

UNIT 13 FOREIGN POLICY

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13.0 OBJECTIVES

This unit discusses the foreign policies of South (ROK) and North (DPRK) Korea. After going through the unit you will be able to:

- identify the determinants of the foreign policies of both ROK and DPRK;
- trace the development of the foreign policies of the two states;
- understand the relations of the two states with other countries of the world including;
- know the historical ties between India and Korea; and
- analyse the Nuclear (NPT) Issue.

13.1 INTRODUCTION

Korea is an ancient country in East Asia. Since the second half of 19th century, the country has experienced the presence of Western World powers. The presence of the western powers provoked Japan to reduce Korea into its colony. Japan's withdrawal from the peninsula was followed by the occupation of the USA and the erstwhile USSR. Korea thus became the victim of big power rivalry. A full scale war was fought on the soil and at the end of the war, partition of Korea was formalised. These developments conditioned the foreign policies of both South and North Korea.

13.2 FOREIGN POLICIES OF SOUTH (ROK) AND NORTH (DPRK) KOREA

Foreign policy of a country is a composite response to domestic and external factors. In the external realm, operation of a country's foreign policy is facilitated at three levels, global, regional and bilateral framing and implementation of any country's

foreign policy does not take place in a void or vacuum. Rather it is the tangible outcome of certain basic factors like geopolitical realities of the region where that country is located, its scramble for security, its domestic requirements and quest for economic development and its commitment to ideology.

13.2.1 Determinants

In the wake of the withdrawal of Japan from Korea, the peninsula was occupied by the US and the USSR. The occupation by the foreign powers culminated into the division of the peninsula into two zones : the territories located south of 38th parallel formed South Korea — a zone controlled by the USA, and the areas situated north of 38th parallel formed North Korea — another zone controlled by the USSR. Several formulas were suggested by the UN and others to reunite the two halves but none of them was found to be acceptable by all interested parties. Ultimately war broke out in 1950. In the war South Korea was backed by the joint forces of the 16 nations, raised by the UNO and commanded by the USA. North Korea got support from the USSR and People's Republic of China. War ended after heavy loss and casualties of life and properties and the partition of Korea was formalised. South remained with the western bloc and North developed itself into a socialist state. Two different systems of polity and economy emerged in two states. The partition and the development of two different systems have conditioned the evolution of foreign policies of the two states. While South Korea has sought close cooperation with the western bloc, North has built up friendly ties with China and other erstwhile socialist countries.

South Korea does not have land border with any country other than North Korea. Outside the peninsula, its closest neighbour is Japan. It is also strategically located. It is easier to reach China via South Korea. The location thus created interest in the US dominated western bloc to keep South Korea within its sphere of influence.

The states of Korean peninsula inherited a backward economy and were suffering from shortage of essential commodities. While UN agencies and the USA helped overcome the immediate economic crisis in South Korea, North Korea got full backing from the socialist bloc. South Korea from the very beginning has remained a stronghold of the conservative and right wing political leaders. President Dr. Syngman Rhee was an US trained politician. He was succeeded by the military which was raised with the close cooperation of the US. The successive leadership suffered from red-phobia. The leaders, therefore did not hesitate to build up strong ties with the USA and the western bloc. The right wing leadership opted for development strategy as prescribed by the UN agencies and the USA. So the country had to follow a pro-western foreign policy.

North Korea on the other hand has always been dominated by the communists and nationalists. They cultivated good relations with socialist bloc China and the countries grouped under the Non Aligned Movement (NAM). North Korean leadership opted for a type of development for which also it had to seek help and aid largely from the socialist countries. On dissolution of the socialist bloc, the country became isolated. It is now gradually coming out from the isolation. The NPT issue established the fact that North Korea is no longer isolated.

