

The Guardians of Democracy:

The Ultimate Confrontation Between Two Pioneers and The Communists

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As I considered this year's NHD theme of "Frontiers in History: People, Places, and Ideas," I knew right away that I wanted to choose a topic that illustrates how nations use wars to achieve their political goals. Since I identify myself as a South Korean, though I immigrated to the United States in 2019, I decided to research the Korean War and examine how this war impeded the advancement of communism in Asia and proved the effectiveness of democracy. The two principal historical figures involved in the Korean War – United States President Harry S. Truman and South Korean President Syngman Rhee – crossed political and ideological frontiers by helping to lay the foundation for a democratic South Korea.

I conducted my research by first identifying the key question: who were the pioneers that initiated the transformation of South Korea from an imperial colony into a vibrant democracy and in doing so prevented the expansion of communism in Asia? Using this as my main research problem, I located the primary and secondary resources that I needed to answer the question. Furthermore, I did a preliminary literature review to gain contextual information on the history of the Korean War and of the two political pioneers at the center of South Korean democracy.

I created my project by first defining the roles that President Truman and President Syngman Rhee played before, during, and after the Korean War. Then, I read and analyzed multiple credible sources from books and articles from both South Korean and American academics (i.e. historians, political scientists, and sociologists) to create the basic outline of the project. I combined the information that I gathered from the primary and secondary sources that I found from multiple websites, databases, and library books; I even interviewed my maternal grandmother, a survivor of the Korean War, to investigate a first-person perspective on the Korean War and its

consequences. After annotating these various sources, I drafted an outline and then composed the rough draft of the historical paper. Subsequently, I went through multiple drafts to refine my arguments and strengthen the overall organization and flow of the paper.

My primary argument is that U.S. President Harry S. Truman and South Korean President Syngman Rhee were the pioneers of Korean Democracy; together they crossed a political frontier by preventing the expansion of communism in Asia through the Korean War and ultimately establishing democracy in the Korean peninsula. Under their leadership, the Korean War impeded the advancement of communist forces in Asia, and they manifested the effectiveness of democracy by helping to lay the foundation for a democratic society in South Korea and preventing other Asian countries from falling under the control of communist states, principally, the Soviet Union and China.

My topic is significant in history because the Korean War was a critical factor in the American efforts to impede the communist movements – many of them nationalistic – that were sweeping across Asia. Through impeding communism in the Asian region, countries like Japan and Taiwan did not fall into the “domino effect.” Moreover, through implementing multiple reconstruction policies and negotiating the Mutual Defense Treaty with the United States, President Syngman Rhee laid the foundation for a secure and democratic country; just like Japan and Taiwan, South Korea experienced massive social and economic developments and became a flourishing democracy.

The gross domestic product (GDP) of South Korea in 2021 was approximately 34,758 USD per capita, and it ranks as the tenth largest economy in the world.¹ How can a country that had been colonized under the rule of Imperial Japan for 35 years and had been ravaged by three years of civil war upon liberation, have transformed into a vibrant democratic country within a mere three decades? To answer this question, one must address two prominent figures of the mid-twentieth century: U.S. President Harry S. Truman and South Korean President Syngman Rhee. Together, they crossed the political frontier of democratic expansion by impeding the spread of communism in Asia through the Korean War. Under their leadership, they manifested the effectiveness of democracy by laying the foundation for a democratic society in South Korea and prevented other Asian countries from falling to communism. To understand how these two iconic pioneers achieved such a monumental feat, one must consider the international situation of that era, in particular, the threat of communism in the twentieth century.

Russia and the Soviet empire experienced many transformative, violent events: World War I, the Bolshevik Revolution, World War II, the Axis Invasion of Yugoslavia, the Soviet atomic bomb project, etc. As the Bolshevik faction gained power during and after the uprising, Vladimir Lenin, its founder, called for an “international revolution.” In 1919, he established an organization called the Communist International, an organization that aimed to spread communism on an international scale. Believing that a global communism would overthrow

¹ "Indicators of Economy in South Korea." World Data, Largs Eglitis, www.worlddata.info/asia/south-korea/economy.php.

bourgeois powers, the Comintern and its agents grew in multiple countries such as Great Britain, China, and Vietnam to provide training and support.²

