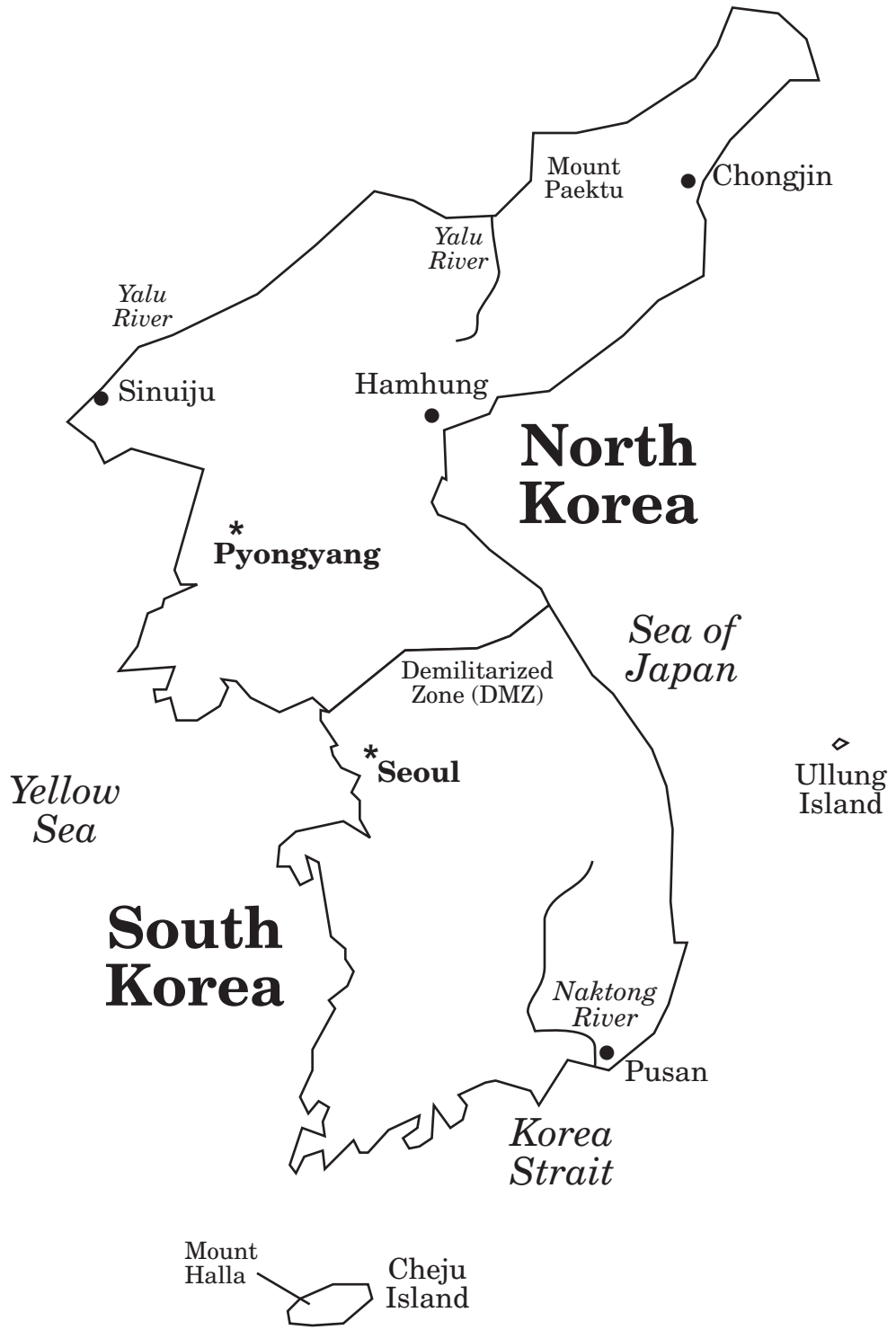
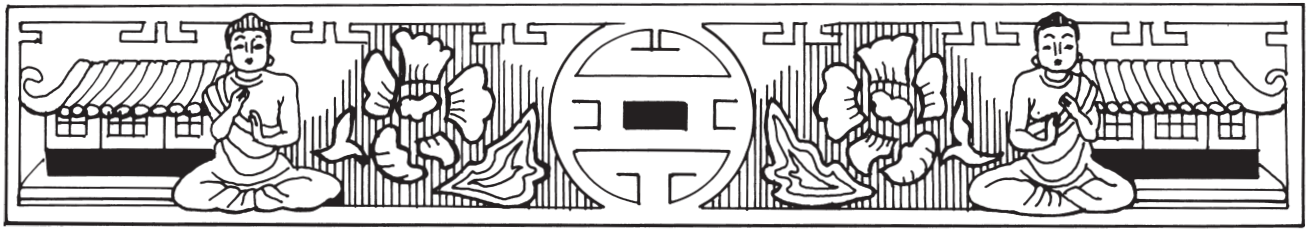


