Instructor: Keiran Macrae (keiran@snu.ac.kr)

Course location and time: Rm. 201, Bldg. 140-2, Thursday, 10:00 – 13:00

## Format

## The course will consist of a one-and-a-half-hour lecture and one-and-a-half-hour seminar each week.

Course aims and description

The objective of this course is to provide a general introduction to modern Korean history and society from the late nineteenth century until after the Cold War. After 1945, the course will mainly focus on South Korea, but there are two sections on North Korea. Outside of political history, topics include foreign relations, the origins of modernity in Korea, economic development and democratization, and history wars.

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|  Evaluation |  |
|  Class Participation | 20% |
|  Class Presentation | 30% |
|  Mid-term Quiz | 20% (Week 8 – Oct. 20) |
|  Book Review | 30% (Week 15 – Dec. 8, 13:00 via email) |

Participation: Students will be graded based on their attendance and class participation in discussions based on the assigned readings. All the readings will be available via ETL. Students unable to attend a class should let the instructor know in advance.

Presentations: There will be two presentations per class. Students will prepare PowerPoint slides and present them individually or in groups of one to two (depending on class size). Each presentation will correspond to one of the assigned readings for the week. The aim is to summarize and critically evaluate the content and raise questions for discussion. Students may wish to consult outside sources to gain some perspective. The critical-summary component of the presentation should be no longer than twenty minutes (i.e., presentations will be twenty minutes plus discussion).

Mid-term quiz: A mid-term quiz (timeline) will be held halfway through the course.

Book Review: Students will also hand in a book review pertaining to one of two assigned books (listed below). Students should make an argument regarding a key theme in the book. In other words, do not just summarize but engage with the book’s content and ideas. What is the author’s argument? What are the underlying assumptions? What evidence does he or she use to support his or her argument? Consulting and citing outside sources is encouraged. Altogether, the review should be no more than three thousand words including footnotes and references. As far as format, please use Times New Roman, size 12, and double spacing. In terms of citations, please consult the following website: <https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/home.html>. The reviews are to be submitted via email to the instructor by the due date. Students may choose one of the following two books for review:

Henry Em, *The Great Enterprise: Sovereignty and Historiography in Modern Korea* (Duke University Press: Durham and London, 2013).

B.R. Meyers, *The Cleanest Race: How North Koreans See Themselves—And Why It Matters* (Brooklyn, NY: Melville House, 2010.

Suggested Reading

Cumings, Bruce. *Korea’s Place in the Sun: A Modern History*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2005.

Eckert, Carter J., Ki-baik Lee, Young Ick Lew, Michael Robinson, and Edward W. Wagner. *Korea Old and New: A History*. Seoul: Ilchokak, 1990.

Heo, Uk, and Terence Roehrig. *South Korea since 1980*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010.

Hoare, James. *Historical Dictionary of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea*. Lanham: The Scarecrow Press, 2012.

Hoare, James. *Historical Dictionary of the Republic of Korea*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2015.

Jager, Sheila Miyoshi. *Brothers at War: The Unending Conflict in Korea*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2013.

Koo, Hagen, ed. *State and Society in Contemporary Korea*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1993.

Oberdorfer, Don, and Robert Carlin. *The Two Koreas: A Contemporary History*, 3rd ed. New York, Basic Books, 2014.

Park, Tae-gyun. “Reappraisal of Introductory Books on Korean History in the U.S.: From Slave Society to Colonial Development.” *The Review of Korean Studies* 5, no. 1 (June 2006): 233–263.

Seth, Michael J. *A Concise History of Modern Korea: From the Late Nineteenth Century to the Present.* Lanham MD: Rowan & Littlefield Publishers, 2010.

Seth, Michael J., ed. *Routledge Handbook of Modern Korean History*. London: Routledge, 2016.

