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# Sun Myung Moon

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"Reverend Moon" redirects here. For Pastor Moon Ik-hwan, see Moon Ik-hwan. This is a Korean name; the family name is Moon.

Sun Myung Moon (Korean 문선명 Mun Seon-myeong; born Mun Yong-myeong; 25 February 1920 – 3 September 2012) was a Korean religious leader, also known for his business ventures and support for political causes.[1][2] A messiah claimant, he was the founder of the Unification movement (members of which considered him and his wife Hak Ja Han to be their "True Parents"), [3] and of its widely noted "Blessing" or mass wedding ceremony, and the author of its unique theology the Divine Principle. [4][5][6] He was an opponent of communism and an advocate for Korean reunification, for which he was recognized by the governments of both North and South Korea.[7] Businesses he promoted included News World Communications, an international news media corporation known for its American subsidiary The Washington Times, [8][9][10] and Tongil Group, a South Korean business group (chaebol), [11][12][13] as well as various related organizations.[1][14]

Moon was born in what is now North Korea. When he was a child, his family converted to Christianity.[15] In 1947 he was convicted by the North Korean government of spying for South Korea and given a five-year sentence to the Hungnam labor camp. [16] In 1954, he founded the Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity in Seoul, South Korea based on conservative, family-oriented teachings from new interpretations of the Bible.  $^{[15][16]}$  In 1971, he moved to the United States  $^{[17]}$  and became well known after giving a series of public speeches on his beliefs. [18][19] In the 1982 case United States v. Sun Myung Moon he was found guilty of willfully filling false federal income tax returns and sentenced to 18 months in federal prison. His case generated protests from clergy and civil libertarians, who said that the trial was biased against him.[20]

Moon was criticized for making high demands of his followers. [21][22][23] His wedding ceremonies also drew criticism, especially after they  $involved\ members\ of\ other\ churches,\ including\ Roman\ Catholic\ archbishop\ Emmanuel\ Milingo. \ ^{[24][25]}\ He\ was\ also\ criticized\ for\ his\ Milingo. \ ^{[24][25]}\ He\ was\ also\ criticized\ for\ his\ Milingo. \ ^{[24][25]}\ He\ was\ also\ criticized\ for\ his\ Milingo. \ ^{[24][25]}\ He\ was\ also\ criticized\ for\ his\ Milingo. \ ^{[24][25]}\ He\ was\ also\ criticized\ for\ his\ Milingo. \ ^{[24][25]}\ He\ was\ also\ criticized\ for\ his\ Milingo. \ ^{[24][25]}\ He\ was\ also\ criticized\ for\ his\ Milingo. \ ^{[24][25]}\ He\ was\ also\ criticized\ for\ his\ Milingo. \ ^{[24][25]}\ He\ was\ also\ criticized\ for\ his\ Milingo. \ ^{[24][25]}\ He\ was\ also\ criticized\ for\ his\ Milingo. \ ^{[24][25]}\ He\ was\ also\ criticized\ for\ his\ Milingo. \ ^{[24][25]}\ He\ was\ also\ criticized\ for\ his\ Milingo. \ ^{[24][25]}\ He\ was\ also\ criticized\ for\ his\ Milingo. \ ^{[24][25]\ He\ was\ also\ criticized\ for\ his\ Milingo. \ ^{[24][25]\ He\ was\ also\ criticized\ for\ his\ Milingo. \ ^{[24][25]\ He\ was\ also\ criticized\ for\ his\ Milingo. \ ^{[24][25]\ He\ was\ also\ criticized\ for\ his\ Milingo. \ ^{[24][25]\ He\ was\ also\ criticized\ for\ his\ Milingo. \ ^{[24][25]\ He\ was\ also\ criticized\ for\ his\ Milingo. \ ^{[24][25]\ He\ was\ also\ criticized\ for\ his\ Milingo. \ ^{[24][25]\ He\ was\ also\ criticized\ for\ his\ Milingo. \ ^{[24][25]\ He\ was\ also\ criticized\ for\ his\ Milingo. \ ^{[24][25]\ He\ was\ also\ criticized\ for\ his\ Milingo. \ ^{[24][25]\ He\ was\ also\ criticized\ for\ his\ Milingo. \ ^{[24][25]\ He\ was\ also\ criticized\ for\ his\ Milingo. \ ^{[24][25]\ He\ was\ also\ criticized\ for\ his\ Milingo. \ ^{[24][25]\ He\ was\ also\ criticized\ his\ Milingo. \ ^{[24][25]\ He\ was\ also\ criticized\$ relationships with political and religious figures, including U.S. Presidents Richard Nixon, [26] George H. W. Bush and George W. Bush, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, [27] North Korean President Kim II Sung, [28] and Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan. [29]

