



Understanding Korean Unification.



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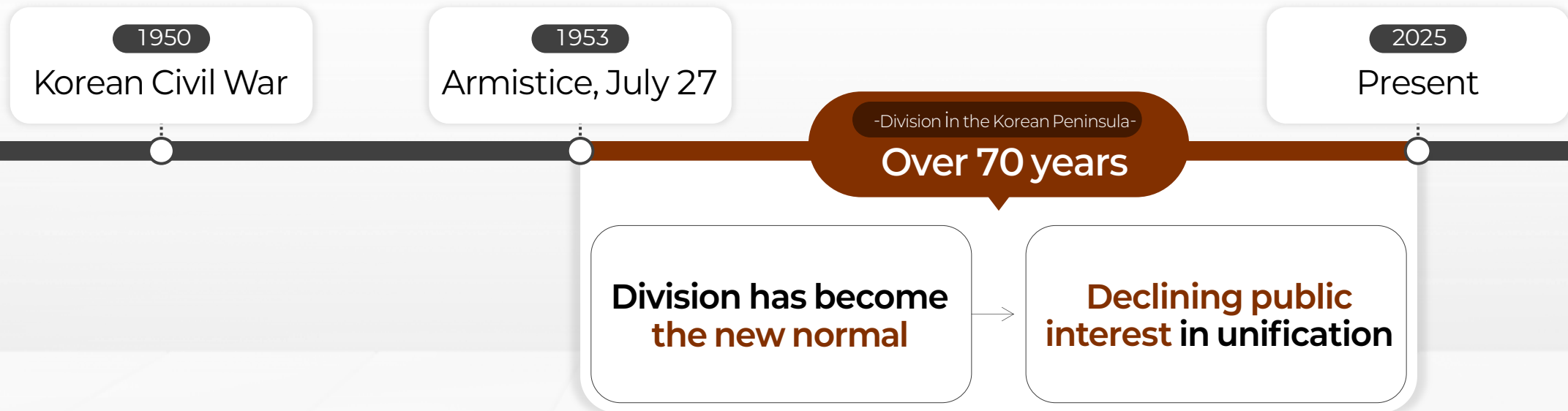
Perspectives on Unification Issues .



01



Division and Its Consequences



The Meaning of Unification

Why does Unification Matter?

01

High Costs of
Prolonged Division

02

Suffering of
separated
families

03

Barrier to
National Growth
And Prosperity

04

Growing Differences
between
South and
North Korea



What is the **significance** of **Korean Unification** for us?

The Meaning of Unification

Political and Legal Aspects

Political integration of two regimes

Establish a unified nation by
integrating the distinct political regimes
of South and North Korea



Overcoming the ideological differences,
conflicts, and threats of war resulting from division

to bring peace to the Korean Peninsula

Economic Aspects

Integration of two different economies

South Liberal democratic market economy • North Socialistic planned economy

Need to implement a market economy
to become an advanced
first-world country



Expanding Korea's
global economic sphere

**to lay the foundation for greater
economic development**

The Meaning of Unification

Sociocultural Aspects

Forming a single sociocultural community
to restore ethnic homogeneity

Overcome emotional division
and form a sense of community

**Share a sense of belonging within
the borders of a single nation**



Lay the foundation

for a new culture and future

Geographic Aspects

Manifestation of national territory

**Create a foundation where all
citizens can live in peace**

and **travel freely** whenever and
wherever they desire.



In addition to having greater collective land mass,

connect to the Eurasian continent

Perspectives on Unification

01

Uphold liberal democratic principles
In pursuing unification

Article 4 of the Constitution

The Republic of Korea **shall seek Unification** and **shall formulate a policy of peaceful Unification** based on **the principles of liberal democracy**

02

Pursuing peaceful methods and
processes

Efforts are needed to establish
peace on the Korean Peninsula
based on mutual trust between
South and North Korea



Perspectives on Unification

03

Build national consensus
Through democratic processes

Unification is an issue that concerns
all people living on the Korean Peninsula,
not just certain groups or social classes



04

Recognize unification as
**both a national and
An International issue**

The division of Korea was further solidified
by the war that began with the **U.S.-Soviet**
occupation of the peninsula,
intensifying inter-Korean
conflict and deepening national division.

