The ancient history of Korea developed across Manchuria and the Korean Peninsula. The first Korean nation, Geumgwan-gyeong, was founded in the year 2333 B.C. and lasted until the year 1894 B.C. The tribal countries were founded afterward: Buyeo, Dinjo, Okje, and Hanbok. The period is called the original Three Blue States Period, and the entirety of Manchuria and the Korean Peninsula were under the domain of one of the tribal countries at that time. Buyeo held power mainly over Manchuria. Dinjo and Okje were formed in the northern and central areas of the Korean Peninsula, and the Three Blue States of Manch, Han, and Buyeo thrived on the central and southern parts of the Peninsula.

From the 1st century B.C. to the 1st century A.D., Goguryeo, Buyeo, Silla, and Gaya founded from succeeding and mingling tribal nations. This period is referred to as the Three Kingdoms Period, which like other times, Korea’s territory extended across Manchuria and the entire Korean Peninsula. Goguryeo accepted mainly Manchuria and the northern part of the Korean Peninsula, Buyeo thrived on the southern and central areas of the Peninsula, and Silla dominated the southern and western regions. During the 7th century, Silla conquered both Goguryeo and Buyeo, creating a unified nation on the southern half of the Peninsula, extending from the Dandong River to Wonsan. In 668 A.D., Buyeo was founded by Geumgwan-gyeong’s successor, Geumgwan-gyeong established Buyeo’s northern boundary, stretching from Yalu to Hanbok, and continued its efforts to expand the southern territory until the late Goryeo Period. Such efforts lasted even into the 12th century, the Joseon Dynasty built the Baekdusan National Boundary Wall, which extends up to Amnokgang River and Dumangang River. In the 18th century, the Joseon Dynasty built the Great Wall (Cheolli Jangseong) in the northeast of Manchuria, and during the reshuffling, Balhae in the early 9th century, the collapse of the Tang Dynasty caused chaos in the region, alarmed the powers that were engaged in the region, and resulting in the reunification of the Ancient Three Han States Period.

The Liao River region was the center of competition for Koreans, Chinese, and northern powers from the 6th century B.C. to the 6th century A.D. For Korean history, it was the period when Geumgwan-gyeong was defeated, and when Dangjia was competing with both the Korean Peninsula and China. Silla’s first century, Gaya, was expanding its power and trade and making contact with the Liao River region. The Three Kingdoms period rapidly engaged in a power struggle with the Yi Dynasty of China. Geumgwan-gyeong could not maintain the region after it lost the region at the end of the 5th century A.D. and the state period, Geumgwan-gyeong took over the region and united it with the region. The Yi Dynasty took over the region and unified the Yi Dynasty. Unified Silla during the Liao River region, inevitably engaging in a power struggle with the Yi Dynasty of China. Geumgwan-gyeong could not maintain the region after it lost the region at the end of the 5th century A.D. and the state period, Geumgwan-gyeong took over the region and united it with the region. The Yi Dynasty took over the region and unified the Yi Dynasty. Unified Silla during the Liao River region, inevitably engaging in a power struggle with the Yi Dynasty of China. Geumgwan-gyeong could not maintain the region after it lost the region at the end of the 5th century A.D. and the state period, Geumgwan-gyeong took over the region and unified the Yi Dynasty. Unified Silla during the Liao River region, inevitably engaging in a power struggle with the Yi Dynasty of China. Geumgwan-gyeong could not maintain the region after it lost the region at the end of the 5th century A.D. and the state period, Geumgwan-gyeong took over the region and unified the Yi Dynasty.

Around the Beginning of the Common Era

Territory of the Ancient Era

Goguryeo

Around the 5th Century

Yellow Sea

Around the 5th Century

The Era of the Hangang River refers to the period from approximately the 4th to 7th century A.D. During that time, Goguryeo, Buyeo, and Silla confronted each other on the river to gain power over the Korean Peninsula. The Hangang River stream from Baekdu Mountain Range and runs to the Yellow Sea across the Peninsula. The branches stretch to the Geumgang Mountain Range and Cheorwon foothills on the north, and spread around the Sohok Mountain Range and the mountain ranges connecting Gyeongju and Gyeongju. From the 6th century to the 7th century, three nations fought to gain supremacy over the Hangang River.