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# Sun Myung Moon Moon in Las Vegas, Nevada, 4 April 2010

6 January 1920 Chongiu, North Pyongan, Japanese Korea (now North Pyongan, North Korea) 3 September 2012 (aged 92) Gapyeong County, Gyeonggi-do South Korea

Mun Yong-myeong

Religious leader. Occupation businessperson, media mogul. political activist

Founder of Unification Church Choi Sun-kil (1944-1953) Spouse(s)

Hak Ja Han (1960-) 16

Children

Korean name Hangul 문선명 Hania 

Revised Mun Seon-myeona Romanization

McCune-Mun Sŏnmyŏng Reischaue

Birth name Hangul 문용명 Hanja 文龍明 Revised Mun Yong-myeong Romanization

McCune-

Mun Yongmyŏng Reischaue

### Early life [edit]

Sun Myung Moon was born Moon Yong Myeong on 25 February 1920, in modern-day North P'yŏng'an Province, North Korea, at a time when Korea was under Japanese rule. He was the younger of two sons in a farming family of eight children. [16] Moon's family followed Confucianist beliefs until he was around 10 years old, when they converted to Christianity and joined the Presbyterian Church. [30]

In 1941, Moon began studying electrical engineering at Waseda University in Japan. [21] During this time he cooperated with Communist Party members in the Korean independence movement against Imperial Japan. [31] In 1943, he returned to Seoul and married Sun Kil Choi on 28 April 1945. On 2 April 1946 their son, Sung Jin Moon was born. [11] In the 1940s, Moon attended a church in Sangdo dong that was led by the messianic minister Baek Moon Kim, who claimed that he had been given by Jesus the mission to spread the message of a "new Israel" throughout the world. [32] Around this time Moon changed his given name to Sun Myung. [33]

Following World War II, Korea was divided along the 38th parallel into two trusteeships: the United States and the Soviet Union. [23][34] Pyongyang was the center of Christian activity in Korea until 1945. From the late forties 166 priests and other religious figures were killed or disappeared in concentration camps, including Francis Hong Yong-ho, bishop of Pyongyang<sup>[35]</sup> and all monks of Tokwon abbey. [36][37] In 1947 Moon was convicted by the North Korean government of spying for South Korea and given a five-year sentence to the Hŭngnam labor camp. [16] In 1950, during the Korean War United Nations troops had raided Hŭngnam and the guards fled. Moon escaped and traveled to Busan, South Korea.[38][39][40]

### Founding the Unification movement [edit]

Moon emerged from his years in the labor camp as a staunch anti-communist. [16] His teachings viewed the Cold War between democracy and communism as the final conflict between God and Satan, with divided Korea as its primary front line. [41] In 1954, Moon formally founded the Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity in Seoul. He quickly drew young acolytes who helped to build the foundations of church affiliated business and cultural organizations.[16][42] At his new church, he preached a conservative, familyoriented value system and his interpretation of the Bible. [6][43] On 8 January 1957, Moon and Choi divorced. [1]

### Beliefs [edit]

See also: Unification movement § Beliefs

Moon has said that when he was fifteen years old Jesus anointed him to carry out his unfinished work by becoming parent to all of humanity. [5][23][44] The Divine Principle or Exposition of the Divine Principle (Korean 원리강론/原理講論, translit. wonli ganglon) is the main theological textbook of the Unification movement. It was co-written by Moon and early disciple Hyo Won Eu and first published in 1966. A translation entitled Divine Principle was published in English in 1973. The book lays out the core of Unification theology, and is held to have the status of scripture by believers. Following the format of systematic theology, it includes (1) God's purpose in creating human beings, (2) the fall of man, and (3) restoration – the process through history by which God is working to remove the ill effects of the fall and restore humanity back to the relationship and position that God originally intended. [45]

