



Area Group Team
Work



KOREA

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SOCIAL AND POLITICAL STRUCTURE OF KOREA

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History

- **Lower Paleolithic Period/ Old Stone Age (2.5 million years ago)**
- **Origin myth: Founding of Gojoseon by Tangun (BC 2333)**
- **Unification of the Three Kingdoms of Korea under Silla (668 AD)**
- **Goryeo Dynasty (918-1392)**
- **Joseon Dynasty (1392-1897)**
- **Korean Empire (1897-1910)**

History

- **1910: End of the Korean Empire and 35 years of Japanese colonial rule**
- **August 15, 1948: The Republic of Korea was established**
- **September 9, 1948: the Democratic Republic of Korea was established**
- **1950: North Korea invaded South Korea**





Neo-Confucian doctrine of the Chinese philosopher Zhu Xi (1130-1200)

- Let the ruler be ruler, the subject be subject, the father be father, and the son be son
- an ideology that combines social ethics of class Chinese philosophers and Mencius (327-289 BC) with Daoist and Buddhist metaphysics
- Confucianism is not necessarily regarded as a religion, allowing one to be a Taoist, Christian, Muslim, Shintoist or Buddhist and still profess Confucian beliefs.
- correct social practices can lead individuals to spiritual unity with the heavens
- requires recognition of the Five Relationships, four of which require attentiveness to hierarchy
- adopted at the end of the Koryo Dynasty (918-1392)
- Choson Dynasty (1392-1910) adopted it as state ideology



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People

- Population (2010): 48,636,068.
- Annual population growth rate (2010): 0.258%.
- Ethnic groups: Korean; small Chinese minority (about 20,000).
- Religions: Christianity, Buddhism, Shamanism, Confucianism, Chondogyo.
- Language: Korean; English widely taught in junior high and high school.
- Education: Years compulsory--9. Enrollment--11.5 million. Attendance--middle school 99%, high school 95%. Literacy--98%.
- Health (2010): Infant mortality rate--4.24/1,000. Life expectancy--men 75.56 yrs.; women 82.28 yrs
- Total labor force (2009): 24.37 million.

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FAMILY

- **traditionally patrilineal and patrilocal with complex kinship and family structures currently breaking down in favor of nuclear families**
- **conjugal relations are superceding those between father and son, mother-in-law and wife, and hierarchy among children is less relevant**



- **a movement from relationships based on lineage to those that are functionally relevant**
- **movement away from long-standing residence to one of more transition and physical mobility**
- **a continued tradition of ancestor worship**

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Government

- Type: Republic with powers shared between the president, the legislature, and the courts.
- Liberation: August 15, 1945.
- Constitution: July 17, 1948; last revised 1987.
- Branches: Executive--President (chief of state); Prime Minister (head of government). Legislative--unicameral National Assembly. Judicial--Supreme Court and appellate courts; Constitutional Court.
- Subdivisions: Nine provinces, seven administratively separate cities (Seoul, Busan, Incheon, Daegu, Gwangju, Daejeon, Ulsan).
- Political parties: Grand National Party (GNP); Democratic Party (DP), formerly known as



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WORLD VIEW OF KOREA

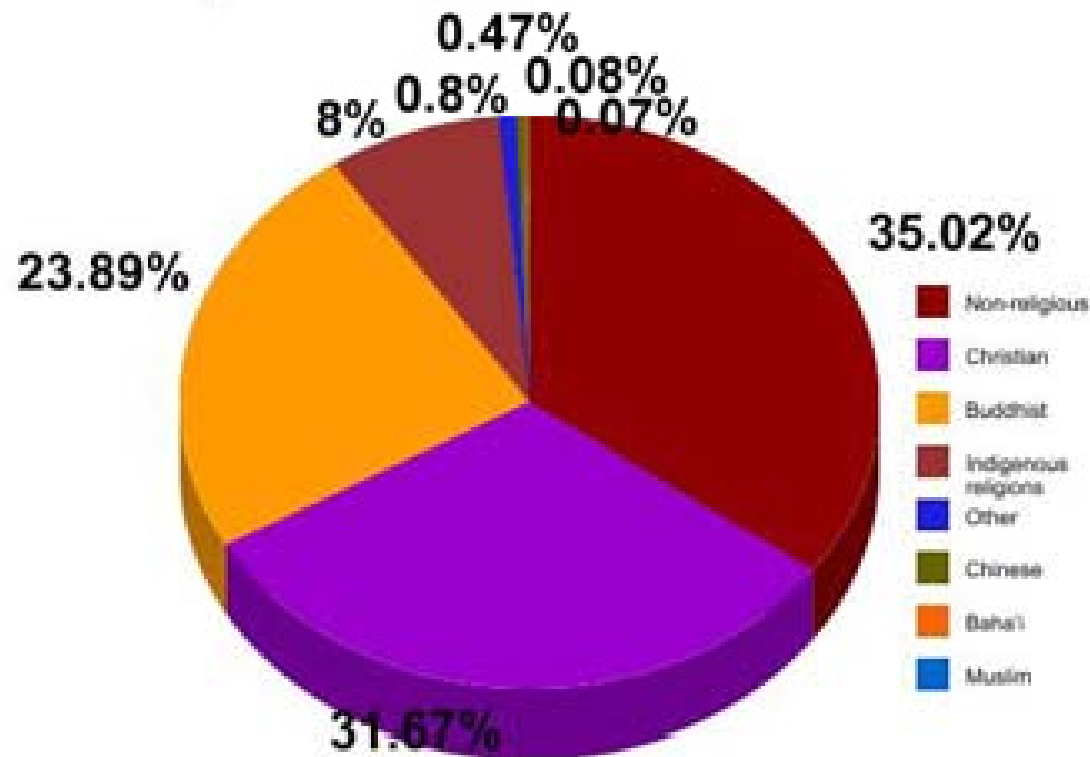
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People in Korea