Schedule Outline

**Part I. The Transition to Modernity**

Week 1: Introduction – Sept. 1

Week 2: Late Joseon Period – Sept. 8

Week 3: Colonial Period – Sept. 15

**Part II. Division and the Korean War**

Week 4: Division and the Liberation Period – Sept. 22

Week 5: The Korean War – Sept. 29

**Part III. The Cold War**

Week 6: From First to Third Republic – Oct. 6

Week 7: The Park Chung Hee Era – Oct. 13

Week 8: Th 1980s: Age of Revolution **(mid-term quiz)** – Oct. 20

Week 9: North Korea during the Cold War – Oct. 27

**Part IV. Themes**

Week 10: Foreign Relations – Nov. 3

Week 11: Origins of Modernity – Nov. 10

Week 12: Economic Development and Democratization – Nov. 17

Week 13: History Wars – Nov. 24

**Part V. Wrap-up**

Week 14: The Two Koreas in Transition – Dec. 1

Week 15: Book review due – Dec. 8

Schedule

**Part I. Modern Korean History**

**Week 1 – Sept. 1: Course Introduction**

*No readings*

**Week 2 – Sept. 8: Late Joseon Period**

Why did Japan colonize Korea?

Young Ick Lew, “Japanese Challenge and Korean Response, 1876–1910: A Brief Historical Survey,” in *Korean History: Discovery of Its Characteristics and Developments*, vol. 5 of *Anthology of Korean Studies*, ed. Korean National Commission for UNESCO (Elizabeth, NJ: Hollym, 2004 [1985]), 475–498. Presenter: ––––––

Dylan Motin, “The Fault in Our Stars? Korea’s Strategy for Survival and Germany’s Rise, 1876–1910,” *Seoul Journal of Korean Studies* 35, no. 1 (June 2022): 131–161. Presenter: ––––––

*Suggested Readings*

Cumings, Bruce. *Korea’s Place in the Sun: A Modern History*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2005, 86–138.

Dudden, Alexis. *Japan’s Colonization of Korea: Discourse and Power*. Honolulu: University of Hawai‘i Press, 2005.

Duus, Peter. *The Abacus and the Sword: The Japanese Penetration of Korea, 1895–1910*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1995.

Eckert, Carter J., Ki-baik Lee, Young Ick Lew, Michael Robinson, and Edward W. Wagner. *Korea Old and New: A History*. Seoul: Ilchokak, 1990, 178–253.

Schmid, Andre. *Korea between Empires, 1895–1919*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2002.

**Week 3 – Sept. 15: Colonial Period**

Was the Japanese Empire unique? Was Japan’s colonization of Korea unjust?

Lewis H. Gann, “Western and Japanese Colonialism: Some Preliminary Comparisons,” in *The Japanese Colonial Empire, 1895–1945*, ed. Ramon H. Myers and Mark R. Peattie(Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1984), 497–525. Presenter: ––––––

Pyong Suk Yun, “Korean Resistance to Imperial Japanese Aggression and the Development of the Independence Movement,” in *Korean History: Discovery of Its Characteristics and Developments*, vol. 5 of *Anthology of Korean Studies*, ed. Korean National Commission for UNESCO (Elizabeth, NJ: Hollym, 2004 [1984]), 553–574. Presenter: ––––––

*Suggested Reading*

Cumings, Bruce. *Korea’s Place in the Sun: A Modern History*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2005, 139–184.

Duus, Peter, Ramon H. Meyers, and Mark R. Peattie, ed. *The Japanese Wartime Empire, 1931–1945*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1996.

Eckert, Carter J., Ki-baik Lee, Young Ick Lew, Michael Robinson, and Edward W. Wagner. *Korea Old and New: A History*. Seoul: Ilchokak, 1990, 254–326.

Shin, Gi-Wook, and Michael Robinson, ed. *Colonial Modernity in Korea*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1999.

**Part II. Division and the Korean War**

**Week 4 – Sept. 22: Division and the Liberation Period**

Why are there two Koreas?

Myung-lim Park, “The Internationalization of the Cold War in Korea: Entangling the Domestic Politics with the Global Cold War in 1946,” *International Journal of Korean History* 2 (December 2001): 309–350. Presenter: ––––––

Bruce Cumings, “38 Degrees of Separation: A Forgotten Occupation,” in *The Korean War: A History* (New York: The Modern Library, 2010), 101–146. Presenter: ––––––

*Suggested Readings*

Cumings, Bruce. *Korea’s Place in the Sun: A Modern History*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2005, 185–236.