God is viewed as the creator, whose nature combines both masculinity and femininity, and is the source of all truth, beauty, and goodness. Human beings and the universe reflect God's personality, nature, and purpose. [46] "Give-and-take action" (reciprocal interaction) and "subject and object position" (initiator and responder) are "key interpretive concepts",[47] and the self is designed to be God's object.[47] The purpose of human existence is to return joy to God. The "four-position foundation" (Origin, Subject, Object and Union) is "another important and interpretive concept", and explains in part the emphasis on the family. [48]

## Second marriage and blessing ceremonies [edit]



### Marriage to Hak Ja Han [edit]

Moon married his second wife, Hak Ja Han, on 11 April 1960, soon after he turned 40 years old, in a ceremony called the Holy Marriage. Han is called "Mother" or "True Mother". She and Moon together are referred to as the "True Parents" by members of the Unification Church and their family as the "True Family". [3][49][50][51] Jesus was divine but not God; he was supposed to be the second Adam who would create a perfect family by joining with the ideal wife and creating a pure family that would have begun humanity's liberation from its sinful condition. [21] When Jesus was crucified before marrying, he redeemed mankind spiritually but not physically. That task was left to the "True Parents" – Moon and Han – who would link married couples and their families to God. [14][21][44]

### Blessing ceremonies [edit]

Main article: Blessing ceremony of the Unification Church

Blessing ceremonies have attracted a lot of attention in the press and in the public imagination, often being labeled "mass weddings". [52] Some couples are already married and those that are engaged are later legally married according to the laws of their own countries. [53][54] Meant to highlight the church's

emphasis on traditional morality, they brought Moon both fame and notoriety. [55][56]

36 couples participated in the first ceremony in 1961 for members of the early church in Seoul, South Korea. The ceremonies continued to grow in scale; over 2,000 couples participated in the 1982 one at New York's Madison Square Garden, the first outside South Korea. [15][21] In 1997, about 30,000 couples took part in a ceremony in Washington, DC. [57]



Moon presides over a mass blessing ceremony in 2010

Moon said that he matched couples from differing races and nationalities because of his belief that all of humanity should be united:

"International and intercultural marriages are the quickest way to bring about an ideal world of peace. People should marry across national and cultural boundaries with people from countries they consider to be their enemies so that the world of peace can come that much more quickly."[6][15][44]

### Move to United States [edit]

Main article: Unification Church of the United States

In 1971, Moon moved to the United States, which he had first visited in 1965. He remained a citizen of the Republic of Korea and maintained a residence in South Korea. [58] In 1972, Moon founded the International Conference on the Unity of the Sciences, a series of scientific conferences. [17][59] The first conference had 20 participants, while the largest conference in Seoul in 1982, had 808 participants from over 100 countries. [60][61] Participants included Nobel laureates John Eccles (Physiology or Medicine 1963, who chaired the 1976 conference)[62] and Eugene Wigner (Physics 1963). [63]

In 1974, Moon asked church members in the United States to support President Richard Nixon during the Watergate scandal when Nixon was being pressured to resign his office. Church members prayed and fasted in support of Nixon for three days in front of the United States Capitol, under the motto: "Forgive, Love and Unite." On 1 February 1974 Nixon publicly thanked them for their support and officially received Moon. This brought the church into widespread public and media attention.<sup>[26]</sup>

In the 1970s, Moon, who had seldom before spoken to the general public, gave a series of public speeches to audiences in the United States, Japan, and South Korea. The largest were a rally in 1975 against North Korean aggression in Seoul and a speech at an event organized by the Unification Church in Washington D.C.<sup>[18][19]</sup>

### United States v. Sun Myung Moon [edit]

Main article: United States v. Sun Myung Moon

In 1982, Moon was convicted in the United States of filing false federal income tax returns and conspiracy. His conviction was upheld on appeal in a split decision. Moon was given an 18-month sentence and a \$15,000 fine. He served 13 months of the sentence at the Federal Correctional Institution, Danbury before being released on good behavior to a halfway house. [64]

