



A Brief Overview of Korea's History from 1800 to 2020

19th Century

- **Joseon Dynasty:** Korea was under the rule of the Joseon Dynasty, which faced internal strife and external pressures, particularly from China and Japan.
- **Opening to the West:** In the late 19th century, Korea began to open up to Western countries, leading to increased foreign influence and internal reform efforts.

Early 20th Century

- **Japanese Occupation (1910-1945):** Korea was annexed by Japan in 1910, leading to a period of harsh colonial rule. Koreans faced cultural suppression, economic exploitation, and forced labor.
- **Independence Movements:** Despite repression, Koreans organized resistance movements, both domestically and abroad, to fight for independence.

Mid 20th Century

- **Liberation and Division (1945):** Korea was liberated from Japanese rule at the end of World War II. However, the country was divided along the 38th parallel, with the Soviet Union occupying the north and the United States occupying the south.
- **Korean War (1950-1953):** The division led to the Korean War, a devastating conflict that resulted in a stalemate and an armistice, but no formal peace treaty. The war solidified the division into North Korea (DPRK) and South Korea (ROK).

Late 20th Century

- **North Korea:** Under Kim Il-sung, North Korea established a communist state with a strong emphasis on self-reliance (Juche). The regime became increasingly isolated and militarized.
- **South Korea:** South Korea, under various authoritarian regimes, experienced rapid industrialization and economic growth, known as the "Miracle on the Han River." Democratic movements eventually led to the establishment of a democratic government in the late 1980s.

21st Century

- **North Korea:** The regime continued under Kim Jong-il and later Kim Jong-un, focusing on nuclear development and maintaining strict control over the population.
- **South Korea:** South Korea emerged as a global economic powerhouse and a vibrant democracy, known for its technological advancements and cultural exports like K-pop and Korean dramas.