Eckert, Carter J., Ki-baik Lee, Young Ick Lew, Michael Robinson, and Edward W. Wagner. *Korea Old and New: A History*. Seoul: Ilchokak, 1990, 327–387.

Lee, Joongsoo James. *The Partition of Korea after World War II: A Global History*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2006.

Miyoshi Jager, Sheila. *Brothers at War: The Unending Conflict in Korea*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2013, 15–54.

Oberdorfer, Don, and Robert Carlin. *The Two Koreas: A Contemporary History*, 3rd ed. New York: Basic Books, 2014, 1–21.

**Week 5 – Sept. 29: The Korean War**

Why did the Korean War break out? What was the war ultimately about?

William Stueck, “The Origins of the Korean War,” in *The Korean War: An International History* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1995), 10–46. Presenter: ––––––

Henry H. Em, “‘Overcoming Korea’s Division: Narrative Strategies in Recent South Korean Historiography,” *positions: east asia cultures critique* 1, no. 2 (1993): 450–485. Presenter: ––––––

*Suggested Readings*

Cumings, Bruce. *Korea’s Place in the Sun: A Modern History*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2005, 237–298.

Haruki, Wada. *The Korean War: An International History*. Translated by Frank Baldwin. Lanham, MD: 2014.

Jian, Chen. *China’s Road to the Korean War: The Making of the Sino-American Confrontation*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1994.

Kim, Donggil. “Stalin’s Korean U-Turn: The USSR’s Evolving Security Strategy and the Origins of the Korean War.” *Seoul Journal of Korean Studies* 24, no. 1 (June 2011): 89–114.

Lee, Stephen Hugh. *The Korean War*. Great Britain: Pearson Education Limited, 2001.

Weathersby, Kathryn. “The Korean War Revisited.” *Korean Questions* 91 (Summer 1999): 91–95.

**Part III. The Cold War**

**Week 6 – Oct. 6: From First to Third Republic**

Was the April Revolution a failed revolution? Was the May 16 coup d’état a “revolution”?

Charles R. Kim, “The April 19th Generation and the Start of Postcolonial History in South Korea,” *The Review of Korean Studies* 12, no. 3 (September 2009): 71–99. Presenter: ––––––

Woo Jin Yang, “Two Key Historical Moments of the Early 1960s: A Preliminary Reconsideration of 4.19 and 5.16,” *Journal of Korean Studies* 10, no. 1 (Fall 2005): 121–143. Presenter: ––––––

*Suggested Readings*

Cho, Seok Gon, and Tae Gyun Park. “Suggestions for New Perspectives on the Land Reform in South Korea.” *Seoul Journal of Korean Studies* 26, no. 1 (2013): 1–21.

Han, Yong-Sup. “The May Sixteenth Military Coup.” In *The Park Chung Hee Era: The Transformation of South Korea*, edited by Byung-Kook Kim and Ezra F. Vogel, 35–57.Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2011.

Henderson, Gregory. *Korea: The Politics of the Vortex*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1968, 148–191.

Kim, Hyun Sun. “Life and Work of Korean War Widows during the 1950s.” *The Review of Korean Studies* 12, no. 4 (2009): 87–109.

Park, Tae-Gyun. “Different Roads, Common Destination: Economic Discourses in South Korea during the 1950s.” *Modern Asian Studies* 39, no. 3 (2005): 661–682.

**Week 7 – Oct. 13: The Park Chung Hee Era**

What kind of leader was Park Chung Hee? Why was he so fiercely resisted?

Byeong-ju Hwang, “The Ruling Discourse and Mass Politics of the Park Chung Hee Regime,” *The Review of Korean Studies* 12, no. 3 (2009): 11–40. Presenter: ––––––

Myung-Lim Park, “The *Chaeya*,” in *The Park Chung Hee Era: The Transformation of South Korea*, ed. Byung-Kook Kim and Ezra F. Vogel (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2011), 373–400. Presenter: ––––––

*Suggested Readings*

Cumings, Bruce. *Korea’s Place in the Sun: A Modern History*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2005, 299–403.

Eckert, Carter J., Ki-baik Lee, Young Ick Lew, Michael Robinson, and Edward W. Wagner. *Korea Old and New: A History*. Seoul: Ilchokak, 1990, 348–418.

