

Celebrating 70 Years

The United States &
South Korea Alliance



The U.S. Welcomes
President Yoon Suk Yeol



Celebrating 70 Years

The United States & South Korea Alliance

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WE GO TOGETHER



The 2023 ROK-U.S. Summit will reaffirm the 70-year history of our alliance and set a milestone for our future alliance 70 years hence.

KUSAF and KDVA warmly back the ROK-U.S. Summit and hope it brings stability, peace and prosperity.

This State Visit by ROK President Yoon and the Summit with U.S. President Biden signify the relationship between the U.S. and ROK taking a leap forward.

The ROK-U.S. Alliance is irreplaceable and forged in blood.

The people of the Republic of Korea express their gratitude to Korean War Veterans and Korea Defense Veterans who continue to serve the ROK-U.S. Alliance.

The ROK-U.S. Alliance's objective remains the denuclearization of North Korea as well as a commitment to extended deterrence.

The alliance will evolve into a global strategic partnership that promotes stability, peace and prosperity.

KDVA and KUSAF fully support the success of this historic ROK-U.S. Summit and a strong ROK-U.S. Alliance.



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Georgia-Korea relationship provides a shining example of mutual prosperity



By Governor Brian Kemp

Georgia has been recognized as the No. 1 state in the country to do business for nine consecutive years. That's no accident.

This distinction is the result of proven conservative policies; a pro-business partnership approach; and our decision to trust hardworking Georgians during the pandemic. It is also a result of the resilience of job creators, our nation-leading workforce development programs, and investments in our international relationships.

Since 2020, \$17.5 billion in investments by Korean firms are creating 23,000 jobs across the Peach State.

That's why when companies like Kia, Hyundai Motor Group, SK Group, and others are looking to expand their operations, Georgia is the natural choice. Since 2020, \$17.5 billion in investments by Korean firms are creating 23,000 jobs across the Peach State.

These record-breaking projects do not happen overnight. Georgia's Department of Economic Development – renowned for its responsiveness and assistance with businesses of all sizes – spent years laying the groundwork and building the partnerships needed to foster a successful relationship with our friends in Korea.

These efforts have yielded incredible success, including the establishment of Kia Georgia in West Point. Since its 2006 announcement, this factory and its suppliers have created over 14,000 direct jobs while setting the standard for giving back to the community.

Since I first took office in 2019,

the connection between Georgia and Korea has only grown, with even more explosive investments. I made the first economic development mission of my administration to Korea that same year and celebrated the groundbreaking of SK Battery America's (SKBA) facility in Jackson County. SKBA continues to expand, now employing over 2,600 Georgians with an expectation to surpass 3,000 by year's end.

facility in the Western Hemisphere, it will employ over 4,000 Georgians across northeast Georgia. This project has been years in the making and is a direct result of state and local efforts.

Each of these job creators recognized the distinct advantages of doing business in the Peach State: world-class infrastructure, including the world's most-utilized airport in Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson, two deepwater ports in Savannah

made here, which in reality were worked on before they took office, they also try to skirt blame for the damage caused by their policies.

While some politicians have put policy ahead of people, Georgia's commitment to bringing opportunity to all our citizens, regardless of their zip code, has led to a partnership with Korean job creators that is bringing generational investment to hardworking Georgians.



COURTESY OF THE OFFICE OF GEORGIA GOVERNOR BRIAN P. KEMP

Governor Brian P. Kemp attends the groundbreaking ceremony at the future site of Hyundai Motor Group's Metaplant in Savannah, GA.

On top of that incredible growth, last year, I announced the largest economic development project in state history: Hyundai's investment of \$5.54 billion to build its first factory dedicated to all electric vehicle production near Savannah. This site alone will create approximately 8,100 jobs, and suppliers in the surrounding area have already announced commitments to create thousands more.

In January, I announced Qcells, a worldwide leader in solar panel production that opened in Georgia in 2019, is doubling its current footprint. Already the largest solar panel manufacturing

and Brunswick, and highways connecting all major centers of commerce; the best workforce training program in the nation, Quick Start; and a friendly business environment where we work with companies, not against them.

These factors have reinforced our economic connections with our partners in Korea and throughout the world. They have kept our state on the cutting-edge of developing industries, as the electric-mobility revolution develops strong roots in every corner of the Peach State.

While some in Washington, D.C., try to claim credit for the investments being

I will continue to work with state and local leaders to ensure that Georgia remains the business-friendly environment companies can rely on.

Brian Kemp is 83rd Governor of Georgia. Under his leadership, Georgia has broken economic records with jobs and investment coming to every corner of the state in communities large and small. Governor Kemp, First Lady Marty Kemp, and their three daughters live on their family farm in Athens and are committed to building a safer, stronger Georgia for all who call the Peach State "home."

The U.S.-South Korea relationship: Shared sacrifices in war, strong partnership in peace



By U.S. Sen. Tom Cotton

This week, President Biden will welcome South Korea's President, Yoon Suk-yeol, to the White House, where they will celebrate a security partnership that has endured for 70 years. This occasion gives us the opportunity to reflect on the unique, reciprocal, and special relationship our nations share. The U.S.-South Korea partnership is more important than ever as we face growing threats to our prosperity and security from communist China and North Korea.

We forged this bond through shared adversity and struggle. In June 1950, the North Korean military rolled across the 38th parallel in Soviet-made tanks and under Soviet air cover, smashing South Korea's defenses. American troops rushed to South Korea's defense, but they too were pushed back by a more numerous and better prepared enemy. At Pusan, near the southern tip of the Korean peninsula, North Korean armies surrounded American and South Korean forces. For a dark moment, it seemed the communists would win the first major conflict of the Cold War in a rout.

Then the legendary General Douglas MacArthur launched one of the most daring and brilliant amphibious landings in history. He successfully landed tens of thousands of troops deep behind enemy lines on the shores of Inchon, throwing the communists into chaos and disarray. American and South Korean forces pushed back the enemy toward the banks of the Yalu. The reunification of the Korea seemed at hand, when hundreds of thousands of Chairman Mao's soldiers stormed across the Chinese border, forcing our soldiers back below the 38th parallel.

For the next two years, American and South Korean service members endured brutal combat against Chinese



If we are to defend ourselves and prevent another devastating war, the United States and South Korea must strengthen our partnership economically, diplomatically, and militarily.

and North Korean forces. It wasn't until President Eisenhower threatened nuclear war that the communists came to the table and agreed to an armistice.

