Korea is located in the eastern part of the Eurasian continent on the west coast of the Pacific Ocean. People have populated the Korean Peninsula and the surrounding islands for many thousands of years, during which time the national identity has evolved through many transformations. It began with the creation and merging of multiple kingdoms and has culminated more recently with Korea’s spectacular emergence as a major player on the world stage. Korea’s location at this critical juncture where Eurasia meets the ocean has allowed Korea to become a literal gateway to eastern Asia, but more than that it has fostered Korea’s rich and distinctive culture. Throughout its history, the relationship between Korea and its neighbors has been characterized by tremendous mutual exchanges, and it is in these cultural diffusions that have helped to shape the uniqueness of Korean culture today.

Throughout the modern era, Korea suffered a series of hardships, not the least of which included the tragedy of a domestic war and the division of the nation in the midst of a rapidly changing international political landscape. Today, the Republic of Korea (South Korea) has overcome these multiple challenges to achieve both sustained economic growth and democratization. By the end of the Japanese colonial era (1910-1945) and the Korean War (1950-1953), South Korea was one of the poorest nations in the world. Its per capita income stood at 67 USD, and yet in little more than six decades the country completely transformed itself into an economic powerhouse. In 2014, Korea ranked 19th in the world economy and 48th in trade volume. Politically, the nation adopted a legal system that paved the way for democratic elections and party politics. There is also a system of local governmental autonomy that has taken hold in an era of the decentralization of power. The entire political system has made such significant progress over the last six decades and it has been able to help put in place policies and procedures that have improved the quality of life for the Korean people. Whereas in 1980 the average life expectancy for a Korean citizen was 52.4 years, that number increased dramatically to 81.4 years by 2012. The nation has also made efforts to build a welfare state by initiating national health insurance and a number of social welfare systems. The driving force behind this achievement is an emphasis on education and an investment in people to parallel the creation of an effective economic policy. The illiteracy rate is near zero, and almost 90% of the population pursue higher education.

The accomplishments that resulted from a stable political system, improved economy, and a free society have led Korea to become a powerful nation. Today, the Republic of Korea, as a responsible member of many international organizations, contributes to promoting world peace and international cooperation. The Republic of Korea is a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council and also plays a responsible role in various international organizations. Since the 1970s, Korea has carried out various cooperative projects with numerous international organizations and has worked in conjunction with numerous private organizations. Korea has also sponsored projects that focus on community development, education, medical, and refugee relief efforts around the world.

Today, the capital of Korea, has a long history. It served as the seat of many dynasties from ancient times forward, and now it has become one of the largest cities in East Asia. Taegukgi, the Korean national flag, represents core tenets of Asian philosophy—harmony and change as well as the love of peace, which is a key aspect of the Korean national identity. The national flower of Korea is Mugunghwa, a Rose of Sharon or the Korean Rose, which symbolizes the eternity of the Korean people. The official language of Korea is Korean. Hangul, the Korean alphabet used for the writing system, is considered to be one of the most scientific and unique systems of making letters in the world.

Brief Interpretation of the Map

A very high altitude or satellite photograph of a region portrays a very different perception of the patterns on the ground in any given area than a map. This difference is generated by the cartographic specialists who create maps when they make specific choices about how to portray different components of Korea. For example, the first impression of Korea formed by looking at a satellite photograph would likely emphasize mountains and vegetation patterns. By contrast, the maps on the following pages show a dance of patterns of cities, roads, and highways, suggesting dense human occupation across most of Korea. Both representations are true but generate very different perceptions of the Korean landscape and reflect quite different geographic elements. All parts are important components of the geography of Korea. The purpose of The National Atlas of Korea: Comprehensive Edition is to highlight various geographic elements in order to link the patterns we see and create by living in an area. From the map on the next two pages, try to detect any differences in the density of human activity between the North and the South by paying attention to the density of cities, highways, and roads.
This map of the Korean Peninsula merges several human and physical patterns that characterize the variable appearance of the Peninsula’s landscape and the sea that surrounds it. The map also locates some of the activities of Korea’s people that are set in this framework. Several of the map elements exhibit different scales and generalization of the patterns that are selectively emphasized for a broad geographic understanding of Korea as a whole. Each of the four views in the corners of the map show a small, detailed image of the four corner areas that are the limits of the Korean domains and the range of landscapes that are home to its people.

**The Land**: The general pattern of the terrain of Korea is shown in colors ranging from light green for the lower terrain, grading through a yellow green for the higher areas, to a light brown for the higher mountainous areas. These colors were chosen so that their light visual appearance would contrast with rivers, cities and highways.

The highest mountains of Korea are in the northeast and continue northwest into China. As we move southwest on the Peninsula the land is lower and the higher elevations are more dissected with rivers contained in broader lower valleys. The lowland coastal area in the east and south is narrow, with the largest area of lowland in the northeast. The pattern of coastal islands in the south and west of the Peninsula suggests a geologic pattern of dissection extending westward into the Yellow Sea in contrast to the very few islands on the east coast, suggesting an uplifting land and a snapper coastal shelf.