The case was the center of national freedom of religion and free speech debates. [65] Prof. Laurence H. Tribe of the Harvard University Law School argued that the trial by jury had "doomed (Moon) to conviction based on religious prejudice." [66] The American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A, the National Council of Churches, the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus, and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference filed briefs in support of Moon. [67] Many notable clergy, including Jerry Falwell and Joseph Lowery, signed petitions protesting the government's case and spoke out in defense of Moon. [68][69]

### Washington Times [edit]

Main article: Washington Times

In 1982 The Washington Times was founded by News World Communications, an international media conglomerate associated with Moon which also owned newspapers in South Korea, Japan, and South America, as well as the news agency United Press International. [70] The political views of The Washington Times have often been described as conservative. [71][72][73] The Times was read by many Washington DC insiders, including Ronald Reagan. [74][75] By 2002 Moon had invested roughly \$1.7 billion to support the Times, [76] which he called "the instrument in spreading the truth about God to the world". [77]

### Twenty-first century events [edit]

In 2000, Moon sponsored a United Nations conference which proposed the formation of "a religious assembly, or council of religious representatives, within the structure of the United Nations."[78]

In 2003, Moon sponsored the first Peace Cup international club football tournament. [79][80][81] The Los Angeles Galaxy, which competes in Major League Soccer, played in South Korea in the Peace Cup. [82] During the event Pelé, widely regarded as the best soccer player of all time and former Brazilian Sports Minister, met with Moon. [83]

In 2009, Moon's autobiography, As a Peace-Loving Global Citizen (Korean: 평화를 사랑하는 세계인으로),[84] was published by Gimm-Young Publishers in South Korea. The book became a best-seller in Korea and Japan [85][86][87][88] Said to be the inspiration of Gimm-Young CEO Eun Ju Park, a devout Buddhist, the book focused more on Moon's role as a Korean patriot and an international peace advocate than as a religious figure. [89]

By 2010, Moon had given much of the responsibility for Family Federation for World Peace and Unification religious and business activities to his children, who were then in their 30s and 40s. [90] In 2012, the South Korean press reported that Moon traveled worldwide in his private jet which cost \$50 million. [91][92]

### Illness and death [edit]

On 14 August 2012, after suffering from pneumonia earlier in the month, Moon was admitted to Saint Mary's Hospital at The Catholic University of Korea in Seoul. [93] On 15 August 2012, he was reported to be gravely ill and was put on a respirator at the intensive care unit of St. Mary's Hospital. [94] On 31 August 2012, Moon was transferred to a church-owned hospital near his home in Gapyeong, northeast of Seoul, [95] after suffering multiple organ failure. [96] Moon died on the morning of 3 September 2012 (1:54 am KST) at the age of

## Activities and interests [edit]

### Politics [edit]

In 1964 Moon founded the Korean Culture and Freedom Foundation, which promoted the interests of South Korea and sponsored Radio Free Asia. Former U.S. Presidents Harry S Truman, Dwight D. Eisenhower and Richard Nixon were honorary presidents or directors at various times.<sup>[98]</sup>

In 1972 Moon predicted the decline of communism, based on the teachings of the *Divine Principle*: "After 7,000 biblical years — 6,000 years of restoration history plus the millennium, the time of completion — communism will fall in its 70th year. Here is the meaning of the year 1978. Communism, begun in 1917, could maintain itself approximately 60 years and reach its peak. So 1978 is the border line and afterward communism will decline; in the 70th year it will be altogether ruined. This is true. Therefore, now is the time for people who are studying communism to abandon it." [99]

In 1980, Moon asked church members to found CAUSA International as an anti-communist educational organization, based in New York. [100] In the 1980s, it was active in 21 countries. In the United States it sponsored educational conferences for Christian leaders [101] as well as seminars and conferences for Senate staffers and other activists. [102] In