America came to South Korea's aid in its moment of need, and South Korea returned the favor a decade later. When American soldiers once again deployed to fight Chinese-backed communists, this time in Vietnam, South Korea sent more than 300,000 soldiers to fight in that "noble cause," as Reagan called it. In so doing, South Korea demonstrated that it was much more than a "fair weather" friend.

Our shared sacrifices in war laid the foundation for a strong partnership in peace. Over the decades, we have built a prosperous trade relationship that has enriched both countries. And in 1987, President Reagan memorably helped midwife South Korea's democracy, urging its strongman, Chun Doo-hwan, to step down amid pro-democracy protests and offering a face-saving visit to the White House so that his dictatorship

could end without humiliation.

Since the start of our partnership, South Korea has risen from poverty to prosperity and from dictatorship to democracy. It is now a strong, vibrant, and secure nation—quite a contrast with the regime to its north, whose subjects suffer in squalor, forced to worship the cult of Kim.

The stark difference between South Korea and North Korea shows the difference between capitalism and communism. But it's also a result of foreign policy. At the crossroads, South Korea chose America, while North Korea chose China. The results are so stark because America seeks partners, while China seeks puppets.

Although economically and morally inferior, the China-North Korea alliance is still dangerous—and growing more dangerous by the day. North Korea has resumed ballistic missile testing and has threatened to detonate another nuclear weapon, as a show of strength. Meanwhile, China is expanding its

conventional and nuclear arsenals at an unprecedented pace and appears to be preparing for an invasion of Taiwan. If we are to defend ourselves and prevent another devastating war, the United States and South Korea must strengthen our partnership economically, diplomatically, and militarily.

We must demonstrate that if China and North Korea seek war, we will win and they will lose. To this end, we must expand and improve our militaries, build up our munition stockpiles, and expand joint military exercises. And we must integrate our bilateral alliance with other partnerships in the region. President Yoon demonstrated bold statesmanship with his visit to Tokyo last month, and both sides are resuming their intelligence sharing agreement. Further efforts to improve relationships within and across alliances are essential.

We must also strengthen our commercial ties. South Korea is already America's sixth-largest trading partner. In recent years, American and South Korean firms have entered joint ventures to accelerate the development of battery and semiconductor technology. Samsung alone has pledged nearly \$200 billion dollars to build as many as 11 advanced chip plants in Texas. These investments could lead to a technology revolution that makes our peoples more prosperous and our nations more secure. Innovation aside, these investments are crucial to making our countries more resilient to outside disruption and less dependent on China, whose technology theft and anti-competitive practices hurt our companies every day.

For seven decades, our two nations have traded together, fought together, and succeeded together. Together we have shown the world how civilized nations ought to interact and together we have made each other stronger. And it is only together that we can ensure that the next seventy years are as prosperous as the last.

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U.S. Senator Tom Cotton serves as the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee for Criminal Justice and Counterterrorism on the Judiciary Committee and the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee for Air Land Power on the Armed Services Committee. The Arkansas Republican is also a member of the Intelligence Committee. A graduate of Harvard Law School and former clerk with the U.S. Court of Appeals, he left the law to serve in the United States Army as an Infantry Officer on two combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. His military decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, and Ranger Tab.



ROK President Yoon welcomes Foreign Affairs Chairman McCaul and other members of the U.S. Congressional delegation visiting South Korea earlier this month.

Celebrating 70 years of partnership with South Korea



By U.S. Rep. Michael McCaul

We are living in an increasingly dangerous time, as hostile nation states such as Russia, China, North Korea, and Iran are threatening the global balance of power.

As we face this generational challenge to maintain the rules-based order, now, more than ever, our allies are critical, as they are often the first line of defense against growing authoritarianism.

One of the most important U.S. allies in the Indo-Pacific is South Korea, and

this year marks the 70-year anniversary of the U.S. - South Korea relationship. Born out of a security-focused relationship after the Korean War hostilities ceased in 1953, this partnership has flourished and become one of mutual benefit and strategic importance.

South Korea's security environment is increasingly complex with persistent nuclear and missile threats from North Korea, and an increasingly aggressive Chinese Communist Party. In response, South Korea released a new Indo-Pacific strategy, which details these threats and outlines South Korea's important role in the world.

Given this new strategy, I encourage the Yoon administration to put action behind its words and support democratic nations such as Ukraine and Taiwan that are under threat from aggressive, authoritarian neighbors.

I recently returned from a trip to Northeast Asia, where I led a bipartisan Congressional Delegation to South Korea to hold meetings with President Yoon, Foreign Minister Park Jin, and several National Assembly members, as well as U.S. Ambassador Goldberg. I also had the pleasure of confirming to President Yoon that he would be invited to speak to a Joint Meeting of Congress on April 27th.

During our meetings, we had

very candid discussions regarding the growing threat of the Chinese Communist Party in the region, and the need for all U.S. security allies, including South Korea, to ensure that Taiwan remains a free, democratic nation. We also discussed the need to stand together against economic coercion, for instance in critical minerals and essential technologies such as semiconductors.

Semiconductors are a foundational technology, powering everything from your phone to common household appliances, and everything in between. They power the weapons systems that keep Americans safe and process the data that runs the global economy. Currently, 90% of these advanced semiconductor chips are made in Taiwan and a disruption in the supply chain from Communist China would have devastating global consequences.

The growing threats from an increasingly hostile Communist China and a belligerent North Korea are not going away and we must strengthen our bilateral relationships to counter these malign provocations, and to provide the deterrence necessary to avoid an increase in hostilities.

As the Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, I believe it is critical to have these bipartisan

Congressional Delegations to meet face to face with our allies and partners to discuss our mutual interests and reiterate our commitment to both regional and global security.

This trip to the region has crystallized the importance of our bilateral relationship and South Korea's vital role in the region. South Korea is the linchpin of peace, security, and prosperity in Asia.

The United States and its partners do not seek conflict - but only through strength and partnerships can we provide the deterrence necessary to secure peace in the region, and around the globe. Weakness only emboldens our enemies and invites aggression.

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U.S. Representative Michael McCaul is the Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. He is also the Co-Founder and Co-Chair of the Congressional High Tech Caucus and the Cybersecurity Caucus. Prior to Congress, he served as Chief of Counter Terrorism and National Security in the U.S. Attorney's office, Western District of Texas, and led the Joint Terrorism Task Force charged with detecting, deterring, and preventing terrorist activity. Currently serving his 10th term in the U.S. House, he represents the 10th Congressional District of Texas.

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A bowl of rice topped with many vegetable, fried pork and egg yolk, a famous traditional Korean food called Bibimbap.