**The Water**: The seas and oceans that surround Korea are shown in a very generalized form with four different unfilled depths. The seawater is not smooth as implied in its symbolization but is variable and dissected with an underwater surface almost as detailed as the land terrain. The rivers are shown in a very thin generalized blue line on this map without distinctions made to their real size and the many situations where they have been changed by dams and other modifications. The patterns of the rivers are important to the landscape of Korea since they represent important methods for transportation and tools for the erosion of the land and the locations of periodic disruptive flooding. The rivers are shown in dark blue to create a strong contrast with the terrain while insuring that they are visible against the patterns of human activity on the map.

**The People**: One might consider that human activities dominate the landscape of Korea. While human activity is probably the defining aspect of modern Korea, it is especially difficult to present its different components on a small-scale generalized map without overwhelming the other, nonhuman aspects of Korea.

**Brief Interpretation of the Map**

The seaward extent of all regions and nations that border the sea are a controversial point of international debate. On this map, a Straight Baseline and a Territorial Water Line are shown prominently. A Straight Baseline is drawn in coastal areas of great indentations and/or with numerous small, scattered islands. Points are first identified on land or on islands and then joined to form the baseline. Such a baseline can then be used to define or delineate territorial waters. The Territorial Water Line sets the territorial limit of a nation’s sovereignty. Sovereignty refers to the land, sea, and air space that belong to the nation; under international law, these spaces cannot be violated or accessed without permission. Offshore islands that belong to a nation also have delineated territorial water lines to limit that nation’s sovereignty. In the case of South Korea, the Territorial Water Lines are clearly marked for Ulleungdo and Dokdo Islands on this map.

The next aspect of human activity illustrated on this map of Korea is the concentration of people in urban areas. While Korea has a significant portion of its population living outside major cities, these people are not shown here. Major transportation routes are shown in somewhat visually subdued symbols on this map display. Some might argue that the highways and train tracks are defining component of human activity in Korea, but this is a very small map. However, it highlights instances of which impact of geographic reality drive the others.

This type of map is very difficult to construct and even more difficult to interpret, yet it is important to study for broad patterns. This map is only an introduction to the hundreds of other maps in this atlas series. This series concentrates on human activities that will detail other aspects of Korea’s daily life. But the fact that it is such a difficult map to construct accurately does not mean it should be ignored. It is useful to return to this page often to put the details from subsequent pages and maps in the series in a broad context for understanding Korea and its geographic patterns.
Dokdo

Dokdo is a group of islands belonging to the Republic of Korea and is located at the easternmost edge of Korea's national boundary to the East Sea. Dokdo has historically been referred to by various names such as Sambongdo, Gajido, Ulleungdo, and Ulsado. According to Korean historical records, the administrative name of “Dokdo” was first used in 1585 by magistrate Sim Heung-tack of Ulleung. Dokdo was officially incorporated into Gyeongsangbuk-do in 1914. While the general reference to Dokdo is that of an island, Dokdo is not one island but consists of two large islands, Dongdo (East Island) and Seodo (West Island), and 89 smaller islands with a total area of 187,554 m². The shortest distance between the two main islands is 151 m at low tide. Dokdo is 87.4 km east of Ulleungdo and 157.5 km northwest of Oki Island of the Shimane Prefecture in Japan. Dokdo is 87.4 km east of Ulleungdo and 157.5 km northwest of Oki Island of the Shimane Prefecture in Japan.

Dokdo has been recognized throughout history as part of Ulleungdo, which has always been an undisputed part of Korean territory. Both islands are in fact not far apart, and both are visible to one another on a clear day, an observation that was recorded as far back as the early 15th century. In the Sejong sillok jiriji (Geographical Records in the Annals, 1414), this observation was pointedly recorded as follows: “Ullung and Usan are part of the State of Usan, and Usan is referred to as Songdo by the Japanese,” reaffirming that Dokdo is Korea’s territory. In 1900, Emperor Gojong of the Joseon Dynasty issued an order to the Dajokan, the highest administrative body of Japan at the time, officially confirming that Dokdo is in fact a part of Korean territory. In 1905, the Shimane Prefecture Public Notice announced the incorporation of Dokdo into the Shimane Prefecture, thereby officially declaring Dokdo as part of Japanese territory.

Despite Korea’s longstanding sovereignty over Dokdo, Japan has made more than a few bids to claim the island, most notably, those records provide ample documentation of Korea’s sovereignty over the island. Along with the Sejong sillok jiriji, Sajang (sanyou) sosangwon (New and Expanded Complete Prospects of the Territory of the Eastern Country, 1551), Dongguk munheon hyo (Reference Documents on the Eastern Country, 1770), Mangi yoram (Reference of Governance, 1808), and Dongguk munheon byo (Comprehensive Study of Civilization, Revised and Expanded, 1809) all include Dokdo in discussions of Korea. In the Reference Documents on the Eastern Country it is recorded that “Ullung and Usan are part of the State of Usan, and Usan is referred to as Songdo by the Japanese,” reaffirming that Dokdo is Korea’s territory. In 1900, Emperor Gojong of the Joseon Dynasty issued an order to the Dajokan, the highest administrative body of Japan at the time, officially confirming that Dokdo is Korea’s territory. In 1905, the Shimane Prefecture Public Notice announced the incorporation of Dokdo into the Shimane Prefecture, thereby officially confirming that Dokdo is Korea’s territory.

