have recently been more meetings and agreements between the ROK and the DPRK than in previous periods. Hopefully this approach can continue for an eventual potential peaceful consolidation.

Definition of Key Terms

Korean DMZ Conflict: Could also be referred to as the Second Korean War that occurred from 1966-1969. Which consisted of low level arm conflicts between North Korean and South Korean forces including the United States.

DPRK: North Korea, The capital is Pyongyang. Its southern border with the Republic of Korea lies at the 38th parallel, while its northern borders with China and Russia are determined by the Amnok and Tumen Rivers. The supreme leader is Kim Jong un and its capital is Pyongyang. As this nation is extremely isolated it is hard to obtain more details about the country.

ROK: South Korea, an East Asian nation on the southern half of the Korean Peninsula with a population of 51.47 million habitants. It is known for its country side with historical Buddhist temples, in addition to its coastal fishing villages which produce and increase productivity in the economy of the country, while also having islands and modernized cities like Seoul. The current president is Moon Jae-in and its currency is the South Korean won.

MEDCs: Most economically developed countries. In this case, South Korea is considered one of the most economically and socially developing countries in the world, with one of Asia's strongest economies.

LEDCs: Least economically developed countries. In this case, North Korea is considered one of the least economically developed countries because of their Isolationism towards Asian countries and the rest of the world.

NICs: Newly Industrialized Countries. After the Asian financial crisis, South Korea was considered a NIC as it revitalized from previous economic hardship and shifted their economic policies and system .

Emerging Economies: Are considered nations that are investing more in *productive capacity*. Such countries are moving away from traditional economies relying upon agriculture or export of raw materials(The balance,2019). Upon the realization that South Korea is considered a MEDC it is also in constant development not only economically but socially as it is increasing its productivity by providing higher quality education for citizens and quality of life as well.

Denuclearization: The elimination of nuclear weapons. It is crucial to be able to achieve denuclearization as it possesses a threat to existence. However, North Korea has demonstrated the ability to launch missiles, suggesting that the nation nuclearization technology is developing at a faster rate than ever.

Joint Declaration of the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula:

The declaration reads in part as follows:

1. The South and the North shall not test, manufacture, produce, receive, possess, store, deploy or use nuclear weapons.
2. The South and the North shall use nuclear energy solely for peaceful purposes.
3. The South and the North shall not possess nuclear reprocessing and uranium enrichment facilities.
4. The South and the North, in order to verify the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, shall conduct an inspection of the objects selected by the other side and agreed upon between the two sides, in accordance with procedures and methods to be determined by the South-North Joint Nuclear Control Commission.
5. The South and the North, in order to implement this joint declaration, shall establish and operate a South-North Joint Nuclear Control Commission within one (1) month of the effectuation of this joint declaration.
6. This Joint Declaration shall enter into force as of the day the two sides exchange appropriate instruments following the completion of their respective procedures for bringing it into effect.

Signed on January 20, 1992

Chung Won-shik Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea, Yon Hyong-muk Premier of the Administration Council of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. (Joint Declaration of Denuclearization Wikipedia)

General Overview

The Korean War and the Cold War

The Korean War related a lot to the Cold War since the two superpowers at the time, the Soviet Union and the United States of America, intervened in the armed conflict. At that time, the Soviet Union was allied with China who supported North Korea, while the United States gained support from the UN to aid South Korea. Later on Australia, one of the twenty one United Nations countries offered support by sending 18,000 soldiers, Navy and Air Force personnel. Meanwhile, North Korea had the full support of China and the Soviet Union.

North and South Korea

Although South and North Korea are culturally and historically similar both became very different nations because of the political and economical aspects. The "differences between North and South Korea today have little to do with pre-1945 regional differences between northern and southern Korea" (Asiasociety add year) due to the fact that South Korea was influenced by the Soviet Union and China's political ideologies of that time since both were important allies during the Korean War. Throughout its development as a nation it has adopted the idea of a centralized government system and a command economy, which has diminished any economical growth as a country in comparison to South Korea. It is widely known that North Korea has become one of the most isolated and controlled countries in the world.

On the other hand, South Korea had been greatly influenced by the United States, as both were allies since ROK in 1948, and Japan because of the political similarities. Although the nation did not adopt a completely democratic government system it is one of the most developed countries in Asia and "Made impressive economic gains in the 1970s and 1980s and can be considered among the world's developed industrial countries" (Asiasociety add year) . Though the country had to face the Asian financial crisis during 1997 it is one of the largest economies in the world.

