

KOREA REBORN

A GRATEFUL NATION
HONORS WAR VETERANS FOR 60 YEARS OF GROWTH

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Korea Reborn: A Grateful Nation Honors War Veterans for 60 Years of Growth
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This commemorative gift is published and produced with cooperation from the Republic of Korea and the United States of America.

We honor and remember all those who bravely served during the Korean War.

This limited edition commemorative book was published and produced by Remember My Service Productions, a division of StoryRock, Inc., in cooperation with Seoul Selection.

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Thank You

United States of America



60 YEARS OF COMMITMENT
60 YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP

THE PEACE, PROSPERITY, AND LIBERTIES THAT WE CHERISH TODAY
ARE BUILT ON YOUR SELFLESS SACRIFICES AND CONTRIBUTIONS.
KOREA IS FOREVER INDEBTED, AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO
BUILD THE TRUST AND FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR NATIONS.

OUR PROFOUND RESPECT AND GRATITUDE IS DIRECTED TO THE BRAVE SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE 21 UNITED NATIONS ALLIES WHO SERVED IN THE KOREAN WAR.



REPUBLIC OF KOREA



*In Dedication to
All Korean War Veterans*

I am greatly pleased to see the publication of this commemorative photo book as we mark the 60th Anniversary of the Korean War Military Armistice Agreement.

This book portrays the brutal scars of war and captures the Republic of Korea arising from such hardship to achieve its remarkable development. Each photo in this book bears witness to the greatness of freedom and democracy and embodies the hearts and souls of the Korean War veterans who fought for freedom and peace.

Sixty years ago, those veterans risked their lives to safeguard freedom in the Republic of Korea. In subsequent years, Korea emerged from the ranks of the poorest countries in the world and has made the unprecedented achievement of both economic development and democratization.

The Republic of Korea, which was once dependent on international aid, is now well-positioned to contribute to others around the world. The blood, sweat, and tears shed by veterans of the Korean War sowed the seeds of today's freedom, peace, prosperity and plenty.

This precious book was published with the combined support of the Korean government, people, and business community and expresses our appreciation to the countries that came to our aid during the War. I hope that this book is passed on to future generations as a book of history that honors the noble sacrifice of the veterans and reminds them of the value of freedom and democracy.

I sincerely thank once again the veterans, their families, and all of our friends from around the world for helping the Republic of Korea become what it is today.

July 2013

Park Geun-hye
President of the Republic of Korea

**Department of Defense 60th Anniversary of
the Korean War Commemoration Committee**

**We Remember the
Forgotten Victory!**

**Honoring the Men and Women
who Served During the Korean War**

Freedom is not Free

www.koreanwar60.com





KOREA

Images courtesy of NARA (left) and Seoul Selection (right)



REBORN

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THE “FORGOTTEN VICTORY”

With her brother on her back, a war-weary Korean girl tiredly trudges by a stalled M-26 tank, at Haengju, Korea. (June 9, 1951, photo by Maj. R. V. Spencer, USAF)



The “Forgotten Victory”

In many ways, the Korean War ended in 1953 the way it had begun three years earlier: as a country divided in half by an imaginary line. Arbitrarily identified as the boundary between North Korea and South Korea at the end of World War II, the 38th Parallel had marked the spot where freedom and communism collide, where a people divided by political and ideological differences meet, and where on June 25, 1950, the Korean War erupted.

For U.N.-sanctioned Allied Forces backing the South (Republic of Korea), the war was over the rights of a people to elect their own leaders, to make their own laws, to choose their own destiny; in short, a war to reject communism and accept freedom. As U.S. servicemen and women descended on a war-ravaged country to support that battle for freedom, they found a nation—and a humble, hardworking people—worth fighting for.

But despite the fact that the war never officially ended, the United Nations Command forces won many victories in the Republic of Korea.

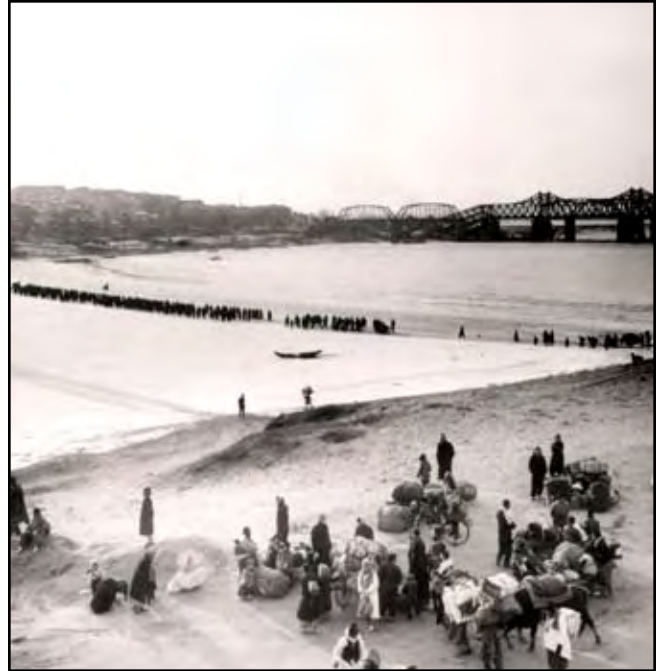
In the past 60 years, the country has changed dramatically. During the war, the GNI per capita was a mere US \$67. In 2007,

