

November 28, 2023

Dear friends of the Korea Policy Institute,

As the year comes to a close, the U.S.-backed war in Ukraine, genocide against Palestinians, and diplomatic wrangling to reinvent the Cold War in Asia threaten further suffering for millions.

In Asia, the emergence of an [axis-of-war](#), comprising the United States, South Korea, and Japan, combined with the war in Ukraine, has prompted a mending of ties between Russia and North Korea, intensifying regional polarization. With China and Russia refusing to support additional sanctions on North Korea, the United States, for the first time in seventy years, has lost its ability to wield the UN Security Council as an imperial cudgel to deal further blows to North Korea. Yet in an effort to shore up U.S. hegemony, the Biden administration has recklessly doubled down on [military might](#), funded its war machine with unsustainable levels of debt, and pushed its allies in Europe and Asia to risk [war with China](#), a nuclear-armed country with historic ties to Russia and North Korea, both of which are also nuclear-armed.

While the U.S. military does not yet have troops in Ukraine or Gaza, it has long occupied Korea. In Korea, the United States, a [belligerent](#) in the ongoing [Korean War](#), maintains a fighting force of 28,000 troops. Should there be an outbreak of fighting, it would assume operational control over the armed forces of the Republic of Korea (ROK), pursuant to the ROK/U.S. Combined Forces Command. Moreover, as part of its “pivot to Asia,” it has reintroduced U.S. [nuclear-armed bombers and submarines](#) to the Korean peninsula and included Japan, Korea’s former colonial master, in joint U.S.-South Korea [war exercises](#) to “end” [socialist North Korea](#). Nowhere is the danger of nuclear war, which would imperil the entire world, greater than at the Korean DMZ. Such a catastrophic war would not be U.S.-backed; it would be U.S.-led.

As tensions escalate in Korea and around the world, with no end in sight, the [Korea Policy Institute](#) (KPI) continues to feature analysis of a wide range of current events and history from the perspective of the Korean people’s struggles to achieve reunification peacefully, without interference from foreign powers.

KPI is especially pleased to sponsor the [Ending the Korean War Teaching Initiative](#), the work of the Ending the Korean War (EKW) Teaching Collective, which launched [Reverberations](#) this year, the first module of its open-access, multimedia syllabus on the Korean War. Aimed at educators, organizers, and community members, this syllabus is intended to serve as an anti-imperialist tool against permanent war. Throughout the year, EKW organized both online and in-person community forums engaging topics in the syllabus, including “[Reimagining the Saigu Archive: LA 1992 and the Politics of Unending War](#)”; “[Race, Kinship, and the Korean War](#)”; and “[Gender, Jeju Women, and Reconstruction of Post-4.3 Jeju](#).” The collective also created an Ending the Korean War section, which will convene annually at the Association for Asian American Studies (AAAS) conference. EKW has more events, most aimed at rolling out new modules of the syllabus, planned for the upcoming year, including a major public event in Washington, DC, and other events in Seattle, Washington, and New Haven, Connecticut. This grassroots work is animated by the urgency of not merely studying the Korean War but ending it.



The work of KPI, a 501c3 nonprofit organization fueled by volunteer labor, is not possible without your support. We are funded solely by individual donors committed to U.S. policy that respects the Korean people's sovereignty, their desire for peace, and the reunification of their country. Donations can be made [online](#) or by check, mailed to Korea Policy Institute, P.O. Box 2281, Berkeley, CA 94702.

We thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

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