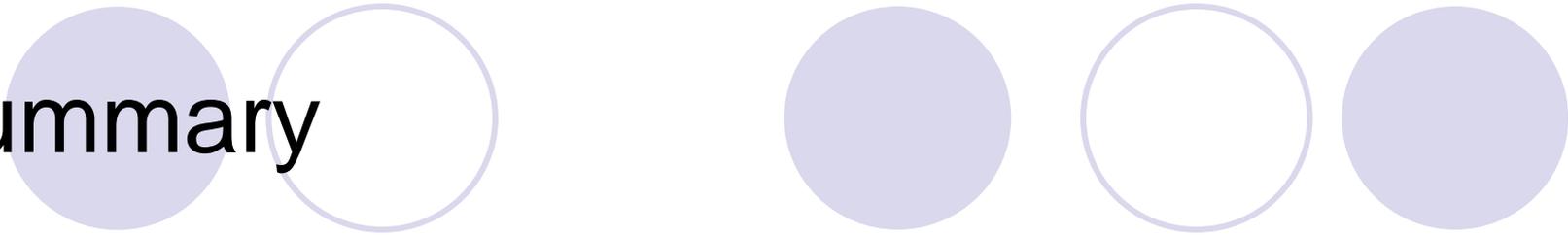


# The North Korea questions

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**Lecturer: Masayo Goto, PhD**



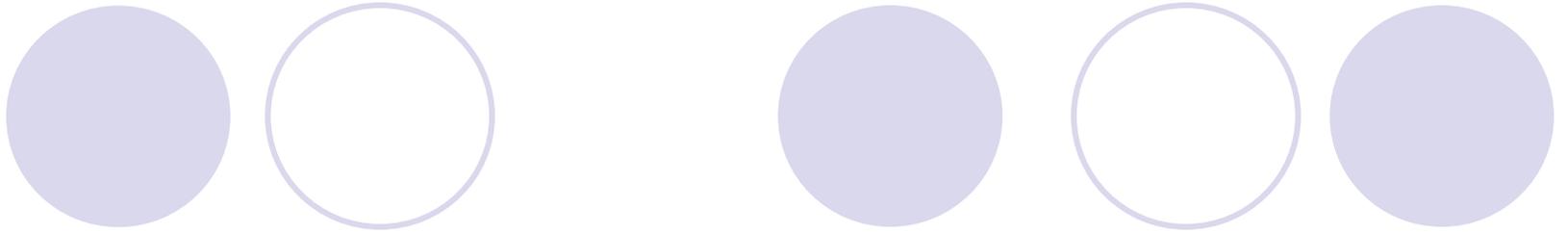
# Summary

- North Korean Political Culture
- North-South Relations
- Nuclear crisis and Six-Party Talks
- Other Concerns

# North Korean political culture

- The main political culture of the DPRK is the 'Juche Idea' created by President KIM IL SUNG. It means 'Self-reliance' or 'Self dependence.' It is a creative application of Marxism-Leninism, not a reinterpretation of it.
- Guiding Principles of the Juche Idea: National reunification, countering imperialism and building a self-reliant socialist economy.
- The Juche Idea allows to create an indestructible unit between the people's masses and the Leader. An independent and sovereign state can be built and the people can use their talent and power for the common benefit.

- In the political area, it is to maintain “Independence.” The government can resolve all the problems from an independent and sovereign way and can protect the dignity of the nation and act from the base of the equality in the external relations. North Korea’s foreign policy priorities are embedded in ‘Guiding Principles of the Juche Idea.’ This means to preserve national sovereignty and defend the nation against imperialism (The US, Japan) by developing a “self-reliant defence.”
- In the defence area the Juche Idea means “Self-Defence.” It's a basic point to warrant the protection of the country using an invincible military power that will protect the motherland.
- In the economical area, the Juche Idea means the “Self-Reliance.” With a powerful own production and military auto-defence, the country isn't controlled by the imperialist nations.



# North-South relations

# Under new South Korean government

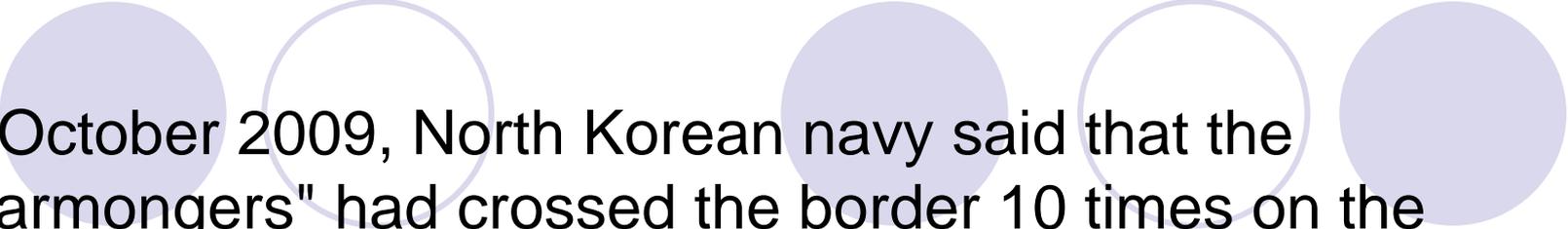
- Ties between the two Koreas soured after conservative South Korean President Lee Myung-bak took office in 2008. He pledged to get tough with the North's government.
- Tensions further heightened after North Korea conducted its long-range rocket and nuclear tests.

