The Republic of Korea at a glance

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The Republic of Korea (South Korea) is located on the southern portion of the Korean Peninsula. It is geographically positioned between the People's Republic of China to the west, Japan to the east, the North and South Korea to the south, and the Sea of Japan and the Yellow Sea to the north.

South Korea lies in a humid subtropical climate region with a predominantly coastal mountainous terrain. It has a territory covering an area of 99,934 square kilometers. According to the 2000 census, the population of South Korea was 45.74 million.

South Korea's agricultural workforce is numerically small but highly productive. The Korean Peninsula is divided into South and North Korea. The latter was established in 1948 as a democracy, though political turmoil, and periods of military rule and martial law, were characteristic until the early 1990s, the period of the Civil War in South Korea.

The Republic of Korea has a democratic political system with president elected to a single 5-year term by direct popular vote and contains a representative assembly in place of the traditional Yi Dynasty. In 2020, the country's rank was 6th in the world in terms of technological prowess since the 1980s. The Republic of Korea is one of the Asian Tigers, and is the 17th largest economy in the world with a GDP of $1.5 trillion. According to the 2020 World Bank report, South Korea's economy is the 16th largest in the world with a GDP of $1.6 trillion.

The Republic of Korea is one of the most successful countries in terms of science and technology. The country boasts a high level of scientific research and development. In 2019, South Korea had the world's third-largest research and development expenditure. The country is home to some of the world's most advanced mobile phone and electronics companies. In 2020, the country's research and development expenditure was $156 billion, which is a significant increase from the previous year.

South Korea is a member of the United Nations, WTO, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and G20. It has also been a member of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank. South Korea is also a member of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the World Trade Organization (WTO), and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

By the 2000s, South Korea had the world's highest broadband adoption rate and is considered one of the world's most advanced mobile phone and technology countries. In 2020, South Korea had the world's highest number of smartphones per capita, a significant increase from the previous year.

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