

History of Korea.

From 1950 to 1953, the Korean War was waged as a civil war between North and South Korea, but the conflict soon became international when, under U.S leadership, the United Nations joined to support South Korea and the People's Republic of China entered to aid North Korea.

Koreans were attacked in order to reunify their divided country. The division of the country and the occupation of each party, which are at the origin of the Korean War, are the result of an agreement between the Americans and the Soviets. The fate of the South and the North was decided through consultation between Washington, Tokyo, Moscow and Beijing to end this conflict. Important phases of the war were the result of

causes and international issues. An armistice was signed in 1953. But this war caused much devastation: between 3.5 and 4 million civilians were killed. Today the fighting ended sixty years ago, however, officially, the conflict is not over. On each side of the line, it haunts the minds. North Korea still provokes South Korea and the USA, they do not exclude conducting

a fourth nuclear test. The border between North Korea and the Republic of Korea is a strip of land of the 38th parallel. It corresponds to the cease-fire established July 27th, 1953 at the end of the Korean War. The Korean border is like a minefield along which you can find, permanently, two armies technically at war since no peace treaty has ended the inter-Korean conflict.

K-Pop

K-pop, is an original music of South Korea.

K-pop became a real sub-culture throughout Asia, based on the style of popular groups and singers. It first became popular in China and South-east Asia. It is now a genre in Western countries, North America and Europe. Gangnam Style singer PSY launched it in July 2012. With a clip, in one of the most exclusive districts of Seoul, Gang-

nam-gu has reached the top spot in the top 100 YouTube and is still up there. The total number of viewings, all media and videos on the net combined, have already surpassed a billion in just four months. Making it, November 24th 2012, the first most watched video of the web, of all time, and the world's largest musical phenomenon..

Louise Drouës



Intriguing culture

American culture remains somewhat rooted in that of South Korea and English is widely spoken. The Americans also brought with them their religion, mostly Christian. Since then, more and more Koreans have adopted this religion. However, it remains relatively minor compared to Buddhism, Confucianism or shamanism. Another derivative of Western influence, the evolution of morals.

Marriage has always been one of the most important steps of Korean life. It defines the end, for the woman, of their life with their parents and their early life in their husband's family. Koreans are very attached to family and as one might see in other cultures, the bride moves in with her husband and lives alongside their children and his parents. In addition,

only the man works. The woman stops her career just before her marriage and does not resume it. She must deal with her husband's family, educate their children and take care of his home. Divorce is considered a disgrace in the eyes of Koreans.

The cigarette is rather seen as a tool for relaxation. Koreans work very hard, they are very prone to stress, which is also a major public

health issue in Korea. South Korea is a country that has the highest suicide rate in the world. Numerous studies show a real malaise often linked to an exhausting pace of work which hinders their social and family life. Koreans are sometimes attached to things that do not seem necessarily important to us : the size of the eyes or hair colour .

Marie Chastel



Celebrations

There are many celebrations in Korea like :

Eorininal, or children's day, a traditional Korean celebration, since 1975. It's celebrated on May 5th. In Korea, children's day is celebrated like Christmas Day in Europe or America, children receive gifts and their parents take them for walks in the park, or go to the zoo or a theme park etc.

Chuseok is one of the biggest and most important celebrations in Korea . It is celebrated each year on the 15th day of the 8th lunar month. It's the day when family members get together to share diner and stories and give thanks to their ancestors. The day before, and after, are also National Holidays, offering five days of leave for Koreans. During this period, most Koreans spend Chuseok with their family. Tourists can therefore enjoy the Korean culture and traditional activities in peace.

Taebaeksan Mountains Snow Festival : Every year,

Snow and very low temperatures invade a large part of the country, especially in the mountains. Between January and February, in Mont Taebaek Provincial Park and other locations, there is the Taebaeksan Mountains Snow Festival, one of Korea's major winter festivals. We can admire giant ice sculptures, and enjoy dinner in a igloo restaurant !

Louise Drouës and Marie Chastel

