



Cabinet of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (1950)

Introduction

It is slowly becoming clear that the fledgling government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea might find itself caught between the two conflicting powers at the head of the Cold War. The United States and its allies in the United Nations continue to support the government of the Republic of Korea to the south, while the Soviet Union and their leader, Joseph Stalin, continue to support our regime. It is growing more and more likely by the day that conflict is the only resolution to the tensions along the 38th parallel. At this difficult time, Kim Il-Sung's cabinet must balance the international concerns of the changing world around them, and the domestic needs of their citizens within this soon-to-be two-year-old nation.

Background Information:

Committee Description

The Cabinet of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is composed of Kim Il-Sung's most trusted advisers and ministers. The cabinet is formed as the subordinate executive branch to the so-called "highest order of state power," the Supreme People's Assembly. Organized by the Assembly, the Cabinet has the authority to determine the function and work of all the Ministries of North Korea, as well as promulgate decisions that are in line with the Constitution itself. All members of the Cabinet serve at the immediate discretion of the Premier, Kim Il-Sung, the chief executive power within North Korea.

Kim Il-Sung is the current Premier of North Korea and the face of North Korean politics and power on the international stage. With the assistance of the Soviet Union, Kim Il-Sung was chosen to be the first premier of North Korea, and has built a significant following within the country as the Chairman of the Korean Workers' Party, the Communist party within the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Although the term has yet to see mass usage, Kim Il-Sung has taken to calling himself "Great Leader," and statues of his figure have begun to dot the land of North Korea. As a result, contesting his decisions is not recommended for any members of his cabinet or even the Supreme People's Assembly.

As of the current iteration of the Constitution, there are 12 functions that the Cabinet currently has:

1. Conduct general guidance in the sphere of relations with foreign states and conclude treaties with foreign states.
2. Control Foreign trade
3. Direct local organs of state power
4. Organize the monetary and credit system

5. Draw up a uniform state budget to fix taxation and other revenue included in the state and local budgets
6. Direct state industrial and commercial establishments, agricultural enterprises, and state transport and communication facilities
7. Adopt measures for the maintenance of public order, for the protection of the interests of the state, and for the safeguarding of the rights of citizens
8. Establish basic principles concerning the utilization of land, mineral wealth, forests, and waters
9. Direct the educational, cultural, scientific, artistic, and public health work
10. Establish political, economic, and social measures for the improvement of economic and cultural standards of the people
11. Direct the formation of the Korean People's Army, appoint and remove high-ranking officers of the Korean People's Army
12. Appoint and remove vice ministers, managers of major industrial enterprises, and rectors of universities

Background Information

Historical Background

Japanese Occupation of the Korean Peninsula

Prior to the Japanese occupation of Korea, the peninsula was ruled by the Koryo Dynasty (918-1392) and the Joseon Dynasty (1392-1910); during dynastic rule, Korea developed a more unified national identity, with distinctive cultural practices and geographic borders. During this time, Korea was a member of China's "tribute" system, under which it would offer the Chinese emperor gifts and political superiority in exchange for military support and political legitimization. Even so, Korea predominantly functioned as an independent actor. This status was exacerbated by its relative isolation from the rest of the world. Korea maintained a policy of limited contact with other countries, only participating in diplomatic missions to China a few times a year.¹

In the late 1800s, during a battle for colonial expansion, powerful empires each began attempting to "open up" Korea to international trade and relations. After the Japanese Empire defeated the Russian Empire in the Russo-Japanese War of 1905, the Empire established a protectorate on the Korean peninsula, which eventually was transformed into a full colony. This colonization marked the end of Joseon Dynasty rule, and Korean emperor Gojong formally abdicated in 1907.