Soon after the communist movement gained momentum, the West started to view the advance of communists as a significant threat to democracy. In that geopolitical context, the Domino Theory was introduced to the American public arguing that if one nation falls under the control of communists, communist infiltration would inevitably overtake peripheral countries. As Leslie Gelb, a senior Defense and State Department official, remarked, "If you let a crime go unpunished, you invite more crime. If aggression is tolerated in small out-of-the-way places, aggressors will be emboldened to attack larger, more vital places."³

The Domino Theory rapidly became a popular political construct in the U.S. and served as the backbone of the Truman administration's foreign policy strategy. In the late 1940s, the Truman administration delineated containment policies in the Truman Doctrine, the Long Telegram, and X-Articles. Consequently, in the Cold War era, the Domino Theory was the ideological foundation for foreign aid such as the Marshall Plan (1948) and The Berlin Airlift (1948-1949).

While such documents like The Long Telegram and X-Articles demonstrate that the "United States Policy towards the Soviet Union must be that of a long term, patient but firm and

² Llewellyn, Jennifer. "The Domino Theory." Alpha History, edited by Steve Thompson, 5 Sept. 2020, alphahistory.com/coldwar/domino-theory/. Accessed 9 Sept. 2022.

³ Gelb, Leslie H. "Interview with Leslie H. Gelb, 1982." Interview with Leslie H. Gelb, 1982, 1982. Open Vault, openvault.wgbh.org/catalog/V_80D674B7F896495F929058E4BC6DDCDD. Accessed 12 Oct. 2022. Interview.

vigilant containment of Russian expansive tendencies,”⁴ the Truman Doctrine is the document that puts the ideas into action. In 1947, President Truman declared the Truman Doctrine asserting that the U.S. would provide "political, military, and economic assistance to all democratic nations under threat from external or internal authoritarian forces.”⁵ After adopting this policy position, the U.S. contributed financial aid to the European nations. For instance, the Truman administration aided the Greek government during the Greek Civil War since President Truman believed that the very existence of the Greek state was threatened by the terrorist activities led by Communists. Moreover, the U.S. also assisted Turkey following World War II, hoping to impede the advancement of communism into European nations.

Indeed, European nations such as Greece and Turkey were vulnerable to communist infiltration; however, Asian nations were even more susceptible to communism due to their large numbers of peasants and weak military forces. The fear of the communist penetration of Asia increased as the People's Republic of China declared the establishment of the PRC after the Chinese Civil War (1927-1949). In *Toward Democracy*, historian Chang Se-Jin described the U.S. government’s concern “that the influence of the Chinese Communist Party sweeping the continent would expand to Taiwan, the Korean peninsula, and all of Southeast Asia, including Indochina.”⁶ The U.S. saw China as a dangerous ally of the USSR so Asia became the main battleground.

⁴ "George Kennan's "Long Telegram." Feb. 1946, Wilson Center Digital Archive, digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/document/116178.pdf. Accessed 12 Oct. 2022.

⁵ "Truman Doctrine (1947)." 12 Mar. 1947. National Archive, www.archives.gov/milestone-documents/truman-doctrine. Accessed 12 Oct. 2022.

⁶ Kim, Hyunjoo, et al., editors. *Toward Democracy*. E-book ed., U of Berkeley, 2021. PDF.

During Japanese colonial rule (1910 to 1945), Syngman Rhee played a critical role in liberating Korea from Imperial Japan and eventually establishing the Republic of Korea. After the March 1st Movement in 1919, Rhee realized the necessity of establishing a democratic government in order for Korea to become an independent nation. Thus, in April 1919, Rhee established the Provisional Government of the Republic of Korea in Shanghai. To establish the first democratic system in the history of Korea, the Provisional Government heroically supported the Korean resistance movement and the organization of the Korean Liberation Army. Through independence activists' efforts and international support, Korea ultimately became an independent country on August 15, 1945. After liberation, Korea was divided into North and South at the 38th parallel. In the North, Marxist revolutionaries led by Kim Il Sung allied with the USSR. In the South, ultranationalists led by Syngman Rhee allied with the U.S. Three years after liberation, on August 15, 1948, the Provisional Government dissolved and Rhee became the Republic of Korea's first president.

