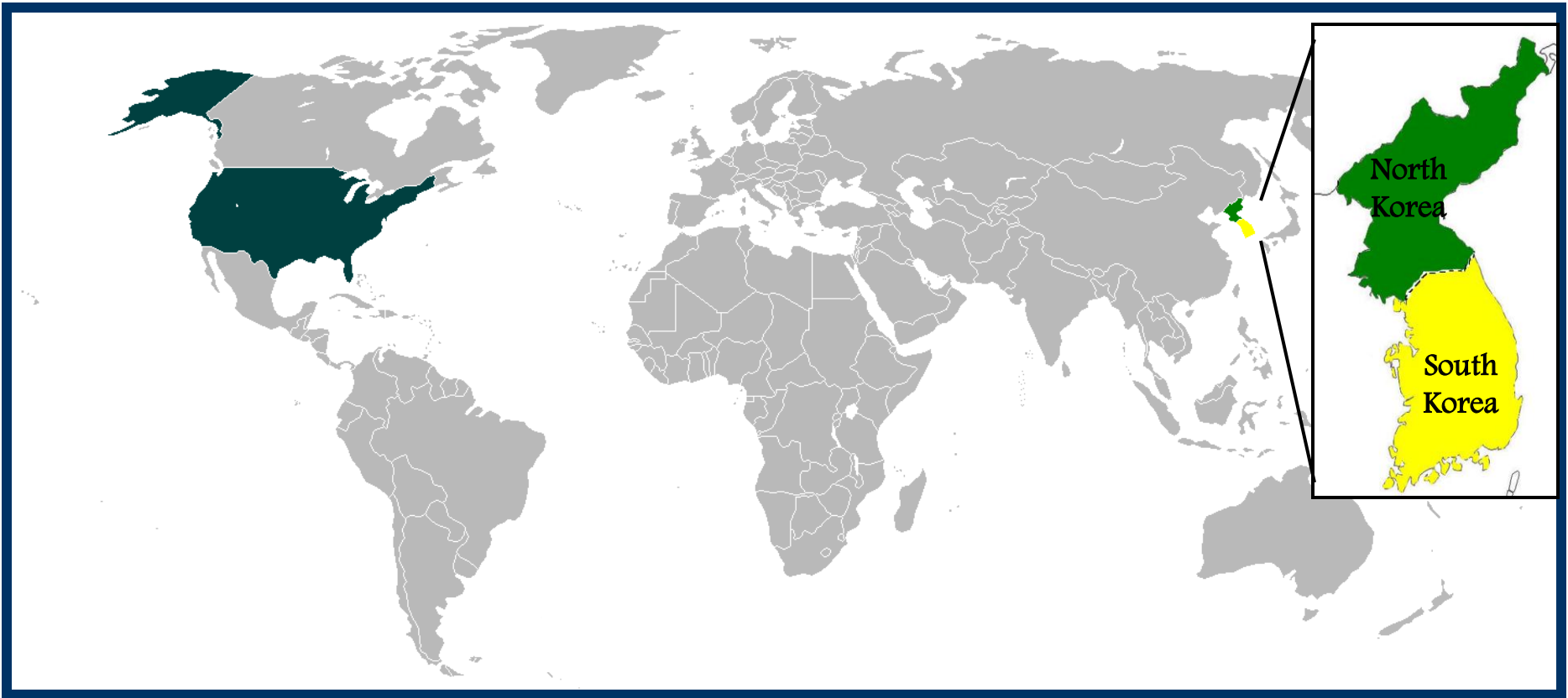




**Culture**

**North and South Korea**

**3**



**Why Focus on North and South Korea?**

# Why Focus on North and South Korea?

- U.S. military involvement on the Korean Peninsula dates back to the end of World War II
- North Korea possesses a communist-style government and has one of the most isolated and centrally planned economies in the world.
- South Korea is a republic, and its economy ranks among the top 15 in the world.
- The Korean War and the subsequent division of the Korean Peninsula into North and South have had a profound effect on Korean culture and on the meaning of being Korean.



The United States has had military presence in South Korea since end of World War II.



Today approximately 27,000 U.S. troops are stationed in South Korea.



Over the past 60+ years, more than 7.5 million servicemen and women have fought, died, and served to maintain the division between North and South Korea.



The Korean War and the subsequent division of the Korean Peninsula into North and South have had a profound effect on Korean culture (the way of life of both North and South Koreans), on the meaning of being Korean, and on the relationship between the United States and the two Koreas.



DMZ 전시관  
DMZ Pavilion DMZ 展示館



# DMZ 영상관

DMZ Theater

DMZ 影像馆

DMZ 映像馆



# Culture

**Broad definition:** the way of life of a people  
(Core Concept 1)

**More specific definition:** culture includes the human-created strategies for adjusting/adapting to the environment and to those creatures (including humans) that are part of that environment.

# Culture

```
graph TD; Culture --> MaterialCulture[Material Culture]; Culture --> NonmaterialCulture[Nonmaterial Culture]; NonmaterialCulture --> Beliefs; NonmaterialCulture --> Values; NonmaterialCulture --> Norms["*Norms"]; NonmaterialCulture --> Symbols; NonmaterialCulture --> Language;
```

## Material Culture

\*Norms – written and unwritten rules that specify behaviors appropriate and inappropriate to a particular social situation.