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Korea

Korea is a peninsula that juts south from eastern Asia. It lies between 124 and 131 degrees latitude and between 33 and 43 degrees longitude. It is about the size of Utah. At the 38th parallel, the peninsula is divided into two countries, North Korea and South Korea. Before World War II, Korea was one nation, but during the war, Communists invaded North Korea, leading to the division of Korea in 1948. During this time, a Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), an area of 487 square miles (1261 square kilometers), was created as a barrier separating North Korea and South Korea. The DMZ protected the two countries from one another, and it provided a neutral territory between the two enemies.

The two nations continue to share the Korean language, heritage, and culture. Both use the **won** as their basic monetary unit, but each monetary unit is of different value on the international market. Both North Korea and South Korea also use the metric system as well as the ancient forms of jung bo (*hectare*) and ri. (***Jung bo** is a system of measurement equal to 2.471 acres. **Ri** is a measurement of length for 3927 meters – 4280 yards.*)

Although the countries have much in common, their economic and political systems differ greatly. North Korea declares itself to be a communist economic system with the “people” or government owning the means of production and much of the land. The country is ruled by the Dictator for Life, Kim. The economic system in South Korea is generally considered to be capitalistic with centralized government support. It is a parliamentary system with an elected president.

North Korea

Name—The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK), (Choson–minjujuui–inmin–konghwaguk)

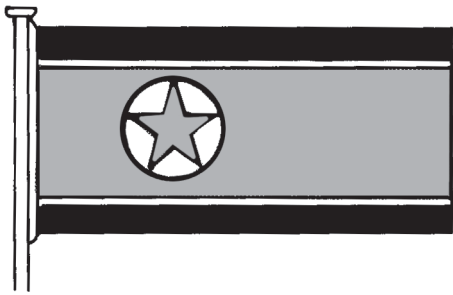
Capital—Pyongyang

Form of Government—Communist

Area—47,077 square miles (121,929 square kilometers)

Population—over 20 million

Flag and Coat of Arms—The wide stripe is red; the others are blue. The red star represents Communism. On the coat of arms, rice and an electric power plant represent the importance of agriculture and industry to the North.



Religion—Religion is discouraged because religious teachings conflict with Communist teachings.

South Korea

Name—The Republic of Korea (ROK), (Taehan-minguk)

Capital—Seoul

Form of Government—Democratic Republic

Area—38,221 square miles (98,992 square kilometers)

Population—Over 40 million people live in South Korea. Although North Korea is the larger of the two countries, South Korea's population is double that of North Korea. South Korea is the fourth most densely populated area in the world, with 100 people per square mile (259 people per square kilometer).

Flag and Coat of Arms—The South Korean flag has a red, yellow, and blue **taeguk** in the center of it. It is the ancient sign for the balance of opposites. In each corner are black trigrams which represent heaven, earth, fire, and water. The South Korean flag reminds the citizens of Korea's proud heritage.

