

Session. “North vs. South” Problems / Morning

Group. Education: Teaching Korean History

Setting Summary. Imagine that you are part of a planning committee in a politically neutral school district somewhere in the unified Korea. There are no schools in your district yet because it has been newly created and you have yet to secure funding from the local or federal governments. Since the central government wants to experiment with this district, your district is free to design the building of schools, plan the curriculum, and propose legislation regarding education however you want.

Problem. How will we assess our district students’ understanding of the history of Korea?

Solution. The school district committee reached an agreement on 1) educational philosophy; 2) core curriculum; and 3) assessment tools.

- Philosophy: to teach Korean history based on general agreed-upon facts by a Korean-led international education committee. The aim is to follow a fundamental, facts-based curriculum while providing constant space for critical thinking.
- Core Curriculum: *Key periods that are potentially controversial
 - Colonialism
 - The Korean War
 - North Korean and South Korean Regimes (1948-XXXX)
 - Portrayals of U.S. and China since the colonial era
- Assessment Tools:
 - Standardized testing: Will be our primary instrument of assessment
 - Essays: Must be evaluated by teachers on logical flow and not the teachers’ opinions
 - Discussions
 - Research papers: These term-long projects will allow students to interact with primary sources to develop their original thinking skills.



Education Group Presentation

Session. “North vs. South” Problems / Morning

Group. Welfare: Healthcare for New Korea

Setting Summary. The starting hypothesis for our session was that North and South Korea have been reunified. The challenge for our workgroup was an understanding of the health care needs of the North Korean people post-reunification. It was generally accepted and understood that the health care condition of the North Korean people will be sub-optimal compared to the South Korean people.

Problem. The questions that we considered were:

- What is the first, immediate, most important step to take to address the health care needs of the North Korean people post-reunification?
- What are the mid-term (i.e. six months to two years) needs post-reunification?
- What challenges will be faced integrating both the North and South Korean people into a single universal health care system?

Solution. The group agreed that the most immediate need will be to undertake an assessment of the health care needs of the North Korean people. We speculated that these needs will include addressing malnutrition, lack of medical supplies and equipment, lack of antibiotics and other medicines, lack of proper water supplies for sterilization of medical equipment, and infections. Group participants also noted the need to address the health care situation of the 200,000 North Koreans who are imprisoned in the political prison camps in the North and observed that their needs will likely be different than the needs of other North Koreans.

However, when the discussion turned to the medium-term needs, participants in the group noted that it will be extremely important that rescuers (e.g. South Korean, American, Japanese, Chinese volunteers) who come to North Korea post-reunification to help with health care needs not adopt the attitude of “knights in shining armor” coming to rescue the North Korean people. The point was made that North Korea likely has sufficient medical personnel to care for the needs of their fellow countrymen. The North Korean people are proud people and will not be pleased to be treated as victims who need the help that “only” the volunteers can provide. Thus, it will be important for volunteers to bring supplies and medicines, but to place great reliance on North Korean medical professionals to care for their own people. If anything, the rescuers will be working side by side North Korean medical professionals, and *not* dictating medical treatment needs. This point was stressed over and over again.

With respect to the integration of both the North and South Korean people into a single South Korean health care system, the participants agreed that this would be a challenge. Several concerns were identified. First, the North Korean people will not be used to paying for health care; however, the current South Korean health care system imposes deductibles and cost sharing that will be a foreign concept to North Koreans. Exempting North Koreans from these requirements may cause resentment among South Koreans. Second, there is a concern that the South Koreans will incur significant expenditures as they are brought together into the program with 22 million North Koreans, the vast majority of whom will have incomes well below the South Korean poverty level. Third, however, there is no question but that North Koreans should be entitled to participate in the unified Korean health care system. The South Korean health care system currently has a program for low-income residents (the Medical Security Plan) that is completely taxpayer subsidized. Many North Koreans may initially participate in this program.

Final Considerations: The main take-away point that participants recognized was the importance of respecting the pride of the North Korean people when the health care assimilation process begins.

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Group. Transportation: Building a Peninsular Network of Transportation

Setting Summary. Imagine that the reunified Korean central government has set enough budget to build a system of transportation that connects the entire Korean peninsula. Given that the budget is limited, you must decide which means of transportation the government should build first, to what extent, and where.