The latest Asian culinary invasion: K-food

Korean cuisine is winning American hearts and bellies

By **ANDREW SALMON**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

SEOUL | Celebrity chefs, internet influencers and even Hollywood A-listers can't get enough of it.

The menu for President Biden's state dinner with visiting South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol next week hasn't been set, but if the two leaders are looking to feature a rising star on the world culinary scene, a South Korean main course would be a highly suitable choice.

"I've been intrigued with Korean cuisine for the last 15 to 20 years," said British superchef Gordon Ramsay. "I have, for some time, believed that the chefs doing the most interesting work in America — chefs who are in fact redefining what 'American food' means — are Korean," said the late New York chef, television host and writer Anthony Bourdain.

And actress and lifestyle guru Gwyneth Paltrow, describing her diet to overcome COVID-19, gave a shout-out to

"sugar-free kimchi."

It's a big change from the days when international hotel staffers dreaded the arrival of South Korean tour groups, notorious for carrying the spicy — but piquant — condiment that graces every Korean meal into their dining rooms.

South Korean food is the latest Asian cuisine to infiltrate U.S. parlors, kitchens and restaurants. Chinese and Mexican restaurants may still have pride of place, but a foodfirefriends.com survey last fall listed Korean food as the fifth most popular in the U.S. based on Google searches, behind Chinese, Mexican, Thai and Indian cuisine.

As postwar Americans began to sample more adventurous dishes than their meat-and-potatoes parents; as overseas servicemen were exposed to foreign food offerings outside their bases in Japan, Korea and Vietnam. As global tourism and globalization advanced, so did appreciation for the variety of Asian cuisines.

The popularity of South Korean cuisine in the U.S. benefited from two macro trends, foodies say.

One was the dining habits of the approximately 2 million-strong Korean-American communities, and the restaurants they set up in ethnic enclaves across the country.

The other was the victorious march of Korean pop culture in the last decade:

K-pop, K-drama, K-film. The cultural impact spilled over on to the nation's dining room tables.

"Traditionally, whenever there is a drama, there is a dining scene," said Yang Sun-mook, a former South Korean government adviser and restaurateur. "It's almost a rule for any Korean TV drama — food has been an indispensable prop."

Korean cuisine's roots lie in the austere vegetarianism of the Buddhist temples, the hearty offerings of the rural peasantry and the sophisticated palates of aristocracy and royalty.

Rice-based, Korean meals can feature fresh seafood from the waters surrounding the peninsula on three sides, but also offer some of Asia's finest meat-cooking methods.

A specialty is fermented ingredients, such as kimchi, the pickled vegetable that supplies critical vitamins during the harsh winters, and jang — thick, piquant, fermented sauces.

For a quick primer on the essentials of Korean cooking, here are 10 popular offerings to consider for your next meal:

- **Galbi:** Pork ribs, cooked by diners on the griddle set into their tabletops and carved with scissors, will delight carnivores.

- **Samgyeopsal:** Slices of pork belly, dipped in salt and sesame — again, cooked

at the table — are cheaper than galbi, and are the traditional salaryman's solace.

- **Bibimbap:** A bowl of rice mixed with vegetables and meat, often topped by an egg and flavored with spicy sauce, is a simple favorite, popular on international flight menus.

- **Pajeon:** This meal of savory pancakes, dipped in soy sauce, is an essential part of the recovery from a hike in South Korea's ubiquitous mountains.

- **Budae Jjigae:** This "regimental stew" of kimchi, spam and/or frankfurters dates back to the 1950-53 Korean War and has been served to visiting U.S. presidents.

- **Doenjang Jjigae:** This thick stew of fermented soybeans is a more muscular, punchier version of the Japanese dish miso.

- **Hanjonshik:** Not a dish per se, but a table groaning under the weight of a constantly arriving series of dishes. It's how Korean royalty of yore dined.

- **Tteokbokki:** These cylinders of rice pasta in spicy gravy are a street-food staple, available nationwide.

- **Makkoli:** A milky-looking, white rice brew, this traditional sweet and/or sour concoction — unique to Korea — has undergone a renaissance in recent years.

- **Soju:** No Korean meal is complete without a bottle or two of this cheap but cheerful, vodka-like grain spirit.



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of the U.S. and ROK Alliance!

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Yoon Suk Yeol on your State
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The United States and South Korea alliance: An enduring friendship in the 21st century



By U.S. Rep. Ami Bera, M.D.

Earlier this month, I had the pleasure of traveling to South Korea with my House Foreign Affairs Committee colleagues. On April 27, I will have the honor of welcoming President Yoon Suk Yeol as he addresses a joint meeting of Congress during his visit to the United States. President Yoon's visit commemorates the 70th anniversary of the alliance between the United States and the Republic of Korea (ROK, as South Korea is officially known)—an alliance based on mutual security and economic interests, as well as dedication to the rule of law, human rights, and democracy.

The U.S.-ROK partnership is one of the most successful bilateral relationships in history. Built upon shared sacrifice throughout the Korean War, the United States and South Korea became formal allies, signing a Mutual Defense Treaty on October 1, 1953. Today, our Mutual Defense Treaty endures, and our relationship has expanded upon its solid foundation. South Korea supports U.S. troop presence on the peninsula, with its military expenditures amounting to 2.8% of its GDP, one of the largest percentages among U.S. allies. Korea is also our seventh largest trading partner, with \$227 billion of trade in 2022. South Korea continues to invest in the U.S., with foreign direct investment reaching \$72.5 billion in 2021, up 14.9% from the previous year.

The ROK is also a trusted partner when it comes to battling the existential threats our world faces, such as infectious diseases and climate change. At the Global Fund's Seventh Replenishment conference, hosted by President Biden last fall, the ROK announced a pledge of \$100 million, a fourfold increase from its Sixth Replenishment pledge. The pledged amount will go to fight HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria,



Washington and Seoul must also continue to cooperate on emerging technologies that will dominate the 21st century to include artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, quantum computing, and clean energy technology.

as well as supporting resilient health systems around the world. South Korean companies have also invested billions in the United States creating thousands of American jobs in clean energy and electrical vehicle battery manufacturing.

Additionally, the robust U.S.-South Korea relationship is critical to advancing a free and open Indo-Pacific in the 21st century. In March, South Korea co-hosted the second Summit for Democracy, and announced they would hold a future third Summit. In December of 2022, Korea unveiled its Indo-Pacific Strategy, which shares the United States Indo-Pacific Strategy's goals to strengthen the rules-based international order to ensure a free, peaceful, and prosperous Indo-Pacific.

