

## SOUTH KOREAN: TURNING TO DRAGON, DICTATORSHIP AND DEMOCRACY

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*South Korea is a never-seen case in history as being a reference, helping younger countries learn and research. However, the growth pathway, which South Korea has implemented, was full of conflict as well as depressing, and hard to simply give any evaluation.*

*This article's aim is to understand this complicated progress.*

### I.

South Korea's industrialization progress has begun since 1961 and lasted till 1991. During the three past decades, South Korea has turned itself from a poor and completely destroyed country, into one of the strongest NICs (Newly Industrialized Countries) and owning a powerful economy in the third world after Korea war. From 1963 to 1978, South Korea's GNP increased near 10% every year, and its real growth speed was more than 11% during the period of 1973 to 1978. Furthermore, South Korea had the best growing quality in comparison with other countries that also had the growth rate more than 10%. In 1963, South Korea's GDP was only 100 USD per person but it reached to 2,000 USD in 1980s, then passed over 10,000 USD in the beginning of 1990s and finally achieved 30,000 USD in 2010. South Korea is the best example about economic development in long term, researchers evaluated.<sup>1</sup>

Firstly, the high speed and unbelievable growth of South Korea within only 3 decades, was the result of effectively combining economic and social factors under convenient conditions of international circumstance. It was the close cooperation between governmental and private sector through suitable and strong policies in the period of 1960 to 1970. These policies were about industries which highly demand of working force or export-oriented, or were highly flexible in managing and ready to face up with changes of economy. Other factors, which had contribution to South Korea's turning to dragon then achieved the sustainability, were the country had more literate and hardworking people, received the great support from America and benefits from international capital flows, international commerce discipline at the half end of 20<sup>th</sup> century as well as America aids during the Cold War.

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<sup>1</sup> Michael P. Todaro (1998). *Economic Development in the Third World*. Vietnam Education Publishing House, H.: p. 165.

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Even above factors were extremely significant, human was still the most determinant factor in the industrialization of South Korea, researchers confirmed. Human factor here means the desire of obtaining prosperity of both country leaders and public, together with a strict, draconian and dictatorial management of government. They were all what have made a Korea like today.

## II.

Right after the coup attempt to seize the power in July of 1961, Park Chung Hee General completely 'tossed all in the trash'<sup>2</sup> with thousands of arrests and declared in front of 20,000 students of Seoul University: ' Everyone needs to save within 5 years and work hard if we want to survive. In next 10 years, we will create a top economy in East Asia, and then in next 20 years, we will be a powerful country in the world. Whole world will have to admire us. Today, there are some arguments against me, but all of you please understand that, country is much more important than your individual rights. I do not want to cheat on all of you. I will issue a strict and harsh policy. Anyone steals even one won from public fund will be shot. I am willing to die for our suggested ideal'<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> "Trash", this word was used by Park Chung Hee himself, describing those who were from old government or against him. Cited from Michael Schuman (2009). *The Miracle. The Epic Story of Asia's Quest for Wealth*. HarperCollins Publishers. New York. Page. 36.

<sup>3</sup> Cited from: Việt Dương. *Park Chung Hee built up South Korean economy*. <http://www.vietdc.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/10/park-chung-hee-xay-de1bbb1ng-kinh-te1babf-de1baali-han.doc>

Later, it is admitted that Park Chung Hee did exactly what he had said.

In his 18 years of being in post, starting with the coup attempt and the assassination as the ending point, Park Chung Hee was the favorite president, but also was hated by many leading dictators of this country. During the time when Northern Korea was occupied by Japan, Park Chung Hee was serving in Japanese military in Manchuria. After the Korea War, he participated in South Korean military and was prime general before the coup attempt in 1961. Park Chung Hee had wakened South Korea up from poor tradition and become a dragon of Asia. Up to now, there has not had any Korean politician could gain the loyalty as well as threatened public as Park Chung Hee yet. He was seen as a frank and strong leader who understood South Korean traditions and customs as well as had a broad vision.

