

How did Korea get where it is?

Half Isolationist, Half Globalized

Half Fascist, Half Democratic

Both Militarized

Teaser

- Imagine...

An Alien Space Ship over SLCC!!

What do you do:

- When it comes!
- A week later?
- A year later?

Aliens come to Far East

- 1840's Europeans come in high tech ships
 - They want to trade
- Far East responds with...
- Plan A – Live and Learn
- Plan B – Strong National Will
- Plan C -- ... Blaaagh!! (chaos)

Responses

- Japan responds with Plan A
 - Meiji Restoration, rapid adapting
- Korea responds with Plan B
 - Heungseon Daewongun, culture first priority
- China responds with Plan C
 - Taiping Rebellion, “We have other problems.”

First Consequences

- Japan: becomes an imperial power
- Korea: gets colonized by Japan
- China: Open Door Policy and Warlord era

Still lots of stress

- Japan
 - Becomes fascist
 - Stays enthusiastic about the revolution
 - Gets adventurous
 - ... Oops!

Historic Accident

- Korea divided
 - North: Kim Il-sung/Soviet and Communist
 - South: Syngman Rhee/US and Democratic
- Both want Korea unified
- Then Mao unifies China, lots of confusion

Korean War

- Kim moves first
- Lots of surprises
- LOTS of surprises

Post-Korean War

- Plan A and Plan B revived
- South goes with Plan A
 - Become running dog lackeys in eyes of the North
 - ...but very prosperous ones!
 - Smart phones and Gangnam Style
- North goes with Plan B
 - Pure... with a heaping helping of delusion

Surprise! This is stable

- This split is sixty years old now
- South is globalizing
- North is blackmailing

When will it end?

- North fears “Colonizing 2”
- It will end when that’s no longer their biggest worry