- **Proud of their nationality and identity**
- **Interpersonal relationship is quite important, very friendly and would do anything to help their friends**
- **Family is of outmost importance**
- **Age difference**

Religions in Korea

Religion Distribution in South Korea



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Through the definition of five basic relationships, Confucianism provided a simple guide for ordering the family and society.

- **Justice and righteousness should mark the relations between sovereign and subject.**
- **There should be proper rapport between father and son.**
- **Separation of function between husband and wife.**
- **The younger should give precedence to the elder.**
- **Faith and trust should reign over relationships between friends.**

Influence of Confucianism

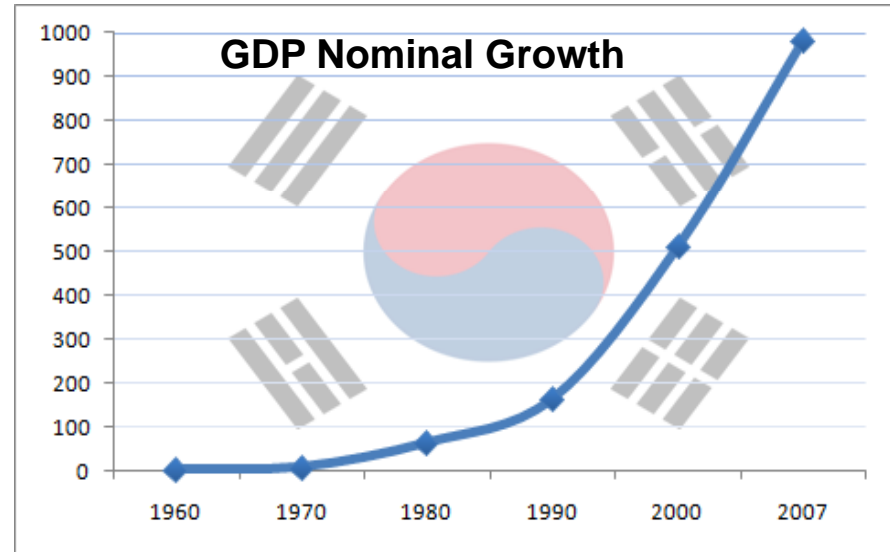
- **Confucianism remains important as a social ethic; its influence is evident in the immense importance Koreans ascribe to education.**
- **The legacy of Confucianism remains a fundamental part of Korean society, shaping the moral system, the way of life, social relations between old and young, high culture, and is the basis for much of the legal system.**
- **Confucianism in Korea is sometimes considered a pragmatic way of holding a nation together without the civil wars and internal dissent.**

Economic structure and major issues of South Korea

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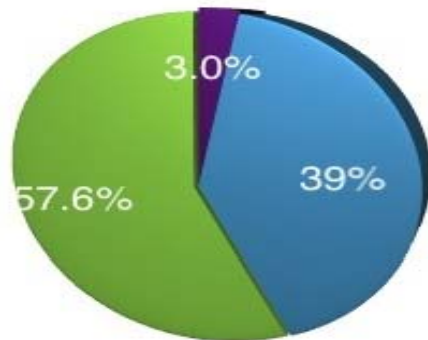
Major economic indicators

- One of the world fastest growing economies from 1960s-1990s.
- Ranks 15th in the world by nominal GDP and 12th by PPP
- GDP PPP:\$1.356 trillion (2009)