After the establishment of the new Republic, South Korea struggled to stabilize its social, economic, and political infrastructure despite the U.S.'s ongoing military presence and economic aid. In contrast, under the communist leadership of Kim Il Sung, North Korea became a powerful military force, having created the Korean People's Army in 1932. After Joseph Stalin, the dictatorial leader of the Soviet Union, approved Kim's proposal to invade the South, North Korean military forces crossed the 38th parallel on June 25, 1950.⁷ With the outbreak of war, Truman and Rhee's administrations worked together in the name of democracy and peace. Truman proclaimed, "that attack came without provocation and warning. It was an act of raw

⁷ Millet, Allan R. "Korean War." Britannica, Andrew Bell, 24 Aug. 2022, www.britannica.com/event/Korean-War/Air-warfare. Accessed 24 Aug. 2022.

aggression, without a shadow of justification."⁸ Immediately after North Korean forces invaded, the Rhee administration requested America's help, prompting Truman to ask the U.N. for sanctions against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), and "the United Nations, supported by the United States, did move immediately to resist the aggression in Korea."⁹

Despite U.N. aid, South Korea's military was inferior to North Korea's well-trained army. After the Truman administration realized this, President Truman conferred with General Walton Walker, Commander in Chief of the U.N. Command Douglas MacArthur, and President Rhee to devise a game-changing plan: Operation Chromite. It was a strategic plan to land the U.S. troops behind enemy lines to move the DPRK's troops out from the capital of Seoul. Initiating an amphibious landing was considered impossible due to the vast tidal variance, presence of many islands, shoal ocean, and dangerous proximity to the DPRK's troops. However, the U.S. army forces miraculously landed on Inchon and compelled North Korean troops out of the South.¹⁰

The war could have ended after North Korea's retreat; however, the U.N. General Assembly announced on October 7, 1950 that the new goal was to occupy all the North Korean territories and pursue the reconstruction of Korea as a unified nation. As the South Korean, U.S., and U.N. military forces crossed the 38th parallel, more than 8,000 South Korean and American

⁸ Radio and Television Address to the American People on the Situation in Korea". The American Presidency Project, edited by UC Santa Barbara, www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/radio-and-television-address-the-american-people-the-situation-korea. Accessed 12 Oct. 2022.

⁹ Remarks by Dean Acheson before the National Press Club. 12 Jan. 1950. National Archives, Harry S. Truman Library and Museum, www.trumanlibrary.gov/library/research-files/remarks-dean-acheson-national-press-club?documentid=NA&pagenumber=1. Accessed 12 Oct. 2022.

¹⁰ "Imperial War Museum the Landings at Inchon". Imperial War Museum, www.iwm.org.uk/history/a-short-history-of-the-korean-war.

troops died during air and land battles due to China's interference. After months of battle, the North and South signed an armistice agreement on July 27, 1953, creating a DMZ (demilitarized zone) that formally divided the Korean peninsula into two separate countries.¹¹

Although there was no decisive victor, the war still holds significance for the democratic countries in the world since it impeded the advancement of communists in Asia. The Truman administration's decision to enter the Korean War was not merely to help the South Koreans; the ultimate goal was to prevent countries in the region from falling to the communists. Though communism did take root in parts of Korea, Vietnam, and Cambodia, were it not for the U.S. and South Korea, other Asian countries like Japan and Taiwan could have fallen as well and thus could have enabled the world domination of the communists.

Even though South Korea did not fall to the Domino Effect, the costs of attempting to pioneer a new democratic country were profound. Indeed, many historians of that era deemed the Korean War a failure and predicted that South Korea would not be able to overcome its aftermath. The war led to great hardships: South Korea suffered immeasurably from the pain of one million civilian casualties as well as the country's devastating separation of families and communities. In total, nearly 5 million people died during the Korean War, including 40,000 American troops and 140,000 South Korean troops.