13.2.2 Development of the Foreign Policies

The foreign policies of the two countries—the DPRK and the ROK developed in three phases. The first phase was spread over the period from the Korean war to the beginning of the normalisation of the relation between the People's Republic of China and the USA. The second phase covers the period from the establishment of the normal relations between China and the USA to the end of Cold War (or dissolution of the USSR), and the third phase is the current post cold war period. During the first phase South Korea (or ROK) maintained diplomatic, economic and other relations basically with the countries belonging to the western bloc and Japan, and North Korea (or DPRK) remained confined to the socialist bloc. The normalization of relations and establishment of diplomatic ties between China and the USA introduced a qualitative change in the foreign policies of both—DPRK and the ROK. While the DPRK started searching friends in the NAM countries and initiated the process to

establish relations with the pro-western bloc countries and the USA, the ROK took initiative to establish ties with China, the USSR and other non western bloc countries. The end of cold war has introduced another type of development in the world stage. The erstwhile socialist bloc disintegrated. In this period America has emerged as the only super power in the world. Russia due to acute economic crisis and also political instability has been displaced from the position of super power. Thus the super power rivalry in the peninsula ended. South Korea has become more friendly to China and Russia. But despite repeated attempts North Korea has so far failed to be friendly to the USA and Japan. China is one of the big powers in the world—without its concurrence none can take any major decision vis-a-vis the Korean peninsula. Consequently when the peninsula was drifting towards war recently over the NPT issue, China's opposition to any harsh measure against North Korea has restrained the USA and its allies. The peninsula has perhaps been saved from another holocaust.

Check Your Progress 1

Note : i) Use the space given below each question to give your answer.

ii) Check your answer with hints given at the end of the unit.

- 1) Discuss the determinants of the foreign policies of the states of the Korean peninsula.

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13.3 ROK (SOUTH KOREA'S) FOREIGN RELATIONS

Korean war conditioned the future development of ROK's foreign relations. The country was tied to the Western bloc for a long time. The normalization of US-China relations, and the end of cold war introduced new elements in the foreign policy and relations of the ROK.

13.3.1 ROK-USA Relations

ROK-US relationship is quite different from the relationship which normally exists between two independent sovereign states. The US army occupied the south Korea at the fag end of the second world war. Since then a strong contingent of US military establishment has been stationed in South Korea, which largely depends upon the USA for its security and defence. After occupying the region in 1945, the USA got itself deeply involved in the politico-economic developments of the region. First ever regime installed in South Korea in 1948, was headed by an American trained conservative politician, Dr. Syngman Rhee who was succeeded by a long spell of military rule. South Korean military was raised by America, trained in America and it has been equipped with American weapons. The military, therefore, has a marked US influence. The US dominated international funding agencies, the economic development strategy and aided the economic development of South Korea. The development strategy, followed by the successive regimes, have made the economy outward, export oriented and largely depended upon the US and its allies markets.

As the situation thus exists, there are little chances of tension in the relationship between the two countries. Non irritant relations continued though anti US demonstrations by the people in South Korea had been the regular feature. ROK had been periodically rocked by popular unrest and protest movements. Protesters demanded the withdrawal of US army from the Korean soil, the reunification of the peninsula and the establishment of egalitarian socio-economic system. These movement were being brutally suppressed. The Human Right activists and the democratic forces in America had been vocal against the suppression of people's

movements in the ROK. The activists considered the repression as the suppression of human rights. The public protest in the USA reached to climax when an opposition political leader in the ROK, Kim Dae-Jung was kidnapped in 1973 allegedly by the pro-government forces. The ROK-US relation went down to a low ebb. US President Gerald Ford however undertook a visit to the ROK and reassured the ROK leadership of continuing US support.

Following the election of President Carter in 1976 again the relation between the USA and South Korea became tension ridden. US decision to withdraw all American ground forces from South Korea and the discovery of the scandal involving Korean ambassadors to America as Korean rice dealer vitiated the relations. The USA was overtaken by anti Korean agitation. The tension further became acute on account of the establishment of diplomatic relation between the USA and China and the participation of US tennis team in a tournament in North Korea. The crisis was partially over with the visit of Mr. Carter to South Korea and the suspension of troop withdrawal from Korea by the US. However the criticism in the USA against the suppression of human rights in ROK continued. Again there was discord in 1985 when some of the visiting US citizens were manhandled in the Korean airport by the security forces. With the restoration of free democracy in the late 1980's—the relation between the USA and South Korea has become again normal.

Economic relations between the two countries grew over the years. In mid-1980's ROK emerged as seventh largest trading partner of the US in the world. More than 40 p.c. of ROK's exports go to the USA and only 20 p.c. of US exports come to the ROK.