The Japanese Empire's rule over Korea was brutal. During this time period, Japan committed mass atrocities against Koreans, preventing Korean from being spoken, controlling culture, forcing worship of Imperial Japan's gods, and forcing Koreans to work in intense manual labor camps in Japan and other colonies. This time period saw many forms of rebellion, including the March First Movement in 1919, which was brutally suppressed, and the Party of

¹ <https://asiasociety.org/education/korean-history-and-political-geography>

Three Thousand, a group of students that actively undermined the Japanese military after being forced to serve during the Second World War.²

World War II

The Japanese Empire's rule of the Korean peninsula ended with the Allied Powers' victory in World War II. A goal of the Allied Powers—the United States, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union—was freeing the occupied nations that had been colonized by the Axis Powers—Germany, Japan, and Italy. This goal was enshrined at the Cairo Conference in November 1943, where the President of the United States, Franklin D. Roosevelt, the Prime Minister of Great Britain, Winston Churchill, and the leader of the Kuomintang Party in China, Chiang Kai-Shek, declared that they were “mindful of the enslavement of the people of Korea...” and promised a “free and independent” Korea. This commitment was further discussed at the Tehran and Yalta Conferences, but with the added caveat of split trusteeship over this land.³

The effort to free Korea was largely in place by the time the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, on the 6th of August, 1945. Two days later, the USSR declared war on Japan, sending Soviet troops into the Korean Peninsula. Fearing Soviet control over the entire peninsula, the United States designated two colonels, Chris Bonesteel and Dean Rusk, to come up with a proposal for the division of Korea. Using a *National Geographic* map, the two officers chose to divide Korea along the 38th parallel, mostly because it divided the country somewhat in half, while allowing for the capital of Korea, Seoul, to remain under American control. This plan was authorized by President Harry Truman of the United States, and agreed to by the Soviet Union on August 16. This agreement ended up leaving 16 million Koreans in the American zone and 9 million in the Soviet-controlled zone. No Korean individuals, or even Korean experts, were consulted in forming this plan.⁴ This was enshrined into General Order No. 1, the plan for Japanese surrender, as troops surrendering to the north of the 38th parallel were to surrender to the Soviet Union, while those to the south were to surrender to the United States.⁵

² <https://www.history.com/news/japan-colonization-korea>

³ <https://2001-2009.state.gov/r/pa/ho/time/wwii/107184.htm>

⁴ <https://nationalinterest.org/blog/the-buzz/how-2-colonels-national-geographic-map-divided-korea-24734>

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[https://www.endofempire.asia/0817-3-general-order-no-1-4/#:~:text=Republic%20of%20China\).-General%20Order%20No..armed%20forces%20on%20the%20ground.](https://www.endofempire.asia/0817-3-general-order-no-1-4/#:~:text=Republic%20of%20China).-General%20Order%20No..armed%20forces%20on%20the%20ground.)



Division of Korea based on General Order No. 1

The Rise of the Cold War

After the end of World War II, the United and Soviet Union's transition from allies to enemies was quick. On February 9, 1946, Josef Stalin made his first radio address since the war had ended in a speech known as his "Election Speech." In it, Stalin argued that the First and Second World Wars were a result of the crises of capitalism, claiming that the communist social and economic system emerged victorious in World War II, placing the Soviet Union in sharp ideological contrast with the United States and its allies. A couple of weeks later, George Kennan, an American diplomat in the Soviet Union, sent his "long telegram" to the U.S. State Department, in which he wrote that "world communism is like a malignant parasite which feeds only on diseased tissue." This tension was exacerbated in 1947, when President Harry Truman established the Truman Doctrine: the United States would provide political, military, and economic assistance to all democratic nations under threat from internal and external military opposition. The Truman Doctrine marked a foreign policy shift for the United States in which it committed directly to intervention, rather than isolation, in global affairs.

The symbolic divide between capitalist and communist states would eventually become manifest. To the West, there were the capitalist, democratic countries such as the United States, Great Britain, and France, newly democratic under the Fourth Republic after its occupation during World War II by Nazi Germany (the "Western Bloc"). Countries falling under this categorization would eventually form a military alliance in 1949 called the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), in which each member committed themselves to "safeguard the freedom, common heritage and civilisation of their peoples, founded on the principles of democracy, individual liberty and the rule of law." To the East, there was the Soviet Union and its satellite

states, including Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary (the “Eastern Bloc”). These countries were united under a communist ideology and the central control of the USSR.