it was nearly US \$20,000, with the fastest-growing economy in the world during the 1980s and 1990s. In addition, trade in the country has grown more than 3,000 times since the war, and the Republic of Korea is a rising star among the G-20, a group of the world’s leading industrialized nations.

No one can deny that the war certainly laid the foundation for much of this change. In *Korea Magazine* (June 2010), Park Myung-rim, a professor at Yonsei University and an authority on the Korean War, observes: “Through the war, Korea grew up to be much stronger in the long term.”

In the same issue of *Korea Magazine*, cultural critic Cho Woo-seok agrees, noting that the Western influence that the U.S. soldiers brought to the country played a significant role: “I’d say one of the factors that helped Korea accomplish modernization relatively fast was the war.”

The glimpse South Koreans caught of modernization from their Allied soldier supporters propelled this people beyond their former “hermit kingdom” mentality into a quest for democracy, growth, and success—a quest that would lead them to develop a Korea reborn. ■



TOP: A refugee family from Masan, living in a refugee camp at Jangseungpo, Korea. (Photo by the USIA)

BOTTOM LEFT: A Company Commander gives the communication radio operator the word to move out as this company moved forward during the Korean fighting. (Photo by the NARA)

BOTTOM RIGHT: Refugees streaming across the frozen Han River as they flee southward before the advancing tide of Chinese and North Korean Communists. Shattered bridges are shown in the background. (January 1951, photo by the USIA)



TOP: Long trek southward: Seemingly endless file of Korean refugees slogs through snow outside of Gangneung, blocking withdrawal of ROK 1 Corps. (Photo by Cpl. Walter Calmus, Army)

BOTTOM: Buddies aid wounded man of 24th Infantry Regiment, after a battle 10 miles south of Cheorwon, Korea. (April 22, 1951, photo by Cpl. Tom Nebbia, Army)



A Korean girl places a wreath of flowers on the grave of an American soldier, while Pfc. Chester Painter and Cpl. Harry May present arms, at the U.S. Military Cemetery at Danggok, now officially known as the United Nations Memorial Cemetery Korea. (April 9, 1951, photo by Cpl. Alex Klein, Army)

A Country—and People— Worth Fighting For

Located on a strategic peninsula, Korea is bordered by two powerful countries: China on the northwest and Russia on the northeast. Japan is just east, separated only by the Korea Strait and the East Sea.

Because of its geographic location, Korea has conducted brisk cultural exchanges with its larger neighbors. It has also frequently been the target of aggression. For much of its history, however, the Korean people were successful at fighting off invaders who were interested in controlling the small but valuable piece of land.

In the 1900s, however, that changed. After winning wars against both China and Russia, Japan forcibly annexed Korea and instituted colonial rule in 1910. Japan banned the Korean language, established a cultural assimilation policy, conscripted millions of Koreans into a labor movement, and forced tens of thousands of Koreans into the Japanese military.

This invasion infuriated—and unified—the proud Korean

people, who spent decades fighting against Japan. On March 1, 1919, a peaceful demonstration demanding independence spread nationwide, and even beyond the country's boundaries to Manchuria and Siberia. The Japanese authorities stopped the demonstration by massacring thousands, a move that actually strengthened the bonds of national identity and patriotism among Koreans.

Although it failed, the March 1 Independence Movement ultimately led to the establishment of a provisional government in Shanghai and an organized armed struggle against the Japanese in Manchuria.

The Korean people's dogged determination to persevere and fight for what was right continued after the Japanese relinquished control of the country at the end of World War II and became an essential aspect of the Republic of Korea's astounding ability to rebuild after the devastating effects of the Korean War. Strong traditions of hard work, pride, and refusal to give up served South Koreans well as they moved past the war and forward into the next century, clearly showing why they were a country—and people—worth fighting for. ■

A Republic of Korea child sits alone in the street, after elements of the 1st Marine Division and South Korean Marines retake the city of Incheon, in an offensive launched against the North Korean forces in that area. (September 16, 1950, photo by Pfc. Ronald L. Hancock, Army)