Since the end of World War II, the peace process continued to reveal evidence of Korea’s sovereignty over Dokdo. The Cairo Declaration of December 1943 stipulated that “Japs shall be stripped of all islands they have seized or occupied by violence and greed.” The General Headquarters of the Allied Powers issued the instruction codes SCAPIN-677 and 1033 in 1946 to exclude Dokdo from Japan’s administrative control. In addition, the Treaty of San Francisco in 1951 reaffirmed that Dokdo was under Korea’s sovereignty.

The document provides a detailed account of the historical background and legal basis for Korea’s sovereignty over Dokdo, emphasizing the island’s status as an integral part of Korean territory.
Administrative districts are governmental area units for local administration, but at the same time they define regional and local identity. Since the nation’s founding, Korea has promoted administrative efficiency through a number of administrative re-organizations. In the midst of these changes, a ‘do’-oriented (province-oriented) ‘do’ is the Korean name for a province) administrative district system of the Joseon Dynasty is the basis for the modern metropolitan administrative system in Korea. In 1948, the administrative system for the whole Peninsula was comprised of one special city, 15 do (provinces), 23 bu (cities), 208 gun (counties). The following year, Jeju Island was separated from Jeolla-nam-do to become Jeju-do, a province of its own. In 1948, the 6th census was the 1st. The South Korean government carried out comprehensive reforms to harmonize living spaces and administrative districts in 1962. For example, Jeonan-mun in Jeollabuk-do was transferred into Chongchunghang-do, and Uljin-gun in Gangwon-do was merged into Gyeongyangnyuk-do. The reforms after 1965 mainly took place due to urban expansion caused by population growth in cities and urbanization. Small towns attained cityhood as their population increased, and major cities were promoted to directly-controlled municipalities so that the central government could manage them directly. During the 1990s, as Baeng was promoted to a directly-controlled city, Korea consisted of 15 special cities (herein, 1 directly controlled city (Busan, Daejeon, Daejeon). The administrative system for the whole Peninsula was comprised of one special city, 15 do (provinces), 23 bu (cities), 208 gun (counties). Large provincial cities, like Inchon, Daegu, Gwangju, and Daejeon, became directly-controlled cities in the 1980s. In 1995, an overall provincial administrative reform was carried out. This re-integrating integrated cities and counties and aimed at balancing development between growing urban and declining rural areas; securing land for urban development, promoting administrative efficiency, and addressing inconsistencies between spaces of daily life and administrative districts. Also, directly-controlled municipalities were re-organized into metropolitan cities by combining neighboring areas. In 1995, forty urban/ rural integration cities were established, and 5 metropolitan cities were created, including Baeng, Daegu, Inchon, and Daejeon. Ulsan attained metropolitan cityhood in 1999.

After the year 2000, continuous merging of cities and counties took place and Jeju Island was raised to the status of Jeju Special Self-Governing Province. Sejong, a multifunctional administrative city, became the Sejong Metropolitan Autonomous City in 2012. As of January 1, 2014, the Republic of Korea has 1 special city (Seoul), 5 ‘do’ (Gyeonggi-do, Gangwon-do, Chungcheongbuk-do, Chungcheongnam-do, Jeollanam-do), 14 special do (provinces), and 1 ‘si’ (city).

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Local autonomy refers to various activities through which a self-governing body representing the residents within a certain regional boundary carries out its political and administrative decision-making while maintaining relative independence from the central government. In this global era, the growing demands for improving regional competitiveness, inter-regional development equity, and resident-oriented administrative services have necessitated local autonomy more than ever. Local autonomy mainly consists of autonomous power over local affairs and an independent budgetary capacity in a geographical region with an explicit boundary where residents and a self-governing body are located. Local governmental autonomy has recently become a global trend.

The local self-governing body that plays a key role in local autonomy in Korea is the administrative organization that maintains close relations with its residents. The local self-governing body is constituted of local residents and it forms a legal entity. There are two types of self-governing bodies in Korea: municipality-level bodies such as the Special City, Metropolitan City, Special Autonomous City, do or Special Autonomous Province, and primary local bodies such as -si, -gun, -gu.

Local residents may participate in the autonomy of their local government mainly through elections. The local residents elect both the members of local councils and the heads of local governments. The heads of local governments include the mayor of the Seoul Special City, the mayors of the Metropolitan Cities, the governors of ‘do’, and heads of ‘gu’ and Autonomous ‘gu’s. The heads of local governments may request that residents vote on important matters that impose an excessive burden on the government or have a significant effect on the residents. The residents also have the right to recall the head of the local government or local council members.

After 30 years of preparation, the establishment of local councils in 1991 heralded the era of local autonomy, and since then the scope of local affairs and local authority has been expanding. Significant local autonomy includes jurisdiction, organization, management, supervision, and control; the establishment and management of public and private facilities for residents; the promotion of education, athletics, culture, and art; public safety; and firefighting.