Millions of Koreans – North and South – suffered psychological trauma for generations. Moreover, South Korea's economy struggled for years in the wake of the war. A U.S. national intelligence report remarked on the fact that not only did South Korea have to come up with

¹¹ Millet, Allan R. "Korean War." Britannica, Andrew Bell, 24 Aug. 2022, www.britannica.com/event/Korean-War/Air-warfare. Accessed 24 Aug. 2022.

solutions to support an urban population of over 60 million, but the new republic also had to industrialize the undeveloped agrarian regions that constituted most of the South.¹² Furthermore, according to historian Michael J. Seth, the North was also shattered by the destructive three-year Korean War that left upward of two million dead and Northern cities and towns in ruin.¹³

Nevertheless, the DPRK advanced in economic development within the first few years after the war by consolidating power through establishing Kim Il Sung's Juche (주체), a political philosophy of self-reliance, as a national ideology. From a holistic perspective, South Korea still had the potential to stabilize the nation and surpass North Korea's economy since the Korean War provided a foundation to transform South Korea and even other non-communist Asian countries into vibrant democratic nations. Therefore, despite the great costs, the Korean War had a positive implication: it undermined the influence of communism in the Asian region and stabilized many Asian countries through enabling them to increase national security, advance economic development, and initiate the process of democratization.

In South Korea, President Rhee increased national security by negotiating The Mutual Defense Treaty with the U.S. Two months after signing the Korean Armistice Agreement, the Rhee administration met with Secretary of State John Dulles to point out South Korea's extreme vulnerability, arguing that there could be "no real armistice or peace in Korea as long as the

¹² "An Unpromising Recovery: South Korea's Post-Korean War Economic Development: 1953-1961." *Association for Asian Studies*, 8 June 2020, <https://www.asianstudies.org/publications/ea/archives/an-unpromising-recovery-south-koreas-post-korean-war-economic-development-1953-1961/>.

¹³ "Imperial War Museum the Landings at Inchon". Imperial War Museum, www.iwm.org.uk/history/a-short-history-of-the-korean-war.

Chinese communists remained in Korean territory."¹⁴ Therefore, with the fear of communist infiltration in mind, a few months later, The Mutual Defense Treaty was signed on October 1, 1953 by the U.S. and South Korea guaranteeing that "the parties will consult together whenever... either of the parties is threatened by the external armed attack."¹⁵ The political, social, and economic implications of the treaty were crucial; this agreement allowed for the deployment of American troops and military resources in South Korea, which laid the foundation for its social stabilization and economic development.

After the treaty negotiation, the U.S. and U.N. created a massive aid program similar to the United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency (UNKRA) of the Korean War for South Korea's fledgling democracy. In total, the U.S. gave South Korea approximately 3.5 billion dollars for reconstruction and stabilization.¹⁶ Utilizing the aid and educational programs from the U.S. and U.N., the Rhee administration created higher education opportunities and thus made

¹⁴ Office of the Historian, Foreign Service Institute. "Memorandum of Conversation, by the Director of the Office of Northeast Asian Affairs (Young)." 7 Aug. 1953. Office of the Historian, history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1952-54v15p2/d739. Accessed 12 Oct. 2022.

¹⁵ "Mutual Defense Treaty between the United States and the Republic of Korea; October 1, 1953." 1 Oct. 1953. Yale Law School Lillian Goldman Law Library, avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/kor001.asp. Accessed 12 Oct. 2022.

¹⁶ "About the United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency (UNKRA)." United Nations, archives.un.org/content/united-nations-korean-reconstruction-agency-unkra. Accessed 12 Oct. 2022.

democratic ideas accessible to students at schools, ultimately fostering thousands of bureaucrats, educators, economists, engineers, etc.¹⁷

According to WheeGook Kim, the President of the East-West Research Institute, "Democracy and economic development have interacted in the modernization of South Korea... [and] economic growth has facilitated democratization."¹⁸ Thanks to democratization and the cultivation of a new generation of Western-educated individuals, in 1956 the Rhee administration drew upon this talent pool of professionals and technocrats to create the Economic Development Council to promote long-term economic development. The founding of this Council established the basis for President Park Chung-hee's own Five-Year Economic Plans in the 1960s through the 1970s. Since then, the ROK experienced the phenomenon known as "The Miracle on Han River" that transformed South Korea into an economy generating a GDP per capita comparable to that of the European nations.¹⁸

Likewise, Japan experienced rapid economic growth since the mid-1950s. With the inception of the Korean War, "Japan's production increased by nearly 70 percent." As a burgeoning democracy, Japan's economy grew through technological advancements and the development of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry. By April 1964, Japan joined the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and by the 1980s it had

¹⁷Kim, WheeGook. Democracy and Economic Development in South Korea and Its Application. Washington DC, East-West Research Institute. East-West Research Institute, ciaotest.cc.columbia.edu/journals/ijoks/v2i1/f_0013363_10859.pdf. Accessed 13 Oct. 2022.