Kim, Byung-Kook, and Ezra F. Vogel, ed. *The Park Chung Hee Era: The Transformation of South Korea*.Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2011.

Kim, Hyung-A. *Korea’s Development under Park Chung Hee: Rapid Industrialization, 1961–79*. London: RoutledgeCurzon, 2004.

Kim, Hyung-A, and Clark W. Sorensen, ed. *Reassessing the Park Chung Hee Era, 1961–1979: Development, Political Thought, Democracy, and Cultural Influence*.Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2011.

**Week 8 – Oct. 20: The 1980s: Age of Revolution**

**(mid-term quiz)**

What was behind the violence perpetrated in Kwangju? Why did students become so radical in the 1980s?

Don Baker, “Victims and Heroes: Competing Visions of May 18,” in *Contentious Kwangju: The May 18 Uprising in Korea’s Past and Present*, ed. Gi-Wook Shin and Kyung Moon Hwang(Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2003), 87–106. Presenter: ––––––

Namhee Lee, “Anti-Americanism and *Chuch’e Sasang*,” in *The Making of* *Minjung: Democracy and the Politics of Representation in South Korea* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2007), 109–144. Presenter: ––––––

*Suggested Readings*

Bedeski, Robert E. *The Transformation of South Korea: Reform and Reconstruction in the Sixth Republic under Roh Tae Woo 1987–1992*.London: Routledge, 1994.

Heo, Uk, and Terence Roehrig. *South Korea since 1980*.Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010, 28–50.

Park, Sunyoung, ed. *Revisiting Minjung: New Perspective on the Cultural History of 1980s South Korea*.Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2019.

**Week 9 – Oct. 27: North Korea during the Cold War**

What is Kim Il Sung’s place in Korean history? What exactly is Juche?

Andre Lankov, “Kim Il Sung: An Attempt at a Biography,” in *From Stalin to Kim Il Sung: The Formation of North Korea 1945–1960* (London: Hurst & Company, 2002), 49–76. Presenter: ––––––

Eun Hee Shin, “The Sociopolitical Organism: The Religious Dimensions of Juche Philosophy,” in *Religions of Korea in Practice*, ed. Robert E. Buswell, Jr. (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2007), 517–533. Presenter: ––––––

*Suggested Reading*

Buzo, Adrian. *Politics and Leadership in North Korea: The Guerilla Dynasty*, 2nd ed. London: Routledge, 2018.

Cumings, Bruce. *North Korea: Another Country*. New York: The New Press, 2004.

Shim, David. *Visual Politics and North Korea: Seeing is Believing*.London: Routledge, 2014, 1–56.

Suh, Dae-Sook. *Kim Il Sung:* *The North Korean Leader*.New York: Columbia University Press, 1988.

**Part IV. Themes**

**Week 10 – Nov. 3: Foreign Relations: Japan, North Korea, and the United States**

What is the likelihood of establishing stable and constructive relations between the two Koreas? Why can’t Korea and Japan just get along? How might we characterize the relationship between South Korea and the United States?

Brad Glosserman, “South Korea-Japan Relations: The Comfort Women Lens,” in *The Korean Paradox: Domestic Political Divide and Foreign Policy in South Korea*, ed. Marco Milani, Antonio Fiori, and Matteo Dian (London: Routledge, 2019), 122–136. Presenter: ––––––

Marco Milani, “Progressive and Conservative Visions of Inter-Korean Relations,” in *The Korean Paradox: Domestic Political Divide and Foreign Policy in South Korea*, ed. Marco Milani, Antonio Fiori, and Matteo Dian (London: Routledge, 2019), 54–68. Presenter: ––––––

*Suggested Readings*

Brazinsky, Gregg. *Nation Building in South Korea: Koreans, Americans, and the Making of a Democracy*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2007.

Foley, James A. *Korea’s Divided Families: Fifty Years of Separation*. London: Routledge, 2003.

Lee, Jung-Hoon. “Normalization of Relations with Japan: Toward a New Partnership.” In *The Park Chung Hee Era: The Transformation of South Korea*, edited by Byung-Kook Kim and Ezra F. Vogel, 430–456.Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2011.

