

# SOUTH KOREA

## Geography

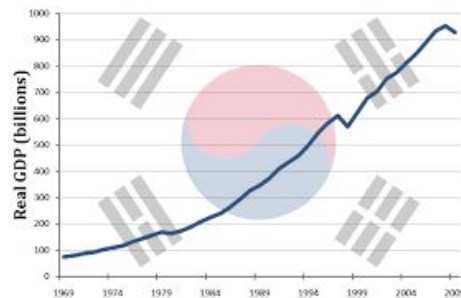
South Korea has a total land mass area of 38,691 mi<sup>2</sup> (96,920 km<sup>2</sup>), South Korea has many mountains but most of them have been worn down by wind and rain making the mountains smaller than most other mountains. Their highest mountain range is the Sobaek Mountains whose highest peak reaches 6,283 feet at Mount Chiri.



The overall highest peak of South Korea is the extinct volcano of Mount Halla on Jeju Island at 6,398 feet above sea level. As of July 2016 South Korea has gotten a population of over 50 million a huge increase from the 32 million population from 1970. Its significant because the country received a baby boom between 1970 and 1980.

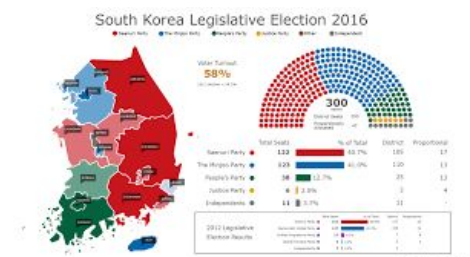
## Economics

South Korea has a market based economy which focusses on supply and demand. Because of their lack of natural resources their economy heavily relies on exporting goods. This could be viewed as a disadvantage to some and advantage to others. As an advantage exporting made the South Korea the 7th largest exporter and 10th largest importer in the world. It also helped their economy experienced a huge economic growth of the last four decades. As a disadvantage it is never good for one country to have half of its economy rely on exports. Having a country heavily rely on exports make them very vulnerable to competition. South Korea current economy grew in prosperity under new democratically elected president former General Tae-Woo who's new constitutions brought forth the current South Korean economy South Korea's current economy is doing generally okay. Its ranked 23 in the world in their economy but recently lack of economic reforms has taken a toll on South Korea's economy.



## Government

South Korea had its first democratic election in May of 1948, and has been a Democracy since. With Hwang kyo-ahn as the current president since 2016, South Korea has been a very successful presidential republic. They have remained a presidential republic for almost 70 years. It is a working Democracy a lot like the U.S. with 3 branches of power and elections. The South Korean government has had the aims of enhancing military security, political legitimacy, and economic development, while one of their main goals being to reunite North and South Korea peacefully. South Korea has a big advantage of being a Democracy for it has increased relations with most of the world, and has a lot of economic advantages through trade with those countries. Some of the disadvantages of it though are its hostility to Communist countries (North Korea) and that some dispute has risen in the country on some contradictions between the government and the morals of the people.



## SOUTH KOREA



BY: DJ WASHINGTON AND JOSHUA  
ROPER

## KEY/RECENT EVENTS

In the early 1970s, under the leadership of Park Chung-hee, South Korea experienced rapid economic growth. After Chung-hee fell South Korea held its first presidential election in 1987, resulting in General Roh Tae-woo becoming the first president under the revised democratic constitution. After Tae-woo, Kim Young-sam became the first civilian president in 1993. In 2000, President Kim Dae-jung won the Nobel Peace Prize for his contributions to the Korean Democracy. Their first female leader, Park Geun-hye, took office in 2013, but she was suspended for being corrupt and being involved in a Influence-peddling scandal. The authorities made the Prime Minister, Hwang Kyo-ahn, the president. In the future, the 2018 Winter Olympic Games will be held here.



Acting President Hwang Kyo-ahn

## CULTURE AND SOCIETY

South Korea has an amazing blend of culture in its society, from the language, to the people, to the food, Korean culture is beautiful. The Korean language, or Hangul, dates back to 1446, it is one of the easiest languages to learn, it was established by King Sejong and has been used ever since. The people of South Korea are generally very kind and sincere, their daily life is forged around tradition. Korean culture was influenced by many different neighboring societies like the Chinese, Japanese, and a little from the Russians. The food that the people of Korea eat was influenced by the Japanese when it was under their control. Some popular dishes in Korea are Kimchi (Fermented Vegetables), Bulgogi (Marinated Beef BBQ), Japchae (Stir Fried Noodles), Soondubu Jjigae (Soft Tofu Stew), and many more. The two most dominant religions in South Korea are Buddhism and Christianity. South Korea has a very vibrant culture that is unlike any other.



Sources:

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ks.html>

<http://www.learnkoreanlanguage.com/Korean-Culture.html>

<https://theculturetrip.com/asia/south-korea/articles/14-mouth-watering-south-korean-foods-to-try/>

<http://countrystudies.us/south-korea/75.htm>

<http://www.heritage.org/index/country/southkorea>

<http://thediplomat.com/2016/12/south-korea-is-poised-for-economic-disaster/>

<https://www.britannica.com/place/South-Korea>