¹⁸Coen, Vicent, et al. "Sustaining the Miracle on the Han River." OECD, 25 Oct. 2021, www.oecd.org/country/korea/thematic-focus/sustaining-the-miracle-on-the-han-river-103653fa/. Accessed 13 Oct. 2022.

secured its position as a global leader among the developed nations.¹⁹ Similarly, in the 1980s, as Taiwan started to democratize, it propelled more rapid economic expansion by shifting to capital-intensive industries. The Taiwanese government promoted a high savings rate, facilitated labor productivity, and invested in foreign companies to transform itself into a developed democratic country.²⁰

Clearly, democratization and capitalist economic development went hand in hand in these respective Asian republics; nonetheless, both Presidents Truman and Rhee have been criticized by their contemporaries as well as by posterity for their political actions. Truman faced criticism from not only the Republicans but also his own political party for entangling the U.S. in a foreign war that burdened the American people. As a result, he had one of the poorest public approval ratings after the Korean War. Similarly, Rhee has been excoriated by scholars such as historian Seo Jung Seok who has claimed that Rhee "did not have any clear political ideology, vision, or knowledge outside of what can best be described as a reactionary negation of revolutionary logic." In fact, Syngman Rhee used military force to suppress opposing voices and was involved in electoral fraud scandals that led to public uprisings, most notably the April Revolution in 1960 (4.19 or Sa-Il-Ku). However, according to Korean Studies scholar Lee Sang-

¹⁹ Takada, Masahiro. Japan's Economic Miracle: Underlying Factors and Strategies for the Growth. Pennsylvania, 23 Mar. 1999. Lehigh Graduate College of Education, www.lehigh.edu/~rfw1/courses/1999/spring/ir163/Papers/pdf/mat5.pdf. Accessed 13 Oct. 2022.

²⁰ "Economy of Taiwan." Britannica, www.britannica.com/place/Taiwan/Economy. Accessed 13 Oct. 2022.

Hoon, Rhee “was, in reality, a gradual social reformist who made to overcome the obstacles between rich and poor, between classes, as well as social strife.”²¹

Apart from Rhee and Truman, more Asian nations would have succumbed to communism. After successfully containing the communist penetration in the region, the U.S. provided economic and military support to South Korea and enabled Rhee to aptly utilize these resources to lay the foundation for a prosperous democratic country. Ultimately, not only did these two presidents pioneer this political frontier by effectively impeding the communist expansion, but they also transformed South Korea into an economically flourishing democratic nation.

²¹ Lee, Sang-Hoon. "Syngman Rhee's Vision and Reality: The Establishment of the Nation and Thereafter." Syngman Rhee's Vision and Reality: The Establishment of the Nation and Thereafter, 3rd series, vol. 14, pp. 1-28. The Review of Korean Studies, rks.accesson.kr/assets/pdf/7727/journal-14-3-33.pdf. Accessed 13 Oct. 2022.

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"About the United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency (UNKRA)" ["About the United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency (UNKRA)"]. *United Nations*, archives.un.org/content/united-nations-korean-reconstruction-agency-unkra. Accessed 12 Oct. 2022.

This webpage presents information regarding UNKRA, a massive fund created by the United States and United Nations. This source is credible since the information is presented directly by the UN and contains archival photographs and other primary sources (quotations of political leaders from that time).

Through reading this webpage, I gained a better understanding of the UN's role as a humanitarian organization and its specific contributions to the reconstruction of South Korea after the Korean War.

Coen, Vicent, et al. "Sustaining the Miracle on the Han River." *OECD*, 25 Oct. 2021, www.oecd.org/country/korea/thematic-focus/sustaining-the-miracle-on-the-han-river-103653fa/. Accessed 13 Oct. 2022.