Moon, Chung-In. *The Sunshine Policy: In Defense of Engagement as a Path to Peace in Korea*. Seoul: Yonsei University Press, 2012.

Park, Tae Gyun. *An Ally and Empire: Two Myths of South Korea-United States Relations, 1945-1980*. Seongnam: Academy of Korean Studies Press, 2012.

**Week 11 – Nov. 10: Origins of Modernity**

When did Korea become modern?

Gi-Wook Shin and Michael Robinson, “Introduction: Rethinking Colonial Korea,” in *Colonial Modernity in Korea*, ed. Gi-Wook Shin and Michael Robinson (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1999), 1–18. Presenter: ––––––

Michael D. Shin, “Introduction,” in *Landlords, Peasants, and Intellectuals in Modern Korea*, ed. Pang Kie-chung and Michael D. Shin(Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2005), 1–20. Presenter: ––––––

*Suggested Readings*

Haggard, Stephan, David Kang, and Chung-in Moon. “Japanese Colonialism and Korean Development: A Critique.” *World Development* 25, no. 6 (1997): 867–881.

Jung, Tae-hern. “Two Korea’s Perceptions of the ‘Colonial Modernity’ since 1945.” *International Journal of Korean History 2* (December 2001): 193–219.

Karlsson, Anders. “Recent Western-European Historical Studies on Pre-Modern Korea and the Issue of Modernity Revisited.” *International Journal of Korean History* 18, no. 1 (February 2013): 185–202.

Kohli, Atul. “Where Do High Growth Political Economies Come From? The Japanese Lineage of Korea’s ‘Developmental State.’” *World Development* 22, no. 9 (1994): 1269–1293.

Takashi, Mitsui. “Raising the Issue of ‘Modernity’”: ‘Colonial Modernity’ Theory as Advanced by Japanese Korean Studies Scholars and the Background Thereof.” *International Journal of Korean History* 17, no. 2 (August 2012): 159–186.

**Week 12 – Nov. 17: Economic Development and Democratization**

Who or what was behind the “miracle on the Han”?

Hagen Koo, “Modernity in South Korea: An Alternative Narrative,” *Thesis Eleven* 57 (May 1999): 53–64. Presenter: ––––––

Daniel Chirot, “Modernization Theory, Ideology, and Economic Success: Putting Korea’s Development in Comparative Perspective,” *Sungkyun Journal of East Asian Studies* 5, no. 1 (2005): 51–75. Presenter: ––––––

*Suggested Reading*

Chang, Dae-oup. *Capitalist Development in Korea: Labour, Capital and the Myth of the Developmental State*.London: Routledge, 2009.

Cotton, James. “From Authoritarianism to Democracy in South Korea.” *Political Studies* 37 (1989): 244–259.

Haggard, Stephan, and Chung-in Moon. “The State, Politics, and Economic Development in Postwar South Korea.” In *State and Society in Contemporary Korea*, edited by Hagen Koo, 51–93. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1993.

Hart-Landsberg, Martin. *The Rush to Development: Economic Change and Political Struggle in South Korea*.New York: Monthly Review Press, 1993, 11–21.

Kim, Sunhyuk. *The Politics of Democratization in Korea: The Role of Civil Society*.Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2000.

**Week 13 – Nov. 24: History Wars**

Why is history contested in South Korea?

Don Baker, “Memory Wars and Prospects for Reconciliation in South Korea,” in *Routledge Handbook of Memory and Reconciliation in East Asia*, ed. Mikyoung Kim (London: Routledge, 2016), 111–127. Presenter: ––––––

Jong-Pil Yoon, “Recent History Wars in South Korea,” *Paedagogica Historica* 56, no. 4 (2020): 548–567. Presenter: ––––––

*Suggested Reading*

Em, Henry. “Historians and Historical Writing in Modern Korea.” In *The Oxford History of Historical Writing, vol. 5: 1945 to the Present*, edited by Axel Schneider and Daniel Woolf, 659–677. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011.

Kim, Mikyoung. “Korean Memories and Psycho-Historical Fragmentation: Fast-Forward, Retrospective.” In *Korean Memories and Psycho-Historical Fragmentation*, edited by Mikyoung Kim, 1–20. Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan, 2019.

