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## FOREIGN POLICY AND PRIORITIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH KOREA IN THE LATE 20TH AND EARLY 21ST CENTURIES

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### Abstract

The diplomatic negotiations that began between the victorious and defeated countries after the end of World War II reflected a political reality that, in a sense, would decide the future fate of the world's countries. The "Cold War" that began between the two giants of the world posed the question of which country to stand on in front of the remaining countries. The world became bipolar. Although the Korean Peninsula is a single nation, two states have been formed: the Republic of South Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). In terms of foreign policy, the South Korean government was led by pro-American officials until the beginning of the 21st century, while the DPRK was led by a pro-Soviet leader. The issue under consideration is about the priorities and essence of South Korea's foreign policy in recent times.

**Keywords:** Global, conservative, ASEAN, president, northeast Asia, autonomy, strategy, USA, cold war, September 11, 2001, regionalism

### Introduction

By the end of the 20th and beginning of the 21st centuries, the Republic of South Korea began to show itself in many areas of production on the international stage. In production, the "Korean miracle" became an example for the countries of the world. Such hard work of the Korean people, rational management, initially aimed only at isolationism, that is, ensuring the peace of the country and the well-being of the population, and this policy continued until the end of the 20th century. By the beginning of the 21st century, the Republic of South Korea



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implemented a number of reforms in foreign policy. This policy was carried out under the principle of peace and gentleness towards neighboring countries.

The object of the study was determined by the main priorities of the foreign policy of the Republic of South Korea in the late 20th and early 21st centuries. The main direction of the foreign policy of the Republic of South Korea is considered to be the achievement of independence through adherence to neutrality. But given the current global problems, the constant political games of invisible forces, the Korean government considers this impossible, but it still remains relevant.

The end of the 20th and beginning of the 21st centuries brought serious changes to the modern political landscape of the world. First of all, this could not but affect the policies of many countries, including the Republic of South Korea. This impact is explained by the following reasons:

- The end of the Cold War and the collapse of the bipolar system;
- The emergence of the nuclear problem in North Korea in the 90s of the 20th century;
- The strengthening of trade relations with China, which has been developing rapidly since the early 2000s;

At the current stage, South Korea, in accordance with the global trends of globalization, informatization and democratization, defines itself as a "civilian country, a fair Korea." Accordingly, the foreign policy strategy of the Republic of Korea, entitled "Peace and Prosperity of the Korean Peninsula," aims to achieve the following goals:

- a) peacefully resolve the nuclear issue of the Korean Peninsula and build a world order;
- b) develop and promote national interests, including civil and people-to-people diplomacy;
- c) develop stable cooperative diplomacy with four neighboring countries;
- d) build a responsible community of Northeast Asian countries;
- e) strengthen cooperation in the field of development and economic diplomacy; promote Korea's national interests (creating a strategy for the development of Korea for the future);
- f) strengthen support for overseas Koreans and ensure the protection of Korean citizens abroad.



The issue of ensuring peace on the Korean Peninsula is explained, first of all, by the mutual agreements and policies of restraint between the leaders of the two Korean states. The beginning of the 21st century was marked by the establishment of diplomatic negotiations between the leaders of these two states.

In June 2000, a historic event took place, which was a symbolic result of Kim Dae-jung's "sunshine policy": a summit was held in Pyongyang between the leaders of the Republic of Korea and the DPRK -

President Kim Dae-jung and Chairman of the National Defense Commission Kim Jong-il. The meeting between the leaders of the two divided states took place for the first time during the division of the peninsula. As a result of the meeting, the North and South Joint Resolution of June 15, 2000 was adopted. The meeting of Kim Dae-jung and Kim Jong-il in Pyongyang on June 13, 2000, the 2000 Inter-Korean Summit, was the first meeting of the leaders of the DPRK and the DPRK since the division in 1945. The declaration of the DPRK and the Republic of Korea on June 15 served as the starting point for the first inter-Korean summit and the transition from the confrontation between the North and the South in the context of the Cold War. „As a symbolic continuation of such meetings, one can mention the Korean summit held on April 27, 2018 at the Panmunjom border crossing, led by the leaders of the two countries, North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in. During the meeting, the leaders of the two Korean states emphasized the prospects for improving relations, peace and unification.

A significant aspect of the meeting was that after the negotiations, North Korean leader Kim Jong-un became the first North Korean leader to cross the line dividing the two Koreas and set foot on South Korean soil. In turn, Moon Jae-in described the DPRK leader's crossing of the demarcation line as a symbol of peace.

S. Snyder, in his manuscript "South Korea at the Crossroads: Autonomy and Alliance in an Era of Rival Power," identifies four main directions in the modern foreign policy of the Republic of Korea:

1) Focus on forming an alliance with the United States in order to cooperate with a strong ally to achieve security



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32422	29477	28356	27968	26306
2005-yil	2006-yil	2007-yil	2008-yil	2009-yil

The rate of decline in the number of US troops on the Korean Peninsula In conclusion, it can be said that the end of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century are marked by the beginning of a period of stability on the Korean Peninsula. The South Korean government's efforts, first of all, to promote peace, served as the cornerstone of its unique achievements and indicators in the economic sphere.

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