Problem: Draft an argument to build one means of transportation system that must be built first in reunified Korea. Also, please provide a detailed plan for this network of transportation.

Solution: There are two premises behind the argument presented below:

- The new transportation project should help close the gap between the North and the South.
- The new transportation project should help control the expected sudden influx of people from the North to the South.

Based on these two premises, railroads for trains and highways for automobiles must first be developed around existing North Korean cities. A major railroad and a major highway will extend northwest from Pyongyang toward Sinuiju, and another major railroad and highway will extend northeast from Pyongyang toward, Hamhung, Chongjin, and Nason.

It is important to connect Sinuiju to the rest of the Korean peninsula because Sinuiju can lead to Dandong, a major city in China. On the other hand, it is important to connect Nason to the rest of the Korean peninsula because Nason leads to Russia and then, Europe. With such direct connections and easy access, Korea—especially the North—will invite more foreign investment due to increased economic and business interests in the North (Natural resources abound in the North, and people from all over the world will take keen interests in visiting the previously most closed country in the world.)

Moreover, with better developed transportation along the east coast from Hamhung to Nason, Korea can take better advantage of the natural resources, which used to be sold to China at cheap prices.

After the economic gap between the North and the South closes, which will have the effect of controlling the surge of migration from the North to the South, Korea could invest in remodeling and expanding existing airports in North Korea (Pyongyang, Chongjin, and Hamhung) for international use. Also, at this point, even if the government budget is limited, both domestic and foreign construction companies will show interests in investing in transportation in North Korea.

Furthermore, Korea could even consider building a subway track connecting the North and the South. Thanks to North Korea’s diligent but failed attempt at infiltrating South Korea using an underground path, there already exist underground pathways stretching from the North to the South, albeit they need to be expanded to accommodate subways. However, the possibilities are infinite, for if this can be realized, a person hopping on a subway with a \$2 ticket at most from Kaesung can travel to Incheon Airport with ease, and a museum featuring the history of the underground pathways dating back to the days when North Korea initially dug these pathways for military purposes against South Korea could become an international tourist attraction.



<그림 4-1> 북한 고속도로 확충계획(출처: 동아일보)

Session. “North vs. South” Problems / Morning

Group. Foreign Affairs

Setting Summary.

- The US has 28,500 troops stationed throughout the southern half of the peninsula.
- The past US-ROK alliance includes guarantee of extended deterrence through nuclear umbrella.
- China used to consider DPRK as a buffer state against U.S. influence.
- Reunification has been achieved peacefully with power-sharing under the South Korean political system.
- North and South Korean militaries have successfully integrated into a single Unified Korean military.
- The U.S., China, Russia, and Japan have agreed to support reunification (or at the very least, not to oppose the will of the Korean people), on the condition of nuclear disarmament of Korean peninsula

Problem. The Foreign minister of reunified Korea is scheduled to host a meeting with the Secretary of State of the United States and the United States ambassador to reunified Korea to talk about the U.S. Army base in Korea in the absence of an immediate threat (no more tension between NK and SK). Decide what reunified Korea should do with the U.S. army base in the peninsula, and draft a set of diplomatic policy recommendations to the foreign minister that will help to strengthen the relationship among reunified Korea, China, and the United States. Please consider how your decision will impact the peace order, economic cooperation, and intra/international exchange of the Korean peninsula and Northeast Asia as well as trans-pacific relations.

Solution. An array of different positions was first put forth to represent the whole political spectrum expected to be seen in reunified Korea

- Pro-U.S.: Withdraw some (e.g. 50%) US troops, but also add some bases in the north and keep U.S.-Korea alliance, or simply withdraw U.S. troops, but maintain alliance.
- Neutral: Have U.S. withdraw troops and give bases back to Korea, and become neutral.
- Pro-China: Have U.S. withdraw troops.

A compromise was reached in the end

- Complete withdrawal of U.S. troops within 2-3 years.
- Bases will be handed over to the Unified Korean military.
- U.S.-Korea alliance shall be maintained.
- U.S. shall reassure extended nuclear deterrence (nuclear umbrella).
- U.S.-Korea military exercises will be focused on transnational issues and disaster relief, versus show of force.

