

Vision 2025: Towards Peaceful Reunification of the Korean Peninsula

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The year 2023 holds special significance for Koreans. It marks the 70th anniversary of the signing of the Korean War armistice and the Korea-US Mutual Defense Treaty. The True Parents prophesied early on that communism would not last more than 70 years. In reality, the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 led to the formation of the first communist state, the Soviet Union, on December 30, 1922. It was dissolved 68 years, 11 months, and 26 days later; on December 26, 1991, President Mikhail Gorbachev declared the dissolution of the federation. After World War II, four countries were divided, including Germany, Vietnam, Yemen and Korea. Later, all but Korea were united. Germany was united under a free democratic system, while Vietnam was united under socialist ideology. The end of World War II brought Korea's liberation from 36 years of Japanese colonial rule. Yet the Korean people, who had been a single ethnic group for 1,300 years, became a sacrificial pawn in the power struggles of the major powers, resulting in the division of the country into North and South.



According to God's providence, the Korean Peninsula is the third Israel, the homeland of faith where the

True Parents of Heaven, Earth, and Humankind were born, and the land of the chosen people. Therefore, we need to analyze the background and the course of modern Korean history to gain a deeper understanding of the providential significance of the unification of Heavenly Korea, which is the hope of the members of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification.



The United States had requested the Soviet Union's participation in the war against Japan, to help defeat Japanese forces in the Manchuria region of China and prevent a protracted war. However, the Soviet Union hesitated, citing its defense treaty with Japan. But when the United States dropped its first atomic bomb on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, the tide of war had clearly turned. The Soviet Union unilaterally declared war on Japan on August 9 and began its invasion of Manchuria the next day. Later that day the United States dropped a second atomic bomb, on Nagasaki. By August 10 the Soviet Union had already entered the Korean Peninsula. The United States was caught by surprise when the Soviet Union occupied all of North Korea, which was defenseless, in just a month. The Soviet Union had always coveted the northern part of the Korean Peninsula, in search of a port that would not freeze in winter.



When Emperor Hirohito of Japan declared unconditional surrender on August 15, 1945, the main forces of the U.S. military were stationed in the Philippines and Okinawa. The United States, alarmed at the sudden entry of the Soviet Union into the Korean Peninsula, immediately began negotiations with the Soviets. They proposed that each would accept Japan's surrender and establish a military presence along the 38th parallel, with the Soviets to the north and the Americans to the south. The Soviets accepted this proposal. They already occupied North Korea at the time, but it was not until September 9 that the United States entered South Korea. From then on, the United States and the Soviet Union each managed a separate part of the Korean Peninsula. The Soviets established a socialist regime in North Korea, installing the young Kim Sung-ju, who had been a communist guerrilla fighter, as the leader under a new name, Kim Il-Sung. In South Korea, Syngman Rhee, who had been leading an independence movement based in the United States, returned to his home country to prepare for the establishment of a new nation.



Eventually, on August 15, 1948, a free democratic country was established south of the 38th parallel with the United States as its ally, and on September 9, 1948, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was established north of the 38th parallel with the support of the Soviet Union and China, solidifying the division. With Japan's defeat, and a new government installed in South Korea, the U.S. military that had been stationed on the Korean Peninsula withdrew in 1949. In January 1950, the United States declared the so-called Acheson Line as its line of defense in the Far East. The defense parameter protected Japan and the Philippines, but excluded the Korean Peninsula. Twenty-one months after the establishment of the Democratic People's Republic, on June 25, 1950, the North Korean army made a surprise invasion of South Korea. They captured Seoul in three days, and occupied the Nakdong River area, in the far south, within a month.



The United Nations immediately convened a Security Council meeting and decided to dispatch U.N. forces to South Korea. Under the order of U.S. President Harry Truman, General Douglas MacArthur, the commander of the Far East Army, was instructed to defend South Korea, and U.S. forces arrived on July 1, one week after the start of the war. This was the first decision to dispatch U.N. forces since the formation of the United Nations in 1948. It was a unanimous decision, as the Soviet Union, one of the five permanent members, did not attend the meeting. There is a theory that the reason for the Soviet Union's absence was a high-level calculation to secure a strategic advantage over Europe by inducing U.S. participation in the Korean War. However, we know that this was an astonishing providence to save free democratic Korea according to God's will. In fact, a behind-the-scenes story has recently been revealed, that Billy Graham, a strong Christian leader in the United States, directly called Truman immediately after the outbreak of the war and requested immediate deployment to save Korea, which had many Christians and practiced democracy.