As of 2014, the macro-level self-governing bodies in Korea are the Seoul Special City, 8 Metropolitan Cities (including Busan, Daegu, Inchon, Gwangju, Daejeon, and Ulsan); the Sejong Special Autonomous City; eight ‘do’-oriented (provinces) (including Gyeonggi-do, Gyeongbuk-do, Chungcheongbuk-do, Chungcheongnam-do, Jeollabuk-do, Jeollanam-do, Gyeongsangbuk-do, and Gyeongnam-do); and the Jeju Special Autonomous Province. In addition, there are 262 primary-level self-governing bodies including 87 ‘si’ (provinces), 183 ‘gun’ (counties), and 92 ‘gu’ (municipalities) including 13 non-autonomous ‘gu’s. There are also 216 ‘dong’ (township), 1,198 ‘myeon’ (village), and 2,076 ‘do’ (district), all of which are autonomous administrative bodies of a lower level.

Brief Interpretation of the Map

The grey color for the North indicates that data for North Korea is shown spatially. Why do you think that these regions are smaller than provinces? (Clue: look at their population units in the administrative system when their areas are much smaller than provinces?)
Historically, Korea’s ancient territory included Manchuria and the Korean Peninsula. The first kingdom Goguryeo was formed in 233 B.C. and continued for more than two millennia until 108 B.C. Later, tribal nations such as Buyeo, Dongjo, Okjo, and the Three Han States of Molan, Jibun, and Byeonhan were established in an era that is generally referred to as the Early and Middle Goguryeo Period. From about 100 B.C. to about 500 A.D., Korean territory still included Manchuria and the whole Korean Peninsula. Buyeo’s location and sphere of influence was mainly centered around Manchuria; Dongjo and Okjo were formed in the northern and central parts of the Korean Peninsula and the Three Han States occupied the central and southern parts of the Korean Peninsula.

From the first century B.C. to the first century A.D., Goguryeo, Paekche, Silla, and Buyeo were formed by succeeding and merging tribal nations. This period is referred to as the Three Kingdoms Period when Korea’s territory centered Manchuria and the entire Korean Peninsula. Goguryeo encompassed Manchuria and the northern part of the Korean Peninsula; Silla occupied the southern and eastern portion of the Peninsula, and Buyeo dominated the southern and western territory. In the 7th century, Silla merged with Goguryeo and Buyeo, forming a unified nation in the inner region of the Peninsula, extending from Deokdonggang to Wonsanman. In 698 A.D., the Goguryeo Empire, which had been established, was finally ended three years later with an armistice taking effect on July 27, 755. Korea’s territory is now divided into North and South by the military line.

The modern and contemporary history of Korea is characterized by the establishment of the Korean Empire (1876–1910), Japanese colonial rule (1910–1945), liberation from Japan (1945), U.S. and Soviet military governments in Korea (1945–1948), and the Korean War (1950–1953). In 1957, an effort to respond to growing international imperialism, Emperor Gojong officially declared the establishment of the Korean Empire. He then pushed ahead with internal reforms only to witness the temporary loss of Korea’s sovereignty over its own territory when it fell under colonial rule by Japan during its invasion of large areas of East Asia. Japanese colonial rule lasted until 1945. The independence movements for recovering the sovereignty of Korea continued, and the Korean people achieved independence with Japan’s defeat in the Second World War. After the war the national territory was unfortunately divided into North and South along the 38th parallel, a division that became permanent after the North and South governments were established in 1948. Korea then suffered the tragic Korean War, which began on June 25, 1950 and ended three years later with an armistice taking effect on July 27, 1953. Korea’s territory is now divided into North and South by the military line. Even though the two Kores have co-existed in a state of truce for 60 years, much of these six decades has been defined by competition and antagonism. Despite these tensions, however, the two Koreas have also made sincere and meaningful efforts to overcome the division with trust-building events such as holding reunions for separated families, inter-Korean summits, and the joint operation of the Gaeseong Industrial Complex, immediately north of the DMZ.

The Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) refers to a buffer zone in which militarization is prohibited. Korean DMZ was set up by the coalition agreement that put an end to the Korean War. When the agreement was signed in 1953, the military line of contact became the Demilitarized Zone Line (DMZ), and a 4.2-km-wide strip of land, extending 2 km north and 2 km south of the DMZ, was designated as the DMZ.

The Civilian Control Zone (CCZ) is a stretch of land that lies between the DMZ and Civilian Control Line (CCL), a line designated to restrict public access in the area adjacent to the MDL, where the local protection of military activities is regulated. The CCL was initially drawn in 1954, and since then three adjustments have been made to reduce the CCL with mitigations to resolve the infringement of property rights. The current CCL is designated within 10 km south of the MDL.

The DMZ and CCZ are areas where human activity is restricted to a minimum, with the exception of hunting activity by a few villages along the CCL. Because human activities are limited, these two zones also host diverse natural environments that are well-preserved and contain diverse species.

The two Koreas have sought to learn more about this well-preserved environment as well as the historic sites that relate to the military activity of the truce war.

