

# UNIT 11 EVOLUTION OF MODERN KOREA

## Structure

- 11.0 Objectives
- 11.1 Introduction
- 11.2 Pre-Modern Civilization of Korea
  - 11.2.1 The Form of Government
  - 11.2.2 The Socio-Political Decline of Korea
- 11.3 The Rise of the Modernisation Quest in Korea
- 11.4 The Disintegration of the Confucianized Monarchy
  - 11.4.1 Western Encroachments
  - 11.4.2 The Kanghwa Treaty
  - 11.4.3 The Tonghak Rebellion
  - 11.4.4 The Annexation of Korea by Japan
- 11.5 Evolution of the Modernising Process in Korea
  - 11.5.1 The Reform Movement of the Progressive Party
  - 11.5.2 The Enlightenment Movement of the Independence Club
  - 11.5.3 The Development of the Modern Economic Infrastructure in Korea
  - 11.5.4 The Growth of Modern Education
  - 11.5.5 The Social and Political Transformation during the Independence Struggle of Korea
- 11.6 Let Us Sum Up
- 11.7 Key Words
- 11.8 Some Useful Books
- 11.9 Answers to Check Your Progress Exercises

## 11.0 OBJECTIVES

This unit deals with evolution of modern Korea. The unit discusses about the history, geography, civilization and modernization process of an ancient land. After going through the unit you will be able to :

- identify the geographical location and understand the geopolitical importance of Korea;
- trace the history of Korea;
- discuss the reform movements for modernization of Korean peninsula;
- assess the depth of Japanese colonial exploitation in Korea;
- study the liberation struggle of the Korean people against the foreign rule.

## 11.1 INTRODUCTION

Korea is a peninsula and is strategically located in East Asia. Its neighbours are Russia, China and Japan. Though they are separated from the peninsular region by seas, rivers and mountains, all of them consider that a hostile Korea is a sword pointed at their hearts. Since time immemorial therefore these states (or powers) have been attempting to intervene in Korean affairs at the slightest provocation. Following the end of the Second World War (1945) the USA, a very distant country, has also got itself involved in Korean affairs because of strategical reasons.

Korea is an ancient land Like other ancient countries it was also divided at the dawn of the civilization into several independent principalities. In course of time the country was unified under a single political authority. The political disunity however did not stand on the way of emerging an identical culture, language and civilization of all Korean people. It was perhaps due to the identical ethno-lingual genesis of the

people. All Korean peoples emanate from the same ethno-lingual stock. The Koreans developed their own culture and civilization, but they did not hesitate to borrow from their neighbours—China and Japan. The Koreans however absorbed and adapted to their conditions the best of China and Japan. Korea had been all along an independent nation till the first decade of 20th century, when Japan reduced the peninsula to a colony of its own. When the colonial rule ended after the defeat of Japan in the Second World War, the country was liberated only to be occupied by the USA and Russia. The occupation culminated in the partition of the ancient land into two independent states South Korea and North Korea.

South Korea which is officially known now as the Republic of Korea (ROK), occupies the southern region of the peninsula. To the north of the RDK lies the North Korea, to the south is the East China Sea, to the east is the sea of Japan and to the west of the RDK lies the Yellow Sea. Total land area of the RDK is 99,091 sq.km where more than 43 million people (as per the estimate of 1991) live. Korean is the language of the state. Buddhism and Christianity are the principal religions. There are also a few minor religions like Daoism Confucianism etc.

North Korea which has been named as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), is formed with the northern part of the peninsula. To the north of the DPRK is the People's Republic of China. Total land area of the DPRK is 122,400 sq.km., and its population as per the estimate of 1990 is more than 20 million. The language of the DPRK is Korean. Here also like the ROK, Buddhism and Christianity are the main religions.

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## 11.2 PRE-MODERN CIVILIZATION OF KOREA