This OECD website explains South Korea's economic development after the Korean War and how it became one of the OECD countries. This source is credible since this website is officially run by OECD itself and has all the statistics regarding South Korea's economy. This source was helpful in explaining the economic phenomenon in Korea called 'The Miracle on Han River' by providing various graphs and charts.

"Economy of Taiwan." *Britannica*, www.britannica.com/place/Taiwan/Economy. Accessed 13 Oct. 2022.

This webpage shows how Taiwan's economy changed since its inception.

Although this webpage is not as credible as the other sources like official historical documents, it is still a reliable secondary source since it explains

Taiwan's economy by illustrating all the major events that happened in Taiwan.

This source was useful in linking another nation's experience of rapid economic development in its process of democratization.

"Effects of Operations in Korea on the Internal Situation in Communist China." 10 July 1951. *Office of the Historian*, history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1951v07p2/d135. Accessed 12 Oct. 2022.

This declassified document of the National Intelligence Estimate evaluates the effects of the Korean War. This document is credible since it is stored in the archive managed by the Department of State and carefully examines the effects of the Korean War domestically and internationally. This document was overall useful since it gave me background information on key international relationships and geopolitical situations after the Korean War.

Gelb, Leslie H. "Interview with Leslie H. Gelb, 1982." *Interview with Leslie H. Gelb, 1982*, 1982. *Open Vault*, openvault.wgbh.org/catalog/V_80D674B7F896495F929058E4BC6DDCDD. Accessed 12 Oct. 2022. Interview.

This interview discusses what Leslie Gelb, a correspondent for the *New York Times* and a member of the Department of Defense, did during his term at the Pentagon in 1967. This database and the interview are credible sources because they contain multiple first-hand sources, including this interview with Leslie Gelb. Although Gelb mostly discussed the events regarding Vietnam, this interview was still informative since he referenced the US Containment Policy and Domino Theory that I used to support my argument concerning Domino Theory in my paper.

"George Kennan's 'Long Telegram.'" Feb. 1946, Wilson Center Digital Archive, digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/document/116178.pdf. Accessed 12 Oct. 2022.

This historical typescript was written by the United States diplomat George Kennan in 1946 regarding US foreign policy on the Soviet Union. This archive and historical script are trustworthy because they are from The Wilson Center and the typescript in this archive is an actual script that he wrote. This record was overall useful since it enhanced my description of Containment Policy.

"Imperial War Museum *the Landings at Inchon*" ["Imperial War Museum *the Landings at Inchon*"]. *Imperial War Museum*, www.iwm.org.uk/history/a-short-history-of-the-korean-war.

This online museum website summarized the events that happened in the Korean War through providing photographs that were taken during the war. This website is credible since it displays multiple photographs of artifacts, battles, and the destruction of buildings and ships. Although this website doesn't explain the

events that happened in the war in detail, it was still helpful since it helped me gain background knowledge about the war through visual media.

"Indicators of Economy in South Korea." *World Data*, Largs Eglitis, www.worlddata.info/asia/south-korea/economy.php.

This database gives information on the economy of South Korea. This database is credible because it is a comprehensive database that forecasts across 150 countries, 45 regions, and more than 120,000 series using real-world data. It was helpful in my writing since it gave me evidence that I used to contextualize today's South Korean economy.

Kim, Hyunjoo, et al., editors. *Toward Democracy*. E-book ed., U of Berkeley, 2021. PDF.

This book analyzes major events that happened in South Korea between 1945 and 1980. This book is reliable since it is a compendium of articles written by leading scholars from major universities in South Korea and the United States. This book was helpful for my project since it chronicles major political and economic developments in both South Korea and North Korea between 1945 and 1980; moreover, the collection reflects the diverse perspectives of scholars from different disciplines from both South Korea and the US.

Kim, WheeGook. *Democracy and Economic Development in South Korea and Its Application*.

Washington DC, East-West Research Institute. *East-West Research Institute*,

ciaotest.cc.columbia.edu/journals/ijoks/v2i1/f_0013363_10859.pdf. Accessed 13 Oct. 2022.

This research article addresses the correlation between democracy and economy in South Korea. This article is credible because it explains the interaction between democratization and economic development in South Korea and references multiple primary sources. Although this article doesn't specifically address South Korea's economic development during Syngman Rhee's presidency, it was still helpful in my writing since it demonstrated how democratization and economic development were linked in South Korea.

