



Korean Cultural Awareness
United States Forces Korea
Theater Specific Required Training
November 2015



Location

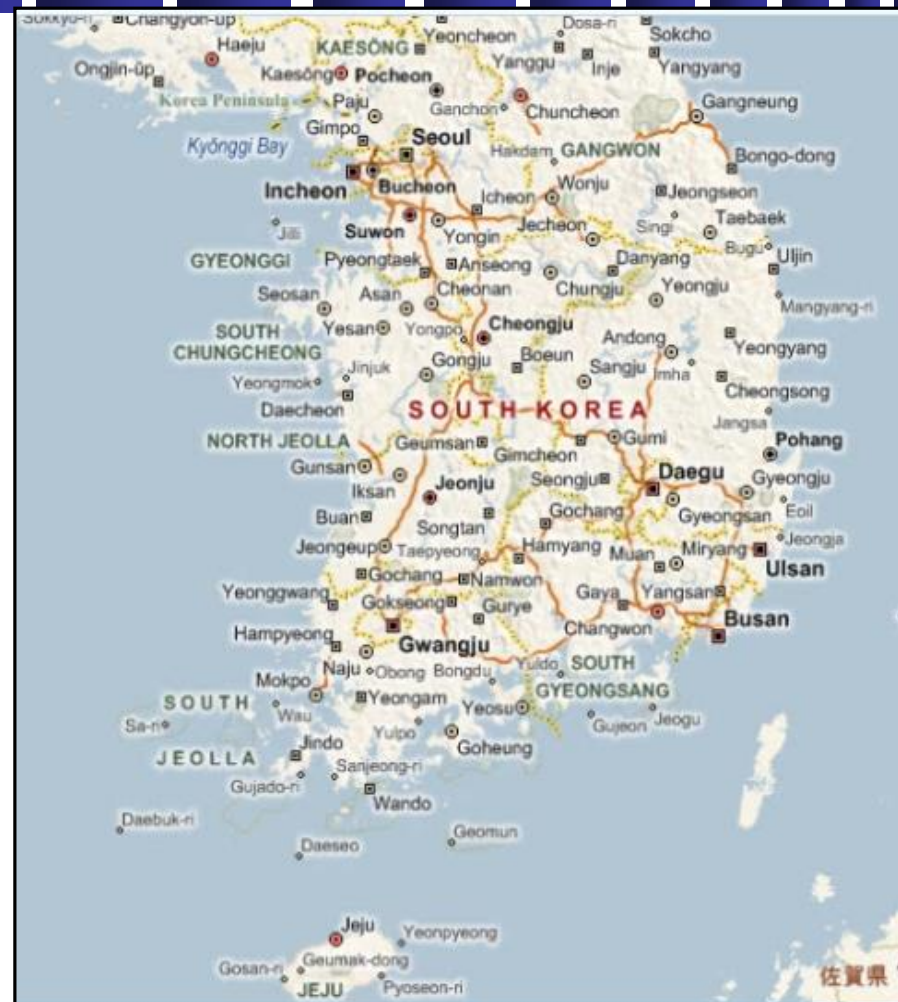
- Located between China and Japan
- Continuous cultural and geopolitical interactions with China and Japan
- Korean language is considered “language isolate”





Geographic Information

- **Divided into North and South along 38th parallel following World War II**
- **Current border agreed upon in the 1953 Armistice (roughly along 38th parallel)**
- **Capital: Seoul**
- **9 Provinces**
- **6 Metropolitan Cities:** Busan, Daegu, Daejeon, Gwangju, Inch'eon, Ulsan
- **1 special city:** Seoul
- **1 special self-governing city:** Sejong
- **Size: 99,237 Sq Km (Size of Indiana)**
- **Population: 49,115,196 (Indiana: 6.6M)**





Korea's national symbols

Flag

The Korean flag is called “Taefeuksi”. Its design symbolizes the principles of yin and yang in Oriental philosophy. The circle in the center of the Korean flag is divided into two equal parts. The upper red section represents the proactive cosmic forces of the yang. Conversely, the lower blue section represents the responsive cosmic forces of the yin. The circle is surrounded by four trigrams, one in each corner. Each trigram symbolizes one of the four universal elements: heaven, earth, fire and water



National flower

Mugunghwa, (Rose of Sharon)