As we enter the 70th year of the alliance, our relationship faces increasingly complex challenges. North Korea presents a significant security threat to both nations. North Korea (officially known as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, or DPRK) has resumed an intense missile testing regime, launching both short range missiles designed to target the peninsula as well as Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs) that pose a risk to the continental United States. North Korea has also tested six nuclear weapons and may attempt another nuclear test soon.

However, the DPRK's antagonistic activities are not the only threat to our shared values of promoting democracy, advancing human rights, and respect for a rules-based international order. Malign activity by the government of

the People's Republic of China represents a security risk throughout the region. COVID-19 has demonstrated the need for international cooperation to prepare and respond to the next pandemic. Washington and Seoul must also continue to cooperate on emerging technologies that will dominate the 21st century to include artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, quantum computing, and clean energy technology.

As the Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee Indo-Pacific Subcommittee and Co-Chair of the bipartisan Congressional Caucus on Korea, one of the largest bipartisan caucuses on Capitol Hill, I am enthusiastic about working with the Yoon Administration to advance the bilateral relationship. I commend President Yoon's visit to Japan last month and look forward to working with both countries to advance the U.S.-Japan-ROK trilateral partnership. I also applaud South Korea's participation in the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF), which will enhance the U.S.-South Korean economic relationship beyond the 2012

United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement (KORUS FTA). The ROK has also been a dependable partner in assisting Ukraine throughout Russia's war of aggression, with a recent \$130 million pledge to address the humanitarian and infrastructure needs of Ukraine.

During my trip to South Korea earlier this month, I joined my House Foreign Affairs Committee colleagues in meeting with high-ranking officials including President Yoon, Foreign Minister Park Jin, and National Assembly Speaker Kim Jin-pyo. The conversations we had in Korea reaffirmed both countries' commitment to our shared values, unshakable alliance, and enduring friendship.

The U.S.-ROK Alliance is one forged in war but has grown as our shared values and interests have brought both nations even closer together. The last 70 years have been an undoubted success, and I look forward to what the next 70 years will bring.

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U.S. Representative Ami Bera, M.D., is the Ranking Member of the Indo-Pacific Subcommittee the House Foreign Affairs Committee. He is also a member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic as well as the Co-Chair of the Congressional Korea Caucus. The longest-serving Indian American in Congress, he represents California's Sixth Congressional District and was the Chief Medical Officer in Sacramento County during his 22 year medical career prior to elected office.

We can all learn from the Korean Peninsula



By U.S. Rep. Mike Gallagher

To the north of the demilitarized zone (DMZ) on the Korean Peninsula lies a cautionary tale of what a “no-limits” partnership with the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) looks like in practice. Total isolation. Rampant poverty. Horrific human rights abuses.

A no-limits partnership with the CCP means there are no limits to how much they can exploit you. As journalist Barbara Demick’s interview with a defector summed it up: “Dogs in China ate better than doctors in North Korea.” To say that North Korea has been rendered a hermetic tributary state to the Middle Kingdom is an insult to other historical hermetic tributary states.

Over 90% of North Korea’s imports come from China. The export stats are nearly as lopsided. China is not a trading partner—it is a trade dictator to North Korea, whose dependency is so acute that it has no leverage.

North Korea relies on political and economic support from the CCP to shield its nuclear weapons program from the worst effects of international sanctions. There has been evidence People’s Republic of China (PRC)-origin technology has assisted North Korea’s missile program, and North Korea relies on China’s internet infrastructure for its cyber attacks. Many of North Korea’s cyber agents are even located within the PRC.

For 70 years, China has underwritten North Korea militarily, technologically, and economically. And perhaps most egregious of all, the Chinese Communist Party has prevented the reunification of the Korean Peninsula, standing in the way of the deep desire of the Korean people.

In stark contrast, to the south of the DMZ lies a nation who sided with the free world, and the United States, instead of the Chinese Communist Party. Its economy is booming, and its culture is the envy of the world.

South Korean TV shows top the



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Topography of the Korean Peninsula in Seonam Village, Yeongwol.

streaming charts, South Korean music shakes dancefloors from Bangkok to Boston, and South Korean movies win Hollywood’s biggest prizes. Not to mention, one in four smartphones in the world is made by Samsung and much of the world’s trade floats on South Korean-built ships. South Korea’s success is one of the greatest reproofs to the arguments of totalitarian apologists.

The CCP’s goal is to make it too costly to resist their control. They also seek to use their economic leverage to drive a wedge between the United States and South Korea. But we’re not going to let that happen.

South Korea’s President Yoon Suk Yeol understands the dangers of becoming too economically reliant on the Chinese Communist Party — and is taking ac-

South Korea and the United States must stand united to ensure that Xi Jinping does not shatter the stability in the Indo-Pacific that has allowed so many countries like South Korea to prosper over the last seventy years.

That is the choice at hand. Peace and prosperity or utter poverty and the constant threat of war.

The Chinese Communist Party might not be sending soldiers across the Yalu River as they did in 1950, but they, unquestionably, are on the march. Today, CCP aggression comes in the form of economic coercion, propaganda, and political warfare. It comes in the form of elite capture and United Front work. The low-interest loan for a dam or airport today is the seed for tomorrow’s no-limits partnership.

tion to reduce critical dependencies on China while maintaining trade ties. He is continuing to work with the United States to improve the bilateral trade relationship, which will help reduce our mutual dependence on China while boosting our resilience to CCP economic coercion.

In 2022, an aide to President Yoon saw the future and declared, “We need supply chain alliances.” Less than a year later, the “Fab 4” semiconductor alliance, comprised of the United States, Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan held its first senior officials meeting on supply chain

resilience in Taipei.

President Yoon has also stood up to Beijing’s military demands, refusing to go along with Xi Jinping’s “three no’s”: no deployment of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense System (THAAD), no participation in the U.S. missile defense network, and no trilateral military alliance with the United States and Japan.

South Korea is grappling with the same challenges as the United States and most freedom loving countries: how to maintain non-threatening economic ties with China while ensuring that this commerce does not result in a dependence that risks our national security nor our independence as a nation.

Supply chain alliances should also be a forum to resist economic coercion; ensuring that the United States, South Korea, and others discourage their companies from undermining each other if the PRC chooses to engage in economic retaliation. South Korea itself has been a victim of PRC economic coercion, with the PRC announcing restrictions on PRC tourists going to South Korea and restricting the import of certain South Korean consumer products. Only by standing together can we resist CCP-directed economic coercion.