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Situated at the northeastern edge of the Asian continents, Korea is a peninsular country endowed with enchanting natural beauty and charms. About 4th century B.C. there arose a magnificent civilization known as 'Choson' (literal meaning : morning freshness) which reached its peak of prosperity around eighth century A.D. By that time, the whole of the nation had been unified into a Kingdom by a ruling dynasty known as 'Silla'. It was during the reign of Silla that the groundworks of long lasting culture of Korea were laid. Remarkable achievements were gained in the spheres of art, literature, science and architecture. Buddhist doctrines, Confucian ethics and Chinese technologies were incorporated into the native culture which enriched the Korean civilization. Later on, during the reigns of Koryo and Yi dynasties, moveable printing type and an indigenous writing system—based on Sanskrit phonetics—were invented. All these accomplishments made the Korean Kindon "a country of educated gentlemen" as named by T' ai-tsung, the emperor of China of T'ang dynasty. Indian and Chinese influences on the Korean society gave a humanistic touch to its culture which found its expression in the form of 'Confucian Humanism' during the rule of the most enlightened king of Korea, Sejong (r.141-50). With its vast Buddhist monasteries and temples strewn all over the land in secluded and serene surroundings, Korea also came to be known as the "Hermit Kingdom." It had grown into a pioneer civilization of the Orient long before the modern European civilization traversed Asia. "In the days when the early Briton painted himself with woad.....Korea was a powerful, orderly and civilised kingdom," says Mc Kenzie. It is a fact that even Japan learned some of the artistic and linguistic skills from Korea.

But at the same time, the increasing affluence of the country made its rulers lax and complacent. The nobility of Korea became arrogant and divided into various factions who began to fight with one another over the spoils of power and wealth. Consequently, the interests of the common people were neglected who became poor and oppressed. There was also a chain of foreign invasions by the neighbouring powers and barbarian tribes which ruined the country frequently.

### 11.2.1 The Form of Government

During the reign of Yi dynasty in Korea, a hereditary king ruled over the country with the help of an advisory Council of State consisting of a Chief Minister and

some other ministers. The executive work was carried out by six Ministries or Boards of Personnel, Revenue, Rites, War, Justice and Public Works. Three other organs of the Government (i) the Board of Censors, (ii) the Board of Inspectors, and (iii) the Office of the Royal Lecturers also played a vital role. There was also a Royal Secretariat to perform the administrative functions. The country was divided into eight provinces ruled by governors appointed by the central government annually. Each province was divided into administrative units of prefectures, counties and districts. The recruitment of government officials was done through a national civil service examination. But only the members of the Yangban class were eligible for taking examination for high government posts.

Although, as a matter of principle, all powers of the government belonged to the monarch, but in actual practice, these were exercised by the feudal nobles who occupied all the government posts. As these officials belonging to the nobility were greedy and cruel, they often misused their powers in exploiting and oppressing the common masses. Similarly, although the Confucian ethics expected the kings to be benevolent rulers, most of them played in the hands of the feudal lords and acted in a tyrannical manner. Thus for all practical purposes, the Korean monarchy was turned into an oligarchy during the rule of the Yi dynasty. However, some of the Yi monarchs like king Sejong etc. were enlightened and benevolent who cared for the public welfare.

### 11.2.2 The Socio-Political Decline of Korea

Taking advantage of the laxity of their rulers, the feudal lords and aristocrats of Korea expanded their private estates and powers. These estates became virtually independent Kingdoms within the Kingdom. In order to strengthen their position against the growing influence of the landed aristocracy, the Yi dynasty rulers of Korea took some important steps which affected the entire structure of the country.

First of all, they adopted the neo-Confucianism (Propounded by Chu Hsi, the disciple of Confucius) as the state creed which emphasised hierarchical relationship between rulers and subjects. It caused a rigid stratification of the Korean society dividing it into four classes of aristocrats, middle-class, commoners and the low-born. At the highest level were the aristocrats known as 'Yangban' who dominated the political as well as economic life of the society and treated the commoners and low-borns as their slaves. The commoners who carried the burdens of the state, supplied food, labour and troops, and paid taxes, also the people who were exploited by the aristocrats and middle-class. The most oppressed and impoverished among them were the farmers who were not the owners of land. They had to till the land only as tenants. They had to pay high rents to their landlords and also the taxes imposed by the government. Secondly, the Yi rulers in order to enhance their esteem in the eyes of the local nobility (and perhaps also to pass on the responsibility of defending the country from foreign invasions) sought the diplomatic favour of the paramount power of the Chinese empire. For this purpose, they accepted the Chinese suzerainty over Korea in accordance with the Confucian precept of 'sadae' (subservience to the elder/big/great). But this undermined the sovereign status of Korea and opened the way for outside interventions in her domestic affairs. Thirdly, as Confucianism looked down upon those who engaged themselves in trade and business, there was no encouragement to the economic and industrial development of the country up to the mid-nineteenth century or so. Fourthly, the Korean rulers also followed a policy of isolation from the outside world except China for about three hundred years. They wanted to remain aloof from the international complications because of their past experience of recurring foreign invasions. Through this policy, they tried to appease China with a show of respect and pacify Japan with limited trade benefits while cutting off completely from the rest of the world. But it did not help them in safeguarding the nation. It obstructed the flow of new ideas into the Korean society. Consequent upon the above reasons, the gulf between the ruling class and the common people widened in the Yi dynasty of Korea. The oppression and impoverishment of the masses reached its extreme. The society as a whole became immobile and the age-old socio-economic and political institutions of Korea became obsolete and decadent.