Session. “North vs. South” Problems / Morning

Group. Culture: “*Saturday Night Live: ENoK*” (Comedy Skit)

Setting Summary. A unified Korea will want a unified Korean culture, or at least, a post-division Korean culture where the differences between North and South Koreans can be both appreciated and celebrated. In order to achieve this, North and South Koreans must be in partnership—meaning, we must move beyond deeming North Koreans as our unfortunate brethren or South Koreans as victims of westernization who have lost its origin.

Problem. Please come up with a short play, skit, comedy act, song (anything!) that effectively shows how we can embrace the differences of North and South Korea in a good-natured manner.

Solution. We came up with a short skit depicting different dating cultures of the North and the South. We had a well-balanced group with respect to gender and home background: two North Koreans (one male and one female), two South Koreans (one male and one female) and another female South Korean. Also, we had a small age range, which made it easier for every member to relate to the discussion topics addressed while brainstorming. After introducing ourselves, we started discussing cultural differences. (North Korean defectors were especially helpful since they had first-hand experiences of both cultures.) In the end, our thoughts converged to differences in dating culture. It also seemed that there would be more humorous elements to work from in dating culture differences than other topics such as language barriers.

As for the characters, we coupled the North Korean male with a South Korean female (the other South Korean female was the narrator) and the South Korean male with a North Korean female. For the script, we set up the same scenario for both couples, 1) love at first sight, 2) asking out on a date, and 3) the date, but each couple had different approaches and reactions. For instance, the North Korean man asks the South Korean woman out by kneeling in front of her father whereas the South Korean male texts the North Korean woman to ask her out. Act I was the South Korean man and North Korean woman couple, Act II the North Korean man and South Korean woman couple, and Act III ended the skit with a generic happy ending. In order to stay consistent with the goal of the conference, we decided to have both couples break up after Acts I and II, respectively, but during Act III, they start to miss each other’s differences, and both couples reunite.

Although we did not have enough rehearsal time, brainstorming ideas and coming up with the script provided a bonding experience for all of the group members. The actions of both North Koreans and South Koreans were certainly stereotypical and dramatized, yet we were able to have fun discussing and asking questions about the two different cultures and, indeed, embrace them without offending one another. The presentation may have been better than the rehearsal as the audience seemed to hit it off with our jokes to create a friendly mood at the end of the conference.

Session. “Korean” Problems / Afternoon

Group. Energy & Environment: Green Campaign

Setting Summary. In a world where its populations are increasingly proactive in combating problems such as climate change, greenhouse gas emissions, and rising oil prices, environmental sustainability is not only an option for reunified Korea, but a necessity.

Problem. Please come up with nationwide campaign strategies that will encourage energy conservation and environmental protection.

Solution. After the reunification, people will focus more on the economy and politics than on the environment because they are more immediate and tangible issues than environmental issues, which may seem less urgent and thus, are more difficult to grasp their relevance in our daily lives. However, the economy, politics, and culture are dependent on the state of the environment. Therefore, unified Korea should look beyond the present and the near future and invest from early on its resources and capital into building a healthy environment for the sake of sustainable Korea.

- Water: Water is a necessity in human life as water comprises 70% of a human body. However, Korea has a shortage of water. Water gardens (aka hydro-plants), water reservoirs, and better filtration technologies can help lessen this shortage.
- Electricity: Burning coal is the most predominant way of producing electricity, but there is only a limited amount of coal embedded in the earth’s crust. Alternative sources of electricity that are renewable and environmentally friendly are being sought after as we speak. (e.g. solar energy, wind energy, and nuclear energy)
- Deforestation: 85% of North Korea is composed of mountains, BUT bare mountains.¹ Such lack of vegetation can result in loss of nutrients in the soil, flood (due to increased runoffs), and possibly famine. Ways to lessen the effect of deforestation include various campaigns to plant more trees (Adopt a Tree! Campaign, in which a participant, whether inside or outside Korea, may “adopt” a tree and “raise” it as a sponsor, which can help fund the program as well as make the experience more personal for people) and creating more national parks. (e.g. DMZ, which will undoubtedly become an international tourist attraction on its own account)
- Reduction of Waste: Simply more trash cans, more visible and easily accessible recycling bins, and simple instructions on what items can be thrown into the recycling bins and what should not can help reduce wastes and encourage people to recycle.