Since 1962, South Korea had started its developing plans under the military dictatorship in which economic bureaucracy was the main way to extricate poverty.

South Korea's GDP was only 82 USD per person per year in 1960, just same with Vietnam at that point of time. After only 10 years, South Korea had put its first steps in reaching its average income per person to 1,000 USD per year. This is, however, the latest level Vietnam has just obtained nowadays. The income per person of South Korea was up to 1,310 USD per year in 1975 and in only 20 years, South Korea has reached to the new level, rising from 100 USD up 10,000 USD per person per year. In

1992, South Korea became a member of NIC<sup>4</sup>.

Economic development plan was based on the export - oriented industries due to low price. The cost of production was at the bottom level and government had applied the method of remaining the lowest price for agricultural products so that working labor could live with their low salary. At the end of 1970s, South Korean industry had manufactured color television. "I have worked in Brazil, Mexico and Europe but South Korean is the most hardworking labor that I have even seen. Even Japanese is still lazier than working force here", Allen Patric, representative of Ford Motor in Seoul shared with Boyd Gibbons in the interview with this reporter<sup>5</sup>.

In the works made the breakthrough of South Korea, Park Chung Hee had the biggest contribution in the end of 1960s when he built up one of the biggest highway of South Korea, connecting Seoul to South of Busan sea port. The construction was to make four lane highways which went through the dangerous and mountainous terrain, but got disapproved by South Korea Congress. Even Park Chung Hee's closest officials did not trust in him. World Bank as well as international financial institutions also warned the construction of highway could lead to the bankruptcy of whole country due to the building expenditure and

maintaining cost. Park Chung Hee, however, was still patient in researching documents carefully, and even using helicopter to review the whole terrain where he planed to build the highway.

On February 1, 1968 Park Chung Hee declared the order of starting the construction and the whole country embarked on building the 428 km highway with more than 200 bridges and 6 main tunnels. The construction was completed in 30/06/1970, and was the lowest cost ever spent on building this kind of highway, only 330USD/km, ADB analysts evaluated. In the first three years, Seoul - Busan highway was effectively operated when there were almost 80% of transports using this way. The construction also symbolized for the national spirit of Korean and nowadays, the story about the promise between the building team with Park Chung Hee was still told everywhere: "Willingly scarify for the prosperity of home country and the happiness of public. And willingly get any punishment if not complete the given duties"<sup>6</sup>.

During the period of the Park regime, saving is always the national policy. In his many speeches, he always repeated that "every coin of foreign currency was a drop of blood"<sup>7</sup>. And Park Chung Hee was an example of an integrity president when his own property was just more than 10,000 USD after his 19 years of regime.

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<sup>4</sup> The basic standard to be seen as an industrial country, and some researchers had evaluated the standards of having at least 10,000 USD as GDP. Today, some Vietnamese researchers have their own way to explain.

<sup>5</sup> Boyd Gibbons (1980). *The South Koreans, National Geographic*. August.

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<sup>6</sup> Michael Keon, Korea Phoenix (1977). *A Nation from the Ashes, Englewood Cliffs: Prentice - Hall International*, pg 78 -79.

<sup>7</sup> Park Chung Hee (1980). *Major Speeches by Park Chung Hee*. Seoul: Hollyon, pg. 149.

### III.

South Korea under the Park Chung Hee's regime, however, was also the worst period under the social aspect. The military dictatorship (1961 – 1987) had made the whole South Korean society just live and work according to only three rules such as 'anti-communist', 'dictatorial government' and 'economic development.'