Since Korea imports less and exports more to the USA, there has been USA's trade deficit with South Korea. The USA now has started exerting pressure for greater US exports to South Korea. The USA even threatens economic sanctions. In order to avoid sanction South Korea has decreased imports from other countries (mainly Japan) and has increased imports from the USA. Now South Korea imports from the USA about 100 items which it previously imported from other countries. Value of the Korean currency has also been appreciated in order to increase the competitiveness of US goods in Korean market. In the field of defence also there has been close cooperation between the two countries.

The USA and South Korea conduct annually joint naval exercises, called "Team Spirit" in the Korean peninsula. In 1992 "Team Spirit" exercise was suspended due to Korean People's protest. The exercises were again resumed in 1993 amidst protests from North Korea. A great number of US military personnel have been permanently stationed in South Korea. The US also kept nuclear weapons in South Korea though in 1992, the US announced that the nuclear weapon had been removed from South Korea.

In the wake of growing tension in the region over the NPT issue, the US again has started strengthening its military presence in the ROK. Recently (April 1994) two US military transport ships have arrived in Southern port city of the ROK, Pusan. The ships have carried Patriot anti-missile batteries. According to an estimate three patriot batteries with a total of 24 launchers have arrived. There have arrived also 84 stinger missiles. The US sources have claimed that the shipment of the missiles had to be done to protect South Korea from North Korean rocket attack. However the people of South Korea do not appear to have accepted the American arguments in support of the shipment. There are widespread protests against the shipment of missiles. As a result the government has deployed large contingent of police forces to fend off protests. Hundred of students, throwing rockets and wielding sticks, clashed with police on 18 March 1994 in different cities when they assembled to protest against the US defence secretary William Perry's visit to South Korea. Police fired tear gas to disperse the students. Perry was to arrive on 19 March in South Korea for three days to talk with the South Korean officials on military preparedness at a time of heightened tensions over the North Korea's nuclear programme. Students and other South Korean people denounced Perry for his hardline stand on the North Korea's nuclear programme. Students said Perry's visit and the deployment of Patriot anti-missile batteries in South Korea where there have been already 36,000 US troops, would provoke the DPRK, thus increasing tension in the peninsula.

13.3.2 ROK-Japanese Relations

Japan ruled over Korea for about four decades as its colony. At withdrawal it had left a bitter legacy which conditioned the future relations between the two countries. However the USA's intervention in the region eased the tension and helped normalization of relationship between ROK and Japan. But the normalization process had been slow for a long time because of periodical irruption of irritants. As it happened in early 1980's. A history text book was published in Japan. The book contained many damaging and distorting facts about Japan's past relations with Korea. The irritation created by the publication of the book was further intensified due to Japanese refusal to advance a loan for which ROK had approached earlier. The irritants were removed with the withdrawal of the text book by the Japanese authority and subsequent state visit to South Korea undertaken by the Japanese Prime Minister in 1983. In return ROK President Chun undertook an official visit to Japan in 1984. This was the first ever visit of any official high dignitary from Korea to Japan in 40 years. During the visit Japanese leaders including the Emperor Hirohito expressed deep regret for the Japanese colonial exploitation of Korea in the past. In 1990 again ROK President Roh Tae Woo undertook an official tour to Japan. Thus began series of visits and counter visits which have occasioned marked improvement in their mutual relationship.

Presently Japan is the second largest trade partner of the ROK and there exists also a strong economic tie between them. Total annual trade turnover between Japan and the ROK is more than 31 million US dollar. South Korea largely depends upon the import from Japan of raw materials and capital goods for the former's export oriented industries.

13.3.3 South Korea and Other Countries

South Korea maintains diplomatic relations with most of the Independent states of the world. However its principal trading partners besides the USA, and Japan, are Germany, Australia, Indonesia, Canada, France, Italy, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Taiwan, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Singapore and Hongkong.

South Korea suffers from unfavourable balance of trade with many countries. At the same time it enjoys most favourable balance of trade with the USA, UK, Japan, Singapore and a few others. South Korea's foreign trade grew manifold over the years. Almost 50 p.c. of South Korea's total trade is with the USA and Japan only.

The countries belonging to the Western bloc supported South Korea in the Korean war. South Korean's political relations with these countries have been steadily progressing since then. Later on the political relations have been further strengthened with the increasing trade relations.