1986, it produced the anti-communist documentary film Nicaragua Was Our Home. [103] CAUSA supported the Nicaraguan Contras and also reportedly helped finance a Bolivian military coup with connections to cocaine cartels which successfully overthrew a democratically elected government. [104][105]

In August 1985, seven years before the fall of Soviet Union, the Professors World Peace Academy, an organization founded by Moon, sponsored a conference in Geneva to debate the theme "The situation in the world after the fall of the communist empire." [106] In April 1990, Moon visited the Soviet Union and met with President Mikhail Gorbachev. Moon expressed support for the political and economic transformations under way in the Soviet Union. At the same time the Unification Church was expanding into formerly communist nations. [27] After the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, some American conservatives criticized Moon for his softening of his previous anti-communist stance. [107][108]

In 1991, Moon met with Kim II Sung, the North Korean President, to discuss ways to achieve peace on the Korean peninsula, as well as on international relations, tourism, etc.<sup>[28]</sup> In 1994, Moon was officially invited to the funeral of Kim II Sung, in spite of the absence of diplomatic relations between North Korea and South Korea.<sup>[109]</sup> Moon and his church are known for their efforts to promote Korean unification.<sup>[7]</sup>

In 2003, Korean Unification Church members started a political party in South Korea. It was named "The Party for God, Peace, Unification, and Home." In its inauguration declaration, the new party said it would focus on preparing for Korean reunification by educating the public about God and peace. [110] Moon was a member of the Honorary Committee of the Unification Ministry of the Republic of Korea. [1111] In 2012 Moon was posthumously awarded North Korea's National Reunification Prize. [112]

In 2005, Rev. Sun Myung Moon and his wife, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, founded the Universal Peace Federation (UPF), an NGO in Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). "We support and promote the work of the United Nations and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals." [113]

Moon's projects have been lobbied in the National Congress of Brazil by Brazilian MPs. [114][115][116] Moon has held dialogues between members of the Israeli Knesset and the Palestinian Parliament as part of his Middle East Peace Initiatives. [117]

### Business [edit]

Tongil Group is a South Korean business group (chaebol "Tongil" is Korean for "unification," the name of the Unification Church in Korean is "Tongilgyo."), founded in 1963 by Moon as a nonprofit organization to provide revenue for the church. Its core focus was manufacturing but in the 1970s and 1980s it expanded by founding or acquiring businesses in pharmaceuticals, tourism, and publishing.<sup>[11]</sup> Among Tongil Group's chief holdings are: The Ilwha Company, which produces ginseng and related products; Ilshin Stone, building materials; and Tongil Heavy Industries, machine parts including hardware for the South Korean military.<sup>[13]</sup>

News World Communications is an international news media corporation<sup>[8]</sup> founded by Moon in 1976. It owns United Press International, *The World and I, Tiempos del Mundo* (Latin America), *The Segye Ilbo* (South Korea), *The Sekai Nippo* (Japan), the *Zambezi Times* (South Africa), and *The Middle East Times* (Egypt).<sup>[9]</sup> Until 2008 it published the Washington D.C.-based newsmagazine *Insight on the News*.<sup>[8]</sup> Until 2010, it owned the *Washington Times*. On 2 November 2010, Sun Myung Moon and a group of former *Times* editors purchased the *Times* from News World.<sup>[10]</sup>

In 1982, Moon sponsored the film *Inchon*, an historical drama about the Battle of Inchon during the Korean War. It was not successful critically or financially, and was criticized for its unfair treatment of the North Korean government.<sup>[118]</sup>

In 1989, Moon founded Seongnam Ilhwa Chunma, <sup>[119]</sup> the most successful soccer club in Korean football, having won a record 7 league titles, 2 FA Cups, 3 League Cups, and 2 AFC Champions League titles.