Brief Interpretation of the DMZ Map: The DMZ map shows four sets of lines that define different levels of activities. The Military Demarcation Line is an absolute, rigid line that cannot be crossed by terms of the truce. There are northern limits and southern limits where no buildup of military force is allowed, except for peace keeping forces. Since there are civilians and farmers who own land close to the southern limit line, the Civilian Control Zone must respect the rights of these owners. The map also indicates locations of tunnels and several important buildings, Panmunjom (for peace talks), stations for armored crossing, and a Unification Observatory in the east. The existence of these structures on the map reminds us of the incidents on the map that showed that the military presence on both sides was a result of the truce agreement. The DMZ map also indicates locations of tunnels and several important buildings, Panmunjom (for peace talks), stations for armored crossings, and a Unification Observatory in the east. The existence of these structures on the map reminds us of the incidents on the map that showed that the military presence on both sides was a result of the truce agreement.
Expansion of Busan

Busan has experienced a rapid increase in population and area in modern times. During the Joseon Dynasty (1392–1897), Busan was surrounded by a fortress wall and consisted of Haeundae 5 bu, six districts, and outer districts (Songdo and Songheon). The outer districts reached approximately 6 km outside the city wall. By the end of the Joseon Dynasty (late 19th century) and extending into Japanese colonial rule (1910–1945), the city’s boundaries grew as railroads and streetcar routes were constructed. A massive residential area was built in order to house the Japanese who moved to Korea and farmers who migrated during this time period. By the end of the 1940s, Busan had seven ‘gu’s (districts), and because the administrative divisions were reorganized, the number of ‘gu’s has grown to 25.

Like Seoul, six other cities have large increases in population and have expanded areas to be incorporated as Metropolitan Cities in Korea’s administrative system; as such, each Metropolitan City is no longer under the jurisdiction of the province in which it is located. The port and harbor facilities in Busan serve international shipping logistics. Daegu incorporated several neighboring ‘gu’s, as did Incheon, the gateway city into Seoul. Today, Incheon, with its vast amount of reclaimed land, has evolved into an international hub with its busy airport and financial zones. Both Gwangju and Daegu followed the path of urban expansion by incorporating neighboring ‘gu’s (counties). Thanks to its industrial complex, which includes the Hyundai Automobile plant, Ulsan became the 5th Metropolitan City in 1997, two years after the first five. These six cities are driving urban centers today and have been targets of population migration for the past two decades. Large housing projects, along with the necessary services such as schools, hospitals, cultural facilities, playgrounds, green spaces, and other infrastructures, were also built to meet the needs of the rapid population increase.

Brief Interpretation of the Maps

The set of time series maps depicting the expansion stages of Seoul clearly shows the increase in the number of ‘gu’s. Each of the large area ‘gu’s on the outskirts of Seoul had to be broken up into several small area ‘gu’s due to population increase. Notice also that the shape of the Han River has changed over time due to reclamation along the river banks to create more land in the central areas of Seoul for important building projects. The spatial expansion of six Metropolitan Cities is also expressed in map form. In all six cases, expansion starts from the inner core and expands outwards towards their peripheral land areas.

The outer boundary of Seoul has remained the same since 1963, what has happened to its population density since then? What are some ways to ease congestion in Seoul? Should the government provide incentives for people to move elsewhere on a voluntary basis? Will building more high-rise residential housing be a permanent or sustainable solution? Discuss the possibilities and implications of creating attractive jobs elsewhere.

A Special Administrative Region

Sejong Metropolitan Autonomous City

As urbanization continues, Korea is realizing increasingly unbalanced development between regions as well as a high degree of concentration within governmental functions, often to one single city. The need for spatial diversification is clear. As early as the late 1970s, then-President Park Chung-hee developed plans to relocate the capital city to the Gongsan area, but because Sejong was considered too close to the North Korean border. After some political decisions that involved incorporation of the Korean Confederation, a new city named Sejong was built from scratch in 2000 to house many of the government’s ministries. By 2012, Sejong became part of the nation’s administrative system as Sejong Metropolitan Autonomous City. By the end of 2014, 16 central government branches, 19 government-related organizations, and 14 national research and development institutes moved to the city. Large numbers of government workers have moved to Sejong from Seoul. The population was expected to increase from 145,431 in 2014 to about 80,000 by 2030. Brand new high-rise residential buildings are being built to house the city’s 20,000 employees. All other supportive services such as schools, hospitals, food services, a police force, and a firefighting force were also created. Careful spatial planning took place to ensure that the city would be wellstructured to deliver efficient functionality for the central government. While Sejong officially serves as a multifunctional administrative city, some argue that it has the potential to become the future capital of the Republic of Korea.

Special Administrative Region: Jeju

Jeju is the largest island in Korea and is known for its beautiful natural landscape and unique cultural heritage; these attributes attract large numbers of tourists. Jeju Island was created from volcanic activity and is characterized by a volcanic topography, such as hot springs, numerous cones, and caves. Because of the unique ecological and environmental value of Jeju, the island was designated as an UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 2009. Jeju was also certified as a Global Geopark in 2010.