The erstwhile socialist countries including China supported North Korea in the three year long Korean war. Since then South Korea's relations with these countries had remained frozen for years. It was only in late 1980's that the ice started breaking. With the beginning of a democratically elected administration headed by Roh Tae-woo, the relations started improving. In 1988 South Korea expanded its trade with Russia and China. In 1989 full diplomatic relations were established between Russia and South Korea. In 1990 diplomatic relations were established between South Korea and the East European countries. After the establishment of full diplomatic relations between Russia and South Korea high level meetings were held several times to further normalise the relations and to expand trade. Full diplomatic relations between China and the ROK was established in August 1992. Since the establishment of diplomatic ties China has been trying to normalise relations between the two halves of the peninsula. In the wake of the growing tension in the region over the issue of NPT South Korean President Kim Young Sam arrived in China in the last week of March 1994. He met all top leaders of China and sought China's intervention in resolving the North-South imbroglio over the NPT issue. During the visit China and South Korea also agreed to expand economic relations. Plans have been chalked out for joint production of car parts, aircraft and other items.

South Korean trade and investment in China has soared high since the two countries established diplomatic relations in August 1992. China is already the third biggest export market for South Korea after the US and Japan.

- Note :** i) Use the space provided below each question to give your answer.
ii) Check your answer with the hints given at the end of the unit.

1) Discuss the ROK-US relations.

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2) Analyse the growing relationship between South Korea and Japan.

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3) How did China and South Korea came closer to each other? Do you find any possibility of further expansion of the relations between the two countries?

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13.4 DPRK (NORTH KOREA'S) FOREIGN RELATIONS

DPRK's foreign policy and relations were also conditioned by the Korean war. Subsequently the growing dispute in the international communist movement, establishment of diplomatic ties between China, USA and the ROK, and the dissolution of the socialist bloc influenced the latter developments in the DPRK's foreign relations.

13.4.1 DPRK-China Relations

China-Korean relations date back to remote past. Korean society, civilization and culture bear marked impact of China. Buddhism which has been the principal religion to the peninsula came from China. Korean civil service in the medieval period was modelled after the Chinese system. Korea also imported the printing technology in the 13th century from China. There had been also expanding economic relations between the countries. When Korea had been struggling for independence from Japanese rule, China offered asylum to the Korean nationalists who were forced to flee away from Korea. Korean nationalists also participated in the revolutionary struggles of Chinese people. They gathered rich experiences of the guerrilla warfare. The historical bond between the peoples of China and Korea was further tested and strengthened during the Korean war. During the Korean war (1950-53) when the US commanded UN force reached to the heart of the DPRK and the latter was about to be extinguished in October 1950, one year old People's Republic of China intervened in favour of the DPRK. China sent about one lakh most experienced and veteran soldiers who swiftly repelled the aggressors and freed whole of North Korea.

The friendly ties which were reestablished through the shedding of Chinese blood for the independence of North Korea, have been continuing almost uninterruptedly. In 1970's when the relationship between China and the USA improved, there had been strong speculation that DPRK-China relationship might deteriorate. But in course of time such speculations were found baseless. Chinese leaders, Hua Guo-feng, Deng Xiao-Ping visited DPRK in 1978 and promised all necessary assistance for the development of North Korea. In 1982 again Deng Xiao-Ping and Zhao Ziyang (then Prime Minister of China) visited North Korea. During late 1980's Kim Il Sung, the topmost leader of the DPRK visited China twice first in 1987 and again in 1989. The exchange and visits have further strengthened the ties between the two countries.

China has been one of the principal trading partner of the DPRK. Trade between the two countries had been so far conducted in accordance with simple principle of barter system. An agreement has been signed in 1991 for switching over gradually the trade from barter basis to hard cash payment system. Still however considerable percentage of trade is conducted on barter basis.

13.4.2 DPRK-Russia (Erstwhile USSR)

The USSR army after crushing the Japanese resistance entered Korea in early August 1945. It backed the fighting Korean nationalists to form government for liberated Korea. The nationalists founded the People's Republic of Korea in 1947. The USSR recognized it and assured the withdrawal of Russian army soon. Russian army was withdrawn from Korea in 1948. The USSR however helped to raise a Korean army and also left weapons behind while withdrawing from the peninsula. In the Korean war the USSR helped the DPRK. After the Korean war the USSR offered massive aid for reconstruction of war damaged DPRK. In 1961 both countries signed the treaty of peace, friendship and cooperation.

