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The great leader President Kim Il Sung

PREFACE

Korea, from time immemorial, has been called a land of golden tapestry, a land of morning calm, for her beautiful mountains and limpid streams; today she is called a land of Juche, a socialist state of independence, self-support and self-defence, that is dashing forward in the spirit of Chollima plus speed campaign under the sagacious guidance of the great leader President Kim Il Sung and the dear leader Comrade Kim Jong Il. The Tower of Juche Idea and the Chollima Statue soaring high into the air over the capital city of Pyongyang symbolize the history of great change that has taken place in Korea.

In spring the land is covered all over with flowers and in summer it is clad in thick green, suggestive of a flower pattern on a green carpet. In autumn mountains are studded with ripe fruits and maples clothed in scarlet and skirting them, there stretch vast plains rolling with golden ears of rice. In winter the land is covered with snow, presenting a beautiful snowscape.

Our country with distinct four seasons is good to live in all the year round. Mountains, rivers, plains and seas are fused into a breath-taking scenery and gold, silver and other minerals are found in profusion.

Living on this beautiful and fertile land, the resourceful, courageous and industrious Korean people created their unique culture long ago to glorify their country.

Our ancestors made a great contribution to the treasury of human culture by creating many things of cultural value. Among them are admirable iron tools manufactured far before the Christian era when they were still unknown in many parts of the world, the world's first metal type, 80,000 wooden blocks of the multi-volumed *Complete Collection of Buddhist Scriptures*, the world-famous Chomsong Observatory and astronomical observation data, Koryo celadon valued by the world's people, the Turtle Boat, the world's first iron-clad warship, the world's first rain gauge, and the *Royal Chronicle of the Li Dynasty* which records 500 years of government administration.

From olden times our people had lived in harmony as a homogeneous nation with the same spoken and written language and customs of life on the same territory ranging from Mt. Paekdu to Mt. Halla in Cheju Island. But because of the corruption and incompetence of the feudal rulers who idled away their time, while reciting poems and riding about on an ass, with a horse-hair hat on, our people had been deprived of their country by the Japanese imperialist aggressors in 1910 and suffered from colonial slavery for 36 years, the beautiful land being drenched in a sea of blood.

When the nation was at the crossroads of whether it would lose its lustre for ever on the world map or survive, some patriots committed suicide bemoaning the tragic fate of the country and a patriot gave vent to his anger by disembowelling himself at an international conference held in the Hague, and some others, shouldering matchlocks, participated in the struggle of the Righteous Volunteers' Army. But none of them could find the true path to deliver their unfortunate motherland and the wails of the people rent sky and earth.

It was just around this time that the great leader President Kim Il Sung, the sun of the nation, took the lead in the Korean revolution, shouldering the destiny of the nation in his teens. He authored the immortal Juche idea, and guided by it, he organized and led the arduous anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle for 20 years and brought the new spring of national liberation to this land.

That is why our people always call their motherland with great pride, linking it with the august name of the great leader President Kim Il Sung and regard it as their highest honour and greatest happiness to devote themselves to the revolution and construction under his leadership.

Under his guidance the appearance of our country has now changed beyond recognition.

Our people who were formerly subjected to maltreatment as a stateless nation have now become full-fledged masters of the country; our people who were kept in penury and ignorance in the past have now become able to manage their factories with the help of closed-circuit televisions and farm with tractors and rice transplanters and lead a happy life, singing of the prime of life at sixty and the first step to the old age at ninety.

This book deals with the developments of our country made in

political, economic, cultural and other fields. It shows the successes scored up to April this year when magnificent functions celebrating the 70th birthday of the great leader President Kim Il Sung took place as a grand political jubilee after the historic Sixth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea held in October 1980.

It also treats of the geography and history of Korea comparatively in detail and gives an outline of her folklore, speciality products and scenic spots.

This book is a new enlarged edition of *Korean Review* published in 1979.

July 1982

The Editorial Staff

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GEOGRAPHY

The great leader President Kim Il Sung said:

“Our country has many beautiful mountains and rivers and abounds in animals and plants and underground resources.”

NATURE

Location and Area

Korea is located in the heart of the east of the Asian Continent. The northern extremity is lat. 43 00'36" N. (Pungso-ri, Onsong County, North Hamgyong Province), the southern extremity lat. 33 06'32" N. (Is. Mara, South Cheju County, Cheju Province), the western extremity long. 124 10'47" E. (Is. Pidan, Ryongchon County, North Pyongan Province) and the eastern extremity long. 131 52'40" E. (Is. Tok, Ullung County, North Kyongsang Province).