Park Chung Hee did put all his efforts on economic development, and refused any hesitates from anyone else. The government set up conditions to encourage cooperation as well as capitalists in deploying cheap workforce. During the years from 1960 to 1970, living conditions of workforce who migrated from agricultural sectors to cities or industrial areas were extremely full of hardship. The rights of working people also were limited. Everything was in kind of acceptance because not only public, but even President has implemented the saving policy since 1962. In addition to the heavily and non - stop working as slaves, was the life with lot of hardship yet, every South Korean citizen had to skip one meal every single week, no imported cigarettes as well as coffee. The working time was from 12 to 14 hours per day while the working conditions were terrible with low wages. Spontaneous protests from workers, farmers or poor people asking a living standard improvement, were persecuted mercilessly. The basic democracy rights, the freedom of meeting or gathering groups or speech were completely trampled. "Park Chung Hee's regime in

controlling the country and the economy is much more brutal than Sahashi evil", Michael Schuman - a famous financial reporter of Times magazine (America) said.<sup>8</sup>

Legally speaking, Korean War has not finished yet, it is only a pause situation for now. The psychology of being scared of the War has led to the face-off spirit in South Korean daily life. It is the anti-communist thought boasted when it is considered as a giant who can give government the absolute power in economic growth, making use of workforce as well as controlling whole society. A far-right society was relatively united, and appeared everywhere in which any social phenomenon would be seen our side or rival's side. And the habit of giving such ridiculous conclusions had created the excuses for every violation to human rights. Choi Hyondok described the situation as breathless and never been on papers or media because of the strict control of government. Hence, outsiders almost know nothing about the real South Korea. Park Chung Hee used the laws of anti-communist to imprison and torture anyone against his opinion. Demonstration, press and media always were strictly controlled and censored. Polices used rulers to measure youth's hair and skirt length right on streets and they would be violently punished of men having long hair or women wearing short dress. Those who were against Park's ideas would be arrested and imprisoned forever. Anyone who was seen as communist would lose all rights to exist.

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<sup>8</sup> Michael Schuman (2009), pg. 31.

It was quite favorite and efficient way to stick “the communism” on any governmental policy, and when a socialist was arrested, he would be tortured until admitting himself as communist<sup>9</sup>.

After near two decades of dictatorship, Park Chung Hee had led South Korea to come over the poverty and become one of the developed countries. He and his dictatorship, however, became more and more discriminative with the concept of freedom, democracy under the name of stability and development. He considered that Korea had to be a strong economy before achieving its democracy. “Asian is more scared of poverty than dictatorship. Before building a fair politic system, Asian nations must have the economic equality, and it will not be a brilliant pearl as well as democracy government become meaningless for poor and hopeless people”. He even had the idea of whatever was right for South Korea, would be right for whole Asia as well<sup>10</sup>. Disregarding the democracy value made public and Park Chung Hee's close officials feel their scarification turn out nothing. Politically speaking, Park Chung Hee was a burden of South Korea during 1970s when his violent suppression was more extreme day after day. He shocked the whole country

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<sup>9</sup> See: Hyondok Choi. Choi, Hyondok (2011). *Civil society and South Korea's market economy: principles in the new librasim*. Cited from: Institue of Philosophy (2011). *Social responsibility in market economy*. H.: Social Sciences Publishing House, pg. 99-102.

<sup>10</sup> Park Chung Hee (1970). *Our Nation's Path: Ideology of Social Reconstruction*. Seoul: Hollym, pg. 196. (The gem without luster called democracy was meaningless to people suffering from starvation and despair).

when declaring the strictness of military law in 1972. Afterwards, he gave out the new constitution of stopping direct election and officially promoted himself as a forever president<sup>11</sup>. First attempt to assassinate Park Chung Hee was nearly success in 1974. His wife even was dead in that incident but he still continued his speech in National Theatre. The second attempt was at a party in 10/26/1979 and done by Kim Jae Kyu who was the director of Korea Central Intelligence Agency as well as South Korean Army Lieutenant General. Park and his chief bodyguard were shot. After the assassination, Kim Jae Kyu got the death sentence but there is a special commitee of government still considering will Kim be the one who contributed to Korea's democratization.

Park Chung Hee's regime has ended in violence and messy society. Park Chung Hee himself was assassinated by his long time friend. His politic career was stained because of his dictatorship and today, he just gets more and more haters.