Well-preserved natural and ecological environment and a unique ecosystem made Jeju an ideal location for tourism, and it has since evolved into a tourist destination. Jeju has seen foreign investment increase, and many educational and research-related organizations, and 14 national research and development institutes moved to the city. Large numbers of government workers have moved to Sejong from Seoul. The population was expected to increase from 145,431 in 2014 to about 80,000 by 2030. Brand new high-rise residential buildings are being built to house the city’s 20,000 employees. All other supportive services such as schools, hospitals, food services, a police force, and a firefighting force were also created. Careful spatial planning took place to ensure that the city would be well-structured to deliver efficient functionality for the central government. While Sejong officially serves as a multifunctional administrative city, some argue that it has the potential to become the future capital of the Republic of Korea.

Brief Interpretation of the Maps

For the map of Sejong City, the city limit is clearly shown, as are major roads and expressways. New cities are established, planned, and grow differently than old cities that evolve or grow over time. For the identification of new buildings and construction, a satellite image should also be consulted to get the broad range of geographic features that are incorporated in a new city.

There is a new city, why is Osong Station in the map of Sejong City, located at the convergence of two high-speed railway lines for bullet trains that can travel at 300 miles per hour inside the city limits? What does it mean to build a brand new city from scratch? What considerations must be taken into account? What environmentally-friendly facilities should be included?

Sejong MAC (2014)

| Population | 145,431 |
| Education Institution University | 4 |
| Fiscal Self-reliance Ratio | 47.6% |
| Budget | 760 Billion Won (2nd Revised Supplementary: 993 Billion Won) |
| Population | 145,431 |

A Special Administration Region

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Brief Interpretation of the Maps

For the map of Sejong City, the city limit is clearly shown, as are major roads and expressways. New cities are established, planned, and grow differently than old cities that evolve or grow over time. For the identification of new buildings and construction, a satellite image should also be consulted to get the broad range of geographic features that are incorporated in a new city.

There is a new city, why is Osong Station in the map of Sejong City, located at the convergence of two high-speed railway lines for bullet trains that can travel at 300 miles per hour inside the city limits? What does it mean to build a brand new city from scratch? What considerations must be taken into account? What environmentally-friendly facilities should be included?

Sejong MAC (2014)

| Population | 145,431 |
| Education Institution University | 4 |
| Fiscal Self-reliance Ratio | 47.6% |
| Budget | 760 Billion Won (2nd Revised Supplementary: 993 Billion Won) |
| Population | 145,431 |
North Korea

North Korea, officially known as the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK), is north of the demarcation line set by the Korean Armistice Agreement in July 1953. Its total area is 123,138 square kilometers, accounting for approximately 15.5% of the entire Korean Peninsula, which is 234,800 square kilometers. The population of North Korea is about 25,115,000 (2016 estimate), and its population density is 193 persons per square kilometer. This is close to 40% of that of South Korea, whose population density is 495 persons per square kilometer.

North Korea faces the East Sea on the east coast and the Yellow Sea on the west coast, and shares a border with the northeastern part of China along the Amnokgang (Yalu River) and Damangang (Tumen River), and with Russia’s Siberia along the Demangang. The boundary with China is 3,197 kilometers long and features bridges such as the Amnokgang Bridge, which enables road and railway traffic to flow between Siniuju in North Korea and Dandong in China. North Korea shares a border with Russia that is 162 kilometers long and is connected by a railroad bridge between North Korea’s Demangang Station in Nason (Rason) and the Khovon Station just across the border in Russia. To the south, North Korea’s border with South Korea is the Military Demarcation Line inside the DMZ.

Since 1947 when Korea was liberated from Japan, North Korea has undergone several administrative reforms. As of 2014, it consists of one direct-controlled city, Pyeongyang, two special cities (Nasoeon and Nampo), both promoted for economic purposes, and nine provinces. One of North Korea’s prominent geographical features in the North-South running Namgapsanmaek (Namhang Mountain Range), which is part of the Bokdaksan (a traditional way of representing backbones mountain ranges on the Korean Peninsula). The following ranges are also part of Bokdaksan: the Guangpamsanmaek, Jeongnyangpamsanmaek, and Myongsanpamsanmaek, located to the east in Hwangnyong-buk-do and Hwangnyong-buk-do. The northern and eastern parts of North Korea are mostly dominated by mountains and uplands whereas the southern and western parts generally account for large plains.

Due to this geography, the rivers that run toward the Yellow Sea, such as the Namkogang, Jeongnanggong, and Younggang, tend to wind through the mountains and meander on gentle slopes once they reach the plains. In contrast, rivers that move toward the East Sea, such as the Damangang and Namchoncheon, are straighter and much shorter in length than those of westbound rivers. Consequently, North Korea’s major plans are located on alluvial deposits supplied by the larger rivers that drain toward the Yellow Sea.

Many of the basaltic strata were formed between the pre-Cambrian and Cenozoic Eras, providing the country with a wide range of mineral resources. North Korea is one of the top five countries in the world with the largest reserves of magnesite, tungsten, molybdenum, graphite, barite, gold, mica, and fluorite. In addition, there are 40 kinds of natural mineral resources that have economic value.

North Korea is in a temperate climate region and has a continental climate. In winter, they are very cold as a result of the northeast monsoon winds that flow from Siberia, and in summer, they are hot and humid due to the southeastern monsoon winds that bring moist air from the Pacific Ocean. The average annual rainfall is between 600–1,300 mm, 35–60% of all precipitation occurs from June to September. The overall rainfall is less than that of South Korea and varies widely depending on the region.

