

The DPRK and the ROK after the War

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Review

Was the Korean War a civil war or an international conflict? Provide evidence to support your answer.

Were there any atrocities by either side during the war?

Should Douglas MacArthur be praised or criticized for the decisions he made during the Korean War?

Why did it take so long to reach an armistice?

Why did the ROK refuse to sign the armistice?

Different Paths

Landlords, merchants, and types of government
(Barrington Moore's hypothesis about the origins of
democracy and dictatorship in the modern world)

Strong landlords and weak urban merchants can lead
to Fascism

Weak landlords and weak urban merchants can lead
to Communism.

Weak landlords and strong urban merchants can lead
to democracy.

What role does civil society play? (Civil society refers
to voluntary non-kinship organizations operating
independently of the state)

Kim Il Sung becomes Supreme Leader

Eliminated rivals

Southern faction of Pak Hŏnyŏng

Soviet-Koreans, led by Hŏ Kai-I

Yenan factions Mu Chŏng

The promotion of Juche, also spelled Chuch'e
(autonomy and self-reliance) Serves as the functional
equivalent of religion in the DPRK.

Chuch'e (Juche)

A combination of Neo-Confucianism (emphasis on the family, the group, and the power of a selfless mind) and Marxist-Leninism (emphasis on the state controlling and promoting heavy industry, and emphasis on a revolutionary vanguard).

Provided ideological justification for North Korea's standing apart from both the USSR and China.

Says that human beings should be more self-reliant instead of relying on God. However, human beings as individuals have to rely on their society and their government, since humans exist only as members of societies.

Corporatism in the DPRK

What is corporatism:

A political philosophy emphasizing hierarchy, family, and organic connections (Just as a family is not a democratic institution, a corporate polity is not democratic, either.)

Fascism is one form of corporatism.

In North Korea, the nation is one big family, led by the dead grandfather, his fatherly son, and his loyal grandson.

In a corporate polity, everyone has to accept their assigned role (assigned by the “head of the family.”)

The DPRK's first decade

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Rapid Recovery from the War

Land reform before the war

Collectivization after the war.

Why did the DPRK collectivize?

shortage of labour and capital. (economies of scale)

Industrial development

Emphasis on heavy industry, not consumer goods.

Both ideological and monetary incentives.

Both Red and Expert.

RHEE'S POST-WAR POLICIES

Economy grew only a little faster than population growth. Inflation was a serious problem, though.

There was little internal surplus for investment

Rhee's policies: import substitution, keep Korean currency artificially high, keep agricultural prices low.

Political connections determined access to economic resources.

One sign of hope: Education become more available.

RHEE'S AUTHORITARIANISM

Treated the constitution with disdain (Sources, pp. 383-4)

Also election results could not be trusted.

Used National Security Law against all sorts of opponents. (Cho Pongam, a former cabinet minister, was executed in 1959)

Didn't trust political parties, even his own Liberal Party.

Promoted ilmin chu-ŭi --"Koreans are one"

Used the military and the police for political ends.

The April 19, 1960, revolution

Why was Rhee overthrown?

What happened to his Liberal Party?

How did Korea handle the sudden appearance of democracy on the peninsula (1960-61)?

How did North Korea react to developments south of the DMZ?

EVALUATING SYNGMAN RHEE

Was Rhee a good founding father for the Republic of Korea?

What was more important to Rhee, anti-Communism or democracy?

Was there any positive legacy of his 12 years as leader of the Republic of Korea?

What happened to the South Korean economy when Rhee was in charge?

What is the difference between authoritarianism and totalitarianism?