Eventually, the tensions between these two blocs would come to be known as the “Cold War,” a concept first articulated by Bernard Baruch in 1947. This idea of a Cold War is significant³⁹ because it underscores the multifaceted nature of the conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union. This war was not only fought by each superpowers’ respective militaries. Instead, it was characterized by a variety of tensions — diplomatic hostility, espionage, propaganda — all measures which fell short of open warfare. Though the Cold War has only recently become relevant, as the year is 1950, the tensions it references characterize the world’s geopolitical power structure at this time. There is a bipolar order, a situation in international relations in which two states are dominant in military, economic, and cultural capabilities — in this case, the United States and the Soviet Union.

Post World War II Occupation (1945-1948)

Cold War tensions have found their way to Korea, as its postwar factions compete for control. After being divided into zones of occupation, various groups and organizations started vying for power within the newfound zones, all claiming to speak for an independent Korea.⁶

The Soviet Union relied upon emerging leftist political organizations, known as “People’s Committees,” and similar leftist figures in creating a functional administration in the North, while American military authorities in the South relied mostly on Conservative groups, some of whom had collaborated under the Japanese.⁷ The Soviet policies were widely popular with the North’s laborer and peasant population, as Communist ideals promoted land sharing and did away with inequity. However, most middle-class and wealthy Koreans fled across the 38th parallel to the South, which favored anti-communist, rightist elements.⁸

During this process, thousands of Koreans that had fled the war returned home from China, Manchuria, the Soviet Union, and a variety of other countries across the globe. One such figure was Kim Il-Sung, who had been raised in Manchuria and trained by the Soviet Union. When the Soviet forces formed a provisional government, the Provisional People’s Committee of North Korea (PPCNK) in February 1946, they chose Kim Il-Sung to head this party.

⁶http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/main_pop/kpct/kp_koreaimperialism.htm

⁷ <https://www.encyclopedia.com/history/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/korea-world-war-ii>

⁸ <https://www.history.com/news/north-south-korea-divided-reasons-facts>



Kim Il-Sung, speaking in 1945

The PPCNK quickly adopted policies to strengthen the Communist foothold in the north, adopting a massive land redistribution plan that redistributed over 2 million acres of land in a month. Industries were nationalized, while Il-Sung embraced Korean nationalism and created education programs to help spread it.⁹ This was done through Kim Il-sung's 20-point platform, released on the 23rd of March, 1946, which included goals like purging Japanese remnants, granting equal rights to all, nationalizing large enterprises, confiscating all land from Japanese people left behind, creating an 8 hour work week, imposing universal education, and creating national free healthcare.¹⁰ At the same time, North Korea's Communist Party, known as the Korean Workers' Party, was created, with Kim Il-Sung also appointed as its head.¹¹

Following elections taking place in November of 1946 and February of 1947, the People's Assembly of North Korea was formed, which organized the People's Committee of North Korea on the 21st of February, 1947, that officially succeeded the PPCNK as the provisional government within North Korea.¹²

In November of 1947, the United States called for the United Nations to sponsor an election of all Koreans to determine the government of the peninsula. This led to the adoption of Resolution 112, calling for a general election in Korea under the supervision of the U.N. Temporary Commission on Korea (UNTCOK), specifically created to oversee the elections. However, the North refused to participate, as the Soviet Union would not allow UNTCOK into its zone. The election was still carried out south of the 38th parallel.¹³ Through a narrow election, the U.S.-supported Syngman Rhee, a right-wing politician who supported many of the same

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<https://www.pbs.org/wnet/wideangle/uncategorized/north-korea-and-the-korean-war-1945-1949-background/1347/>

¹⁰ <http://faculty.washington.edu/sangok/NorthKorea/The%20Establishment%20of%20the%20DPRK.pdf>

¹¹ <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-pacific-15278612>

¹² <http://faculty.washington.edu/sangok/NorthKorea/The%20Establishment%20of%20the%20DPRK.pdf>

¹³ <https://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/theme/cold-war-history>

beliefs as the United States, was elected President of the Republic of Korea, under the new constitution deeply influenced by the United States.¹⁴



Syngman Rhee

In response to the creation of the Republic of Korea, the Korean Workers' Party formally established the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, electing the Supreme People's Assembly to ratify their new constitution, formally creating the nation on September 9, 1948. Kim Il-Sung was made premier of the government, further consolidating his power in North Korea. At this time, both the United States and the USSR had ceased their trusteeship over Korea, leaving two conflicting forces vying for control over the entire Korean peninsula.