In the past, North Korea had an abundance of natural resources that had ecological value. However, their forest has been continuously damaged due to programs such as “Nationwide Fortification,” one of the four military campaigns that began in the 1940s; “Forested Field Farming,” one of the five new reformation campaigns that began in the 1970s; and the “New Field Finding Project,” which began in 1980. Particularly in the 1990s, forests were devastated as financial difficulties forced people to find food and fuel in the mountains.

Known as many as a hermit state, North Korea is closed to most countries in the world. It trades mostly with China. With some natural resources, minerals, and ores, North Korea elected to invest heavily in the military, especially the nuclear weapon capabilities. In 2016 and 2017, North Korea accelerated its testing of intercontinental ballistic missiles and nuclear bomb development while the rest of the world and the United Nations closely monitor and prepare for further economic sanctions. This situation is fast becoming a global concern as there is the possibility of escalating to a nuclear war confrontation.

Brief Interpretation of the Maps

These two maps show the changes in administrative units between 1946 (immediately after North Korea’s liberation from Japan when there were six provinces) and 2013 (when there were nine provinces, one directly-controlled city, Pyeongyang, and two Special Cities, Naseon and Nampo). These changes reflect the government’s progressive decisions to address a growing population since independence and the need to have more efficient and tighter control over the administrative units. Similar to South Korea, it also recognized the need to create special city states to deal with population concentrations in urban areas. Of particular prominence is the Special City of Nason (also spelled Rason) at the northeast corner where it shares a 16-kilometer border and railroad connection with Russia. At the northwest corner is the city of Sinjolla, which has a major port that connects to China.

Jeongnanggong is the volatile political situation between North Korea and its neighbors a regional problem that is confined to East Asia? In this age of globalization, how would other world and its neighbors a regional problem that is confined to East Asia? In this age of globalization, how would other world and its neighbors a regional problem that is confined to East Asia? In this age of globalization, how would other world and its neighbors a regional problem that is confined to East Asia? In this age of globalization, how would other world and its neighbors a regional problem that is confined to East Asia? In this age of globalization, how would other world and its neighbors a regional problem that is confined to East Asia?
In 1946, a year after Korea's liberation from Japan, the total population of North Korea reached 8.26 million. During the Korean War, the North's population dropped to its lowest level at 4.9 million. By 1958, its population had grown continuously to surpass the ten million mark for the first time in its history and it reached 20 million by the late 1960s. According to North Korea's central statistics office, the country's population recorded a net loss in 1992 for the first time. Since 1993, North Korea has shown an average annual population growth of 1% and its population finally exceeded 20 million in 2004.

As shown on the map above, most North Koreans live in the southern and western parts of the country where the topography is gentle. Pyeongyang and neighboring Pyeongnam-do show the highest population density. In the mountainous northern and eastern parts, the population density is generally low, with the exception of scattered cities and the coastal central area.

According to UN population census statistics for 2008, the internal migrant population above the age of five is less than 5% of the total population. This demonstrates that international migration is not common except in Pyeongyang and Pyeongnam-do, where the largest migrant population lives. Pyeongyang, in particular, boasts the highest percentage of migrants and highest incoming migrant population, which is 28.3% of the total. The city's population one-migration accounts for 10.2% of the total. Besides Pyeongyang, only Pyeongnam-do and Hamgyeong-do have more people moving in than those moving out. All of the other regions are experiencing serious population out-migration. Hamgyeongnam-do, especially, has taken the biggest hit, with twice as many people leaving as those moving into the province.

As for Pyeongyang, 30.2% of its incoming population is from Pyeongnam-do, followed by Hwangnam-do (15.6%) and Pyeongnam-do (13.4%). Among those who leave Pyeongyang, 40% choose to go to Pyeongnam-do. Pyeongyang's population one-migration to other regions is generally evenly distributed. One of the interesting features of Pyeongyang's population movement is that a significantly small number of people move to Yanggong-do (0.01%) or Jagang-do (0.03%) compared to all the other provinces. Similarly, the percentages of people moving from Yanggong-do and Jagang-do to Pyeongyang are only 0.02% and 0.04%, respectively. This trend is a result of the fact that the two provinces have smaller populations. However, given that the similar-sized Province of Gyeongsang-do accounts for as much as 8.8% of Pyeongyang's incoming population and 14.3% of its outgoing population, the low-migration trend for Yanggong-do and Jagang-do appears to be related to their socioeconomic conditions, as they are two of the most backward provinces in the country.

As of 2008, 64.6% of North Korea's total population lives in urban areas. Pyeongyang is the most urbanized area at 98.7%, Hamgyeongbuk-do, which has major cities such as Hamhung, Hamheung, and Hamheung. As Hamhung increased in size, the ranking changed in 1967 to Pyeongyang, Hamhung, Changjin, and Wonsan. Then in 1982, Changjin became North Korea's second largest city, and the ranking changed again to the following: Pyeongyang, Changjin, Hamhung, and Wonsan. During the 1990s, Hamhung regained its second-place rank and Nampo showed rapid growth. As of 2008, the largest cities rank as follows (largest to smallest): Pyeongyang, Hamhung, Changjin, and Nampo.