Unification is closely tied to
The interest of neighboring countries



Global shifts and Their Impact on Korean Unification.



02



Global Geopolitical Shifts

Characteristics of the Geopolitical Situation

01

Increased uncertainty and market volatility



- The U.S. designating China as a strategic competitor
- Accelerating bloc formation in international politics (e.g., G7, BRICS)

02

Heightened geopolitical tensions



- Russia-Ukraine War
- Territorial disputes between Japan and China over the Senkaku Islands
- Escalating cross-strait tensions between China and Taiwan

03

Deteriorating economic and security environment



- Supply chain restructuring driven by U.S.-China strategic competition
- Post-COVID-19 era and the Russia-Ukraine war
- U.S. reciprocal tariff policies under the Trump administration (second term)

Global Geopolitical Shifts

Characteristics of the Geopolitical Situation

step 01

**Increased
uncertainty and
market volatility**

step 02

**Heightened
geopolitical
tensions**

step 03

**Deteriorating
economic and
security environment**



Rising Tensions on the Korean Peninsula



South Korea



U.S.



Japan

VS



North Korea



China



Russia

Rise of the North Korea's Nuclear Issue

A Firm Response to North Korea's Nuclear Issue

North Korea continues to **develop weapons of mass destruction,** including nuclear warheads and missiles

North Korea adopted its **'Nuclear Forces Policy Law'**



A major threat to both
The Korean Peninsula and
global security



**A strong international response
is essential**

**Guide North Korea toward diplomacy
and cooperation**

Cooperation with the International Community to Foster an Environment for Unification

Challenges for cooperation with the international community





Inter-Korean Relations and Unification Policies.



03



Changes in Inter-Korean Relations

Ongoing Inter-Korean Conflict and Security Incidents

1950s



Korean Civil War and **Armistice Agreement**



1960s



Gangneung Submarine Infiltration Incident



1970s



Panmunjeom Axe Murder Incident



1980s



Aung San mausoleum bombing and KAL airplane terror



Post 1990s



Naval engagement on the Yellow Sea, attack on the frigate Cheonan, shelling of Yeonpyeong Island, nuclear missile development, etc.



Source :
<https://namu.wiki/w/%ED%8C%90%EB%AC%B8%EC%A0%90%20%EB%8F%84%EB%81%BC%20%EB%A7%8C%ED%96%89%20%EC%82%AC%EA%B1%B4>
<https://www.joongang.co.kr/article/20922525>
<https://news.kbs.co.kr/news/pc/view/view.do?ncd=5299906>
<https://www.segye.com/newsView/20210331511288>
<https://www.donga.com/news/Politics/article/all/20230811/120667128/1>

Conflict and tension persist

Changes in Inter-Korean Relations

Progress in Inter-Korean Dialogue and Exchange

1970s



Sending dispatchers for Red Cross talks to make contact



1980s



Expanded inter-Korean talks



1990s



Declaration of the North-South Basic Agreement and **Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula**



Post 2000s



Inter-Korean Summit,
Mount Kumgang tour,
Reuniting separated
families at Kaesong
Industrial
Complex, etc.