Various campaigns and environmental projects can help create more jobs. Also, if unified Korea develops into an advanced and successful eco-friendly, environment-conscious country, it could export its technologies and models to foreign countries and become a global leader.

Human beings rely on their environment. Therefore, if the environment is destroyed, we are inevitably doomed as well. The more we protect the environment, the more the environment will protect us. (e.g. landslide) Without protecting the environment, there is no future for unified Korea. As there has been an increased interest recently in keeping a healthy body and mind for oneself, we must do our best to maintain a “healthy Korea” for the good of all!

¹ Due to NK government’s poor management of these areas as well as the people substituting tree barks for their sustenance in times of great famine.

Session. “Korean” Problems / Afternoon

Group. National Security: Constructing the “Korean” Identity (Entry, Immigration & Citizenship)

Setting Summary. Imagine that you are part of the staff of the Department of National Security (DNS) in the newly reunified Korea. Millions of people of the Korean diaspora are waiting for the DNS to develop a system of entry, immigration, citizenship, and resident identification so that they can go back to Korea.

Problem. Develop a system of entry, immigration, citizenship, and resident identification

Solution. The group concurred that the new system would not be drastically different from the current one in place. Members of the Korean diaspora would have the same privilege as before to visit as they wish. However, one policy that our group thought would be necessary is an immigration restriction that gives economic protection to Korean nationals, especially former North Koreans. Many people from other parts of the world will look to work in Korea as migrant laborers, but our group felt the need to prioritize the economic progress of Korean citizens before filling up jobs with foreign labor.

(Overall, this question was more about immigration control and not national security. We spent the rest of the time talking about how the East Asian geopolitical dynamics will change if the North Korean regime were to collapse. The new “enemy” could potentially be China who will have to share a border with a U.S.-friendly nation, if Korean reunification were to follow the German-style.)

Session. “Korean” Problems / Afternoon

Group. Economy: Conglomerates (“*Chae-beol*”) in Reunified Korea

Setting Summary. Imagine that there is a Supreme Court hearing happening in Reunified Korea where Samsung has recently been indicted for engaging in predatory pricing by a group of small mobile application companies led by Mr. Kim. Samsung started to charge at negative margins for advertising space on a selected few mobile applications, resulting in a shift of advertisers towards Samsung’s mobile applications rather than those developed by small companies like Mr. Kim’s, which is causing a strain on smaller developers’ balance sheets. Kim’s lawsuit against Samsung is on the grounds of consumer protection and promotion of innovation. For the purposes of this exercise, please assume that there are no existing laws against predatory pricing.

Problem. You must declare the verdict on *Kim v. Samsung*, whether Samsung must desist its predatory pricing, and whether or not—and if yes, how much—Samsung should be liable to pay a compensation fee to Kim and other small developers and/or subject to any restrictions (short-term and/or long-term).

Solution. The verdict favored Samsung since there was no existing law against predatory pricing, making Samsung’s actions illegal. However, the court also understood Kim’s situation and the importance of anti-competitive practices in Reunified Korea. Thus, the court passed a grace period of six months during which Kim can directly ask the legislature to hear out his situation and possibly draft a law, or a set of laws, regulating anti-competitive practices. During this six-month period, Samsung must cease all of its predatory pricing activities on those selected few applications. If dissatisfied, Kim can come back to the court after the 6 months, at which point the court can discuss the extension of the grace period.

This solution was reached while all five members of the group played a role—two members as lawyers representing Kim, two members as lawyers representing Samsung, and one member acting as Chief Justice. The lawyers on both sides each presented their three best arguments. After hearing the two sides, Chief Justice cast his verdict.

Roles were assigned to each group member after hearing everyone’s opinion about big conglomerates of South Korea and their roles even after the reunification. Chief Justice role player divided the groups with a North Korean and a South Korean in each, for the sake of demographic balance.

During our initial discussion, most of the group members agreed that the big conglomerates made South Korea’s economy competitive in the global market. However, all questioned the effect of conglomerates’ practice of taking over small businesses. It also led to comparing these conglomerates with large American corporations as well as how the U.S. government had handled these large corporations in the past.