#### IV.

After the assassination of Park Chung Hee, Choi Kyu Ha assumed the power but the political circumstance was very unstable. Major General Chun Doo Hwan led a military coup in 12/12/1979, then controlled Choi Kyu Ha's government as well as issued martial law.

In March of 1980, the needs of a democratically life were discussed in universities when students asked for the removals of martial law. In 5/15/1980 a large demonstration was hold in Seoul

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<sup>11</sup> Michael Schuman (2009), pg. 53.

station with the participation of more than 100000 professors, students as well as civilians.

In 5/17/1980, Chun Doo Hwan decided to expand his martial law by spreading military everywhere in South Korea. Polices attacked meetings of student leaders of 55 universities and arrested 26 politicians, including Kim Dae Jung who became the South Korean President from 1998 to 2003, accused him of holding demonstration.

In 5/18/1980, Gwanju students hold a big demonstration in spite of soldiers' suppression, one was clubbed to death. Citizens were infuriated by the violence that led to the number of protesters rapidly increased up to 100000 in May 20<sup>th</sup>. Military suddenly fired on citizens, and protesters burned MBC station in Gwangju. Four polices were rammed by car near the area of City Hall.

The violence had climaxed in May 21<sup>st</sup> 1980 when soldiers fired at the crowd and causing injuries. In response, a lot of protesters raided guns from near by weapons storage and police station to protect themselves. The bloody gunfights between citizens and soldiers were broke out in the Provincial Office Square, and military had to retreat from the city center at about 5.30 pm. Fighting was everywhere in Gwangju during the period of 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> of May, leading to thousands of death and injuries. The news of Gwangju incident was widely spreaded to surrounding towns as Hwasun, Naju, Haenam, Mokpo, Yeongnam, Gangjin and Muan.

At 4 am of 27<sup>th</sup> of May, military from five various directions moved into the

city centre then defeated civilians within only 90 minutes.

There is not any exact number of how many people lost their lives. However, the published figures issued later on by the martial law command put the death toll at 144 civilians, 22 soldiers and 4 polices killed, with 127 civilians, 109 soldiers and 144 police wounded. According to Bereaved Family Association, at least 165 civilians died from 18<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> of May. Another 65 was still missing and presumed death. 23 soldiers and 4 policed killed in the protest.

Chun Doo Hwan's government denounced the uprising as a rebellion instigated by Kim Dae Jung. In later courts, Kim Dae Jung was sentenced to death before getting reduced punishment due to international outcries. 1,394 people were imprisoned for involvement to Gwangju incident, 427 were indicted in which 7 got death sentences and 12 got life sentences.

Since 1983, in 18<sup>th</sup> of May, the ceremony of those who were killed in the uprising has been taken place in Mangwol Dong cemetery in Gwangju. Lots of democracy movement asked for the responsibility of government for that massacre.

Worries about the right catching of dictatorship have led to the changes of South Korean constitution and the Law of Presidential Election in 1987. The new constitution regulated election of the president through the direct and secret ballot. In the past 16 years, Presidents were indirectly voted through main electors and Presidential term has

been 5 year term and no possibility of re-election. After the 1987 election, government had to speak out their opinions about Gwangju incident. In 1988, Congress asked for public then renamed this incident into 'Gwangju Democracy Movement'. Korean Congress even approved to a special law on this movement in 1995 when those responsible were all prosecuted. In 1996, 8 politicians were indicted for high treason and massacre. Their punishment was settled in 1997 when the Former President Chun Doo Hwan received his life sentence. However all convicts were pardoned by President Kim Young Sam in 12/22/1997.

In December of 1997, the opposite party had won the election and got the power through a peaceful method. In the beginning of 1988, Kim Dae Jung became South Korean President and 18th of May has been the national Memorial Day since 1997. Mangwol Dong cemetery in Gwangju was also upgraded into national cemetery in 2002. Year 2007 is a meaningful point of Korea when this country memorized its 20 year of democracy since the winning of the left-wing party. The former prisoner Kim Dae Jung had become president and opened a new era for South Korea.