Goguryeo first occupied the Hangang River as it was raised near the river. At the end of the 4th century, Goguryeo marched down and occupied the river. The competition for territory continuing on the Hangang River became fierce. Silla joined forces with the Tang Dynasty to bring down Goguryeo and Buyeo. Silla occupied the territory of the Three Han States Period to take over the peninsula. The administration of the country started during this time and struggled through the Goryeo and Joseon Dynasties.

On the other hand, 30 years after the collapse of Goguryeo, Buyeo, the unified successor nation of Goguryeo, was founded on the old territory of Goguryeo. Buyeo made inroads into Naksansaileum and the Dandong River for 200 years, bringing a transition from the 4th century to the early 8th century. The era is called the Era of Dandong River. The Era of the Three Kingdoms, the Era of Two Nations, or the Era of Northern and Southern States. Consisting of 14 provinces, 15 towns, and 60 cities. Buyeo had achieved remarkable territorial expansion since its founding. After conquering the region extending the Songhua River and the Heilong River in Manchuria, Buyeo never stopped its march south. Amid the tension, The Tang Dynasty requested that Silla attack Buyeo on the north, and throw the Tang forces off of the Peninsula. The unification of the Three Kingdoms Period, from the end of the 4th century A.D. and the state period, Geumgwan-gyeong took over the region and unified the Yi Dynasty. Unified Silla during the Liao River region, inevitably engaging in a power struggle with the Yi Dynasty of China. Geumgwan-gyeong could not maintain the region after it lost the region at the end of the 5th century A.D. and the state period, Geumgwan-gyeong took over the region and unified the Yi Dynasty. Unified Silla during the Liao River region, inevitably engaging in a power struggle with the Yi Dynasty of China. Geumgwan-gyeong could not maintain the region after it lost the region at the end of the 5th century A.D. and the state period, Geumgwan-gyeong took over the region and unified the Yi Dynasty. Unified Silla during the Liao River region, inevitably engaging in a power struggle with the Yi Dynasty of China. Geumgwan-gyeong could not maintain the region after it lost the region at the end of the 5th century A.D. and the state period, Geumgwan-gyeong took over the region and unified the Yi Dynasty.
Joseon Dynasty (1861)

The five dos, Yanggwang-do, Gyeongsang-do, Jeolla-do, Jeonnam-do, and Jeongnam-do, were used as substantial evidence when Koreans considered their territory not limited to land extending 2 km from the sea. 

The Korean War

The Korean War was a conflict that began in 1950 and lasted until 1953.

The Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) refers to a buffer zone between the South MKL (Military Demarcation Line) and the North MKL in which arms are prohibited in accordance with agreement or treaty. Military deployment, arms arrangement, and the introduction of military facilities are prohibited in the DMZ. The Korean government promulgates the DMZ Peace Trail Project to bring peace to the DMZ and to promote development and prosperity in the border regions. The DMZ Peace Trail Project is provided at three locations (Paju, Cheorwon, and Goseong) where efforts to ease the tension between the two countries are being made through the demilitarization of the guard zones and joint recovery operations.

The DMZ Road to Peace

In the 15th century, Goryeo waged a massive war against the Yuan (Mongol Empire), and the Korean Empire became more powerful. The five dos, Yanggwang-do, Gyeongsang-do, Jeolla-do, Jeonnam-do, and Jeongnam-do, were used as substantial evidence when Koreans considered their territory not limited to land extending 2 km from the sea. In 1953, the line of military contact became a buffer zone between the South MKL and the North MKL, where the legal protection of the military is required. The DMZ was initially drawn in 1944 and, since then, three adjustments have been made, reducing the DMZ to a property right infringement. The current DMZ is designed within 10 km south of the MKL.

The DMZ Peace Trail Project is provided at three locations (Paju, Cheorwon, and Goseong) where efforts to ease the tension between the two countries are being made through the demilitarization of the guard zones and joint recovery operations.