

KOREAN AMERICANS AND INTER-KOREAN RELATIONS

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PREFACE

This book is a collection of my five papers: the first paper has been written recently, but other four papers were published in the academic journals previously. The book title for the collection of five papers was too vague to decide. The title “Korean Americans” represents the first paper, and “Inter-Korean Relations” includes four remaining papers focusing on Korean affairs. The first paper was written as part of the Project of the Korean American Heritage Foundation launched by the Centennial Committee of Korean Immigration to the United States in Washington, DC. This study provides an overview of the history of immigration to the United States and how the different races came to be integrated into America, compares the assimilation process of both European and Asian immigrant groups into the mainstream of America, analyzes political participation of Asian Americans, and suggests how to reorganize the Korean American Association for political empowerment by integrating community resources through an efficient networking system. As a Project Manager, I intended this to provide a theoretical background for the Project team to design a final proposal. The thirteen team members, specialized in various areas, met several times in 2002, which was helpful to develop the last section of this paper.

The second paper investigates development of regional integration, particularly relations between the Asia-Pacific region and the Korean peninsula; and examines problems and remedies of inter-Korean economic cooperation in the long run. It suggests policy recommendations to the related governments including Pyongyang and Seoul. The third paper was on “From Confrontation to Cooperation: A New Paradigm of Inter-Korean Relations.” The study includes globalization and regional convergence, evaluation of North Korean survival strategies, ROK engagement policy toward DPRK, and inter-Korean economic cooperation. It suggests that a peace treaty mandating disarmament between the two Koreas is a precondition for inter-Korean economic cooperation. The fourth paper was written after the financial crisis of Asian countries. Economic development facilitates democratization, while democracy is necessary to maintain sustainable growth of capitalistic economies by maximizing efficiency. So the balanced growth between politics and economy reduces the cost generated by the political-economic complex. The fifth and final paper examines whether President Park Jung Hee chose the best growth strategy, whether his authoritarian presidency was necessary for economic development, and whether Chairman Kim Jung Il of North Korea can follow the lesson from the experiences of South Korea. The last paper is closely related to the fourth paper in terms of relations of politics with economy.

I was trained in economics in the school years, but Korean studies required me to engage in inter-disciplinary studies in the last fifteen years because they are closely related to broad subjects including international relations, domestic politics, economics, international security, sociology, and others such as management. Therefore, I may not be specialized in any of those areas, but I fully accept my responsibility for any shortcomings in this book. In publishing this book, I would like to express my gratitude to Dr. Ung Soo Kim from the bottom of my heart, who was one of my graduate professors at the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, inspiring me to pursue the truth and justice in my life. My thanks are extended to my dear wife EJ who has continuously supported my studies, and my two daughters June and Heji who gave me love and energy. As a first-generation immigrant, I am grateful to have given the opportunity to fully pursue my academic endeavors in an advanced supporting system in the United States. In addition, it would not have been possible without the support from the South Korean Army's overseas education program, from which my academic journey began.

Finally, if any reader wants to discuss with the author about issues that appear in this book, please contact me through e-mail at hugo.kim@verizon.net, to which I will respond as soon as possible.

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Washington, DC, March 15, 2003

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Dr. Kim received a B.S. from the Korea Military Academy in Seoul, South Korea in 1966, and graduated from the Korean Army Commander and Staff College in Chinhae in 1977. He earned his M.A. and Ph.D. in Economics from the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. During his active duty, he experienced various positions in the Korean Army, and retired as a Professor of the Korea National Defense University in Seoul in 1987 when he moved to the United States. Lecturing at the Southeastern University a short period of time, he participated in research activities as an Adjunct Fellow of the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, DC during the period of 1994 to 1999. He has two married daughters living in Virginia and California. Dr. Kim and his family members were naturalized as U.S. citizens.

Dr. Kim is interested in political economy and strategic studies. He published two books and many articles in the academic journals as shown at: <http://www.ewri.org/papers.html>.