Seth, Michael J. “Introduction: Understanding Modern Korean History.” In *Routledge Handbook of Modern Korean History*, edited by Michael J. Seth, 1–12. London: Routledge, 2016).

Tikhonov, Vladimir. “The Rise and Fall of the New Right Movement and the Historical Wars in 2000s South Korea.” *European Journal of Korean Studies* 18, no. 2 (2019): 5–36.

**Part V. The Two Koreas since the End of the Cold War**

**Week 14 – Dec. 1: North and South Korea in Transition**

Why hasn’t North Korea collapsed? How should we evaluate the South Korea “miracle” in light of history since 1987?

Nicholas Eberstadt, “Why Hasn’t North Korea Collapsed? Understanding the Recent Past, Thinking about the Future,” in *North Korea: The Politics of Regime Survival*, ed. Young Whan Kihl and Hong Nack Kim (London: Routledge, 2006), 505–563. Presenter: ––––––

Jang-Jip Choi, “Introduction,” in *Democracy after Democratization: The Korean Experience* (Stanford: Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center, 2012), 3–19. Presenter: ––––––

*Suggested Reading*

Chang, Paul. “Candlelight Protests in South Korea: The Legacies of Authoritarianism and Democratization.” *Ewha Journal of Social Sciences* 34, no. 1 (2018): 5–18.

Hahm, Chaibong. “South Korea’s Miraculous Democracy.” *Journal of Democracy* 19, no. 3 (July 2008): 128–142.

Kang, David. “They Think They’re Normal: Enduring Questions and New Research on North Korea; A Review Essay.” *International Security* 36, no. 3 (2011/2012): 142–171.

Lankov, Andrei. *The Real North Korea: Life and Politics in the Failed Stalinist Utopia*.Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013.

Mobrand, Erik. *Top-Down Democracy in South Korea*.Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2019.

Park, Han S. “North Korean Perceptions of Self and Others: Implications for Policy Choices.” *Pacific Affairs* 73, no. 4 (Winter 2000–2001): 503–516.

Shin, Gi-Wook. “South Korea’s Democratic Decay.” *Journal of Democracy* 31, no. 3 (2020): 100–114.

**Week 15 – Dec. 8: Final Week**

*Book review due*

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| *Timeline of Major Events in (South) Korean Political History* |
| **February 26, 1876** | Treaty of Ganghwa |
| **1894** | Donghak Rebellion, Sino-Japanese War |
| **August 22, 1910** | Treaty of Annexation |
| **March 1, 1919** | March First Movement |
| **August 15, 1945** | Liberation (occupation and division) |
| **August 15, 1948** | Establishment of ROK (First Republic)\* |
| **September 9, 1948** | Establishment of DPRK |
| **June 25, 1950** | Outbreak of the Korean War |
| **July 27, 1953** | Signing of Military Armistice Agreement |
| **April 19, 1960** | April Revolution (Second Republic) |
| **May 16, 1961** | Park Chung Hee coup d’état (Third Republic) |
| **June 22, 1965** | Normalization of relations with Japan |
| **August 13, 1965** | Resolution to send troops to Vietnam |
| **October 17, 1972** | Yusin Declaration (Fourth Republic) |
| **October 26, 1972** | Park Chung Hee assassinated |
| **May 17, 1980** | Chun Doo Hwan seizes control of the government (Fifth Republic) |
| **May 18, 1980** | Gwangju Uprising begins |
| **June 1987** | June Uprising, June 29 declaration (Sixth Republic) |
| **December 18, 1991** | Election of Kim Young Sam, restoration of civilian government |
| **December 18, 1997** | Election of Kim Dae Jung, peaceful exchange of power |

\*Note: South Korean political history is typically periodized in terms of “republics,” ranging from first to sixth. The inauguration of each new republic corresponds to the writing of a new constitution and sanctioning of new political leadership. I have placed the inauguration of each new republic in brackets because the dates on the left do not strictly correspond to the founding of each republic but the key events that led to transition. For example, the April Revolution brought an end to the Rhee Syngman regime, but it was not until August 23, 1960 that the Second Republic, under Prime Minister Chang Myon, formally began.