Korea uses the local mean time at the mer. 135° E. Its territory consists of the Korean peninsula extending southward and 4,198 islands around it.

Korea has an area of 222,209.231 square kilometres, of which the islands hold 5,974.655 square kilometres or 2.69 per cent of the total land area.

The maximum length is approximately 1,127.16 kilometres from north to south (including islands) and the maximum width is 645.25 kilometres from east to west.

Korea borders on China and the Soviet Union on the north bounded by the Amnok and Tuman Rivers and on the seas on the east, the west and the south.

The border line is 1,369.37 kilometres and the coastline (including that of the islands) is 18,019.74 kilometres. The coastline of the peninsula alone is 7,809.27 kilometres.

Physiography

Korea is a land of diverse topography. It is composed of mountains, plains, valleys, coasts and plateaus due to the earth movements, erosion and sedimentation which took place over long geological ages. The terrain is predominantly mountainous. Mountains account for 80 per cent of the whole territory. Its average elevation is 440 metres above the sea level.

High mountains are predominant in the northern and eastern part of the country.

Several long mountain ranges stretch from Mt. Paekdu to the South Sea of Korea, in which there are over 100 mountains more than 2,000 metres high.

The highest is Mt. Paekdu (2,750 metres) rising on the northern border. It is a volcano erupted about one million years ago and afterwards crowned with a crater lake called Lake Chon. This magnificent yet beautiful mountain is associated with the immortal history of the glorious anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle organized and led by the great leader President Kim Il Sung and of the dear leader Comrade Kim Jong Il born amid the flame of the anti-Japanese war. In addition to this sacred mountain of the revolution, our country has many high beautiful mountains such as Mts. Kumgang, Myohyang, Chilbo, Kuwol, Chiri and Halla.

Among them Mt. Kumgang is world-famous from old times for its superb scenery. It consists of 12,000 peaks of various forms. Multitudes of rocky columns, rugged cliffs, fantastic-shaped rocks offer ever-changing beautiful scenery, coupled with numerous waterfalls and lotus ponds. All these are in perfect harmony with renowned historical ruins, thus forming matchless beauty.

In the northeastern region of the country are the Paekdu Plateau, Kaema Plateau and Paekmu Plateau.

Meanwhile, plains form comparatively small proportion of territory. Most of them are in the lowland less than 100 metres above sea level and those on higher altitudes are slopy.

The plains are mostly situated in the west and the south; on the east coast narrow plains lie along the lower reaches of rivers.

On the west coast there are relatively large plains such as the Pyongyang Peneplain, Ryongchon, Unjon, Yoldusamcholli, Onchon, Chaeryong, Yonbaek and Honam Plains; on the south coast are the Kimhae and Chonnam Plains and on the east coast the Hamhung and Kumsa Plains.

Seas

Korea is a maritime country, sea-bound on three sides.

There are the East Sea of Korea, the West Sea of Korea and the South Sea of Korea, all of which are linked with the Pacific Ocean. The whole of the West Sea of Korea consists of continental shelves.

Thirty-seven per cent of Korea's territorial waters is 1,000 metres deep. The average depth: the East Sea 1,668.2 metres, the West Sea 39.3 metres and the South Sea 442 metres. The deepest spot in the East Sea of Korea is 3,699 metres.

Korea has many islands of different sizes. The coastline is so indented that there are formed numerous peninsulas, capes and bays. The west and south coasts are especially indented, and they are world-famous for their indentation and a multitude of islands.

Along the west coast there are more than 1,000 islands and islets, capes and peninsulas. All the islands and peninsulas have rocky cliffs crowned with thriving pine trees, which are washed by sea water, and visited by sea gulls and other sea birds to offer wonderful scenery.

In the South Sea of Korea there are over 2,200 islands and islets, of which over 500 are inhabited. Their coastlines are greatly indented, 1,812.97 kilometres long in all or 6.35 times the straight length.

A branch of the north equatorial current of the Pacific Ocean flows into the Korean seas to make the temperature of sea water there suitable for the growth of planktons. The warm current flowing in from the south meets with the cold current from the north and a variety of fishes abound there. In the East Sea occur 353 fishes and in the West Sea 222 fishes.

The West Sea of Korea has high tidal elevation, at some places as high as 11.02 metres under the influence of the Pacific.

The East Sea of Korea is wide and deep and less affected by the water flowing from the inland. The water is clear and its salinity is