Lee, Sang-Hoon. "Syngman Rhee's Vision and Reality: The Establishment of the Nation and Thereafter."

Syngman Rhee's Vision and Reality: The Establishment of the Nation and Thereafter, 3rd series, vol. 14, pp. 1-28. *The Review of Korean Studies*, rks.accesson.kr/assets/pdf/7727/journal-14-3-33.pdf. Accessed 13 Oct. 2022.

This academic journal addresses President Syngman Rhee's life and how his vision was similar/different from reality. This article is credible since it contains various primary sources and provides a thorough analysis of each argument the author makes. This source was especially helpful since there was some evidence that I used as a counter-argument to enhance my writing.

Llewellyn, Jennifer. "The Domino Theory." *Alpha History*, edited by Steve Thompson, 5 Sept. 2020, alphahistory.com/coldwar/domino-theory/. Accessed 9 Sept. 2022.

This webpage explains the Domino Theory and how it affected US foreign policy and decision-making during the Cold War. This website is reliable because it presents essential primary sources that further explain the reasons behind the US

government's foreign relations during the 20th century. Overall, this website was helpful since it gave me crucial information to understand why the US so strongly pushed and invested so much in the democratization of South Korea.

Miller, Debra A., and Scott Barbour, editors. *The History of Nations: North Korea*. Bonnie Szumski, 2004.

This book addresses the history of Korea in regard to its relationship with the United States in detail. This is a reliable source because it contains various primary sources including speeches from the U.S presidents and photographs taken back in the 20th century. Lastly, this source helped me shape my thesis argument because there were multiple primary sources that I drew upon for contextualization.

Millet, Allan R. "Korean War." *Britannica*, Andrew Bell, 24 Aug. 2022, www.britannica.com/event/Korean-War/Air-warfare. Accessed 24 Aug. 2022.

This webpage addresses the important events that happened before, during, and after the Korean War and also explains the causes of certain events. This website is credible because it provides multiple primary sources including quotes from historical figures to support the information presented by the author. This website was instrumental in the selection of my NHD project topic; it gave me a foundational understanding of the relationship between Korean democracy and the United States in the 20th century.

"Mutual Defense Treaty between the United States and the Republic of Korea; October 1, 1953." 1 Oct. 1953. *Yale Law School Lillian Goldman Law Library*, avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/kor001.asp. Accessed 12 Oct. 2022.

This source shows the official content of the Mutual Defense Treaty Between the United States and the Republic of Korea. This source is credible since it was made available by the Yale Law School Library and contains a copy of the actual document of the treaty. The source was helpful in helping me to understand President Syngman Rhee's accomplishments after the war; it helped me to write about the critical implications of this treaty for South Korea's national security and economic development.

Office of the Historian, Foreign Service Institute. "Memorandum of Conversation, by the Director of the Office of Northeast Asian Affairs (Young)." 7 Aug. 1953. *Office of the Historian*, history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1952-54v15p2/d739. Accessed 12 Oct. 2022.

This document addresses the discussion between President Syngman Rhee and Secretary of State John Foster Dulles regarding the prospects of South Korea after the Korean War. This source is credible since it is a primary source that gives an account of the actual conversation between the South Korean President and the US Secretary of State. This source was significant for my essay because it clearly showed how South Korea received massive aid from the US, and it also documented how President Rhee convinced the US to negotiate the Mutual Defense Treaty with South Korea.

Onion, Amanda, and Matt Mullen, editors. "Korean War." *History*, edited by Matt Mullen, A&E Television Networks, 9 Nov. 2009, www.history.com/topics/korea/korean-war. Accessed 21 Sept. 2022.

This webpage discusses the start and the end of the Korean War. This webpage is credible because it presents archival photographs of important historical documents, such as Truman's speech given right after the North invaded the South, and quotations from key historical figures, such as President Truman and President Eisenhower. This webpage helped me develop background knowledge for my essay topic since it provided me with a summary that encompassed all the important events that happened before, during, and after the War.

"Radio and Television Address to the American People on the Situation in Korea" ["Radio and Television Address to the American People on the Situation in Korea"]. *The American Presidency Project*, edited by UC Santa Barbara, www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/radio-and-television-address-the-american-people-the-situation-korea. Accessed 12 Oct. 2022.