The church is the largest owner of U.S. sushi restaurants and in the Kodiak region of Alaska, is the area's largest employer. [120][121] The church owns the only automobile manufacturing plant in North Korea, Pyeonghwa Motors, and is the second largest exporter of Korean goods. [122][123][124][125]

In 2011, construction of \$18 million Yeosu Expo Hotel was completed; the hotel located at Moon-owned The Ocean Resort in Yeosu, the venue of the Expo 2012.<sup>[126]</sup> The opening ceremony was attended by the governor of the province.<sup>[126]</sup> Another one, The Ocean Hotel, was completed in February 2012.<sup>[128]</sup> Moon-owned Yeongpyeong Resort, The Ocean Resort and Pineridge Resort are scheduled to host the Expo 2012.<sup>[129]</sup> [130] 2018 Winter Olympics<sup>[131]</sup> and Formula 1.<sup>[133]</sup> Moon also managed the FIFA-accredited Peace Cup.<sup>[134]</sup> The FIFA itself has funded more than \$2m for the Peace Cup since 2003.<sup>[135]</sup>

### Race relations [edit]

Moon took a strong stance against racism and racial discrimination. In 1974 he urged Unification Church members to support an African American president of the United States: "We have had enough of white presidents. So, let's this time elect a president from the Negro race. What will you do if I say so? There's no question there. We must never forget that we are brothers and sisters in a huge human family. In any level of community, we must become like a family."[136]

In 1981 he said that he himself was a victim of racial prejudice in the United States (concerning his prosecution on tax charges in United States v. Sun Myung Moon), saying: "I would not be standing here today if my skin were white or my religion were Presbyterian. I am here today only because my skin is yellow and my religion is Unification Church. The ugliest things in this beautiful country of America are religious bigotry and racism." [137]

Several African American organizations and individuals spoke out in defense of Moon at this time including the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the National Conference of Black Mayors, [138] and Joseph Lowery who was then the head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. [20]

In a later controversy over the use of the word "Moonie" by the American news media, which was said to be offensive, Moon's position was supported by civil rights activists Ralph Abernathy[139][140][141] and James Bevel.[142]

In 2000 Moon and The Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan got together to sponsor the Million Family March, [143] a rally in Washington D.C. to celebrate family unity and racial and religious harmony; as well as to address other issues, including abortion, capital punishment, health care, education, welfare and Social Security reform, substance abuse prevention, and overhaul of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. [144] In his keynote speech Farrakhan called for racial harmony. [145]

### Dance [edit]

In 1962, Moon and other church members founded the Little Angels Children's Folk Ballet of Korea, a children's dance troop which presents traditional Korean folk dances. He said that this was to project a positive image of South Korea to the world. [146] In 1984, Moon founded the \$8-million Universal Ballet project, with Soviet-born Oleg Vinogradov as its art director and Moon's daughter-in-law Julia as its prima ballerina. It was described by *The New York Times* as the top ballet company in Asia. [147] In 1989, Moon founded Universal Ballet Academy which changed its name later to Kirov Academy of Ballet in Washington, D.C. [148]

### Honorary degrees and other recognition [edit]

Moon held honorary degrees from more than ten universities and colleges worldwide; [149][150][151] at least one of which, the University of Bridgeport, received significant funding from his organizations. [152] He was a member of the Honorary Committee of the Unification Ministry of the Republic of Korea. [153] In 1985, he and his wife received Doctor of Divinity degrees from Shaw University. [154]

In 2004, at event in the Dirksen Senate Office Building, in Washington, D.C., Moon was honored as the Messiah. This attracted much public attention and was criticized by *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post* as a possible violation of the principle of separation of church and state in the United States. Some of the political figures who had attended the event later told reporters that they had been misled as to its nature. [155][156]

Several months after his death, an award named after him and his wife (Sunhak Peace Prize) was proposed, inheriting his will to "recognize and empower innovations in human development, conflict resolution and ecological conservation." Its laureates receive a certificate, a medal, and US \$1 million. [157]

Moon was posthumously awarded North Korea's National Reunification Prize in 2012<sup>[112]</sup> and a meritorious award by K-League. [158][159] On the first anniversary of Moon's death, North Korean leader Kim Jong-un expressed condolences to Han and the family saying: "Kim Jong-un prayed for the repose of Moon, who worked hard for national concord, prosperity and reunification and world peace." [160]

In 2013, Zimbabwean Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai stated: "I remain greatly inspired by people like Reverend Dr. Sun Myung Moon, whose work and life across continents continue to impact positively on the lives of millions of others in the world." [161]