Source :
<https://www.tongilnews.com/news/articleView.html?idxno=204927>
<https://bizheraldcorp.com/article/10419217>

Advancing inter-Korean cooperation

Changes in Inter-Korean Relations

Recent Developments in North Korea: 'Two Hostile States Doctrine'

June 9th, 2020

Cutting
communication lines
Blowing up liaison office

December 2023

Labeling South Korea
As hostile state

January 2024

Ordering the demolition
of the
"Monument to the
Three Characters
For National Reunification"

October 2024

Demolishing Inter-Korean
Connecting roads
(Gyeongui and Donghae
Lines)

Unification Policy

South Korea's Approach: National Community Unification Formula (1994)

National Community Unification Formula

Inherit and amend 1989 'Unification as a national community' Aim to achieve a **gradual** and **phased** unification

phase 01

Reconciliation and Cooperation

- Promote sector-by-sector exchanges and cooperation
- Peacefully manage the divided status of the peninsula

phase 02

Inter-Korean Confederation

- Institutionalize cooperation mechanisms
- Build mutual trust
- Foster a shared national identity

phase 03

Homogeneous and Singular Unified Nation

- Conduct general elections in accordance with a unified constitution
- Establish a unified National Assembly and central government

Establishment of '**Peace first, unification later**' stance: Sets a three-phased unification process



Need for Unification and Outlook.