The map shows that the two pillars of North Korea's urban development are the Pyeongyang-Nampo region in the West and the Hamhung-Changjin region in the East. Among other cities, Hyesan, Ganghwa, and Sinuiju in the northern area and Pyeongyang, Goch'ang, Sunchon, and Dandokham in the central area have high urbanization rates of over 80%.

**Brief Interpretation of the Maps**

The population density map was created with United Nations data (2008). The North Korean population exhibits a classic pattern of concentration in the western lowland plains, very sparse distribution along the northeast to southwest mountain chain, a few important cities along the narrow eastern coastline, and scattered cities at corners and borders with China and South Korea. Border cities that have concentrated populations include Kaesong in the south, Nonsan near the Russian border, and Hyesan and Sinuiju along the Chinese border. The main population concentrations, however, are in the capital city of Pyeongyang and nearby coastal city of Nampo. Hamhung and Wonsan are large cities on the east coast.

The patterns of the Urbanization Rate Map is slightly different from the Population Density Map. This variation is due to the size of the area within the mapping unit in the density map and the number of urban dwellers in the urbanization map.

- The map includes both urban and rural people while the urbanization rate map excludes rural populations.
- The migration map with the graduated circles represents both the total number of people who migrate and the breakdown of in-migration and out-migration for each province. The red half circles on the right represent out-migration while the red half circles on the left represent in-migration. If the red half circle is larger than the blue, that means the particular administrative unit gained more people than it lost. The map indicates that Pyeongyang is the only unit that has a net gain of migrants. This is confirmed by the two Pyeongyang migration maps showing the origin and destinations of migrants by sectors.

The border cities have other railroad crossings or bridges for transportation with controlled access. While the border with South Korea is almost impenetrable to N. Korean citizens, the northern border with China (180 miles long) and Russia (10 miles long) are easier to cross, legally or illegally. Prisoners in the winter make crossing easy. What happens to refugees during times of famine? Would North Korean refugees be more likely to cross into China or Russia? Why? What would likely happen to refugees who are caught?

While 64.4% of North Korea's population is urban, South Korea's population is over 96% urbanized. Can you suggest a reason for such a big difference? Most developed nations have a high urbanization rate because cities attract jobs and convenient services such as hospitals and schools. What can you conclude about North Korea's 64.4% urbanization rate?
North Korea’s economy is centrally planned and unified in system in which the State Planning Commission of the central government announces economic development plans and strictly controls smaller economic units, such as regional governments, factories, and companies. Along with a centrally planned system, another important feature of North Korea’s economy is that the country included plans to assign top priority to developing heavy industry with parallel developments in agriculture and light industry. Due to the lack of capital and resources, however, heavy industry was favored over light industry and agriculture. Favoring heavy industry and ignoring agriculture, Forestry and Fishery led to financial difficulties and food shortages in the mid-1990s. The North’s economy began to recover after 1999, but it has experienced an average annual negative growth rate since 2006.

As of 2008, 37% of North Korea’s population has been working in primary industries, 54.7% in secondary industries, and 5.8% in tertiary industries. As for Hwanghaenam-do and Hwanghaebuk-do, the rice bowl of North Korea, the largest share of the population is working in primary industries, with a rate of 78.1% and 45.6%, respectively. In Pyonganbuk-do, the largest proportion of people (44.7%) is working in secondary industries because this province has the largest coal deposits in North Korea. In addition, major industrial facilities, such as Chollima Steelworks, the Dusan heavy machinery factory, and the Nampo aniline factory are located in the city of Nampo. North Korea’s service industry has generally posted slow growth with the exception of Pyongyang.

One of North Korea’s most important goals is for its economy to be self-sufficient, but unfortunately this goal empirically led the nation to underline the importance of economic cooperation with foreign countries. In a result, North Korea imported a minimum amount of indispensable raw materials, mostly from former socialist countries. When it realized the inefficiency of this policy, it began economic cooperation with other foreign countries, a process North Korea has engaged in since the 1970s. In 1991, the first Special Economic Zone was established in Naju-Sonbong to more aggressively attract foreign capital. In September 2002, Sinuiju, near the border with China, was designated as a special administrative zone. In October of that year, the Gaeseong Industrial Complex was promoted to a Special Economic Zone, followed by the Kaesong Complex in November. In January 2016, North Korea promoted the Najin-Seonbong Special Economic Zone to a Special City. North Korea is now cooperating with China to develop the Naju-Sonbong region along with the Kaesong Complex-both Special Economic Zones near the demilitarized zone.

From the early 1990s, the Gaeseong Industrial Complex project faced difficulties since North Korea restricted land traffic on December 1, 2008. Since then production activity has been growing fast, with 123 companies in the complex hiring 5,208 North Korean workers. In addition, its accumulated production output and trade volumes stand at US$236.85 million and US$95.65 billion, respectively. The prognosis in inter-Korean economic cooperation has proven to have a positive impact on economic growth of both countries. Between 2003 and 2007 when inter-Korean economic exchanges were at their peak, families divided, to the 1960s, exchanges and cooperation between North and South Korea entered a new phase.

Trade and Assistance

The Korean Peninsula and its Nations