The Korean War ended in a cease-fire, not a peace treaty. This means that the two Koreas are still technically at war.

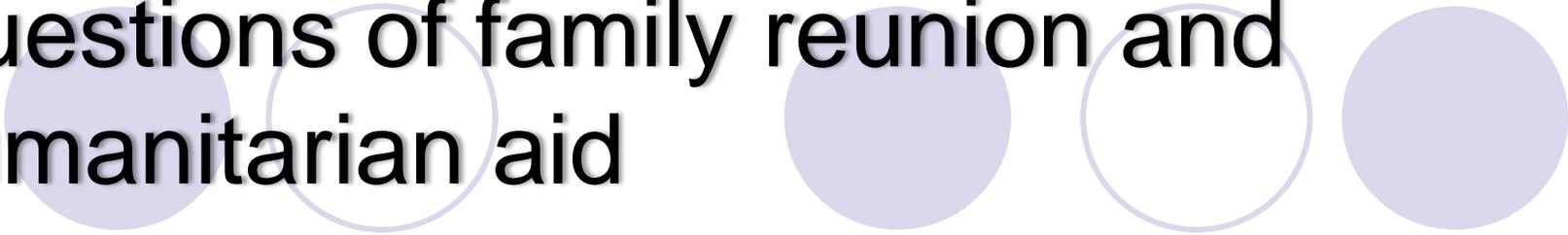
# Disputed sea border - the Yellow Sea

- North Korea refuses to accept the border known as the Northern Limit Line (NLL), which was drawn by United Nations forces after the 1950-53 war
- North Korea frequently accuses South Korea of breaching the disputed sea border in the Yellow Sea, and bloody naval clashes occurred in 1999 and 2002
- In August 2009, cross-border military tensions have eased since North Korea began making peace calls to both South Korea and the US.

However, the tension has escalated recently.....

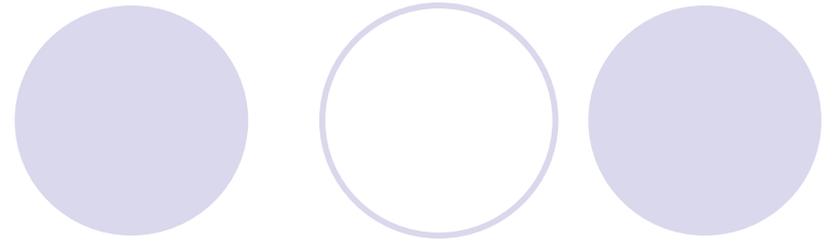
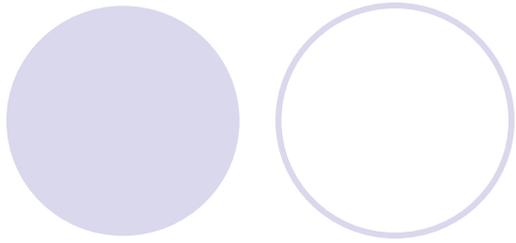
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- In October 2009, North Korean navy said that the "warmongers" had crossed the border 10 times on the pretext that North Korean fishing boats had intruded into the South's waters. The incursions were part of "premeditated moves to deliberately escalate tension in the waters and deteriorate the North-South relations once again, adding that "warnings are bound to be followed by actions."
  - South Korea is cautiously observing the true intention of North Korea.

# Questions of family reunion and humanitarian aid



- About 600,000 South Koreans are believed to have relatives in the DPRK. Families were separated by the 1950-1953 Korean War. Ordinary citizens were not allowed to make phone calls, send letters or exchange e-mails across the border.
- The family reunions program began in 2000 after a historic inter-Korean summit between the two sides.

- North Korea agreed to hold Red Cross talks on arranging reunions for families – This could help warm relations between the two Koreas.
- October 2009: A South Korean delegation met with its DPRK counterpart on resuming separated family reunions and other humanitarian projects in Kaesong, a border city in DPRK. The first in two years.
- South Korean government (conservative) under President Lee Myung-bak suspended government-level aids to the DPRK when came to power in February 2008. The government may soften its position depending on the progress of separated family reunion program.
- The DPRK demands South's humanitarian aids such as rice and fertilizer.