Post War Effects

Short-term Economic Effects

Due to the level of destruction during war many industries in the textile, chemical, machinery and agricultural sector, greatly decreased productivity because of the lack of equipment, natural resources and people willing to work. The "... total war damage was estimated as high as 41.23 million won..."

(International Journal of Korean Studies). Thus because of no productivity nor job opportunity at the time the economy entered a period of no growth nor development, leading to inflation and problems regarding falling real incomes, business uncertainty, and most importantly money becomes worthless. All which affected the real standard of living in the divided nation, as citizens had no jobs, the education system was not an adequate one and health care conditions were poor. All leading to a bigger problem which was hyperinflation.

Post War Hyperinflation

The over issue of won aggravated the effects of war on both North Korea and South Korea. Hyperinflation did not only occur after war but during the three first weeks of war the money in circulation increased by 72%, the government responded by adding more taxes in order to pay for the war expenses, but people were unable to pay. Thus the government decided to borrow loans in order to get rid of the war debt. . Although this was a proper short term solution, in the long run the divided nation would become dependant of the United Nations and the international community economically, and it was eventually going to be unsustainable for the country. This was not only affecting the economy and by default the citizens living in North and South Korea, but also unstabilized the country with few resources at hand it was complex to handle any type of post war issues.

Long term consequences

Demographic structure of population

The Korean War is known for being one of the most socially devastating conflicts in the world in proportion to the small amount of population. The " population of South Korea declined by nearly two million, excluding an influx of nearly 650,000 North Korean

refugees." (Korean War Social Structure). Thus the redistribution and the decreasing population continued. It is obvious that mortality was heavily affected after the war, Republic of Korea (ROK) and the United Nations Forces, South Korean war deaths included "373,599 civilians and 29,294 ROK military personnel..... [a]n additional 150,133 South Koreans were reported "kidnapped or captured," and 408,884 were listed as "missing or prisoner[s] of war." (Korean War Social Structure) The amount of population post war is important to revitalize the country economically, because without individuals able to work and re activate the economy it became a challenge to move past the issues war brought.

On the other hand an effect of war was the amount of migration produced it has been estimated that " 646,000 North Korean refugees moved to South Korea, mostly during the two-month period , immediately preceding the Chinese intervention and the retreat of United Nations forces from North Korean" (Korean war social structure). Thus migration occurred as it was not secure for citizens to reside in North Korean territory. Furthermore, individuals migrating during war to rural areas decided to move back to urban origins at the end of the conflict. The post war Korean refugee movement destroyed economic stability and productivity as people were unequally placed all over the divided nation.

The Korean "Diaspora"

The Korean Diaspora was characterized by the emigration of 7 million people of both North Korea and South Korea to other countries like China (2 million people) Japan(700,000), United States (over one million people), and lastly the former Soviet Union (450,000) like in areas such as Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. The mass immigration occurred because many citizens saw themselves forced to leave their country because of the colonial rule and lack of economic opportunities at that time. However before 1990 there were no Koreans in the United States and in fact "... Koreans in Japan today are descendants of immigrants who came during the colonial occupation period of 1910-1945..." (Asiasociety add ear).

It is first known that Koreans immigrated to Hawaii as workers in the agricultural sector such as sugarcane fields. However by 1980 Korean were among one of the biggest

groups of foreigners residing in the United States. Although there are different time periods of the “diaspora” like in 1945 and later on during the Asian financial crisis in the 1990s the reason for immigration was the same, because of personal economic and social interests of the Korean citizens.

Major Parties Involved and Their Views:

Republic of Korea and Democratic People's Republic of Korea::

Both South Korea and North Korea have informal diplomatic dialogues in order to ease military tensions due to post war effects . In “ 2000, President of South Korea Kim Dae-jung became the first president to visit North Korea, 55 years after the peninsula was divided.” (CFR)

As of 2018, the 2018 Winter Olympics participation of DPRK has led to more diplomatic relations between both nations. In April 2018, the two countries signed the *Panmunjom Declaration for Peace, Prosperity and Unification*, and citizens in South Korea have approved the rise of the diplomatic relationship

The DPRK is requesting the official termination of the war as well as end of **current economic sanctions** in return for **denuclearization**

United States:

It is known that North Korean relations with the United States have been historically hostile due to nuclear weapon issues. However, recently the United States and Korea have started some formal “Diplomacy” after the summit with the two leaders of the countries. It is important to take in consideration that the country of Sweden acts upon the idea of protecting the power of the U.S interests in North Korea. Furthermore “ 2017 [has] marked a significant rise of tensions and amplified rhetoric from both sides as Donald Trump took the presidency, after it appeared that North Korea's nuclear weapons program was developing at a faster rate than previously thought” (World Bank). On the other hand South Korea relations with the U.S started in 1950, the nation ameliorated the establishment of South Korea and it has constantly

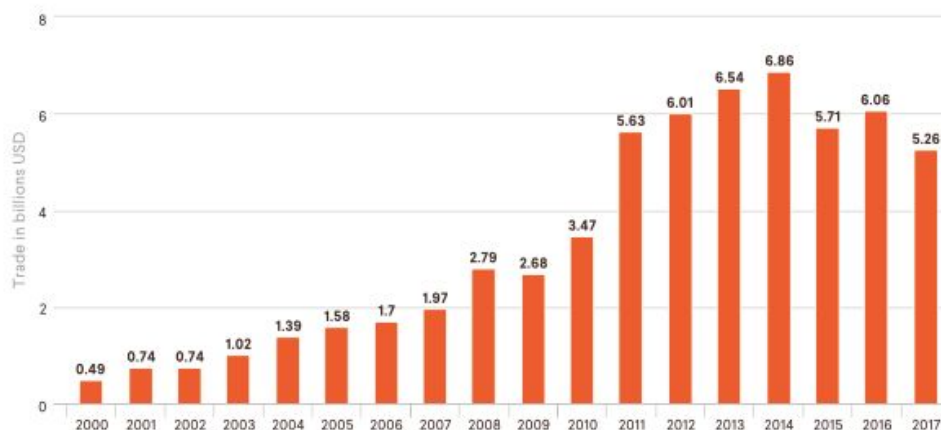
backed up the country in times of war (UN sponsored side in Korean War). South Korea has tremendously benefited from the financial assistance as it has grown economically, military, and socially thus does not depend upon the United States.

China:

The People's Republic of China has been aiding North Korea in fact “**China's economic assistance to North Korea** accounts for about half of all Chinese foreign aid” (News UN). Beijing provides financial assistance to Pyongyang, thereby enabling it to surpass the United Nations. This is mainly due to China's economic and political interests. The country is considered to be one of the closest allies, thus DPRK is the only country that has a “mutual aid and cooperation treaty”. According to a 2014 BBC World Service Poll, 20% of Chinese people view North Korea's influence positively in the country.

The nation is the most most important trading partner. “It has helped sustain Kim Jong-un's regime, and has opposed harsh international sanctions on North Korea in the hope of avoiding regime collapse and a refugee influx across their 870-mile border” (Council on Foreign Relations)

China-North Korea Trade Volume



<https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/china-north-korea-relationship>

Possible solutions:

The People's Republic of China should involve and possibly finance denuclearization of North Korea with the aid of the United States. These financial aid programs should aim to create nuclear inspections and regulations as well as prevent interests getting along the way whether they are political or economic interests. Furthermore, the government could penalize Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from the United States to DPRK, private domestic businesses with relation to North Korea. Lastly it is important to take in consideration that entities who do not comply with such rules imposed by the government can not evade any economic sanctions and or penalties.

The United States government can penalize or sanction any private or public entity merchandising in North Korean government or businesses. As well as penalize Chinese banks that facilitate money transactions that involve North Korea. If its needed United States could possibly ask for aid in the UN political departments (any financial aid or humanitarian aid). This way the leader in North Korea is more open to discussion in regards to stabilizing tensions in the Korean peninsula as the economy is impacted as it starts to slow down because of lack of international investments, the Aggregate Demand and Supply in the country decreases, leading to a decrease in Gross Domestic Product, Gross National Income, and most importantly Human Development Index (*HDI of the country could be found in HDR UNDP .ORG*)

Timeline of Events:

Date	Description of Event
August 14, 1945	After Japan surrendered in World War II, the US and Soviet Union divided the country. Without any previous knowledge about the country, both

August 15, 1948

superpowers divided Korea between the North and South selecting the 38th parallel.

Republic of Korea is established. *Kim Il Sung* being the current leader of the nation.

