**Introduction to APHG Lesson Plans on the Republic of Korea (commonly known as South Korea)**

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Gregory Chu is a lead author of *myWorldGeography* and *Contemporary World Cultures* (Pearson Education textbooks). He served as chair of the Department of Geography/Earth Science at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. He taught two summer workshops to middle school and high school teachers in 2009 and 2010 on integrating a GIS curriculum with Climate Change. This workshop was funded from National Science Foundation Geoscience Education Program.

He authored and published 22 scholarly articles in various journals. He also served as Editor of Focus on Geography, a journal published by the American Geographical Society, 2002-2009, publishing 25 issues and reviewing 140 article manuscripts.

He received numerous research grants that totaled $500,000 and cartographic contracts that totaled $230,000. As Program Director at the US National Science Foundation, his responsibilities were to administer grants and research funds, from applications to reviews to making final funding decisions. During his two years as a rotating Program Officer, he managed about US$ 12 million.

At the conclusion of World War II in 1945, two countries were established on the Peninsula of Korea: the Republic of Korea (South Korea; capital: Seoul) and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea; capital: Pyongyang). Lesson plans on this booklet address Advanced Placement in Human Geography (APHG) topics and relate mostly to South Korea based on the wealth of resources from the 2015 edition of the ***National Atlas of Korea***, produced in both Korean and English languages.

Why should we study South Korea? The short answer is that its geography is unique; its rise to become a global economic powerhouse is nothing short of spectacular; its innovations and products touch lives in North America and globally; its people are resilient even under a constant threat of fraternal war from its nuclear brother to its adjacent north; its tradition and cultural traits are deeply rooted in history; its contemporary developments continue as it stands on its own platform among other economic powers in East Asia.

The path to a modern Korea began only at the conclusion of the Korea War in 1953. In a merely short period of six decades, the transformation of South Korea from a nation feeling the ravages of war (WWII and Korea War) to the 11th largest economy in the world is an incredible success story. Today, Americans are buying Korean electronic and automotive products such as Samsung, LG, Hyundai, and Kia by the millions. Korean immigrants in the United States seek a peaceful co-existence with Americans and become part of the American society and culture. They bring their strong cultural traditions that enrich American lives. One can easily find Korean supermarkets in Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston, and Atlanta amongst other cities as well as Korean restaurants in hundreds of smaller cities; their presence on American soil is indeed widespread.

Thus, their impact is truly realized at different geographic scales − globally, nationally, and locally in a community grass-root scale.

This booklet aims to introduce to American teachers the importance of a multi-cultural approach to the geography that relate to Koreans. The wealth of statistics, geographic information, historic and cultural traits, socioeconomic, demographic and political statuses presented in the ***National Atlas of Korea*** are great resources in developing APHG lesson plans that will greatly benefit American students. Several lesson plans have been developed and tested in the classrooms in Utah, Minnesota, Georgia, Nebraska, Texas, and Tennessee. Some are presented here together with inventories of ***Atlas*** materials that are associated with specific APHG topics. Teachers can either use these lesson plans directly or develop their own.

The entire ***Atlas*** is accessible online at: nationalatlas.ngii.go.kr