# Nuclear crisis and Six-Party Talks

# Recent Nuclear Crisis

- **Feb 10, 2005** - North Korea announced that it completed its nuclear development program and become to possess nuclear bombs.
- **Oct 2006** - North Korea conducts an underground nuclear test
- **Feb 2007** - North Korea agrees to close its main nuclear reactor in exchange for fuel aid
- **June 2007** - North Korea shuts its main Yongbyon reactor
- **June 2008** - North Korea makes its long-awaited declaration of nuclear assets
- **Oct 2008** - The US removes North Korea from its list of countries which sponsor terrorism
- **Dec 2008** - Pyongyang slows work to dismantle its nuclear programme, after a US decision to suspend energy aid

- **April 2009** - Pyongyang launches a rocket carrying what it says is a communications satellite
- **25 May 2009** - North Korea conducts a second nuclear test
- **July 2009** - North Korea carried out a series of ballistic missile tests which further escalating tensions over its nuclear and missile programmes.
- **6 October 2009** - North Korea tells China it may be willing to return to six-party talks

North Korea's army of 1.2 million soldiers has been increasingly deployed toward the South Korean border.

Kim's main goals in so aggressively displaying North Korea's missile capacity is to compel the United States to deal directly with him.....

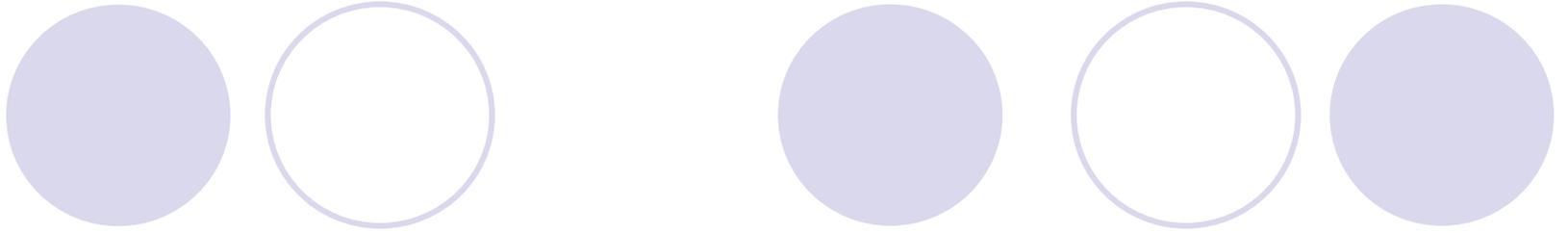
# The six-party talks

- The six-party talks began in 2003, include delegates from the two Koreas, China, the US, Russia and Japan.
- In 2007, under the six-party talks, North Korea agreed to disable its nuclear facilities in return for international aid.
- In June 2008, North Korea blew up the cooling tower at its main nuclear complex near Pyongyang in show of its commitment to denuclearization. But disablement came to halt later in 2008 as Pyongyang wrangled with the US over how to verify its past atomic activities.
- In April 2009, North Korea announced that it would not re-enter six-party talks to end its nuclear weapons program, citing the "deep-rooted anti-North Korean policy" of the United States.

- Recently, Leader Kim Jong Il told visiting Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao that North Korea might return to stalled six-party talks on its nuclear program depending on the outcome of direct talks it seeks with the United States.
- The US has said it is willing to engage directly with North Korea, but only as part of a return to the six-party talks. However, the US will not meet directly with North Korea until Pyongyang commits to rejoining six-party talks on disarmament and abides by commitments to dismantle its nuclear programs (The last talks involving the two Koreas, the U.S., China, Russia and Japan were held in December 2008).

- Japan and South Korea said North Korea should not be offered aid until it has begun to dismantle its nuclear arms programme. International sanctions against North Korea should remain in place until "specific action" has been taken over its nuclear programme.
- Both countries agreed to work for a comprehensive solution to North Korea's nuclear, ballistic missile and abduction issues.

**North Korea's only viable option is 'irreversible denuclearization'**



# Other concerns

# Economic crisis and famine

- Economic assistance received from the former USSR and China was an important factor of its economic growth. In the 1990s North Korea saw economic stagnation turning into crisis. In 1991 the former USSR withdrew its support and demanded for payment in hard currency for imports. China stepped in to provide assistance and supplied food and oil, most of it reportedly at concessionary price. But in 1994 China reduced its exports to North Korea. The North Korean economy was undermined and its industrial output began to decline in 1990.
- The North Korean famine began in 1995 and peaked in 1997 because of the food crisis. Estimated loss of life would be as high as more than 3 million, or 10% of North Korea's population.