In the relationship of the USSR and the DPRK, however there developed same snags in the wake of the split in the international communist movement and increasing dispute between China and the USSR. The snags were soon removed and in 1977 the DPRK signed an economic and technical cooperation agreement with the USSR. As per the terms of the agreement the USSR extended large scale aid to the DPRK. There arose again some misunderstandings on the Afghan issue in 1979. North Korea and China did not support USSR's involvement in Civil War in Afghanistan. The USSR stopped supplying petroleum to the DPRK. The damaged relationship was however repaired when a high level delegation from the USSR visited the DPRK in 1984. The delegation participated in the birthday celebration of Kim Il Sung. In return Kim Il Sung visited USSR and other East European countries in May 1984. The USSR resumed economic and military assistance and agreed to expand trade relations. The USSR supplied aircraft in 1985 to strengthen DPRK's defence system. Regular exchanges of visits by high level delegations between the two countries continued along with the expansion of fields of cooperation. In 1986 the DPRK allowed the USSR to use its Nampo Sea Port. Kim Il Sung went to the USSR in a state visit in October 1986. The relationship however underwent a drastic change with the dissolution of the USSR. In 1990's South Korea improved its relations with Russia and other East European states. Russia abolished the continuing barter trading system with the DPRK and opted trade in convertible currencies at world market rate. Russia also terminated in 1993 the treaty of peace, friendship and cooperation, signed in 1961. All these developments strained the relations between the DPRK and the successor states of the erstwhile USSR including Russia. Russia now indirectly is supporting the US stand on the NPT issue.

13.4.3 DPRK and Japanese Relations

There has not been diplomatic relation between Japan and the DPRK. But the trade and economic relations have been continuing since long though not uninterrupted. Occasionally irritations appeared. In 1982 there occurred a bomb blast incident in Rangoon. The blast killed members of visiting South Korean delegation. The DPRK was suspected as perpetrator of the blast. Japan following the incident imposed sanctions which were soon withdrawn. Again in 1987 the DPRK was blamed for the downing and destruction of a South Korean aircraft. The DPRK was condemned as

the terrorist country. Japan reimposed sanctions. In 1990 however there was marked improvement in the relationship. High level Japanese delegation visited North Korea to find out the possibilities for establishing diplomatic relation. The delegation begged apologies on behalf of the government of Japan for the exploitation and colonial aggression on the Korean peninsula during the period of Japanese rule in Korea. It also agreed to pay reparations. Trade between the two countries increased and touched to US \$ 530 million in 1992. Japanese investors also came forward to invest in North Korea. But recently again same snags have developed in the relationship due to Japan's refusal to pay reparation as claimed by the DPRK and the failure on the part of the DPRK to repay the accumulated foreign debt. Japanese investors have refused to invest as long as the full diplomatic relation between the two countries is established and the foreign debt issue is settled. The NPT issue has further strained the relations between the DPRK and Japan.

13.4.4 DPRK and the US Relations

With the normalization of sino-US relations there started improvement in the DPRK-US relationship. In 1974 the DPRK proposed a peace treaty with the USA replacing the 1953 truce. It also pleaded withdrawal of foreign army from South Korea. In response to the DPRK's proposal US secretary of state Henry Kissinger suggested a 'phased approach' for the permanent solution of Korean issue. The DPRK reiterated its proposal for peace treaty but at the same time adopted measures to normalise the relationship. However the relationship did not improve much. In 1977 there took place an unusual incident, an unarmed US army helicopter was shot down by the DPRK army in the de-Militarized Zone. The incident drove the countries to the brink of a full scale war. But the situation was saved by the prompt intervention of the US President Carter and DPRK leader Kim Il Sung. Both expressed regret. North Korea returned the dead and wounded US crew to the UN command in South Korea. Though peace was restored, tension continued. Again there arose crisis in 1982 over the Rangoon incident and the aircraft incident in 1987. The USA now placed DPRK in the list of countries which supported terrorism. The ongoing diplomatic contacts were also restricted. Recently the relationship has further soured over the NPT issue.