Current Situation

Relations with the Republic of Korea

Both the DPRK and ROK believe that they are the only true government of the Korean Peninsula, and that the division that exists in the status quo is temporary. As a result, there are significant conflicts already occurring between the two nations. Beginning in 1948, DPRK-backed communist insurgencies and uprisings have occurred in South Korea; these uprisings have led to tens of thousands of deaths and brutal ROK-based government suppression. Border conflicts have also broken out along the 38th parallel, including one incident on August 4, 1949, when South Korean troops occupying territory to the north of the border were routed by the DPRK's army. Seeing as Pyongyang controls most of the electricity supply to the South due to its large industrial power, Pyongyang has already turned off power for Seoul.¹⁵ At the same time, there are distinct conflicts that are breaking out along the 38th parallel, in places like Kaesong and Ongjin.¹⁶

¹⁴ https://www.jstor.org/stable/42703994?seq=3#metadata_info_tab_contents

¹⁵ <https://archive.org/details/koreastwentieth00robi>

¹⁶ https://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt2jc927.7?refreqid=excelsior%3Acfb589d891ea3f1970aff1a5b7d0ba69&seq=20#metadata_info_tab_contents

As a result of the DPRK's advantaged position, some in the North are leaning towards what they believe is likely to be a quick war against South Korea to consolidate authority over the Korean Peninsula. The following are reasons some support invading the South: North Korean troops who were battle-hardened by conflict during the Chinese Revolution have returned to North Korea, drastically increasing the strength and size of the military forces available to the DPRK.¹⁷ At the same time, the Soviet Union has provided the North Korean military with a large number of resources. Ever since Kim Il-Sung's visit to Moscow to meet with Stalin in March 1949, Soviet support of a war with South Korea has grown. A variety of assistance has been sent to North Korea, including military equipment, as well as Soviet generals in the form of the Soviet Advisory group.

On the other side of the border, South Korean President Syngman's Rhee's regime and military are highly corrupted and weak and U.S. support for South Korea has been hesitant. The United States has not given a firm commitment to help South Korea and they have only offered defensive capability, not heavy artillery nor armor. The ongoing communist insurgency in the South is further weakening their military capacity and communists may be welcomed as liberators in the South. Consequently, some North Korean officials believe now may be the perfect time to strike while nobody is expecting it.

However, invasion is still a tentative option that presents certain risks—there are worries that the United States may flock to support South Korea, making a potential war much longer and more expensive than predicted.

Even so, considering the growing armament in the North Korean camp, and the growing instability in South Korea, it is likely that war will break out amongst the Korean Peninsula, in an attempt to rightfully unify Korea under one government. The DPRK must decide whether or not it is to strike first.

Relations with the Communist Bloc¹⁸

Both Cold War political blocs have shown, to some extent, interest in Korea. Soviet allies have empowered and collaborated with Korean comrades. Meanwhile, the American imperialists torment Koreans in the South with violent suppression. It is only natural, as fighters against exploitation and for revolution, that the DPRK leadership has aligned itself with the communist bloc. It is in the best interest of the DPRK to develop an approach



¹⁷ <https://archive.org/details/koreastwentieth00robi/page/114/mode/2up>

¹⁸ https://www.fasttrackteaching.com/ffap/Unit_11_Cold_War/U11_Cold_War_Conflicts.html

towards its relationship with the communist bloc's other members.

Both the Soviet Union and China are close geographically (share borders) and ideologically (in regards to communism) to the DPRK. These countries have been a helpful source of technical assistance.¹⁹ For instance, both the Soviet Union and China assisted the DPRK with its Korean People's Army (KPA) either with training or material support.



Kim Il-sung (front, left) visiting the Soviet Union in 1949²⁰

The DPRK has a particularly important relationship with the Soviet Union, which had a critical role in Kim's rise to fame and power. In a diplomatic mission in March 1949, Kim emphasized both the past importance of the role of the Soviet Union had and the importance for the continuation of that support: "without further economic and cultural aid from the Soviet Union it will be difficult for the DPRK to restore and develop its national economy and culture" (p. 2).²¹ In the same meeting, Kim addressed trade relations as exclusively existing with the Soviet Union, Hong Kong "unofficially and on a case by case basis," and China (however, trade was undermined by war) (p. 7).²² The economic relationship between the Soviet Union and the DPRK can be described as largely semi periphery-periphery, or in other words manufactured goods are produced by the Soviets using raw materials (e.g., tungsten and gold) from North Korea.²³

Beyond trade, the Soviet Union also values the DPRK as a counterbalance to the presence of American imperialism in the East.