Park Chung Hee's and Chun Doo Hwan's dictatorship however left South Korea some aching issues which are not easy to sort out. When Roh Moo Huyn became President in 2003, government was keep issuing new laws and regulations as well as establishing committees which investigated violence

and the violation of human rights during Park Chung Hee's regime.

South Korea has gained lots of improvement in democratization from 1998 to 2007 but government, however, sometimes slid toward dictatorship direction, Choi Hyondok said. He also considered that government had opened the way to left-wing, but South Korea was driven to right-wing. A lot of non-governmental organizations operated according to the order of government while right-wing groups were still trying to 'find the way to protect their priorities from dictatorship's time'. In South Korea, democratization had been taken place together with economic growth, but it did not mean that the economic development directly promoted the democracy. Economic development method turned out too anti-humanities and extremely violent<sup>12</sup>.

Besides South Korea, the economic growth of Taiwan, Singapore and Hongkong had become the proof for some approvals with Park Chung Hee's viewpoint in 1980s. It was about an Asia which put the strictness of government behind its own economy. After having a deeper look into the relationship between economy and society's spirit, concepts about the strictness of government has been deeply reconsidered. *What we had to pay for the development of economy could not be the inhumanity in a large scale, could not be the scarification of lives and ethics of generations, and could not be easy to completely deleted those worse sequelae in next generations.* "The

<sup>12</sup> See: Hyondok Choi (2011), pg. 104-105.

correlation of dictators and the growth would get weak in Asia and Park Chung Hee's theory was only right for himself and less persuasive day after day", Michael Schuman evaluated<sup>13</sup>.

#### V.

The unbelievable example of a developed Korea regrettably based on the painful lessons from society's inhumanity and human rights' violation. Besides the suffering of millions of people, including thousands of people were killed, was the tragic fate of presidents. Among 8 presidents after Park Chung Hee (1961), there were two coups happened, many assassinations in which only one succeeded, two presidents were imprisoned in which one received the life sentence, one suicided, two were in prisons when fighting for democracy, one of them even got death sentence. These tragedies did not come from their Northern brother but were the product of dictatorship.

This reality might be covered by a prosperous Korea for outsiders, but South Korean knows the past is still there and not easy to forget. In the end of 2005, "Truth and Reconciliation for the Adoption Community of Korea" was established in order to sort out dictatorships' matters. Up to now, there are more and more issues and it hurts every single time when looking back the past<sup>14</sup>.

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1. In fact, there is no nation or country willingly accepts the dictatorship today.

<sup>13</sup> Michael Schuman (2009), pg. 32.

<sup>14</sup> Trương Khanh. *South Korea: Turn over spy cases.* <http://vietbao.vn/The-gioi/Han-Quoc-Lat-lai-ho-so-nhung-vu-an-gian-diep/45230220/162/>.

Mankind history with generations' blood and tears has proved that the path of human progress is moving towards freedom and democracy. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the ultra-right polity has become the history because globalization is everywhere, and the cross-country relationship is a part of daily life because of modern technology. Nations have their own reasons to say 'no' with dictatorship format. The movement of democracy have always gone through difficulties, even faced with the regression, but in general, the more development it has, the higher ladder that society's democracy can reach to. And, the more democracy the country has, the more conditions that society owns to grow up with more suitability, more humanity and more sustainability, especially in globalization circumstance.

There is no exception for this trend.

2. In recent years, demonstrations of Red Shirts (UDD) in Thailand were seen as a new level of democracy, especially when their purposes are to protect benefits of working people. Thai society has become even worse and unstable through these demonstrations. Today there are more agreements with the conclusion about the dictators such as Stalin, Chiang Kai-shek, Park Chung Hee, Chun Doo Hwan, Lee Kuan Yew. Even they brought back positive meaning but just be useful in a specific period as the country was newly established. Afterwards when South Korea, Taiwan and Singapore become more stable and developed, tyrannical leaders will gradually lose their

historical role and they themselves have to pay an expensive price for their harsh rein method.