Above all, South Korea and the United States must stand united to ensure that Xi Jinping does not shatter the stability in the Indo-Pacific that has allowed so many countries like South Korea to prosper over the last seventy years. That means deterring People’s Liberation Army (PLA) aggression in the Taiwan Strait as well as North Korean nuclear brinkmanship. We should expand cooperation across our militaries, supply chains, sanction and export control regimes, and other areas, to generate the maximum deterrent effect.

President Yoon has made it clear how ardently he hopes for a better lot for the people of North Korea, and how ready he is to meet any turn towards disarmament with an outstretched hand of friendship. We in Congress hope that our two countries, together with other allies and partners, can work to strengthen the increasingly fragile supply chain for the most critical export of all: peace.

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U.S. Representative Mike Gallagher serves as Chairman of the Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party, as Chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Cyber, Information Technologies, and Innovation, and on the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. He represents Wisconsin’s Eighth Congressional District and served for seven years on active duty as a U.S. Marine, including two deployments to Iraq.

'South Korea is model for all countries'



By Amb. Joseph R. DeTrani

On the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the U.S.-South Korea alliance, the state visit of President Yoon Suk Yeol is an opportunity to reflect on past challenges and successes and strategize on upcoming challenges and opportunities to enhance the alliance and contribute to world peace.

Indeed, South Korea is a model for all countries. From a country devastated by the Korean War that ended with an Armistice on July 27, 1953, to a dynamic liberal democracy with the 10th largest GDP and a world leader in mobile phones, semiconductors, automobiles, chemicals, music and cinema. The “miracle of the Han River” is testimony to what a free market economy, tethered to the rule of law and the universal values that undergird its democracy, is capable of accomplishing.

President Yoon's first year in office has been impressive. He has worked hard to strengthen South Korea's allied relationship with the U.S. He has reached out to Japan, holding the first summit in over a decade with Japanese Prime minister Kishida Fumio in mid-March. These and other initiatives have contributed to South Korea's status as a “global pivotal state”, having been invited to the Group of Seven (G7) Summit in May 2023, with the potential for an eventual invitation to join the G7, making it a G8.

An understandable priority for the Yoon administration is relations with North Korea. Despite North Korea's refusal to engage with South Korea – and the U.S. – the Yoon administration has reached out to North Korea with its “audacious initiative” to help Pyongyang develop its economy. According to a Ministry of Unification White Paper published in April 2023, the priority is efforts to denuclearize North Korea, normalize inter-Korean ties, improve the North's human rights records, and prepare for



A dynamic liberal democracy with the 10th largest GDP and a world leader in mobile phones, semiconductors, automobiles, chemicals, music and cinema.

unification. These are impressive goals, certainly shared by the U.S. and others.

Given North Korea's race to build more nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles to deliver these nuclear weapons, the Yoon administration has worked closely with the Biden administration to enhance efforts to contain and deter North Korea, while reaching out to Pyongyang to provide humanitarian assistance and engage in a dialogue. To date, North Korea has rebuffed South Korea's – and the U.S.'s – outreach. Joint U.S.-South Korea military exercises have resumed, to ensure that the Joint Command can respond to any military provocation from the North.

The state visit of President Yoon and discussions with President Biden come at a critically important time. Tension on the Korean Peninsula is at an all-time high, with North Korea building more tactical and strategic nuclear weapons and an array of ballistic missiles capable of delivering these weapons of mass destruction. The recent launch of a solid fuel Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) – the Hwasong 18 – reportedly capable of reaching the whole of the U.S. is indicative of Pyongyang's efforts to threaten all countries.

Since the Korean War, China has had a long-allied relationship with North

to get the North to return to negotiations with the U.S. and South Korea and refrain from additional nuclear tests and missile launches.

China is South Korea's largest trading partner, with 26% of its exports in 2022, followed by the U.S. with 16%. China has reached out to South Korea, based on a relationship of mutual benefits, given their trade and economic relationship and concern for nuclear developments with North Korea. In that context, China facilitating a dialogue between the two Koreas would be an appropriate gesture to the South.

Also on the likely agenda will be South Korea's concern with the Inflation Reduction Act and the CHIPS Act and media speculation in the South about U.S. protectionism. Addressing these concerns will be an important part of these discussions.

The state visit of President Yoon Suk Yeol will be an opportunity for the leaders of both countries to recommit to an enduring allied relationship.

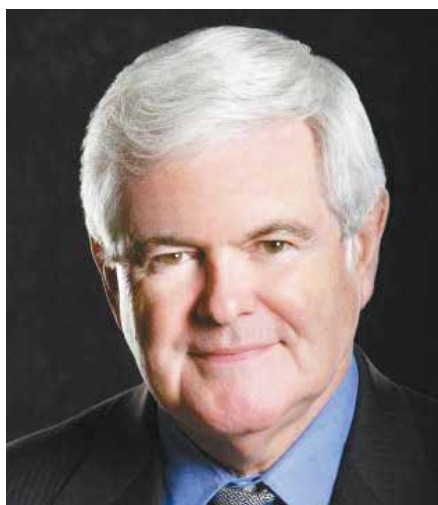
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Ambassador Joseph R. DeTrani is the former Special Envoy for Negotiations with North Korea and the former Director of the National Counterproliferation Center. The views are the author's and not any U.S. Government agency or department.



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South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol said Tuesday, March 21, 2023, his government will take steps to restore Japan's preferential trade status as he's trying to push for his contentious bid to resolve fraught ties with Japan despite domestic opposition.

President Yoon: Champion of freedom



By Newt Gingrich

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol's visit to the United States is an important moment for the relationship between our two nations. The Republic of Korea is a cornerstone of our strength in containing the Kim Jong Un dictatorship in North Korea and balancing the growing power of communist China.

It is hard to believe, but this is the 70th anniversary of the United States-Republic of Korea alliance. For seven decades, we have worked together to

provide security on a peninsula which has all too often been invaded.

I have a personal interest in this 70th anniversary, because my father was fighting in Korea during the last year of the war, which began when the North Korean communist dictatorship invaded the South in June 1950. It was extended by the massive intervention of the Chinese communists in the fall of that year.

President Yoon is a great example of the unique pattern of the rule of law, free expression, and free elections which define the modern South Korean nation.

My family has had a long and deep commitment to the security of South Korea and the maintenance of peace on the peninsula.