Although, at present, the Soviets hold a more dominant position of influence to the nation, the potential and historical role of China should not be undervalued. China and Korea

¹⁹ <https://www.cia.gov/library/readingroom/docs/CIA-RDP79T00935A000300030001-8.pdf>

²⁰ http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/nation/2012/05/113_111125.html

²¹ <https://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/document/112127.pdf?v=965e75b13b64b2af12800a7b1818c61f>
<https://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/document/112127>

²² *ibid.*

²³ <http://countrystudies.us/north-korea/14.htm>

share a special historical relationship through a shared experience and struggle against Japanese militarism. Moreover, the Korean peninsula holds certain strategic importance, having been historically used by Japan to invade China (in fact, the case in most of the ten Japanese invasions from 1868-1945).²⁴ Therefore it is also in the strategic geographic interests of China to aid the DPRK.

It is important to keep in mind China's specific geopolitical position in its influence on the Sino-Korean relationship. While World War II was raging in Europe, China was fighting a war of its own against the Japanese empire. And once World War II ended, China began fighting a different war — against itself. During the Chinese Civil War, the Kuomintang (KMT) was considered the official government of China and thus the leadership of a “great power” state by U.S. officials, receiving resources from the United States government to help push back the Japanese. However, the fighting left the Republic of China (ROC), under control of the KMT, splintered and demoralized, vulnerable to the Communist forces, which had grown considerably since the beginning of the war. Relying on Soviet aid and weapons left behind by the Japanese, the Communist Party of China (CPC) was able to defeat the Republic of China's army. On October 1, 1949, Mao Zedong declared the creation of the People's Republic of China (PRC) with Beijing as its capital. The Nationalist forces and KMT retreated to the island of Taiwan.

Communist control over China has been the catalyst to the DPRK's relationship with the PRC. As early as July 1946, a Chinese plenipotentiary office was opened in Pyongyang headed by Zhu Lizhi.²⁵ Indeed, Chinese leaders have publicly noted their commitment to revolution in broader Asia, emphasizing themselves as a model to follow and a supporter of the communist causes in other nations. At a trade union conference in November 1949, revolutionary and conference chairman Liu Shaoqi discussed the “path of Mao Zedong” as the “inevitable path toward the liberation of other people in colonial and semi-colonial countries.” In 1949, an issue of the *People's Daily* (or “Renmin Ribao”) portrayed China as a “faithful friend and a reliable fortress” for Asian revolutionaries.²⁶ In essence, there was an established sense of obligation for Chinese support.

However, to an extent, Chinese influence was undermined by a few factors: (1) the existing dominant influence of the Soviets (and the fact that both Mao and Stalin were suspicious of one another)²⁷ and (2) sense of distrust from Premier Kim²⁸ and (3) the fear that being too involved (and the associated financial costs of such) would, consequently, mean the economic degradation stemming from the Chinese Civil War would last longer.²⁹

²⁴ https://digitalcommons.lsu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2803&context=gradschool_theses

²⁵ Shen, Z., Xia, Y. (2018). *A Misunderstood Friendship: Mao Zedong, Kim Il-sung, and Sino-North Korean Relations, 1949–1976*. United States: Columbia University Press.
https://www.google.com/books/edition/A_Misunderstood_Friendship/ZWNbDwAAQBAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&sq=1949

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Shen, Z., Xia, Y. (2018). *A Misunderstood Friendship: Mao Zedong, Kim Il-sung, and Sino-North Korean Relations, 1949–1976*. United States: Columbia University Press.