## 11.3 THE RISE OF THE MODERNISATION QUEST IN KOREA

The creative era in ancient Korea came to an end around the middle of the 15th century (i.e. after the death of King Sejong who was the most enlightened and benevolent ruler of Korea). In the Meantime, scientific and technological advances in Europe had given tremendous economic and military powers to the Western nations. They were utilizing these powers for establishing their vast empires around the globe and the wave of western expansionism threatened the whole of Asia. But Korea was still shut in its own shell oblivious of what was happening beyond its frontiers. However, beneath the seeming tranquillity at the surface, there were pressures of change building up slowly. The abuses of the rigid social stratification and orthodox customs were bringing a gradual response in the people who were beginning to question the legitimacy of the whole of the unjust order. The main stimulation to this trend of distrust and criticism of the prevailing system came from some of the members of the Yangban class which was itself responsible for the misuse of the existing set-up. How it happened is yet another interesting story of Korea.

Although Confucian precepts helped Yangban to maintain their privileges, impose social stratification and extract loyalty and obedience from the common people, their own condition became miserable with the passage of time. Every Yangban thought that the only possible role for him in the society was to serve the king so that he might acquire the privileges attached to a government position. Any other profession except the royal service was considered a disgrace on himself and his family. Therefore, those Yangban who failed to obtain government posts remained idle and became poor.

Moreover, there were two bases of selection for the government posts: social status and success in a national examination requiring mastery of Confucian classics. As a result, a new class of Confucian literati, belonging to Yangban and aspiring for royal service, emerged in Korea. Those Confucian literati who were unable to achieve their goal also joined the ranks of impoverished aristocracy. This gave them a chance to identify their own miserable conditions with the suffering of the common masses. Gradually, they became aware of the necessity of changing and reforming the old structure of the Korean kingdom. And for this purpose, they began to propagate the ideas of human dignity, equality, freedom, public welfare and economic advancement by adopting the western science and technology.

This led to the origin of a new school of thought known as 'Sirhak' or 'Pragmatic Learning' which became the mainstream of progressive thinking in Korea.

### Check Your Progress 1

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

- What were the main features of the Yi dynasty government in Korea?

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- Mention any two of the important political steps taken by the Yi dynasty rulers of Korea and their effects.

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- Read the following exercises carefully and mark the correct answers or statements.

- Which one of the following caused the rigid social stratification in Korea during the Yi dynasty rule?

- Buddhism.

- b) Confucianism.
  - c) Neo-Confucianism.
  - d) Western Imperialism.
- ii) Which one of the following statements is true? During the Yi dynasty reign in Korea
- a) common people could obtain the high government posts through success in a national civil examination.
  - b) a member of the Yangban class could obtain the high government post without taking the national civil examination.
  - c) a Confucian Scholar could obtain the high government post without taking the national civil examination.
  - d) a member of the Yangban class could obtain the high government post through success in a national civil examination.

## 11.4 THE DISINTEGRATION OF THE CONFUCIANIZED MONARCHY

Now you know how the centuries old social, political and economic structures of Korea became obsolete and oppressive during the Yi dynasty rule, and how the desire for change arose in the Korean people who were suffering under the unjust and autocratic system of government. This growing desire for change stimulated a two-fold process of modernisation in Korea. On the one hand, trend to break away from the past and throw away the Chinese shackles emerged among the Korean people. On the other, they began an effort to reform and renovate the existing political, social and economic structures by adopting the new ideas and institutions. The result was a gradual disintegration of the Confucianized monarchy as well as the emergence of a dynamic and progressive nation. However, there were some significant events and circumstances of that time which accelerated the pace of both trends.

The major events and upheavals which caused the down fall of the traditional systems as well as the rise of the new forces in Korea during the later half of the nineteenth century are western encroachments, the Kanghwa treaty, the Tonghak rebellion and the annexation of Korea by Japan.