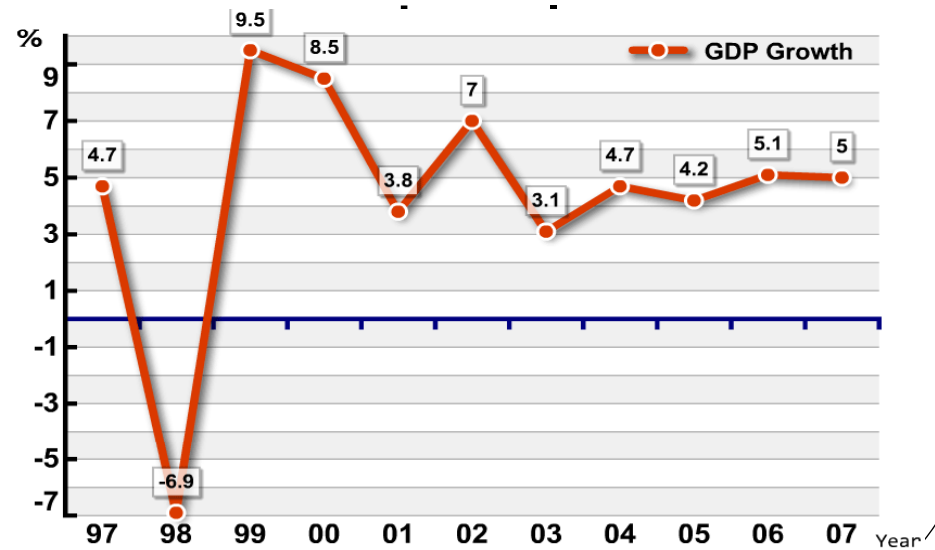


- GDP per capita \$28,000

- Agriculture
- Industry
- Services

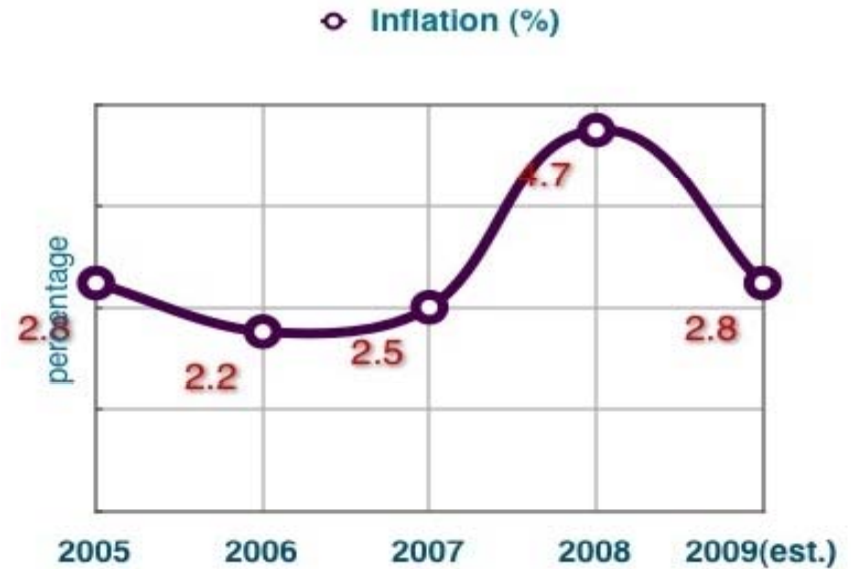


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Major economic indicators

- Inflation 2.6% (July 2010)
- Unemployment 3.5% (June 2010)
- Main industries:
electronics, automobile production, telecommunication, chemicals, shipbuilding, steel, textiles, clothing



LEVEL

- Fourth Outline Level

– Fifth

Outline level

– Sixth



Major economic indicators

- 8th largest exporter in the world \$355.1 billion (2009)
- Imports - commodities: machinery, electronics and electronic equipment, oil, steel, transport equipment, organic chemicals, plastics

(2008 est.)

	Export
1	China (21.5%)
2	USA (10.9%)
3	Japan (6.6%)
4	Hong Kong (4.6%)

- 10th largest importer in the world \$313.4 billion (2009)
- Exports - commodities: semiconductors, wireless telecommunications equipment, motor

(2008 est.)

	Import
1	China (17.7%)
2	Japan (14%)
3	USA (8.9%)
4	Saudi Arabia (7.8%)
5	UAE (4.4%)
6	Australia (4.1%)

KOREA'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE NORTHEAST ASIAN REGIONAL COOPERATION

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- **Korea as a bridge between China and Japan**

Hosting the G20 Summit in November 2010

- **Korea can make efforts to relieve the tension of relation with the North Korea**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION!**

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