13.4.5 DPRK and Other Countries

North Korea took definite steps to improve its relations with the non aligned countries. It applied for participation in the NAM, in 1976 the ministerial level meeting of the NAM accepted the application. Kim Il Sung visited Mauritania, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia, to strengthen North Korea's relation with NAM nations. In 1976 it was found that certain North Korean diplomats misused their diplomatic privileges and engaged in narcotic trade. These incidents spoiled the relation with Scandinavian countries. Many diplomats were expelled from Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Russia (then USSR). During the Iraq-Iran war North Korea sided with Iran. As a restorative, Syria and Libya severed diplomatic ties with North Korea. Relations with Russia also became tenuous because North Korea did not support Russia's Afghan policy. North Korea experienced a great diplomatic set back in 1982. On 9 October member of a visiting South Korean delegation to Burma was killed in Bomb blast in Rangoon. North Korea was made responsible to the blast. Immediately many south-east Asian countries, including Burma severed diplomatic relations with North Korea. Pakistan suspended proposed diplomatic relation. Belgium refused to enter into trade relation. In July there had been a significant reshuffle in the North Korea leadership structure. North Korea now decided to open the country to the foreign investors. It invited Japan and many western countries to invest in North Korea. The step might have been taken to overcome the on going economic agreements with many countries in late 1970's. The agreements were signed with the aim of getting more assistance to expand the industrial base in North Korea.

The DPRK recently has improved its image in south-east Asia, which was tarnished following the Rangoon incident. Thailand restored diplomatic relation, severed in 1982. Trade accords have been signed with Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and many other countries.

Check Your Progress 3

- Note : i) Use the space given below each question for your answer.
ii) Check your answer with the hints given at the end of the unit.

1) Discuss DPRK and China relations.

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2) Write a note on DPRK and Russian relationship.

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3) What are the issues which have strained the DPRK's relation with USA, Japan and other countries.

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13.5 NORTH-SOUTH RELATIONS

The partition of Korea had little support with the people of the peninsula. As a result, the public demand for reunification frequently surfaced. North Korean government did not accept the division. It occasionally even articulated the public sentiment in favour of reunification. North-South relation has always been overshadowed by the reunification issue. After the formalisation of partition in the war two halves inhabited by the same people, did not have any formal relationship for about two decades. The fierce popular movements in South Korea forced the ROK to open dialogue with the DPRK. The Red Cross societies of both DPRK and the ROK met in 1971. This was the first ever North-South meeting. The meeting continued for some days. Both parties issued a joint statement in 1972. The joint statement clearly endorsed the idea of reunification and expressed the conviction to achieve the same through peaceful means. It also agreed to suspend political campaigns against each other. Henceforth talks for reunification continued for some times. But it was suspended in 1973 without much valid reasons. Following the suspension of talks relations between the two halves deteriorated. Unification campaign was revived. There occurred frequent North-South naval clashes in 1974. UN command in South Korea accused DPRK in 1978 for the alleged violation of 1953 truce. The DPRK also embarked upon a propaganda in support of reunification if necessary by force. It blamed the US for conspiring against the Korean people. The DPRK announced that the very presence of US army in Korean land was the main obstacle to the reunification of Korea. By the middle of 1980's the situation changed. The DPRK proposed a tripartite meeting

including the USA, ROK and the DPRK, softened its attitude towards the ROK and sent relief materials for the victims of the disastrous flood in South Korea. Negotiations for starting economic relations opened in November 1984. The negotiation continued but ended without much result. In the middle of 1986, the DPRK withdrew from the negotiation in protest against the annual US-South Korean "Team Spirit" military manoeuvres which the DPRK has been protesting since their inception in 1976. The relation became strained. The ROK opposed the construction of a dam at Mount Kingang on the ground that the accumulated water might be used to flood South Korea. However in subsequent years the relation became to a large extent normal despite periodic friction relating to alleged DPRK's involvement in the various sabotaging acts inside the ROK. In early 1990's sufficient improvement was there in the relations. As a result, both Koreas were admitted as members separately to the UN in September 1991.