As Speaker, I visited the Republic and was privileged to welcome President Dae-Jung Kim to address a joint session of the Congress. Listening to him say "thank you" because the United States had saved his life from political enemies in his own country was an emotionally powerful experience.

Today, South Korea is a technologically advanced nation competitive in

the world market in a wide variety of industries. It is a vibrant and exciting free society.

President Yoon is a great example of the unique pattern of the rule of law, free expression, and free elections which define the modern South Korean nation.

He rose to the presidency through an unusual route. He was a career prosecutor focused on corruption. In fact, while he led the Supreme Prosecutor's Of-

fice, he launched investigations against Minister of Justice Cho Kuk, who was involved in various scandals.

Even more amazingly, with Yoon's courageous commitment to honesty and the rule of law, the prosecution indicted two former presidents (Lee Myung-bak and Park Geun-hye). Yoon was equally committed to rooting out corruption in the business community.

When Yoon retired as prosecutor, he entered politics as a member of the conservative People Power Party.

Since his election, President Yoon has

shown remarkable courage in solving difficult problems. His biggest risk came in deciding that the threat from communist China was too great. He knew a series of emotional issues dividing South Korea and Japan simply had to be resolved. Many Koreans resented his willingness to work with Japan, which had occupied Korea from 1910 to 1945 and had inflicted enormous physical and moral pain on the Korean people.

However, President Yoon concluded that the threats from China today and tomorrow outweighed the pain of the past. It was an act of enormous courage and cost him significantly in short term popularity.

As he visits Washington, we should remember that President Yoon has been an amazing fighter for law and order against corruption, and for our vital alliance. He is a staunch opponent of the North Korean dictatorship and deeply concerned about the threat from communist China.

He is a great friend to our country, and we should receive him in Washington as a member of the family of freedom.

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Speaker Newt Gingrich is Chairman of Gingrich 360, a multimedia production and consulting company based in Arlington, Virginia. For more commentary from Newt Gingrich, visit Gingrich360.com.



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BTS performs "Butter" at the American Music Awards on Sunday, Nov. 21, 2021 at Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles.

The Korean Wave: Why in Asia, "cool" is spelled with a "K"

'Hallyuwood' makes nation a cultural force to be reckoned with

By **ANDREW SALMON**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

SEOUL | Talk about a triple whammy.

In 2019 "Parasite" became the first foreign-language film to snag a "Best Picture" Oscar. In 2020, boy band BTS dominated the music charts and drew comparisons to The Beatles. And a year later, the culture-shaking TV series "Squid Game" became the most-watched show ever on Netflix.

All three hail from South Korea, a nation that has set global benchmarks for "zero-to-hero" surges in both hard and soft power.

South Korea and its cultural output were virtually unknown in international society before the Korean War. The devastated country was subsequently seen as a basket case in the 1950s, as an unlovely bastion of metal-bashing in the 1960s and 1970s, and as a hot spot of fiery political



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A LEGO set made of its blocks featuring K-pop band BTS, is displayed during a publicity event at a store in Seoul, South Korea, Thursday, March 2, 2023.

protests in the 1980s and 1990s.

Millennial South Korea, however has become a byword for cool — with a capital "K." Credit goes to "Hallyu" ("Korean Wave"), a term coined by a Chinese journalist in 1999 to describe an extraordinary outpouring of domestic pop-culture — K-drama, K-pop, K-film, K-gaming — that was

just beginning to swamp Asia.

Since then, "Hallyuwood" has swept the world, generating outsized artistic influence and attention for a country of just over 50 million people.

"Hallyu has been instrumental in enhancing Korea's national brand on the global stage," said Yang Sun-mook, former

government advisor who promotes South Korean "silver" fashion globally.

It provides a needed identity when your country is sandwiched between two cultural superpowers in China and Japan.

Seoul officials are "riding the coattails of Hallyu because they understand that soft power is better than hard power when you are a small country between the world's second and third largest economies, both with much larger populations," said CedarBough T. Saeji, who teaches Korean and East Asian studies at Pusan National University.

"A 'Made-in-Korea' tag once conjured up images of poverty or, in extreme cases, despotic leaders and nuclear missiles," added David Tizzard, who teaches Korean studies at Seoul Women's University "Now, Korea is not just winning the hearts of people though its cultural content, it's also writing its own national identity and securing legitimacy in its struggle with the North."

It has also been good for the national economy.

"According to the Korea Foundation, the Korean Wave has generated approximately \$100 billion in revenue since its inception in the late 1990s," Mr. Yang said. "Tourism

» see **HALLYU** | C15



From left, Lee Jung-jae, Jung Hyeon, Hwang Dong-hyuk and Park Hae Soo arrive at a red carpet event for “Squid Game” on Monday, Nov. 8, 2021, at NeueHouse Hollywood in Los Angeles.

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HALLYU

From page C14

has been positively impacted, with the number of foreign tourists visiting Korea increasing from 4.7 million in 2001 to 17.2 million in 2019.”

Stimulating creativity

Some overseas observers credit Hallyu – like Korea’s industrial and technological leaps – to brilliant policy-making. In reality, a complex spectrum of factors deserve credit.

The 1987 democratization wave saw censorship lifted and South Koreans freed to travel and study overseas, where they enrolled in film schools and binged on MTV. The government began pushing creative industries after seeing the success of Hollywood’s “Jurassic Park” franchise.

The 1997-1998 Asian financial crisis proved an even bigger stimulus, forcing old, established companies out of the entertainment business and allowing new talent to fill the vacuum. The crisis hammered the currency, and as cable TV came online across Southeast Asia, South Korean drama producers saw an opportunity to undercut Japanese competitors.

There was also sweat equity. Borrowing “corporate warrior” paradigms, South Korean talent agencies put prospective stars through rigorous, cross-training

regimens: singing, dancing, acting, modeling, promoting.

Language training was included. In recognition of the domestic market’s modest size, South Korean cultural content was consciously aimed toward Chinese, Japanese and Southeast Asia audiences.

Meanwhile, Seoul had invested massively in broadband. Fast-digitizing South Koreans embraced the internet, overturning old-school marketing and distribution mechanisms that had dominated global film and music.

The result: a kaleidoscope of unleashed creativity, savvy management, new-technology mastery and an openness to international influences.

From the late 1990s, K-pop and K-drama, populated by attractive, “nice guy/nice girl” stars, began attracting fan bases across Asia, Latin America and the Middle East.

Public funding helped, but analysts say Hallyuwood’s success was bottom-up, not top-down. “Government did not become involved in supporting K-pop until after K-pop had already been making international inroads,” said Mr. Saeji.