3. The pathway to become dragon of NICs has gone over. The democracy role of a new Asia in development in 20<sup>th</sup> century is also confirmed. Development of countries as South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore during 1970 to 1980, however, raised up questions which are looking for answers about the role and meaning of dictatorship. The harshest question is could those countries be like today without Park Chung Hee, Chiang Kai-shek and Lee Kuan Yew? And, would the dictatorship which is seen as the wise system by its fans, be able to exist?

Of course, the questions “would” or “could” are unable to use when discussing about history. And it is the same point when dictatorship is unable to put together with the words like wisdom or clever. Wisdom for whom? For dictators themselves or for the next generations of those who was reined by the dictatorship and now enjoy the development's benefits?

During the past 20 years, some researchers already took notice of this matter and tried to give the detailed answers for the development through dictatorship method, for example, Fukuyama and Amartya Sen.

The link between dictatorship and development actually existed, Francis Fukuyama admitted. He considered that dictatorship was more efficient for economic growth, especially for Asian

countries when they were in first steps of extricating poverty<sup>15</sup>.

Amartya Sen had an opposite opinion when refusing the cause and effect relationship between dictatorship and growth. For him, South Korea turned to dragon under the dictatorship is the same thing with Botswana was poor in a democratic government. There is a connection but it is not the cause effect one, he said. Other reasons such as capital flow, international circumstance and the country's conditions are the determinant factors of will the country be poor or highly develop<sup>16</sup>.

4. For us, lessons from South Korea showed that dictatorship might be good for economic development if it totally brought back benefits for the nation itself, or the dictatorship is not only ambitious of a power or capital. But there is not such a dictatorship in today's society.

In the field of macro-management of society, global models do not allow anyone to be the only smart one or absolute right in comparison with others. The information age provided leaders with giant information system based on the team's intelligence will be the best ones.

Furthermore, today leaders have to rein their government integrated with the whole world which means other countries, organizations, communities, treaties, and cooperation. International commitments ask leaders to be

<sup>15</sup> See: Fukuyama, Francis (1998). *op.cit*; Fukuyama, Francis & Marwah, Sanjay (2000).

<sup>16</sup> See: Sen, Amartya Kumar (1997). *op.cit*; (1999). *op.cit* (2006).

democratic. It does not mean scarifying the country's benefits but implementing national benefits through a more fundamental way with long term vision. Besides, international organizations will not leave anyone in peace if that individual wants to do things as their own way.

There is no more society that obediently accepts the dictatorship like South Korea in 1970s; even its purpose is to develop the economy. Citizens are not simply the citizen of that country, but also the global citizens with a strong awareness of individual rights as well as politics. Not similar to South Korea before, today if the life was too harsh, they would leave their country or go against the polity, and the poor will be opposite or simply ignore the government. The birth of the color revolutions has changed the worlds politic when they can create social chaos as well as difficulties for government. It is, however, impossible to deploy violent method to behave towards public.

The only way is to adapt to and look for a suitable method of social management depending on information age. It will not be a dark way without exit, and for long term, it is also the best way to achieve the improvement of society.

Moreover, the real power of government and states is not expressed through docile people, obedient press, submissive religions or parties any more, but through a dynamic society where individuals can show their best ability in a diversified society.

What we need to remember is dictatorship has to pay the price and face

with a tragic situation for what it had done. Furthermore, there is no society can be serene in the future if they were dictatorial in the past. Except South Korea case, some other countries can also be the evidence for this consideration.

Besides, if there was not democracy, there would not be any laws, any ethics or any tools which could effectively prevent from the manipulation of benefits or the link between cross - country groups and the temptation of the alienation. That is why even Park Chung Hee was in globalization time; it would be still hard for him to be loyal to his own ethical ideal.