### 11.4.1 Western Encroachments

You might be aware how the western powers of France, Great Britain, the United States of America, etc., compelled China and Japan to open their ports for trade during the middle of the nineteenth century. The means employed by these powers for their expansion in East Asia is known as gun-boat Diplomacy. After their success in China and Japan they turned their attention towards Korea and began to pressurise it to provide them economic concessions. Some of them also occupied certain portions of its territory. Although Koreans resisted these pressures with remarkable determination, they became aware of the internal weaknesses of their country and the need to strengthen it.

### 11.4.2 The Kanghwa Treaty

When the western powers found it difficult to establish direct relations with Korea due to Chinese suzerainty over her, they encouraged Japan to break the centuries old isolation of Korea. By that time, Japan had become a mighty power of Asia. She forced Korea to sign a treaty of friendship and trade in 1876 which is known as Kanghwa Treaty. Taking advantage of the Japanese success, almost all the imperialist powers of the West compelled Korea to sign the similar treaties and open her ports for international trade. This was the beginning of the enslavement of Korea by imperialist powers. Thus the Kanghwa Treaty struck a severe blow to the power and prestige of the ruling hierarchy of Korea.



### 11.4.3 The Tonghak Rebellion

As pointed out above the condition of the common people of Korea had become extremely miserable under the oligarchic rule of the Yi dynasty. The most wretched among them were the farmers. The foreign intervention and exploitation after the Kanghwa Treaty added to the woes of the Korean masses. Yet the government of Korea remained callous to the increasing hardship of its people. Consequently, a deep-seated resentment against the corrupt and oppressive order arose and exploded in the form of a peasant's revolt in 1894 which is known as the Tonghak Rebellion. The ideological base to this revolt was provided by a new socio-religious thought 'Ch'ondogyo' meaning the religion of the heavenly way and commonly known as 'Tonghak' or 'Eastern Learning'. It was propounded by an impoverished Yangban scholar Choe Che-u who called upon his countrymen to sweep away the traditional Korean society in its entirety and to create a new era of freedom and equality. Though the rebellion was crushed by the Korean government with the help of the Chinese and Japanese troops, its message had a revolutionary effect on the Korean society. It broke down the barriers between Yangban and the common people and struck a severe blow to the feudal system of government. It paved the way for the evolution of an egalitarian society in Korea.

### 11.4.4 The Annexation of Korea by Japan

Japan was not satisfied with the partial control of Korean economy provided by the Kanghwa Treaty. It was anxious to establish monopolistic and absolute control over the Korean peninsula so as to use it as a stepping-stone for further expansion on the Asian continent. It eliminated China and Russia from the Korean scene by defeating them in the sino-Japanese War of 1894 and the Russo-Japanese War of 1904. Britain and the United States of America favoured the Japanese policy in Korea as a countermeasure to the Russian ambitions in the Far East. Taking advantage of the favourable international situation as well as the weakness of the Korean government, Japan annexed Korea in 1910. This was the end of the Yi dynasty reign and the Chinese suzerainty over Korea. It brought the Korean people into direct confrontation with the modern forces of imperialism, capitalism and militarism resulting in a new determination in them to meet the challenges of the modern age.

All these incidents and upheavals changed the way of thinking of the Korean people and made them eager to rebuild their nation by adopting new ideas and institutions. This set the pace for the modernising process in Korea.

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## 11.5 EVOLUTION OF THE MODERNISING PROCESS IN KOREA

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In this last section of the unit, you will study some of the progressive movements of Korea which paved the way for the transformation of the country into a modern nation. It will help you to understand how the modernising process emerged in Korea.

### 11.5.1 The Reform Movement of the Progressive Party

When Korea was compelled to sign the Kanghwa Treaty in 1876, some Korean intellectuals were greatly impressed and inspired by the technological, economic and military advancement of Japan. Led by a pioneer reformer of Korea, Kim Ok-kyun, they decided to transform Korea on the Japanese lines and launched a new programme of modernisation under the banner of a 'Progressive Party'. They advocated for the independence of Korea from the Chinese suzerainty and closer association with Japan. They proposed abolition of the inequality of land-holdings, improvement of agricultural technology, development of natural resources, construction of better roads, industrial and commercial advancement and reform of the governmental structure. They advised the king to establish new educational institutions, hospitals and other public utility services such as streetlights and post offices. The king accepted some of the proposals as he also became interested in the

government became suspicious of the motives of the Progressives and opposed their proposals. Kim Ok-kyun and his associates attempted to usurp the government power by assassinating some of the conservative ministers on the occasion of the inaugural ceremony of the first Post office of Korea. Such kind of rashness on the part of the Progressives and the occasion chosen by them for coup d'état caused a serious setback to the modernisation movement. Yet this movement set in motion an irreversible process of modernisation in Korea.