04

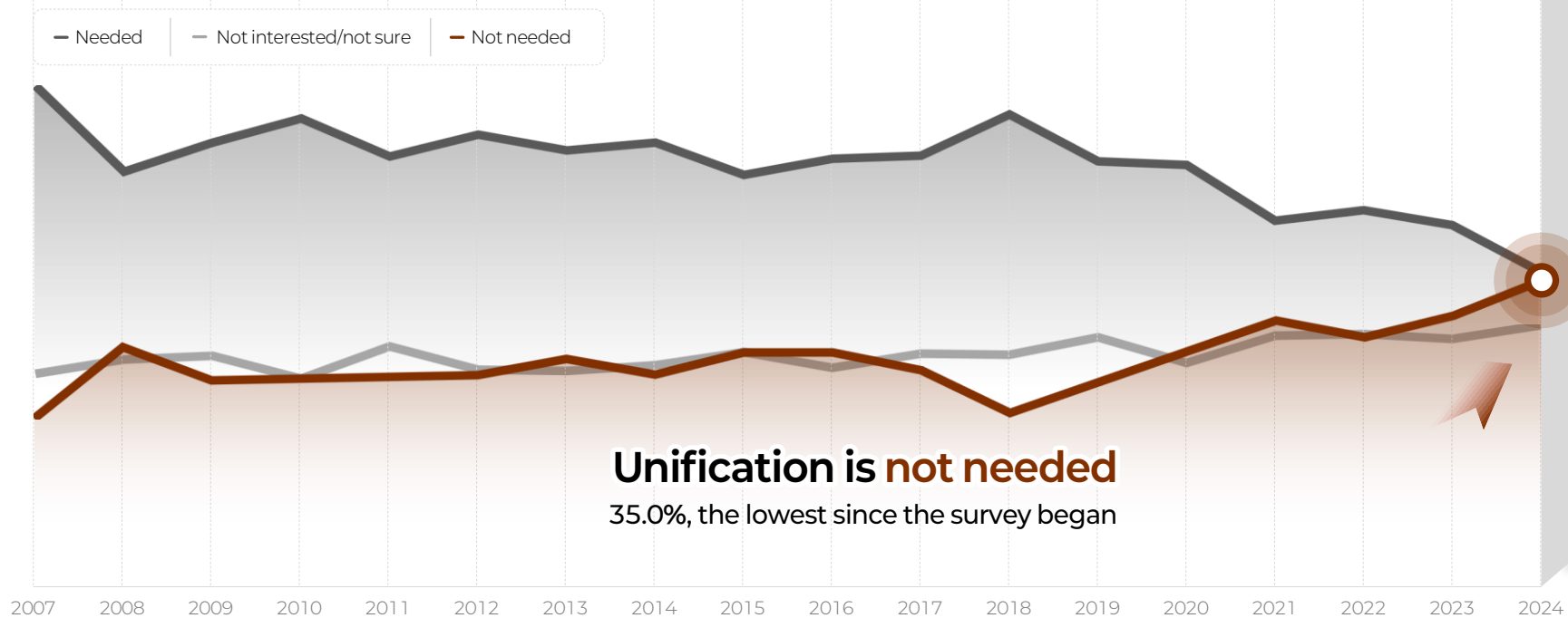
Status on Perceptions of Unification

Declining Public Support
For unification

Concerns about the process, **cost**,
and **social disruption** of unification

Long-term division
Led to skepticism

2024 Survey on Perceptions of Unification



Unification

seen as costly

Belief that

division is better

Unification is

impossible

Five Reasons Why Unification Matters

01

Greater Freedom and Broader Opportunities for All Koreans



Resolve the humanitarian issues
caused by division



Expand the Korean Peninsula
into a shared space **for free and dignified living**



Alleviate the costs of division
and **restore human dignity and fundamental values**

Five Reasons Why Unification Matters

02

Removing the
Threat of War,
Building Lasting Peace
Of the Peninsula



Five Reasons Why Unification Matters

03

Overcoming
Social Divides,
Advancing Toward a
More Cohesive and
Mature Society.



Five Reasons Why Unification Matters

04

Reducing
Regional Instability and
Unlocking New engines
Of Economic Growth




Five Reasons Why Unification Matters

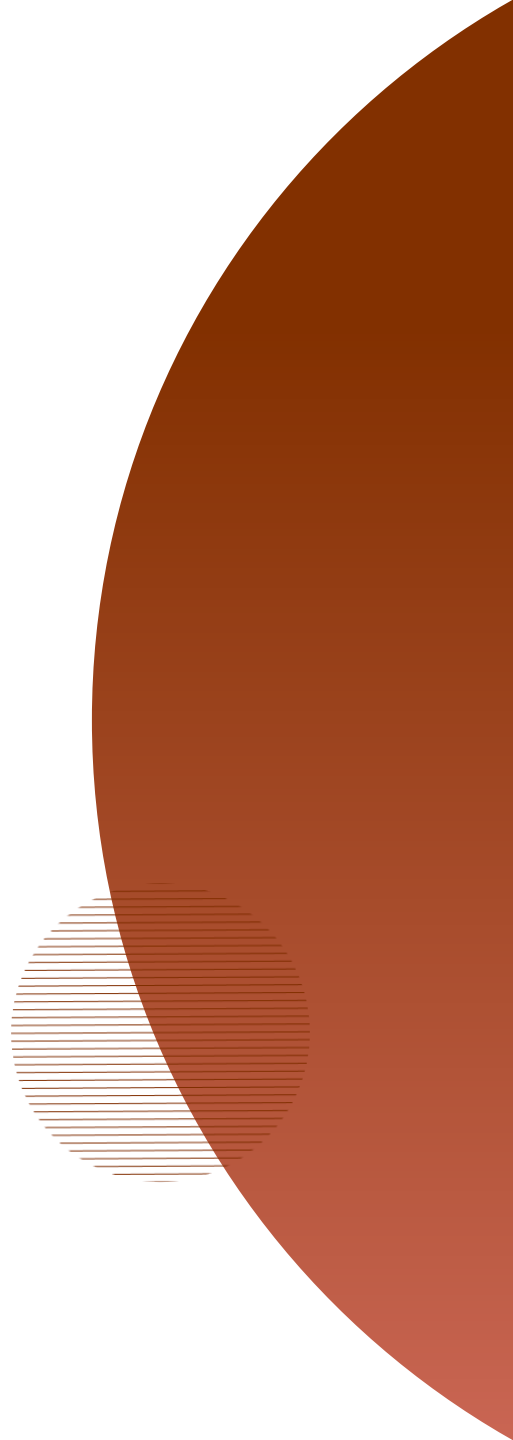
05

Reuniting
Divided people and
Reviving shared history
and cultural identity.





We hope this presentation has
**Inspired deeper reflection on
Korean unification and
Our shared future.**



2 0 2 5

Thank you.

National Institute of
Unification Education