This website presents the transcript of the radio and television speech by President Truman regarding North Korea's invasion of South Korea. This source is credible because it has President Truman's speech script (primary source) that directly addresses the Korean War. I found it useful because through analyzing this source, I realized that there were many quotes in the transcript that demonstrated President Truman's will to stop the North's aggression.

Remarks by Dean Acheson before the National Press Club. 12 Jan. 1950. *National Archives*, Harry S. Truman Library and Museum, www.trumanlibrary.gov/library/research-files/remarks-dean-acheson-national-press-club?documentid=NA&pagenumber=1. Accessed 12 Oct. 2022.

This historical typescript addresses Secretary of State Dean Acheson's evaluation of the United Nations' response after North Korea's invasion of South Korea. This source is credible because it contains Acheson's quotes and illustrates his opinions on the UN's actions concerning the Korean War. Through reading this document, I not only found a quote that helped me to organize my discussion of how quickly the US and UN came to South Korea's aid, but I also gained understanding of how the North's aggression impacted the South Korean region's infrastructure, military, and general population.

Seth, Michael J. *An Unpromising Recovery: South Korea's Post-Korean War Economic Development: 1953-1961*. Association for Asian Studies. *Association for Asian Studies*, www.asianstudies.org/publications/ea/archives/an-unpromising-recovery-south-koreas-post-korean-war-economic-development-1953-1961/.

This article analyzes South Korea's economic situation after the Korean War and how it eventually experienced an economic boom. This source is credible since it was written by a historian who has expertise in this field and since it quotes diverse primary sources. Overall, this article was helpful for my writing since it gave me most of the background information on South Korea's recovery from the Korean War and the role President Rhee played to lay the foundation for a democratic country.

Takada, Masahiro. *Japan's Economic Miracle: Underlying Factors and Strategies for the Growth.*

Pennsylvania, 23 Mar. 1999. *Lehigh Graduate College of Education,*

www.lehigh.edu/~rfw1/courses/1999/spring/ir163/Papers/pdf/mat5.pdf. Accessed 13 Oct. 2022.

This research article addresses the factors that contributed to the economic growth that Japan has experienced since the 1950s. This research is credible since it was conducted at Lehigh University, a well-regarded private research university, and contains multiple primary sources (i.e. charts, statistics). I found this article helpful since it showed how the Korean War boosted Japan's economy through trade and thus enabled Japan to become one of the leading countries in Asia as well as the OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development).

"Truman Doctrine (1947)." 12 Mar. 1947. *National Archive*, www.archives.gov/milestone-documents/truman-doctrine. Accessed 12 Oct. 2022.

This archive contains a page that describes the Truman Doctrine and the reason why President Harry Truman promoted this anti-communist foreign policy. The typescript presented in this archive is credible since it is a primary source. This page was useful since it gave me direct information on the Truman Doctrine apart from the analysis and information presented on the *Office of the Historians*, a website.

The Truman Doctrine, 1947. Department of State, 8 Apr. 2018. *Office of the Historians,*

history.state.gov/milestones/1945-1952/truman-

doctrine#:~:text=With%20the%20Truman%20Doctrine%2C%20President%20Harry%20S.%20T
ruman,under%20threat%20from%20external%20or%20internal%20authoritarian%20forces.

Accessed 12 Oct. 2022.

This webpage describes the Truman Doctrine in detail. This website and the information presented on this webpage are credible since this website is operated by the Department of State and contains various historical documents, including in-depth analyses of US-Soviet relations. This page was helpful since it explained the Truman Doctrine in detail and included key quotations from President Truman.

Wilde, Robert. "Containment: America's Plan for Communism." *ThoughtCo.*, 29 Oct. 2018,

www.thoughtco.com/what-was-containment-1221496. Accessed 16 Jan. 2021.

This article explains how the US adopted the "containment policy" based on the idea of Domino Theory and how it used this foreign policy to make certain decisions. This website is credible because it has received a Communicator Award in the General Education category and the goal of this website is to inform readers from unbiased perspectives. Although this website didn't provide direct information on how the adoption of the containment policy affected the Korean War, it still provided substantial background information that I could use to explain the US's primary foreign policy goals during the 20th century.