As the talent pool expanded, South Korean offerings became more sophisticated. Western audiences tuned into edgy, gritty K-films like violent thriller “Old Boy” (2003), and Psy’s catchy rap “Gangnam Style” (2012). It was only a matter of time before “Parasite,” “Squid Game” and BTS took London, New York and Paris by storm.



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Bong Joon Ho poses in the press room with the awards for best director for “Parasite” and for best international feature film for “Parasite” from South Korea at the Oscars in Los Angeles on Feb. 9, 2020.

“What Korea has successfully done is to create the next big stage for a modern, industrialized Asian country,” said Keiko Hagihara-Bang, who heads Bang Media Group and who notes that Hallyu is an asset for traditional K-products.

“Every second on the screen is a chance to generate interest in [Korean] fashion, design, food, cosmetics, tourism, electronics — even cars,” she said.

Hallyu’s versatility also has vaulted South Korea ahead of earlier Asian cultural powerhouses.

“While Hong Kong had its movies and Japan had its anime, ... this is happening

in Korea across multiple mediums - food, music, movies, beauty, fashion, computer games,” said Mr. Tizzard. “In a non-Western, non-English-speaking country, that has not really happened before. We are in uncharted territory.”

Uncharted – and inclusive.

“This ability to transform creativity into an interface for a country is most extraordinary,” said Ms. Hagihara-Bang. “I don’t think there’s another country in the world that has an entire society — government, business and civic forces — build a national brand in this way, without coercion.”

Time to neutralize North Korea's missile threat



By Stephen Meyer,
Discovery Institute

Recently Rep. Mike Rogers, the Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee (HASC), issued an urgent call to upgrade America's defenses against missile attack. His statement came in response to yet more North Korean Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBM) tests, including several involving long-range missiles capable of reaching virtually any American city with nuclear warheads.

In his press release, Chairman Rogers, a stalwart proponent of missile defense, emphasized the need to enhance current ground-based missile defenses by accelerating the development of a next generation (anti-missile) interceptor (NGI). He also urged continued research exploring the viability of a comprehensive space-based defensive system.

Such an all-of-the-above approach to missile defense is urgently needed. But there is another specific system for defending against missile attack that Rep. Rodgers and key congressional proponents of missile defense should immediately consider.

Missile defense experts have long advocated a multi-layered approach to missile defense because of the difficulty of destroying an ICBM in flight. Yet, currently the United States relies on only one layer of homeland missile defense, a ground-based system of anti-missile interceptors based in Alaska and California. Because the United States has a limited number of these interceptors, our present defensive system is vulnerable to a large volley of enemy ICBMs. Moreover, tests of these interceptors against dummy ICBMs have shown them effective in shooting down only about 50% of their targets. Meanwhile, space-based systems using directed energy (i.e., lasers) remain over a decade away from technical viability, as even many proponents acknowledge.



Fortunately, another layer of missile defense can be quickly and inexpensively added to the U.S. arsenal—indeed, one specifically designed to neutralize the threat of Kim Jung Un's ICBMs. The system concept, known as “Remotely Piloted Aircraft, Boost Phase Intercept” (or RPA BPI), was designed by Dr. Leonard Caveny, former Director of Science and Technology at the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization (now called The Missile Defense Agency).

Here's how it would work: The RPA BPI system would use drones as a high-altitude platform for hosting anti-missile interceptors. These remotely piloted aerial vehicles (RPAs) would patrol for 20-30 hours each at 40,000-45,000 feet above sea level in international airspace at a safe stand-off distance over the East Sea. Existing detection and data fusion technology would allow system operators on the ground to identify rising North Korean missiles in their hottest, slowest and easiest-to-detect “boost phase”—the time between launch and a missile reaching the upper atmosphere. Once operators on the ground identify a rising missile on a dangerous course, newly available, extremely high-speed (4km/sec) missile interceptors with sophisticated guidance systems would then destroy the hot, slow-rising ICBM by kinetic impact soon after launch—ensuring that any debris would fall onto or near North Korean territory.

By contrast, missiles during their mid-course and terminal phases

are much more difficult to intercept because they are smaller, moving-faster and capable of taking evasive counter measures. Yet, ground-based missile defense systems can intercept ICBMs only during these later phases of flight. Thus, adding another layer of defense capable of boost phase interception makes obvious sense.

The RPA BPI system is technologically viable, affordable (costing roughly \$100-\$150 million, not multiple billions) and could be built and tested within 24 months on an expedited “rapid fielding” basis. Drones for hosting these missiles are already used for persistent Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) all over the world. By using available propulsion and guidance technology and lighter weight materials to fashion much faster anti-missile interceptors, and by attaching them to available drones, engineers can convert an intelligence gathering system into a missile defense platform—using existing technologies.

In the future, the drone-based missile defense concept could be adapted to protect carrier groups in the Pacific against anti-ship missiles and to provide a coastal shield against submarine or cargo-ship launched missiles.

But can our deeply divided government mobilize itself quickly to field this game-changing technology?

There are reasons to hope so. Both parties now include prominent proponents of missile defense, including, not just Mike Rogers from conservative

Alabama, but also Adam Smith, the ranking Democratic member of the House Armed Services Committee, from liberal Washington state.

Further, Congress has already called on the Department of Defense to develop a boost phase intercept system specifically capable of neutralizing missile threats from regional powers such as North Korea. In the National Defense Authorization Act of 2018, Congress authorized “the Director of the Missile Defense Agency” to develop a “ballistic missile intercept layer. . .that is (1) regionally focused; (2) capable of providing boost-phase defense; and (3) [able to achieve] operational capability at the earliest practicable date.”

Unfortunately, the RPA BPI system has not yet been built despite a significant push for it from key congressional leaders in 2018. Since there is now an even more pressing need to deploy the system, perhaps Congress can come together across the aisle to shepherd this project through to completion. Doing so will protect American cities—in both red and blue states—from an increasingly existential threat.

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Stephen C. Meyer is a Senior Fellow of the Discovery Institute, a public policy think tank advancing a culture of purpose, creativity, and innovation. As part of Discovery's Technology and Democracy project, he conducts research and writes on missile defense policy and critical infrastructure protection.



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In this May 17, 1998, file photo, Se Ri Pak of South Korea poses with her trophy after winning the LPGA McDonald's Championship at the DuPont Country Club in Rockland, Del.

An unassuming winner sparks an unlikely sports dynasty

Se Ri Pak and the rise of South Korea's women golfers

By **DAVID R. SANDS**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The schedulers may not have realized it, but President Biden's plan to host South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol for a three-day state visit this month comes just before a milestone anniversary for the history of South Korean sports.