- Folkways – norms that apply to the mundane aspects or details of daily life

## Nonmaterial Culture

Beliefs  
Values  
\*Norms  
Symbols  
Language

- Mores – norms that people define as essential to the well being of a group

# Material Culture

All the natural and human-created objects to which people have attached meaning.

Impossible to make a list of material culture, because it includes so many objects.

Example: the division of the Korean Peninsula into North and South Korea

- A geographic event in that the division confined some Koreans to the north of the line and others to the south.
- A historic event in that it has affected all Koreans on the peninsula long after the fact.

# Material Culture

Anyone served in the military or lived abroad? To what extent did they interact with the resident population/ What did you learn about the culture?

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/video/north-koreas-extreme-makeover-16695101>





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# Culture is Learned (Core Concept 3)

- People do not question the origin of the objects around them, the beliefs they hold, the values they follow, the norms to which they conform, the symbols they use, or the words they use to communicate and think about the world.
- People are usually unaware of other ways of thinking and behaving, because much of their culture was in place before they were born.
- We cannot assume that someone is part of a particular culture simply because he or she looks like someone we expect to come from that culture.

# The Role Of Language

- A tool that enables people to think about the world, interpret experiences, establish and maintain relationships, and convey information
- People see the world through the language(s) they have learned.
- The linguistic systems in our minds give order to the world.
- Words organize the world, allow us to notice some things and not others, and function to ascribe significance.

# The Importance of Individual Experiences

- Culture functions as a “toolkit” that allows people to select from and add to a menu of cultural options.
- People may accept, reject, or modify various aspects of culture.
- [http://uwf.edu/internationaloffice/pdf/ISO\\_Handbook.pdf](http://uwf.edu/internationaloffice/pdf/ISO_Handbook.pdf))

# Culture provides a variety of Formulas that enable individuals to adjust to the challenges of being human(Core Concept 4)

- Cultural Formulas for Relieving Hunger
  - One indicator of a culture's influence is how people define only a portion of the potential food available to them as edible.
  - Rice is a staple of the Korean diet.
  - Corn is a staple of the American diet.
- Cultural Formulas for Social Emotions
  - Social emotions: internal bodily sensations that we experience in relationships with other people.
    - Feeling rules: norms that specify appropriate ways to express the internal sensations

# People borrow material and nonmaterial culture from other societies(Core Concept 5)

- Diffusion - process by which an idea, an invention, or some other cultural item is borrowed from a foreign source.
  - Opportunity to borrow occurs whenever people from different cultures make contact.
  - Borrowing is usually selective.
  - People borrow the most concrete and most tangible elements and then develop new associations and shape

The home culture is usually the standard that people use to make judgments about another culture (Core Concept 6)

- Culture shock - the strain that people from one culture experience when they must reorient themselves to the ways of a new culture
- Reentry shock - culture shock in reverse, which occurs upon returning home after living in another culture
- Ethnocentrism - using one culture as the standard for judging the worth of foreign ways

# The home culture is usually the standard that people use to make judgments about another culture (Core Concept 6)

- Reverse ethnocentrism - A type of ethnocentrism in which the home culture is regarded as inferior to a foreign culture.
- Cultural Relativism
  - A perspective that aims to understand foreign behavior and thinking
    - A foreign culture should not be judged by the standards of a home culture.
    - Behaviors or ways of thinking must be examined in a cultural context—that is, in terms of the society's values, norms, beliefs, environmental challenges, and history.



# The home culture is usually the standard that people use to make judgments about another culture (Core Concept 6)

- Critics argue that cultural relativism allow every cultural trait—even some of the most harmful and violent ones—to escape judgment or criticism.

# In every society, some groups possess distinctive traits that set them apart from the main culture (Core Concept 7)

- Subcultures - groups that share in certain parts of the dominant culture but have their own distinctive values, norms, beliefs, symbols, language, or material culture.
- Countercultures - Subcultures in which the norms, values, beliefs, symbols, and language the members share emphasize conflict or opposition to the larger culture. In fact, rejection of the dominant culture's values, norms, symbols, and beliefs is central to understanding a counterculture.

# In every society, some groups possess distinctive traits that set them apart from the main culture (Core Concept 7)

- Countercultures - Subcultures in which the norms, values, beliefs, symbols, and language the members share emphasize conflict or opposition to the larger culture. In fact, rejection of the dominant culture's values, norms, symbols, and beliefs is central to understanding a counterculture.
  - Communitarian utopians withdraw into a separate community where they can live with minimum interference from the larger society, which they view as evil, materialistic, wasteful, or self-centered.
  - Mystics search for “truth and for themselves” and turn inward in the process.

# In every society, some groups possess distinctive traits that set them apart from the main culture (Core Concept 7)

- Countercultures - Subcultures in which the norms, values, beliefs, symbols, and language the members share emphasize conflict or opposition to the larger culture. In fact, rejection of the dominant culture's values, norms, symbols, and beliefs is central to understanding a counterculture.
  - Radical activists preach, create, or demand a new order with new obligations to others. They stay engaged, hoping to change society and its values.