History



- Over 5,000 years of history – founding of Go-Joseon in 2333 BC
- Silla dynasty united the peninsula for the first time in AD 668
- Since uniting, Korea has maintained its political and cultural identity despite frequent invasions



Japanese Rule

- Japan annexed Korea by force in 1910
- Japan in 1938 outlawed use of Korean language in an attempt to eradicate Korean national identity



Japanese expansion to 1941

- Deep lament and resentment toward invaders prevailed in Korean literature and music, along with attempts to grapple with new, modern forms



Divided Peninsula

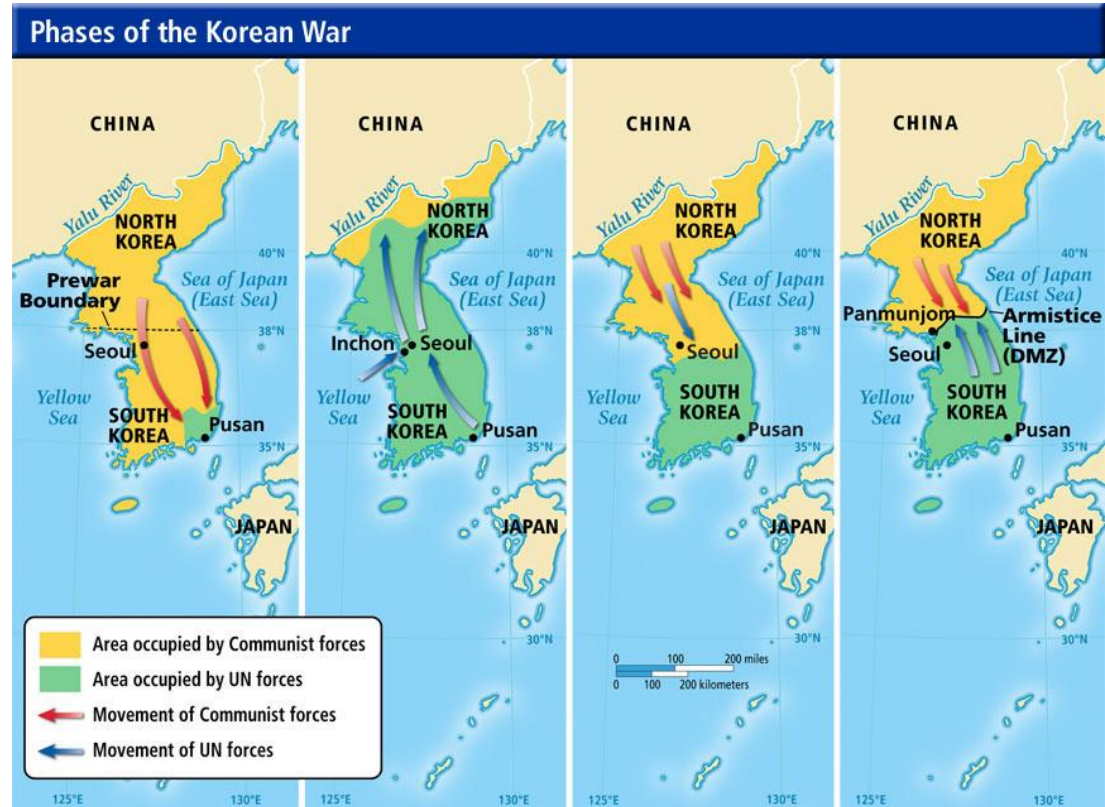
- Korea liberated from Japan after WWII, However;
- In 1945 at Postdam conference US (Truman), USSR (Stalin) and UK (Churchil) decided to divide Korean peninsula at 38th parallel without consulting Koreans
- Peninsula was then controlled by U.S and Soviet Trusteeship Committees for about 3 years before the 2 countries were established in 1948





Korean War

- North Korea invaded south by launching surprise attack on 6/25/50
- United Nations forces (21 nations) led by US defended South
- Many Koreans lost or separated from family members in both south and north
- 1,500,000 U.S Soldier involved / ~37,000 Military personnel killed
- Total: 2,450,000 killed / 2,000,000 wounded





Modern Korea

- One of the world's fastest growing economies
- **South Korea** has a market **economy** that ranks 11th in the world by nominal GDP and 13th by purchasing power parity (PPP).
- World's 6th largest exporter