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ https://digitalcommons.lsu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2803&context=gradschool_theses

With this background in mind, there are a few points for DPRK Cabinet members to consider. The first is the extent to which North Korea is willing to rely on its allies. While the USSR has proved helpful, the DPRK is seen as a puppet of the Soviet Union by the United States and the West and may want to seek to establish its own identity. This, however, could result in severe pushback from the USSR. Second, the DPRK must decide to what extent it is willing to involve itself in the Chinese Civil War should tensions arise. Due to China's ideological and geographic proximity, what happens in China will likely bleed over to Korea.

Domestic Politics

The recent post-colonial recovery has largely been a time of “peaceful construction,”³⁰ implementing revolutionary reforms in the north, where the oppressive grasp of American imperialists is out of reach. This entailed land redistribution in 1946, transferring from landlords to poor peasants; in the same year, the government nationalized industries. As a result of such policies, the DPRK has a mixed economy, since the land was redistributed and not collectivized, but industries were indeed nationalized.³¹ The DPRK also has a command economy, where the government has a hands-on and powerful role in economic planning. This entailed two different One-Year Plans in 1947-1948 and then a Two-Year Plan for 1949-1950. The DPRK Cabinet may wish to engage in further plans of economic centralization and consolidation.

The DPRK has also applied revolutionary reforms to women's rights. Private property and the marginalization of women are inherently intertwined, as well as communism and women's rights.³² In July 1946, the Law on Sex Equality was passed that within its nine articles proved DPRK's commitment to gender equality.³³ Women are to be treated with respect, selling them or forcing them into marriage both considered illegal and a breach of our communist values. Women have been given equal legal footing in marriage/divorce and lifted to equal standing politically and economically. Culturally, however, patriarchal attitudes persist.³⁴ Cabinet members may wish to consider other reforms to implement along similar lines.

Possible Solutions

There are many areas of concern for the nation at the moment. Largely this has encompassed the following: (1) the need to modernize and develop self-reliance as an economy; (2) below (and to a lesser degree above as well) the 38th parallel, Koreans face oppression from the puppet Rhee regime and American Imperialists; (3) political instability due to factionalism. This brings us to a series of potential solutions and paths forward the DPRK could take.

The first, and perhaps the most obvious, would be to go to war with its neighbor to the South. Rhee's puppet regime has many weaknesses and the North Korean strategic advantage may outweigh the potential drawbacks this conflict could bring. If this is to be the case, the DPRK Cabinet should think about whether it is willing to invade, how patient it is willing to be,

³⁰ <http://countrystudies.us/north-korea/46.htm>

³¹ *ibid.*

³² <https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/2760318.pdf>

³³ <https://www.lawschool.cornell.edu/research/ILJ/upload/Yang-final.pdf>

³⁴ <https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/41490270.pdf>

and whether or not it should formulate a pretext for their aggression. Additionally, the DPRK should consider other mechanisms to topple the Southern imperialists outside of plain warfare, including lending support to insurgent groups from within.

Furthermore, the DPRK has a negative outlook towards global governance since, in practice, it has been simply an extension of American imperialism. Instead, the DPRK ideally favors self-reliance and nationalism. The DPRK, however, sees certain strategic allies (the Soviets and Chinese) as nonetheless important, considering the nation's existence is at odds with a major world power. If the DPRK is to go to war on the Korean peninsula, the Cabinet must decide to what extent it is willing to rely on foreign affairs and enmesh itself in the broader world of international politics.

Finally, members of the DPRK's political leadership should think about what would be acceptable conditions under which to conclude a war with the South—and if there are any cases in which it would accept the existence of its Southern neighbor. Perhaps ensuring the consolidation of its power in the North would be a better strategy going forward than attempting to reconquer the entire peninsula.



Kim Il-Sung at a KPA military parade in February 1948³⁵

Bloc Positions

The Cabinet stands united in favor of—and at the fervent service of—Kim Il-Sung and the communist ideology. There are no bloc positions to disclose, as there are no factions within our government.

Questions to Consider

- Would the benefits of potential reunification outweigh the costs of military intervention?

³⁵ <https://www.nbcnews.com/slideshow/photo-timeline-tangled-history-kim-jong-un-family-n730046>

- How can the DPRK become less dependent on foreign nations and economically self-reliant?
- How should leadership go about alleviating the domestic instability resulting from factionalism?
- How can Premier Kim further secure and distinguish his position of power as the Korean Great Leader (rather than a Soviet puppet)?