### 11.5.2 The Enlightenment Movement of the Independence Club

Another step in the progressive direction was taken when a new public organisation named 'Independence club' was formed by the educated elite of Korea. The main purpose of this organisation formed in 1896, was to work for the social and political awakening of the Korean people. The members of the Club took a keen interest in the promotion of public education and helped in the establishment of commerce, medical and military colleges as well as the training workshops of foreign languages, carpentry, paper manufacturing, silk weaving and iron, glass, leather and electrical works. They advocated for the education of women, free love marriage and remarriage of widows, and raised their voice against superstition, cruelty and exploitation. The Club strove for opening up the new avenues of livelihood and raising the standard of living of the common masses. It pleaded for the equality of opportunity and the grant of equal civil rights to all citizens. It asserted that all citizens should be entitled to fair and open trial and there should be codification of civil and criminal law. The Club asked for the abolition of cruel punishments such as lynching and deforming the body. It pleaded for the protection of women and children from inhuman treatment and highlighted the need for providing relief to the farmers and other oppressed sections of the populace.

In political sphere, the club denounced subservience to China and inculcated the democratic ideals in the people. It suggested a parliamentary form of government combining the norms of monarchy and democracy for the constitutional development of Korea. The Club provided the political education to the people through the means of public debates, street meeting and mass demonstrations. But the activities of the Club were confined mostly to urban centres and its leaders did not try to expand their movement to the rural areas. Yet the enlightenment campaign launched by the Club broadened the outlook of the Korean people. It caused a change of attitude of the upper classes towards down trodden masses and brought the Korean society out of the age-old darkness, ignorance and superstition.

### 11.5.3 The Development of the Modern Economic Infrastructure in Korea

After the annexation of Korea, the Japanese government aimed at exploiting to the maximum the natural and agricultural resources of its colony. For this purpose, it established a strong and efficient administration in Korea and strove to modernise and industrialise the country. Consequently, there was considerable advancement in the spheres of transportation, communication, industrial undertakings, irrigation facilities, harbour improvement and agricultural development. An infrastructure of roads, railways, ports, hydro-electric power, etc. was created and the facilities for public health and sanitation were improved. A land survey was carried out on scientific lines. Although these measures, which were carried out in an unjust manner with imperialist designs, heightened the plight and misery of the Korean people, they laid down a basic infrastructure which became the foundation of the modern economic development of Korea. These measures caused a structural change in the traditional Korean economy and agriculture and brought tremendous social mobilisation. They also contributed to the growth of middle class consisting of merchants, industrialists, professionals, etc. and created a new class of industrial labourers in Korea.

### 11.5.4 The Growth of Modern Education

The Japanese administration also strove to build up a modern educational system in Korea with a view to making Korean people the loyal and efficient subjects of the Japanese empire. A small beginning had already been made in this sphere before the

arrival of the Japanese in Korea. By the time of annexation, there were 94 public schools in Korea with an enrollment of approximately 12,000 students. But within the twenty five years of the Japanese rule, the number of education institutions, both government and private rose to 3,771 with an enrollment of 867,562 students. The curriculum was diversified to new areas of technical, scientific, industrial, commercial and agricultural training besides those of arts and languages. However, there was racial discrimination against the Korean students in the Japanese educational system. Yet the Koreans made the best use of whatever educational opportunities were available to them under the Japanese administration.

### **11.5.5 The Social and Political Transformation during the Independence Struggle of Korea**

Ultimately, the Korean people launched a vigorous struggle for freedom from the Japanese rule. This struggle brought unprecedented social cohesion breaking all kinds of barriers between the various segments of the Korean society. The youths, common and middle classes and industrial workers came in the forefront of the national struggle. It facilitated the spread of democratic, nationalistic and revolutionary ideas in the masses. Through their fight for freedom, the Korean people rejected the monarchic form of government and the feudal system of the society for ever.

Thus, all the upheavals and developments described above led Korea to an irreversible course of progress and modernisation through various trials and errors. Now in the next unit, you will be able to understand the patterns of political and economic development of the modern Korea.

#### **Check Your Progress 2**

**Note :** i) Use the space given below for your answer.

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

- 1) Mention the two main trends of the modernising process in Korea.

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- 2) What was the message of the Tonghak Rebellion?

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(Read the following exercise carefully and mark the correct answer.)

- 3) Which of the following would you regard as true statements?