Major Korean Traditional Holidays



“Seollal” - Lunar New Year’s

- 3-day holiday
- “Tteokguk” - Rice-cake Soup
- New Year Greeting and Bow



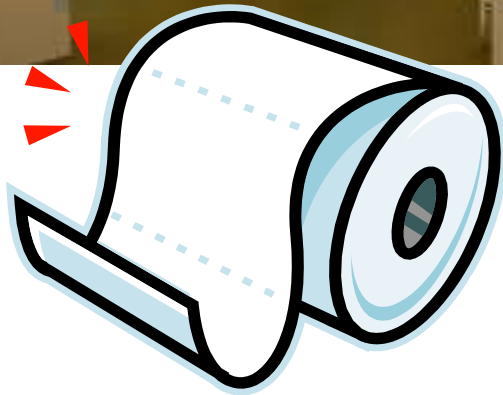
“Chusok”- Korean Thanksgiving

- 15th day of the 8th month by the lunar calendar
- Ancestor memorial service

Many Koreans travel to their hometowns during these holidays, creating significant traffic on most roads



Public Restrooms



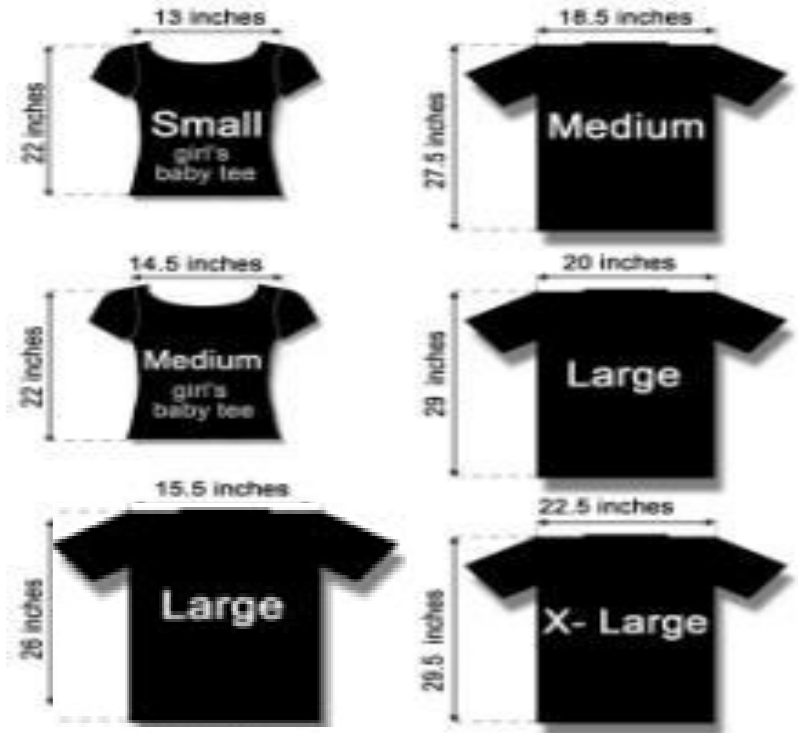
- Most are western style
- Toilet paper dispenser may not be in the stall (take it with you)
- You may find female janitors in the men's room

2000 4000 6000 8000 10000 12000 14000 16000 18000 20000 22000 24000 26000 28000 30000 32000 34000 36000 38000 40000 42000 44000 46000 48000 50000





Shopping



SIZE DIFFERENCES

In Korea, bargaining over merchandise is acceptable and expected, **but not all stores** practice this, especially department stores.



Korean Currency (Won 원)

\$1 = 1,100 won (roughly)