It was 25 years ago, on May 17, 1998, that a little-known 20-year-old rookie pro from the central South Korean city of Daejeon completed a three-stroke, wire-to-wire victory in the Ladies Professional Golf Association Championship, played at the DuPont Country Club in Mr. Biden's home state of Delaware. Ms. Pak's victory was the first by a South Korean golfer in one of the LPGA's four prestigious "major" tournaments.

It would not be the last — either for Ms. Pak or for a remarkable cohort of South

Korean female golfers who were about to transform the sport.

With just 0.66% of the world's population and a homeland that does not have much room to spare for ballfields, soccer pitches and golf courses, South Korea has always punched above its weight when it comes to international sporting competitions, in disciplines ranging from taekwondo, archery and short-track speed skating to team sports such as soccer and baseball.

Marathoner Hwang Young-cho won Olympic gold in Barcelona in 1992, and Kim Yu-na did the same in ladies' figure skating in the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, Canada. Baseball is hugely popular in South Korea and the victory by the national team in the 2008 Beijing Olympics set off a massive celebration back home. South Korean soccer players can be found on some of the world's elite

teams, and many rank the Red Devils' run to the semifinals at the 2004 FIFA World Cup, co-hosted with Japan, as perhaps the country's top sporting memory of the modern era.

But it's safe to say no win on the field, the rink or the pitch has had such a far-reaching impact as Ms. Pak's surprise victory that day in Delaware. Not only would Ms. Pak go on to win the U.S. Women's Open two months later — the youngest player ever to do so — and forge a Hall of Fame career, but she also proved a harbinger for a generation of South Korean female golfers, a national sports dynasty that would rival the Kenyan runners who followed the path blazed by Kipchoge Keino or the hordes of Swedish tennis stars who rose to prominence in the 1980s trying to be the next Bjorn Borg.

Golf came to the Korean peninsula in the early 20th century, according to a

2020 survey in the Asian Journal of Sport History and Culture, brought by foreign missionaries and dock workers during the period of Japanese colonial occupation. The ravages of World War II and the Korean War nearly decimated the sport in Korea.

"Korean golfers who survived the Japanese colonial era began to rebuild the golf courses, thereby creating the cornerstone of what has today become a global golf powerhouse," researchers Sang-woo Cho, Hyun Woo Lee and Gwang Ok wrote. Even then, however, the women's game took a distinct back seat to men's competitions.

Remarkably, given the number of golfers who would follow in her footsteps, Ms. Pak was the only South Korean player on the LPGA tour when she scored her breakthrough victories in 1998.

» see **DYNASTY** | C19



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South Korea team players listen to the national anthem prior to the Asian Football Confederation U20 Asian Cup semi-final soccer match, Wednesday, March 15, 2023.



In this Aug. 20, 2016, file photo, Inbee Park, of South Korea, holds up her gold medal after the final round of women's golf at the Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

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NC Dinos players celebrate after winning the 2020 Korean Series, the Korea Baseball Organization's championship round, against the Doosan Bears, Tuesday, Nov. 24, 2020.

DYNASTY

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“The first couple of months, everything [was] lonely,” Ms. Pak recalled in an interview with *Sports Illustrated* last year for a story titled “Today’s LPGA is brought to you by Se Ri Pak.” “... I never used the locker room, because they spoke English and I didn’t know [how]. Only the parking lot, to the course, back to the car, back to the hotel, back to the course in the morning. Just lonely, lonely, lonely.”

She would not be lonely long: Largely inspired by her example, a parade of South Korea female golfers, often referred to as “Se Ri’s Kids,” would go on to claim a slew of titles and dominate tournament leaderboards around the globe. In one sign of the times, 26-year-old LPGA star Lee Jeong-eun is routinely listed on the scoreboard as “Lee6,” to distinguish her

near the scale of their female compatriots. There has long been a debate in South Korean circles over whether the country’s military service mandate has held back the men by forcing them to take years out of their prime playing days to serve.

Analysts point to a variety of factors to try to explain South Korea’s late-blooming success as a golf superpower, starting with a strong cultural work ethic and a dedication to the teaching of fundamentals on the country’s thriving youth golf scene. South Korean stars such as Birdie Kim, the 2005 U.S. Women’s Open champ, credit strong parental involvement and support, especially for promising young girls.

The domestic KLPGA and the highly competitive men’s and women’s national teams — backed by increasingly generous corporate sponsorship as the economy boomed — provide a level of training and match seasoning for Korean players before they ever enter an international competition. And some argue that, unlike in other



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South Korea’s Choi Sol-gyu, right, and Kim Won-ho compete against their compatriots Kang Min-hyuk and Seo Sung-jae during their men’s doubles quarterfinal match at Indonesia Open badminton tournament, Friday, June 17, 2022.

from the five more senior Lee Jeong-euns who play golf at the professional level.

Consider some numbers: South Korean women golfers won 17 of the 34 LPGA major titles up for grabs in the wake of Ms. Pak’s 1998 wins. Five of the world’s top-ranked female golfers today are South Korean, and 27 of the top 100. When Jin Young Ko won the 2021 BMW Ladies Championship in 2021, it marked the 200th tournament win for a South Korean female golfer on the LPGA tour since 1998.

Even the world’s current No. 1 female player, Lydia Ko, was born in Seoul before her family emigrated to New Zealand when she was a young girl, and several other top 50 players can boast Korean ancestry.

And the pipeline of new Korean stars shows no signs of running dry — for five straight years starting in 2015, the LPGA Tour’s “Rookie of the Year” award went to a South Korean.

South Korean male golfers also have found success globally, although nowhere

countries, South Korea’s best young athletes tend to gravitate to the sport, partly because of the success of the country’s professionals such as Ms. Pak on the world stage and partly because golf does not require unusual strength, height or an imposing physique for success.

Ms. Pak has said that her major titles in 1998 came at a good time for her country, struggling at the time with a crashing economy and the fallout from the decade’s Asian financial crisis. But she says she was surprised — and a little intimidated — that so many younger South Korean women would look to her as a role model.

For the Se Ri Kids, however, there’s no mystery about the astounding success.

“A lot of people are curious why Korean players are so good,” Soyeon Ryu, a star on the LPGA tour and, like Ms. Pak, a winner of the U.S. Women’s Open, told *Sports Illustrated*. “One of the biggest things is we always had a good role model. Se Ri opened the door.”



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