

TED DEBATE CLUB

supplemental working sheet

d e b a t e a r t i c l e s

Instruction

1. Follow the format of attached articles
 - a. Times New Roman font
 - b. 12 points font size
 - c. Double space
 - d. Bold typed title
 - e. Reference link at the end
2. Write briefly about the issue (Critical thinking)
3. Articles should have both position of the issue (Argumentation)

Important points to read argumentative articles

- Issue: Something that is debated and about which people have different opinions
- Main argument: Your opinion about an issue
- Supporting argument: Reason for your main argument
- Support: Support for your “supporting argument”
- Counter argument: Reason to support the other side of the argument
- Refutation: Reason to invalidate a counterargument (why it is untrue or weak)
- Concession: Agreeing with the opposing view
 - o By including counterarguments and refutations, you make your argument stronger and more believable

About the issue

DEBATE LEADER SHOULD FILL OUT THIS FROM AND PUBLISH ON OPEN CHAT

Issue

Should we need to reduce military service?

Main argument (Point of view)

I do not agree with reducing military service.

Korea has been threatened from North Korea for half-century. Although it's being made at an incredibly fast pace between South Korea and North Korea, we must not let our guard down. as well as many people have misgivings about whether it's feasible given the time needed to train soldiers.

So I believe that armored forces and maintenance troops in particular need to serve in the military at least 21 months to achieve a high skill level.

Counter argument (Opposing view)

Proponents of Reducing military service believe it would protect lack of human resource and prevent young people wasting their time.

It's simply argued that we put our effort to develop our weapon rather than having more people. Thus **it is now more important to train military personnel and develop advanced weapons than to increase the mere number of troops in modern warfare.**

The Reality Korea Faces Now

Korea is the only divided nation in the world. Therefore, shortening the military service period is a very sensitive and important issue. It may be necessary to shorten the military service period to keep pace with the world situation and Korea's economic trends. Yet, irresponsibly shortening the time based on populism can cause serious damage to national defense.

Therefore, much attention and several discussions are needed for the most effective implementation of the military service shortening policy. "The national security problem is not a subject of academic discussion or a simple trial, but a very strict and realistic problem on which all of our lives depend," said Professor Cho. Only with a policy that can cover diverse side effects will it be a success.

The reasons why we need to diminish military service period

1. We need human resource to get ready for upcoming Shorten population

According to the National Statistical Office, the proportion of the working population in comparison to the total population will drop from 50 percent in 2010 to 39 percent in 2030. In other words, there will be more people to take care of compared to those who are able to financially support themselves. Many economic experts therefore believe that it is necessary to shorten the mandatory military service period because this allows Korean men to participate in economic activities much earlier.

In addition, it is now more important to train military personnel and develop advanced weapons than to increase the mere number of troops in modern warfare. "If you observe the way the United States carried out their wars after the Cold War: the Gulf War, the Afghan War, the Kosovo War, and the Iraq War, it is true to say that having advanced weapons and technology is much more important than increasing the number of trained soldiers," said Professor Kim Jong-ha from the Department of Defense of Hannam University.

2. A Long military service is not necessary because of developed weapon.

A long mandatory military service period does not necessarily mean that the country's military is strong. In fact, Germany and Italy's militaries continued to rank among the top ten military powers announced by Global Fire Power with only requiring their citizens to go through approximately ten months of military service period.

the opponent of view reducing military service period

Considering the fact that war is still present in the Korean Peninsula, many side effects will follow with the shortened service period. Once shortened, many soldiers will finish their mandatory military services with a decreased training period as a Sergeant, and the number of troops will drop from 620,000 to 500,000. The number of troops is expected to continue to drop due to Korea's low birth rate. Even though it does not help much to have a huge number of troops, the Korean army still needs a sustainable number of soldiers to efficiently accomplish missions. "The number of troops is especially important in mountainous terrain areas. In addition, they would be able to carry out various tasks systematically, and would manage humanitarian support for the people of North Korea if a war broke out," said Professor Kim.