### Criticisms [edit]

Moon's claim to be the Messiah and the Second Coming of Christ has been disputed by both Christian and Jewish scholars. [162][163] The Divine Principle was labeled as heretical by Protestant churches in South Korea, including Moon's own Presbyterian Church. In the United States it was rejected by ecumenical organizations as being non-Christian. [3] Protestant commentators have also criticized Moon's teachings as being contrary to the Protestant doctrine of salvation by faith alone. [164][165] In their influential book The Kingdom of the Cults (first published in 1965), Walter Ralston Martin and Ravi K. Zacharias disagreed with the Divine Principle on the issues of the divinity of Christ, the virgin birth of Jesus, Moon's belief that Jesus should have married, the necessity of the crucifixion of Jesus, a literal resurrection of Jesus, as well as a literal second coming of Jesus. [166] Commentators have criticized the Divine Principle for saying that the First World War, the Second World War, the Holocaust, and the Cold War served as indemnity conditions to prepare the world for the

establishment of the Kingdom of God.<sup>[167]</sup> In 2003, George D. Chryssides of the University of Wolverhampton criticized Moon for introducing doctrines which tended to divide the Christian church rather than uniting it, which was his stated purpose in founding the Unification movement (originally named the Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity).<sup>[3]</sup> In his 2009 autobiography Moon himself wrote that he did not originally intend on founding a separate denomination at all.<sup>[168]</sup>

During the Cold War Moon was criticized by both the mainstream media and the alternative press for his [anti-communist]] activism, which many said could lead to World War Three and a nuclear holocaust. [169] Moon's anti-communist activities received financial support from controversial Japanese millionaire and activist Ryōichi Sasakawa. [170][171] In 1977 the Subcommittee on International Organizations of the Committee on International Relations, of the United States House of Representatives, while investigating the Koreagate scandal found that the South Korean National Intelligence Service (KCIA) had worked with the Unification Church to gain political influence within the United States, with some members working as volunteers in Congressional offices. Together they founded the Korean Cultural Freedom Foundation, a nonprofit organization which undertook public diplomacy for the Republic of Korea. [172] The committee also investigated possible KCIA influence on the Moon's campaign in support of Richard Nixon. [173] In 1980, Moon founded the international anti-communist organization CAUSA International which supported the Nicaraguan Contras and also reportedly helped finance a Bolivian military coup which successfully overthrew a democratically elected government. Moon's newspaper, *The Washington Times* is said to have played a major role in introducing right wing propaganda into the United States news media, with links to Rush Limbaugh and Glenn Beck. [174][175] After the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, some American conservatives criticized Moon for his softening of his previous anti-communist stance. [107][108]

In the 1990s when Moon began to offer the Unification marriage blessing ceremony to members of other churches and religions he was criticized for creating possible confusion.<sup>[176]</sup> In 1998, journalist Peter Maass reported that some Unification members were dismayed and grumbled when Moon extended the Blessing to non-members because they had not gone through the same course that members had.<sup>[177]</sup> In 2001, Moon came into conflict with the Roman Catholic Church when Catholic archbishop Emmanuel Milingo and Maria Sung, a 43-year-old Korean acupuncturist, married in a blessing ceremony, presided over by Rev. and Mrs. Moon. Following his marriage the Archbishop was called to the Vatican by Pope John Paul II, where he was asked not to see his wife anymore, and to move to a Capuchin monastery.<sup>[24]</sup> Sung went on a hunger strike to protest their separation. This attracted much media attention.<sup>[25]</sup> Milingo is now an advocate of the removal of the requirement for celibacy by priests in the Catholic Church. He is the founder of Married Priests Nowl.<sup>[178]</sup>

Moon opposed homosexuality and compared gay people to "dirty dung-eating dogs". [179] He said that "gays will be eliminated" in a "purge on God's orders". [180] In 2000 Moon was criticized, including by some members of his church, for his support of controversial Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan's Million Family March. [29] Moon was also criticized for his relationship with controversial Jewish scholar Richard L. Rubenstein, an advocate of the "Death of God theology" of the 1960s. [181] Rubenstein was a defender of the Unification Church and served on its advisory council, [182] as well as on the board of directors of the church-owned *Washington Times* newspaper. [183] In the 1990s, he served as president of the University of Bridgeport which was then affiliated with the church. [184] In 1998 the Egyptian newspaper Al-Ahram criticized Moon's possible relationship with Israeli president Benjamin Netanyahu and wrote that the *Washington Times* editorial policy was "rabidly anti-Arab, anti-Muslim and pro-Israel." [185][186]