- a) Korea was annexed by Japan in the end of the nineteenth century.
- b) Korea was annexed by Japan in the beginning of the twentieth century.
- c) Korean King suspected the motives of the leaders of the Progressive Party.
- d) The conservative faction of the Korean government opposed the modernisation proposals of the Progressive Party.
- e) The Independence Club favoured a parliamentary form of government in Korea.
- f) The Independence Club suggested a republican form of democracy in Korea.
- g) During their independence struggle, the Korean people decided to restore the Korean Monarchy.
- h) The struggle for freedom from the Japanese rule weakened the feudal system of the Korean society.

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### **11.6 LET US SUM UP**

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In this unit you have been introduced to a unique civilization and told about its



efforts at modernization. In ancient time, an accomplished and prosperous kingdom was established in the Korean peninsula. But during the Yi dynasty reign, its government became autocratic and the society was divided into upper and lower classes resulting in the intolerable exploitation and oppression of the common masses. People's resentment against the oppressive regime set in motion two kinds of trends there : (i) the downfall of the decayed monarchy and the feudal system, and (ii) the progressive transformation of the Korean society. The outcome of both was the evolution of an irreversible process of modernisation in Korea from the beginning of the last quarter of the nineteenth century.

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## 11.7 KEY WORDS

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**Autocracy** : A government by a ruler who has unlimited power without any constitutional restraint.

**Capitalism** : The economic system in which the means of production are owned and controlled by a few.

**Confucianism/Neo-Confucianism** : Moral teachings of a Chinese Philosopher confucius. The later and revised form is known as neo-Confucianism.

**Egalitarian** : A society providing equal rights and opportunities to all.

**Feudalism** : The system of land-holding by land-lords, barons and nobles who also enjoy political power. The principal means of production, the land, is in monopoly ownership of the ruling class of the feudal lords, while the economy is run by the small producers, the peasants, using their own implements.

**Gun-boat Diplomacy** : A method by which the western powers forced the East Asian nations to sign treaties during the nineteenth century with the help of their war-ships.

**Hierarchy** : Organisation and distribution of authority on the basis of higher and lower ranks.

**Imperialism** : The policy of extending a country's rule and influence on the countries for the purpose of exploiting them.

**Kingdom** : A state ruled by a king or monarch.

**Monarchy** : A system of government in which a king rules over a country.

**Modernization** : Adaptation to the new ideas and advanced technology.

**Oligarchy** : A corrupt form of government by a few persons.

**Peninsula** : An area of land surrounded by sea from three sides and connected to the mainland on one side.

**Social Stratification** : The division of a society into upper and lower classes.

**Suzerainty** : The protection of a great power over a small state.

**Tyranny** : Autocratic, unjust or cruel rule.

**Yangban** : The aristocratic class of medieval Korea.

**Yi Dynasty** : A ruling family of Korea known as Yi or Choson.

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## 11.8 SOME USEFUL BOOKS

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A.C. Nahm, *Korea : 1988 : Tradition and Transformation*, Hollym, Seoul.

A.J. Grajdanzev : 1944 : *Modern Korea* : John Day, New York.

B.S. Agrawal : 1992 : *A Study of the Korean National Movement* : Loyal Book Depot, Gwalior.

Chong-sik Lee, : 1965. : *The Politics of Korean Nationalism* : University of California Press, Berkeley.

F.A. Mckenzie : 1920 : *Korea's Fight for Freedom* : Revell, New York.

H.S. Harold : 1970 : *Korea : A Political History in Modern Times* : Longfellow,  
New York.

R.R. Krishnan : 1991 : *Indo-Korean Relations* : Yonsei University, Seoul.

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## 11.9 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS EXERCISES

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### Check Your Progress 1

Your answers may cover the following points :

- 1) A hereditary king ruled over the country with the help of an advisory Council. There were six Ministries and a Secretariat to perform executive and administrative functions. The country was divided into administrative units. The officials were recruited through a national civil examination.
- 2) (any two points of the following)  
The adoption of neo-Confucianism resulting in a rigid social stratification. Acceptance of the Chinese suzerainty over Korea which undermined the Korean sovereignty. The adoption of the policy of isolation which obstructed the flow of new ideas into the Korean society.
- 3) (i) c (ii) d.

### Check Your Progress 2

- 1) i) Breaking away from the past and throwing away the Chinese influence.  
ii) Reform and renovation of the existing political, social and economic institutions.
- 2) To sweep away the traditional Korean Society and to create a new era of freedom and equality.
- 3) b. d. e. h.