General MacArthur was 70 years old, and a veteran of many battles. He conceived the Incheon Landing Operation, which involved attacking behind enemy lines and striking at the core of the North Korean forces. It was a historic operation on a grand scale, mobilizing 75,000 troops on 262 war ships.

The odds of success were said to be one in 5,000. The sea near Incheon was shallow and littered with rocks, and the difference in tides made it impossible to land directly from the ship, so small boats had to be used. If the North Korean forces had known their plans in advance, the entire force could have been drowned in the sea without a chance to retreat. In utmost secrecy, some South Korean soldiers were deployed as an intelligence unit to secure the landing point in advance. After exchanging signals, they

succeeded in the landing operation, as fast as lightning, and marched straight to Seoul, reclaiming the city in just 13 days. The day was September 28, 1950. Seoul was reclaimed three months after it was taken. General MacArthur continued to advance northward to annihilate the communist forces in the second phase, marching all the way to the Yalu River.



Meanwhile, U.N. forces under the command of Army Lieutenant Alexander Haig were also deployed in the Hungnam Operation, evacuating military forces along with tens of thousands of North Korean civilians. At that time, True Father, who was in the Communist-controlled Hungnam Prison, was miraculously liberated on October 14, 1950. Later, Haig retired as an Army General and became U.S. Secretary of State. When he passed away, the True Parents gave him the blessing of holding a special Seonghwa ceremony. As the continental chairman at the time, I attended the ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery with representatives of the True Family and The Washington Times.



Within a month of the Incheon Landing Operation, General MacArthur had control over almost of North Korea. However, with the arrival of one million Chinese troops to support the North Koreans, the U.N. forces had to retreat. In the fierce battles that continued for three years and one month, approximately four million people from both sides were killed, injured, or went missing before a ceasefire was agreed upon on July 27, 1953. Around 2.1 million foreign soldiers fought with the U.N. forces during the war; 1.8 million were American soldiers. There were 41,000 casualties among the U.N. forces; 37,000 of them were American. Sixteen countries sent troops to the U.N. forces, six countries provided medical support, and 41 countries provided material, for a total of 63 countries that helped South Korea. Most of the logistical support in this process was from Japan.

On the other hand, North Korea received various weapons from the Soviet Union at the beginning of the war, and China later sent one million troops to help North Korea with human wave tactics.

Among the Korean people, ten million families were separated by the division into North and South. Most of the first generation are dying of old age, with an unfulfilled longing to see their family members. Thus, the Korean War was another World War that cannot be forgotten. At that time, True Mother

became a refugee with Grandmother Hong, and crossed the Han River to safety with the help of the U.N. forces. U.N. troops were essential to protect the True Parents. When viewed providentially, the Korean War was the final battle where the conflict between Cain and Abel that started in the Garden of Eden played out as God's side and Satan's side. It was a fight between good and evil, a fight between theism and atheism, and a confrontation between democracy and communism.

Therefore, this Korean Peninsula is the final battleground in God's providence. When we focus on Vision 2025 for the Korean Peninsula, it has to be the pivotal point when the divided North and South embark on the path of unification. The year 2025 marks the 80th anniversary of Korean liberation. Many prophets say that the clouds of unification will be full over the Korean Peninsula in 2025.



The problem is the process and method of unification. Right now, the South and North are in a state of high tension, facing off against each other. North Korea is pouring all its energy into developing long-range missiles and nuclear weapons, even as its people starve to death, while South Korea's economy ranks among the top 10 in the world, and its trade volume is ranked sixth. In 2019, South Korea became only the seventh country to join the OECD's 30-50 Club (countries with per capita income of US\$30,000 and a population over 50 million).

The personal income difference between South and North Korea is 30:1, and the difference in gross domestic product (GDP) is 59:1. In the midst of this, North Korea is spending 26.4% of its national budget on its military, and South Korea is pouring 2.7% of its GDP into defense. There are studies suggesting that if both sides were to ease tensions and convert their military expenditures into production and infrastructure, approximately 2,000 trillion won could be saved by 2050, which would solve problems such as North Korea's food shortages and the need to advance its industrialization.