In 2009 Moon's support for the Japan–Korea Undersea Tunnel was criticized in Japan and South Korea as a possible threat to both nations' interests and national identities. [187] In 2012 *The New Republic* criticized Moon on a number of points: His neglect of his wife, Hak Ja Han, and his appointments of their children and their spouses to leadership positions in the church and related businesses, including their daughter In Jin Moon to the presidency of the Unification Church of the United States against the wishes of many church members; his support of right-wing elements within the government of South Korea, and using movement members and resources for business projects and political activism, including *The Washington Times*. *The New Republic* also criticized the relationship between the Unification Church and Islam, especially following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in New York City; as well as the relationship between Moon and his family and the family of then United States Vice President Joe Biden. [174]

### Views on the role of Moon to church members [edit]

The *Divine Principle* itself says about Moon: "With the fullness of time, God has sent one person to this earth to resolve the fundamental problems of human life and the universe. His name is Sun Myung Moon. For several decades he wandered through the spirit world so vast as to be beyond imagining. He trod a bloody path of suffering in search of the truth, passing through tribulations that God alone remembers. Since he understood that no one can find the ultimate truth to save humanity without first passing through the bitterest of trials, he fought alone against millions of devils, both in the spiritual and physical worlds, and triumphed over them all. Through intimate spiritual communion with God and by meeting with Jesus and many saints in Paradise, he brought to light all the secrets of Heaven."[188]

In 1978 Rodney Sawatsky wrote in an article in *Theology Today*: "Why trust Rev. Moon's dreams and visions of the new age and his role in it, we ask? Most converts actually have had minimal contact with him. Frederick Sontag (Sun Myung Moon and the Unification Church, Abingdon, 1977) in his interviews with Moon appears to have found a pleasant but not an overwhelming personality. Charisma, as traditionally understood, seems hardly applicable here. Rather, Moon provides a model. He suffered valiantly, he knows confidently, he prays assuredly, he lives lovingly, say his followers. The Divine Principle is not an unrealizable ideal; it is incarnate in a man, it lives, it is imitable. His truth is experienced to be their truth. His explanation of the universe becomes their understanding of themselves and the world in which they live."[162]

In 1980 sociologist Irving Louis Horowitz commented: "The Reverend Moon is a fundamentalist with a vengeance. He has a belief system that admits of no boundaries or limits, an all-embracing truth. His writings exhibit a holistic concern for the person, society, nature, and all things embraced by the human vision. In this sense the concept underwriting the Unification church is apt, for its primary drive and appeal is unity, urging a paradigm of essence in an overly complicated world of existence. It is a ready-made doctrine for impatient young people and all those for whom the pursuit of the complex has become a tiresome and fruitless venture." [189]

In 1998 investigative journalist Peter Maass wrote in an article in *The New Yorker*: "There are, certainly, differing degrees of devotion among Moon's followers; the fact that they bow at the right moment or shout *Mansei!* in unison doesn't mean they believe everything Moon says, or do precisely what he commands. Even on important issues, like Moon's claiming to be the messiah, there are church members whom I met, including a close aide to Moon, who demur. A religious leader whom they respect and whose theology they believe, yes; the messiah, perhaps not."[190]

In his 2004 book *The New Religious Movement Experience in America* Eugene V. Gallagher wrote: "The *Divine Principle's* analysis of the Fall sets the stage for the mission of Rev. Moon, who in the last days brings a revelation that offers humankind the chance to return to an Edenic state. The account in the *Divine Principle* offers Unificationists a comprehensive context for understanding human suffering, "[191]

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### External links [edit]

- . Official website of the American Unification Church &
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- . Teachings ☑ Integrated videos and transcripts
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  founded by Moons in 2005.





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