Democratic Republic of Korea is established a month later. *Syngam Rhee* being the current leader of the nation

January 17, 1950

Leader Kim Il Sung proposes the liberation of South Korea to the Soviet Union.

Leader Kim achieves the support for an invasion from Joseph Stalin and Mao Zedong

June 25, 1950

The beginning of the Korean War, starting from the 38th parallel. The first aggression was made by

June 27, 1950

United Nations Security Council passes Resolution 83, so that member states can provide military assistance to Korea.

September 12, 1950

North Korea's invasion reaches the Pusan perimeter, although South Korea is supported by various UN troops.

December 6, 1950

China succeeds in driving the United States out of North Korean territory.

January 4, 1951

Chinese government recaptures Seoul.

July 10, 1951

The negotiations between the two states do not end war, however peace negotiations start taking place in the village of *Panmunjom* (North Korea)

July 27, 1953

The UN commander, Peng Duhai representing China and Kim Il Sung for North Korea end hostilities

Demilitarized zone is created in the 38th parallel

UN involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events:

June 13, 2000: First Inter-Korean summit hosted

June 12, 2018: First-ever meeting between DPRK and the US held in Singapore

September 18, 2018: 5th Korean summit hosted in Pyongyang

In what was to become South Korea, the United Nations declared that the elections had been fair. The Russian presence in what was to become North Korea complicated matters as the Russians would not allow United Nations observers in.

- As a result, the United Nations declared that the election results from North Korea were not acceptable as they had not been independently observed. By the end of 1948, both North and South Korea had formed separate states.

As South Korea was becoming a nation, the United Nations declared that the presidential elections had been democratic. However the Russian intervention in North Korea complicated diplomatic relations as the Russians would not allow the UN observers in the country.

- Thus, the United Nations agreed upon declaring the elections of North Korea unfair and not accepted, since they were not allowed to observe. As a result by the end of 1948, both North and South Korea had divided.
- Due to the invasion of South Korea the security council met, and the United States claimed that north Korea diminished world peace, thus wanted to call on North Korea to withdraw to the 38th parallel. At the meeting nine out of eleven countries in the Security Council agreed.

Again , the United States decided to advocate for South Korea as North Korea ignored the resolution of June 25th. The country asked for the United Nations to assist to force to get the North Korean army out of South Korea.

- So, the United Nations needed to create a plan for the Joint Command to intervene in South Korea. Due to the fact that the United States proposed this solution the "United Nations force was primarily dominated by America even to the extent of being commanded by an American general" (history.uk)

As a result of war, the resolution called Uniting For peace was created. Which stated that "if the security council vetoed any initiative that was considered important for maintaining peace, the general assembly should take over to keep going impetus for peace"(history.uk)

Evaluation of Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue:

The last Inter-Korean summit in September, 2018 has resulted in the most important adjustments in the Inter-Korean **military environment**. The Defense Ministers of the ROK and the DPRK signed an agreement to reduce military tensions along the two sides' heavily militarized border. It establishes "...No-sail and no-fly zones, pledges

reductions and transform the DMZ into a “peace zone.” (Britannica). These agreements are definitely a positive advancement, but they will not lead to a long-term reconciliation unless there is an establishment of political and military measures that both nations agree upon and also discussions of a feasible **denuclearization process**.

Bibliography

Berlinger, Joshua. “North and South Korea Commit to 'Era of No War'.” *CNN*, Cable News Network, 19

Sept. 2018, edition.cnn.com/2018/09/18/asia/north-korea-south-korea-summit-intl/index.html. “Fact Sheet on DPRK Nuclear Safeguards.” IAEA, IAEA, 25 July 2014,

History.com Editors. “Korean War.” *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 9 Nov. 2009, www.history.com/topics/korea/korean-war.

“Korean History and Political Geography.” *Asia Society*, asiasociety.org/education/korean-history-and-political-geography.

History.com Editors. “Korean War.” *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 9 Nov. 2009, www.history.com/topics/korea/korean-war.

Stack, Liam. “Korean War, a 'Forgotten' Conflict That Shaped the Modern World.” *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 1 Jan. 2018, www.nytimes.com/2018/01/01/world/asia/korean-war-history.html.

http://icks.org/data/ijks/1482456154_add_file_6.pdf

http://icks.org/n/data/ijks/1482456154_add_file_8.pdf