It is also necessary to discuss examples of Chile, Peru, Brazil and Ireland. During the period of 1970 to 1980, Chile, Peru and Brazil were dictatorial countries. They also had unexpected starts but very slow and then unable to keep growing. In contrast, Ireland had its own unbelievable pathway without experiencing any nightmares of dictatorship.

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## Appendix:

### GDP, HDI of South Korea through years

Figures of <a href="http://www.indexmundi.com/south_korea">indexmundi.com/south_korea</a>			Figures of UNDP (HDR 1990-2010)			
Year	GDP (PPP)	Compared with previous year (%)	GDP	HDI	HDI ratings	According to HDR
1975	1,310					
1980	2,301.148					
1981	2,661.306	15.65				
1982	3,010.873	13.14				
1983	3,459.846	14.91				
1984	3,895.38	12.59				
1985	4,270.865	9.64				

1986	4,851.073	13.59				
1987	5,549.251	14.39				
1988	6,346.713	14.37				
1989	6,961.878	9.69				
1990	7,825.301	12.40				
1991	8,802.16	12.48				
1992	9,431.827	7.15	9.250 R.: 5.249	0.882	31/174	1995
1993	10,146.779	7.58				
1994	11,156.583	9.95				
1995	12,281.895	10.09				
1996	13,287.953	8.19				
1997	14,168.867	6.63				
1998	13,413.028	-5.33	13.478	0.854	31/174	2000
1999	14,964.094	11.56				
2000	16,494.567	10.23				
2001	17,408.105	5.54				
2002	18,849.398	8.28	16.950	0.888	28/177	2004
2003	19,696.819	4.50	17.971	0.901	28/177	2005
2004	21,138.102	7.32				
2005	22,783.228	7.78	22.029	0.921	26/177	2007/2008
2006	24,662.133	8.25				
2007	26,596.622	7.84	24.801	0.937	26/182	2009
2008	27,716.294	4.21	29.518	0.877*	12/169	2010
2009	27,938.217	0.80				
2010	29,790.892	6.63				

Source: UNDP (HDR 1990-2010) &  
[http://www.indexmundi.com/south\\_korea/gdp\\_per\\_capita\\_\(ppp\).html](http://www.indexmundi.com/south_korea/gdp_per_capita_(ppp).html) (IMF)

## List of South Korean Presidents 1948-2010

<i>Time</i>	<i>Latin name</i>	<i>S.Korean names</i>	<i>Chinese names</i>	<i>Chinese-Vietnamese names</i>	<i>English names</i>
8/15/1948– 3/22/1960	I/Ri Seung-man	이승만	李承晩	Lý Thừa Văn	Syngman Rhee
8/12/1960– 3/22/1962	Yun Bo-seon	윤보선	尹潽善	Doãn Phổ Thiện	Yun Po-sun
12/17/1963– 10/26/1979	Bak Jeong-hi	박정희	朴正熙	Phác Chính Hy	Park Chung-hee
12/8/1979– 8/16/1980	Choe Gyu-ha	최규하	崔圭夏	Thôi Khuê Hạ	Choi Kyu-ha
9/1/1980– 2/25/1988	Jeon Du-hwan	전두환	全斗煥	Toàn Đầu Hoán	Chun Doo-hwan
2/25/1988– 2/25/1993	No Tae-u	노태우	盧泰愚	Lô Thái Ngu	Roh Tae-woo
2/25/1993– 2/25/1998	Gim Yeong-sam	김영삼	金泳三	Kim Vịnh Tam	Kim Young-sam
2/25/ 1998– 2/252003	Gim Dae-jung	김대중	金大中	Kim Đại Trung	Kim Dae-jung
2/25/2003– 2/25/2008	No Mu-hyeon	노무현	盧武鉉	Lô Vũ Huyền	Roh Moo-hyun
2/25/2008– now	I Myeong-bak	이명박	李明博	Lý Minh Bác	Lee Myung-bak