

December 15, 2025

Dear Friends of the Korea Policy Institute:

Twenty years ago a group of Korean American activists, scholars, and filmmakers concerned with President George W. Bush's 2002 speech identifying Iran, Iraq, and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) as an "axis of evil," and the subsequent U.S. invasion and occupation of Iraq, convened a meeting to discuss practical ways and means of supporting the peaceful and independent reunification of Korea as an alternative to the regime change strategies of the Bush administration and the status quo of an unended Korean War. From this meeting was born the Korea Policy Institute, an independent research and educational institute "guided by the premise that a reasonable U.S. policy towards Korea must be supportive of the legitimate desires of the Korean people for peace, sovereignty, reconciliation, and the reunification of Korea." Although the circumstances of Korea's fate have changed dramatically over the past twenty years, the aforementioned desires of the Korean people have not, and neither has the premise of our work.

The current position of the DPRK on reunification, that peaceful reunification with the south is not possible, was prompted by the now disgraced Yoon Suk Yeol's pursuit of reunification by means of regime change in the north, advocacy of the stationing of U.S. nuclear assets in south Korean naval bases and airfields under a new doctrine of "extended nuclear deterrence," and his embrace of a trilateral military alliance with the U.S. and Japan. In his speech of December 31, 2023, Secretary Kim Jong Un put it this way:

The general conclusion drawn by our Party, looking back upon the long-standing north-south relations is that reunification can never be achieved with the ROK authorities that defined the "unification by absorption" and "unification under liberal democracy" as their state policy, which is in sharp contradiction with our line of national reunification based on one nation and one state with two systems. Even at this moment, the south Korean puppets are unhesitatingly contending that the DPRK and its people are territory and population of the ROK that should be reclaimed, and it is shamelessly specified in the constitution of the ROK that "the territory of the ROK contains the Korean peninsula and its attached islands."

The position of the DPRK on reunification does not threaten war on the south but challenges the administration of President Lee Jae Myung to chart a course towards reconciliation unlike those before him. Does President Lee's vision of reunification really differ from past administrations? Will he indeed change the articles of the ROK constitution which claim the north as the territory of the ROK, and reunification as the undoing of socialist construction in the north, or like the administration of Moon Jae In, will he surrender his vision of reunification to the dictates of the UN Command and to the interests of the ROK-U.S. alliance which now includes Japan?

Korea's struggle for sovereignty and peaceful reunification surely continues. But gone is the tenet that reunification was possible only within the framework of the ROK-U.S. alliance and U.S. Cold War hegemony in Asia. The DPRK is pursuing its national interests today without



regard to the overtures of the Trump administration, and the so-called values-based foundation of the ROK-U.S. alliance has been replaced by a transactional zero-sum game in which the ROK is being economically plundered by the U.S. for the privilege of hosting U.S. armed forces at ever increasing cost and the prospect of being employed as a proxy in U.S. plans to “remotely” police the “first island chain” to contain China.

As new opportunities present themselves for achieving the peaceful reunification of Korea, or as U.S. militarism and Japan’s rearmament may tip the region towards war, the Korea Policy Institute will continue to feature analyses of Korea-related current events and history, and call for an end, not only of the U.S.’s longest forever war, the Korean War, but for the end of U.S. backed genocide, military adventurism, economic plundering and fascist oppression at home and abroad.

In this regard KPI was pleased to be a co-convenor, July 25-27, 2025, of the [People’s Summit for Korea](#), calling for [international solidarity](#) to support Korean sovereignty and national liberation struggles across the globe, attended by over 500 representatives of anti-imperialist organizations nationwide and from Europe, and representatives from nineteen civil society organizations from Korea representing peace and labor groups. Moreover KPI is pleased to be a partner in [The International People’s Tribunal on the Responsibility of the U.S.A. for the 1945 Atomic Bombings and for Ensuring Redress \(Apology\) to the Korean Victims](#), and to continue its support of the [End the Korean War Teaching Collective](#) and its online [syllabus](#), a political education platform serving as an anti-imperialist tool against permanent war.

The work of KPI, a 501(c)3 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.

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