Economy Group Presentation

Session. “Korean” Problems / Afternoon

Group. Society: Women's Rights in Reunified Korea

Setting Summary. It has been 5 years since the reunification of Korea, and the thousands of North Koreans hiding underground in China have been able to freely reenter Korea. The majority of North Korean refugees were women, and there is a huge concern over the heightened degree of sexual and domestic violence against North Korean women. Sexual and domestic violence against women had already been a huge challenge in the South Korean society even before reunification.

Problem.

1. Lack of Adequate Practical Sexual Education
2. Weak Legislation Against Sexual Violence
3. Underutilized Post-assault Support for Victims of Sexual and Domestic Violence
4. Discriminatory Perception Against Psychosocial Problems
5. Unwillingness to Open Up / Cultural Boundaries

Solution.

1. Family Life Education (FLE) or similar type of comprehensive education curriculum.
 - Age-appropriate practical sexual education curriculum, demystifying wrong information and perception.
 - Cultural education about relationships, gender equality and relations, etc.
 - Legal education about sexual assaults—how to respond to assaults in order to identify and prosecute offenders.
2. Strengthen punishment for offenders.
3. More effective awareness effort to increase access to anonymous counseling support available via hotline and increase availability of group therapy.
 - Implement programs through the medium of school, church, and other community institutions.
 - Found a non-governmental organization that establishes umbrella therapy programs, which aim to provide traveling, region-specific group therapy sessions advertised locally.
 - To reach the populations with the least likely opportunity/willingness to utilize therapy support.
4. Utilize the mass media to deliver proper awareness of psychosocial problems as illnesses.
 - To lead to greater research and treatment effort.
 - Effectively use celebrity power to positively influence the misguided perception of psychosocial problems.
5. Found a Women’s Association specifically for former-North Korean women to discuss and address issues that are specific to the experiences of North Koreans after reunification.
 - Membership should comprise of both former North- and South Korean women to prevent segregation and encourage collaboration.
 - Such NK-specific women’s association should be expected to converge with the existing general women’s associations down the road.

Session. “Korean” Problems/Afternoon

Group. Government: The Constitution

Setting Summary. Imagine that you are members of the First Constitutional Committee of Reunified Korea.

Problem. Please draft the preamble to the constitution of reunified Korea, and then, please draft an outline of the constitution with chapter, article, and section headings as well as brief summaries of each chapter, article, and section.

Solution. (Based on the Constitution of the Republic of Korea, with elements from the Constitution of the United States of America)

Preamble

We, **the people of unified Korea**, proud of a resplendent history and traditions dating from time immemorial, **having endured a civil war that divided our country**, having assumed **the mission of realizing democratic ideals and peaceful reconciliation** within our homeland and having determined to consolidate national unity with Justice, humanitarianism and brotherly love, and to **eradicate** all social vices and injustice, and to afford equal opportunities to every person and provide for the fullest development of individual capabilities in all fields, including political, economic, social and cultural life by further strengthening the basic free and democratic order conducive to private initiative and public harmony, and to help each person **recognize the values** and fulfill duties, and responsibilities concomitant to freedoms and rights, and to elevate the quality of life for all citizens and contribute to lasting world peace and the common prosperity of mankind and thereby to ensure security, liberty, happiness, and **sovereignty** for ourselves and our posterity forever, **do hereby establish this Constitution on 22nd June, 2013.**

Chapter 1. Rights and Duties of the People

Article 1.

Section 1. The Unified Korea is a **sovereign** democratic republic.

Section 2. The sovereignty of the Unified Korea resides in the people, and all state authority emanates from the people.

Article 2. **Freedom of Press, Religion, Assembly, Speech, and Petition**

Article 3. **Privacy Protection**

Article 4. **Property Ownership**

Article 5. **Taxes**

Article 6. **Right to Trial**

Chapter 2. National Assembly

Chapter 3. Executive Branch

Chapter 4. Judiciary

Chapter 5. Constitutional Court

Chapter 6. Elections

Chapter 7. Local Governance

Chapter 8. Economy

Chapter 9. Amendment Process

*Important changes to the South Korean Constitution highlighted in yellow.