In 1991, several rounds of high level talks were held and at the end of the fifth round, the "Agreement on reconciliation, non-aggression and exchanges and cooperation between the South and the North" was signed. The accord is a landmark in the growing good relations between North and South Korea. Both states agreed to desist from campaigning against each other, to promote economic and other mutually beneficial relations, to allow reunion of the separated family members, and to work for peace and tranquility in the peninsula.

Trade relations between North and South Korea started in 1988. Since then the trade has been steadily growing. In 1991 total trade turnover was \$ 192 million. In 1992 it increased to \$ 220 million. The opening of trade relations has benefited North Korea. Its total exports exceed the total imports from South Korea. North's exports are in the tune of \$166 million but its imports are merely \$26 million.

However the relations again were vitiated on account of the NPT issue and the proposed resumption of "Team Spirit" military exercises.

Check Your Progress 4

- Note :** i) Use the space given below each question for your answers.
 ii) Check your answer with hints given at the end of the unit.

- 1) Analyse the process of normalising the relations between the two halves.

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13.6 NUCLEAR (NPT) ISSUE

The DPRK notified to the UN security council in March 1993 that since its interests are in danger and the security of the country is being threatened due to the annual US-ROK 1,20,000 soldier strong "Team Spirit" joint military exercises in the Korean peninsula, it would withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). In the treaty there are provisions according to which, if a signatory feels threatened, it can opt out of the Treaty. The Japanese, US and other Western sources claim that the DPRK has secretly developed and acquired the technology and source material, sufficient to make several nuclear bombs. The International Atomic Energy Authority (IAEA) which monitors the Nuclear non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) under pressure from Japan and the USA have alleged that the DPRK maintain hidden nuclear sites. The IAEA has made it an issue and has asked the DPRK to allow international inspection of its nuclear sites. The IAEA pressure can also be attributed to the DPRK's notification for withdrawal. The DPRK authority said in support of its decision that the withdrawal from the NPT is a well justified self-defensive measure against the nuclear war manoeuvres of the United States and the unjust act of the secretary of the IAEA against the DPRK (North Korea). The DPRK called the

projected "Team Spirit" US-South Korea joint military exercises as the "Nuclear war rehearsal threatenig North Korea". The IAEA is seized with the problem of pressurizing North Korea to fall in line. The Korean Authority, however has made it clear that, "If those forces (i.e. the US dominated international agencies, the UN and others) hostile to North Korea attempt to frighten us by bringing pressure and sanctions, it is a foolish dream. . . .we will answer strong arm action with self-defensive measures and military action". In the past, the DPRK vehemently opposed US-South Korean 'Team Spirit' military exercises. The DPRK's decisions to withdraw from the NPT has made the situation in the peninsula very tense. The US has been threatening actions against the DPRK. China, however has not fully endorsed the position, taken by the IAEA and the US administration on NPT issue involving North Korea. Perhaps due to China's stand on the issue now attempts are being made to ease the tension and to solve the problem through peaceful negotiation. The US has suspended the 'Team Spirit' exercises.

Check Your Progress 5

- Note :** i) Use the space given below each question for your answer.
ii) Check your answer with the hints given at the end of the unit.

- 1) Write a note on the NPT issue.

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13.7 INDO-KOREAN RELATIONS

Though Korea shares withholds a religious and cultural fratguils Buddhism which had connected the Indo-Korea culturalties had actually migrated from China. There is little evidence to show that there had been any direct intercourse between Korea and India in the pre-modern period. In Korea however Buddhism flourished and is still the principal religion. Buddhist text Tripitaka was translated into Korean language in early medieval age. Other Buddhist texts were also translated into Korean language. They were all printed in 13th and 14th century when Korea had developed the printing technology. There are about 81000 pages of Buddhist text which are available in Korean language.

There were little scope of furthering Indo-Korean relations in 19th and early 20th centuries. India did not take any side in the Korean war of 1950-53. But it warned the US backed South Korean army not to cross 38th parallel. India had anticipated that crossing of 38th parallel would provoke China to intervene. The forecast turned into reality—South Korean force crossed 38th parallel and China intervened in favour of North Korea. War became complicated. Since then India's relation with South Korea remained confined to just normal level. Recently the relationship between South Korea and India has started expanding specially after the visit of Indian Prime Minister to South Korea in 1993. India's economic relationship with South Korea has been increasing consistently. Total trade turnover between the two countries was in 1983 to the tune of US \$857,683, which increased in 1984 to US \$ 1,449,269. In 1988-89, the total trade between India and South Korea was Rs. 4,600,6 million, within two years the amount increased to Rs. 6,487,1 million. Recent developments show that there would be further development of relationship between the two countries in near future.