# N Korean arms sale to terrorist states and/or organisations

- North Korea, with an annual GDP of about \$20 billion, earns some \$1.5 billion a year from missile sales.
- Since the 1980s North Korea has sold missile systems to Iran, Pakistan, Egypt, Libya, Syria and Yemen. These include the Scud missile and mid-range Rodong ballistic missile.
- Obama administration sees that North Korea is a threat to the U.S. and its neighbors because of its history of illicit sales of missiles and nuclear technology and is now developing ties to Myanmar's military dictatorship.

# Japan and North Korea relations

1. Japan has attempted to normalise relations with North Korea since the earlier 1990s.
2. 100 NoDong missiles are pointed at Japan. As well as US bases, there are 25 nuclear power plants.
3. North Korean agents abducted Japanese citizens in the late 1970s and early 1980s and this have affected normalization talks.
4. The Japanese government has adopted a strong policy of no negotiations until the 5 remaining abductees are returned. However, the North Korean government claimed that the abduction issue has been closed.

# North Korean abductions of Japanese

- The North Korean abductions of Japanese citizens from Japan by agents of the North Korean government happened during a period of six years from 1977 to 1983. Although only sixteen are officially recognized by the Japanese government, there may have been as many as 70 to 80 Japanese abducted.
- On October 15, 2002, North Korea allowed the five victims to return to Japan on the condition that they return later to the North. They have not been back since then.
- The North Korean government continues to claim that there were only 13 abductees and that the issue has been resolved with the return of the five victims.
- An estimated 84,532 South Koreans were taken to North Korea during the Korean War. Since the Korean Armistice in 1953, about 3,800 people have been abducted in North and that still 480 Koreans have been held by North Korea

# The scenario of a collapse of the N Korean regime

- It is impossible to know how or when the current leadership will cease to rule the country. A sudden collapse of the North Korean state cannot be ruled out. North Korea's continued development of nuclear devices makes the cost of mishandling a possible collapse so high. However, Kim Jong Il's demise could hasten North Korea's demise.
- A regime crisis in North Korea poses two main challenges:
  - (1) the military and nuclear threat on the Peninsula
  - (2) the humanitarian and economic consequences of the North's collapse: the immediate risk of massive refugee flows and the long-term economic impact of reunification.
- North Korea collapse scenarios make the relative South Korean role larger than that of the US. However, the U.S. would be required to coordinate carefully with South Korea, China and other nations.

1. Locating and securing nuclear materials: Locating these materials will be extremely difficult, as outsiders have an imprecise idea of how many, and little to no idea of where nuclear materials and actual devices may be. North Korea's nuclear arsenal must not be allowed to fall into the wrong hands.
2. Restoring order and possibly combating remnants of the DPRK military: combined ROK-U.S. forces would need to be able to end a state of anarchy that is likely to exist if the state collapses.
3. Providing basic goods and services: the North Korean people (large numbers of refugees and internally displaced persons) will require food, medical care, and shelter.
4. Unification of North and South Korea

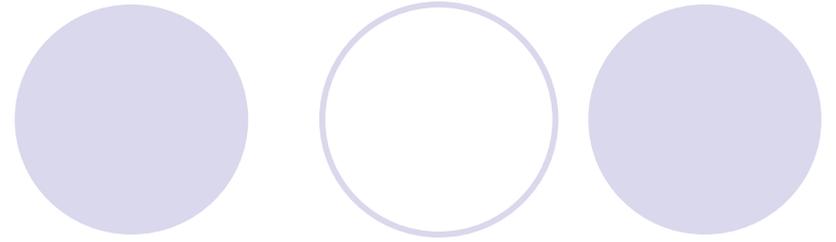
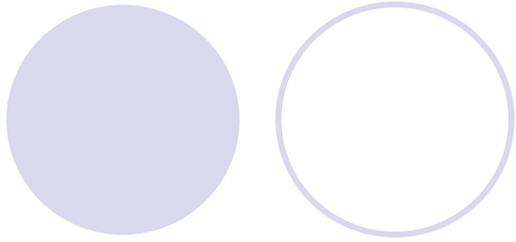
# Peaceful unification of two Koreas

## South Korea's perspective

- United Korea means a fully democratic Korea. It would likely be a strong U.S. ally. The expenses of dealing with humanitarian needs from the North may be high. If a reunified Korea can recreate the sort of "business climate" in which the South thrived, the "costs" of reunification will take care of themselves.

## North Korea's perspective

- Korea is divided by a big concrete wall in the Parallel 38 that was built by the US when the Korean War ended. The nation is divided because the US is dominating the southern part with more than 40,000 soldiers. This avoids the unification of the Korean people. Only when the US soldiers leave South Korea and the citizens will recover their sovereignty, United Korea is possible. The ideology of the DPRK will dominate the United Korea.



**End of Lecture**