Rank Structure

- Koreans often address each other by rank or title rather than first names



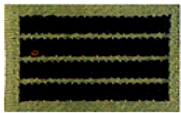
COMMAND
SERGEANT MAJOR

MASTER
SERGEANT

SERGEANT
FIRST CLASS

STAFF
SERGEANT

● ARMY & MARINE CORPS



SERGEANT



CORPORAL



PRIVATE
FIRST CLASS



PRIVATE



GENERAL



LIEUTENANT
GENERAL



MAJOR
GENERAL



BRIGADIER
GENERAL



COLONEL



LIEUTENANT
COLONEL



MAJOR



CAPTAIN



FIRST
LIEUTENANT



SECOND
LIEUTENANT



WARRANT
OFFICER

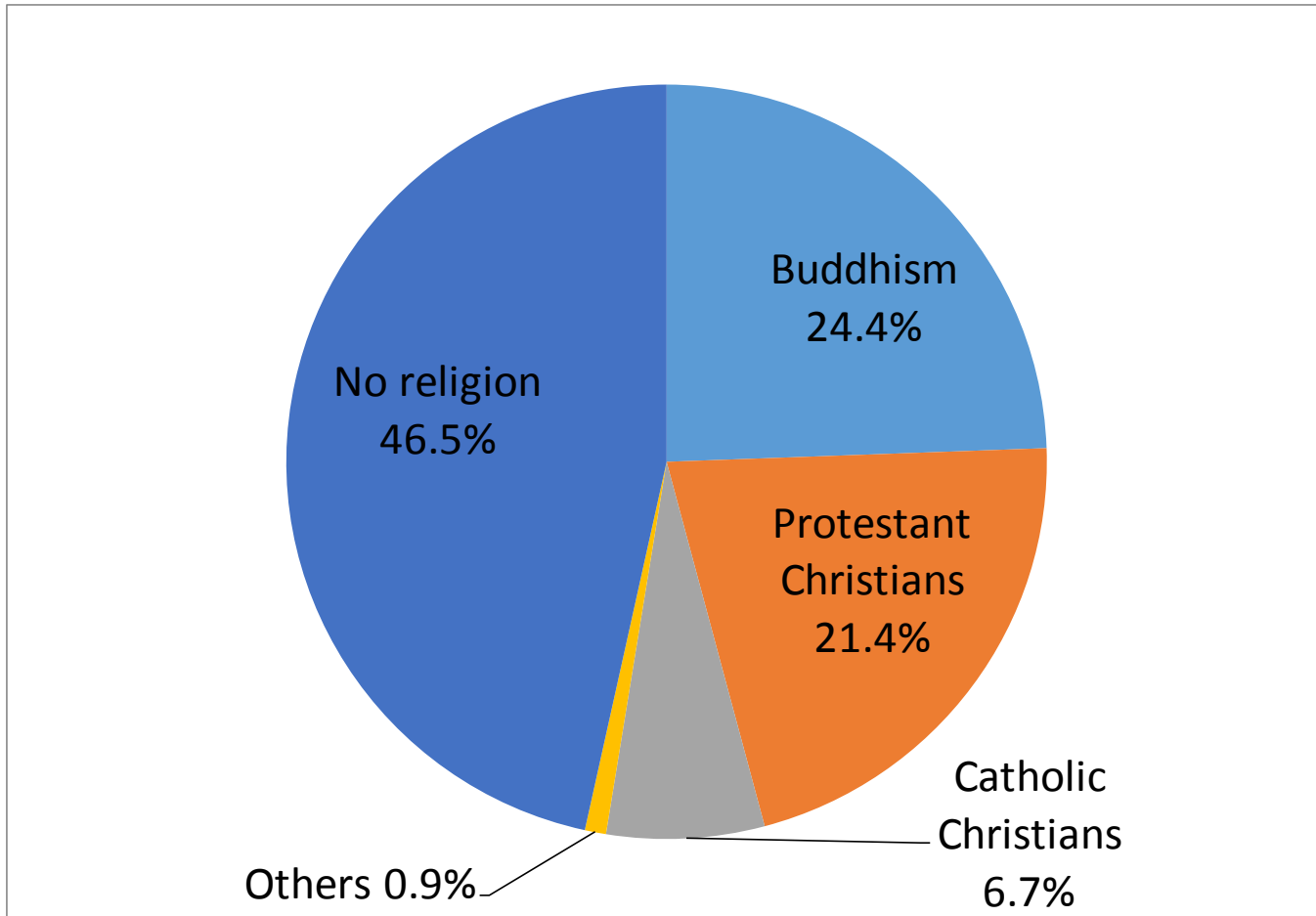


Back-up



Religions of Korean People

(based on 2004 census report)





Hangul (Korean Alphabet)

- Purely phonetic alphabet
- 14 consonants
– ㄱ ㅋ ㆁ ㄷ ㅌ ㄹ ㅂ ㅃ ㅅ ㅆ ㅇ ㅈ ㅊ ㅋ ㆁ ㅎ
- 10 vowels
– 아 야 어 여 오 요 우 유 으 이
- Hangul is a scientific system, invented following the shapes of vocal organs as they make sounds.

From <http://library.thinkquest.org/20746/non/info/index.html>