Since India had been neutral but was friendly to North Korea during the Korean war, a close relation between the two had started developing since then. India has trade relations with North Korea. Total trade turnover in 1984 and 1985 were US \$ 37:34

and US \$ 18.73 million respectively. Over the years the volume of trade between the two countries has increased.

Check Your Progress 6

- Note :** i) Use the space given below each question for your answer.
ii) Check your answer with the hints given at the end of the unit.

- 1) Write a note on the role of India in the Korean War.

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13.8 LET US SUM UP

In the preceding pages the foreign policies and relations of South and North Korea have been analysed. While Korean war conditioned the evolution of the foreign policies of these two states, subsequent developments in the world in general and in East Asian region in particular supplied fresh inputs so that both South and North Korea could come out from the old legacies. Consequently in the foreign policies and relations of both South and North Korea with other countries of the world there have occurred many basic changes which would surely influence the future evolution of the foreign policies of the peninsular countries.

13.9 KEY WORDS

Patriot anti-missile batteries : A kind of most sophisticated US weapon which is capable to foil the enemy rocket of any type.

13.10 SOME USEFUL BOOKS

Scalapino, Robert, and Kim, Jun-Yop (eds) : 1984 : *North Korea Today : Strategic and Domestic Issues* : Los Angels, University of California Press.

Yang, Sung-Chul : 1981 : *Korea Two Regimes* : Cambridge, MSS, Seheukman Publishing Co.

Bridges, Brian: 1986 : *Korean and the West* : London, Routledge and Kegan Paul.

13.11 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS EXERCISES

Check Your Progress 1

- 1) 1) Korea War
2) Involvement of World powers in Korea Peninsular
3) Economic backwardness
4) Geographical location
5) Outlook of the political leaders.

Check Your Progress 2

- 1)
 - 1) Subordinate relation
 - 2) Suppression of popular movements in the ROK created temporary irritation to the otherwise continuing good relations.
 - 3) Strong trade and economic ties.
 - 4) There has always been favourable balance of trade for South Korea.
 - 5) The US maintains army bases in South Korea.
 - 6) Presence of US army has been opposed by the people.
- 2)
 - 1) Initially there was friction because of the colonial legacy.
 - 2) US intervention in the region helped normalise Japan-ROK relation.
 - 3) Japan has strong trade and economic ties.
- 3)
 - 1) Normalisation of US-China relations changed the South Korean attitude towards China.
 - 2) China found South Korean economic prosperity useful for the modernization and liberalization of Chinese economy.

Check Your Progress 3

- 1)
 - i) Historical legacy.
 - ii) Chinese intervention in favour of the DPRK in the Korean War.
 - iii) Geographical proximity
 - iv) Ideological affinity.
- 2)
 - i) Sino-Russian dispute created problem in the DPRK-USSR ties.
 - ii) USSR helped North Korea to achieve self reliance
 - iii) Presently the relations are not so friendly because of the dissolution of the erstwhile USSR.
- 3)
 - i) Involvement of North Korean diplomats in scandals connected with rice trade.
 - ii) Drowning and destruction of US army helicopter.
 - iii) Rangoon incident
 - iv) Aircraft issue of 1987.
 - v) North Korea's failure to repay the debt.

Check Your Progress 4

- 1)
 - i) People of both countries want reunification. In South Korea very often people rise in revolt demanding reunification.
 - ii) Official steps were initiated in 1972.
 - iii) Had there been no international interference the North-South relations would have remained cordial.

Check Your Progress 5

- 1) North Korea is a signatory to the NPT. But due to "Team Spirit" army manoeuvres and the presence of huge army of the USA in South Korea, North Korea feels threatened. As a result North Korea has threatened to withdraw from the NPT.

Check Your Progress 6

- 1)
 - i) India asked the US commanded UN force not to cross 38th parallel.
 - ii) India observed neutrality but was sympathetic to North Korea.