Also, many experts are worried that since many people will finish their mandatory military service with a decreased training period as a Sergeant, there will be a lack of expertise in the army. "According to the Korea Institute for Defense Analyses (KIDA), at least 11 to 13 months of military training will be required for soldiers to perform basic missions, and 15 to 16 months will be required for them to perform missions skillfully. If the mandatory military service period is shortened to 18 months, they will be discharged just when they start doing the job properly," said Cho Jung-hyun, a Professor of the Department of Convergence Defense in Hanyang University (HYU).

Additional articles

President Moon Jae-in's plan to reduce conscripted soldiers' mandatory military service sparked debate Thursday, amid growing concerns over a shortage of young draftees and North Korea's escalating military threat.

The government says the measure is part of a bigger plan to transform the Army into a more modernized force based on career military officers, but critics warn that it runs the risk of undermining the country's fundamental military capability, if confronted by the 1.2 million-strong North Korean Army. The two Koreas are still technically at war.

President Moon on Wednesday unveiled a five-year plan to scale back the mandatory military service period to 18 months from the current 21, along with a separate scheme to reduce the number of armed forces to about 500,000 from 620,000.

"Under the proposed reduction scheme, one South Korean soldier is to fight against two or more North Korean soldiers during war," said Yang Uk, a senior researcher at the Seoul-based think tank Korea Defense Forum.

Currently, every Korean able-bodied man is mandated to serve in the military for 21 months for the Army, 23 months for the Navy and 24 months for the Air Force. The draftees can also choose to serve in the police for 21 months and the fire department for 23 months.

The three-month cut would have wide ramifications for South Korea's defense against the belligerent North, as the conscriptable population is already shrinking, critics said.

According to a projection by the military, the number of new draftees -- mostly in their 20s -- would fall from the current 350,000 to 250,000 by 2022, the final year of Moon's presidency and the five-year plan.

A study by the state-run Korea Institute for Defense Analysis shows that if the military service period is reduced by a month, the number of soldiers available for combat would decline by 10,000. A three-month reduction would lead to a shortage of about 33,000, the agency said.

Some officials are worried that an 18-month service period would be too short for soldiers to master war training.

"Apart from for the training period at boot camp, the soldiers would need at least nine months to be familiar with war skills. Under the current 21-month service period, only 10-20 percent of conscripts are considered to be fully combat-ready," said an Army officer, who declined to reveal his identity due to the sensitivity of the issue.

Proponents argue that streamlining the military with the shorter service period is a "step in the right direction."

"We need to stop playing games with numbers," said Lim Tae-hoon, head of the Center for Military Human Rights Korea. "We can recruit more noncommissioned officers with expertise and transform the reserve forces into a more developed, qualified one."

Reducing the number of those enlisted and their service period was an election pledge of Moon, who led a similar scheme when he served as chief of staff for late President Roh Moo-hyun. The plan was scrapped under the tenure of conservative Presidents Lee Myung-bak and Park Geun-hye.

Yang of the Korea Defense Forum stressed that although the Army needs to be transformed and modernized, the number of armed forces still matters even in modern warfare.

When the Iraq War broke out in 2003, "the US said they would win the war within months, but they were forced to withdraw due to the conflict on the ground. ... Technology can play a big role in deterring war, but during actual warfare, the number of troops still matters," he said.

Reference

1. <http://www.hanyangian.com/news/articleView.html?idxno=769>
2. <HTTP://KHNEWS.KHERALDM.COM/VIEW.PHP?UD=20170720000930&MD=20170808133812> **BL**
Debate brews over Moon's plan to cut mandatory military service
3. [HTTP://ENGLISH.YONHAPNEWS.CO.KR/NEWS/2018/03/15/02000000000AEN20180315005951315.HTML?D](HTTP://ENGLISH.YONHAPNEWS.CO.KR/NEWS/2018/03/15/02000000000AEN20180315005951315.HTML?DID=2106M)
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