

**THE 38TH PARALLEL:
PENETRATING THE LINE**

by
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AUTHOR'S DECLARATION

I hereby declare that I am the sole author of this thesis. This is a true copy of the thesis, including any required final revisions, as accepted by my examiners.

I understand that my thesis may be made electronically available to the public.

ABSTRACT

In July 1953, the armistice ended the Korean War that lasted for three years and established the Demilitarized Zone on either side of the demarcation line as a buffer between the two countries to prevent further military confrontation. However, the two sides remain at odds for half a century, and, despite the armistice, a state of war still exists between the two Koreas. As Koreans have dreamed of a united nation, the division has been described as a 'temporary' term to Koreans, yet the process of it has been much more obscure. Half a century has passed by, and South Korea has become a nation in which all facets of economic, political, and cultural identity are delineated in opposition to North Korea. What the future was supposed to present to Koreans has shifted relentlessly creating a disparity between the individual and national dreams. With repetitive see-saw events of national tension and reconciliation, individuals find themselves in an ambivalent position between series of oppositions: people and state, real and unreal, unification and national division. Multiple narratives crossover, creating confusion of whether the ultimate dream of Korea is even appropriate.

The thesis examines the two opposing conditions: the idealized dream of homogeneity, and the factual reality of heterogeneity. Four series of investigations are presented in this thesis: the condition, the cause, the response, and the location of the individual. First, the disparity between the two Koreas illustrates the external conditions of the situation. Then an investigation of the Korean identity is presented to analyze the cause of the condition. The indigenous identity of Korea and the desire to preserve it are presented as the creative forces behind the dichotomy of Korea. The ambivalence of the individual is understood as a response such conditions. The concept of 'Han' is employed as a possible vehicle of understanding Korean cultural despondency. Finally the design exploration of a very significant archaeological site in the Demilitarized Zone is undertaken in order to mediate the disparity between the Korean dream and

reality for the individual. The design is intended to locate the individual within the Korean pathology. Playing on the previously studied Korean conditions, the design is an amplified display of the opposing conditions which will enable the individual to face the ambivalence of today's Korea. The thesis does not suggest the solution or envision the end but aims to meditate and negotiate the present moment. It is not my intention to force either fantasy or reality as an absolute answer, but to create an understanding of both conditions in hopes that Koreans can start to break their ambivalence regarding their national reunification.

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for Sang-dong Oh and Myunghee Lee

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

noun

- 1: the first section of a communication
- 2: the act of beginning something new
- 3: formally making a person known to another or to the public
- 4: a basic or elementary instructional text
- 5: a new proposal
- 6: the act of putting one thing into another [syn: insertion]
- 7: the act of starting something for the first time; introducing something new



GRADE 9 . KI-DUK BYUN
 "REUNIFICATION: PUZZLE THAT NORTH AND SOUTH NEED TO SOLVE TOGETHER."



GRADE 9 . NA-YOUNG KIM
 "PAIN OF THE WAR. STILL SEPARATED FAMILIES."



GRADE 11 . JUHEE JUNG
 "NO ONE PART CAN BE MISSING"



GRADE 11 . DOKYUNG LEE
 "TIL THE DAY WHEN 70 MILLION BECOMES ONE"



GRADE 12 . HYERIM KIM
 "NOW, IT IS TIME TO PLAY THE SONG OF HARMONY"



GRADE 6 . SUK BU
 "THE BLOOD WE SHED THAT DAY, LET'S REPAY WITH REUNIFICATION."



GRADE 6 . MINJAE KIM
 "WHEN WE CAN CROSS FREELY, WE WILL BE ONE."



GRADE 6 . HOSU KANG
 "COLLECTION OF THESE SMALL DROPS = REUNIFICATION."



GRADE 7 . EUN-JIN AHN
 "REUNIFICATION THAT NEEDS TO BE CONSTRUCTED TOGETHER"



GRADE 8 . DA-AE JANG
 "WE NEED TO BE ONE AGAIN."



GRADE 3 . KWON-NAM KIM
 "ATTITUDE OF PREPARATION FOR THE PROCHANGING REUNIFICATION"



GRADE 4 . A-HAE KO
 "I WANT TO LIVE IN A UNITED KOREA"



GRADE 4 . SEUNG-HYUN KWON
 "WAITING FOR REUNIFICATION. WE ARE ONE MIND."



GRADE 4 . ARAM YANG
 "WE ARE ONE NATION"



GRADE 5 . JUHEE CHO
 "WE CANNOT FLY WITH ONE WING."

1.1 MEMORY

"Everybody, don't forget to bring your watercolors and poster colors.

Tomorrow is the day for the poster of reunification."

"Yes, teacher"

This dialogue recurred each school year since I was in grade 3. The poster of Korean reunification was an annual exercise where all students dedicated a full day of schoolwork to reflect the 'grand wish' of our people, of our nation, of our future – the reunification of North and South Korea. We had been taught that those poor people in the north, 'brainwashed' by their 'dear' leader knew nothing outside their tiny 'prison'. We would have to save our 'brothers and sisters' by getting rid of their political leaders in hopes that they would become 'normal' like us. The posters were supposed to have a different theme each year, but now that I look back, there were always two main themes – first, the collapse of the north government, and second, the reunification of the people – which combined would reach the dream of establishing one Korea. In the nights before drawing the poster, I was supposed to prepare a slogan and the graphic that would represent my poster. Each line and colour was decided carefully so that the message was delivered clearly. When I started to draw those childhood posters mindlessly, it was 35 years after the Korean War had occurred.

Another 18 years has passed since I have drawn my first poster, many things have happened, everything has changed, but one thing remains the same, there are still two Koreas.

fig. 1.1.01 - 1.1.15 (in order left to right)

unification posters drawn by students in South Korea

우리의 소원

조금느리게

mp

동요나라



우 리 의 소 원 은 통 일, 꿈 에 도 소 원 은 통 - 일, 이



정 성 다 해 서 통 일, 통 일 을 이 루 자, 이



겨 레 살 리 는 통 일, 이 나 라 살 리 는 통 - 일, 통



일 이 여 어 서 오 라, 통 일 이 여 오 라, - - -

1.2 DREAM

"Our grand wish is unification" is the most popular phrase used on children's posters and is engraved in the memories of all Koreans. As far back as I can remember, Koreans sang the song with this title every year on March 1st, a national holiday for both North and South Korea where Koreans celebrate the country's liberation from Japan. The song, originally composed as "Our grand wish is liberation" in 1947 by president Seung Man Lee, was modified to "Our wish is unification". It has been sung at all North-South Korean events as it projects the new national dream of both nations. It took Korea 45 years to get their first wish, which was liberation from Japan, and it has been 53 years since the two Koreas have separated. When will the new dream become reality? The problem of the dream is that there is a huge disparity between the national and the personal dream. After years of singing the song and drawing the posters, the national dream has become naturally engraved in Korean psyches as their personal dream without realizing that the North-South gap has grown uncontrollably in every direction.

Even if, miraculously, the border was to come down tomorrow, there would inevitably be a culture shock between the two countries. The border itself has become not only a separation of the two states but the protection of the ideal dream of unification. As long as the division remains, both nations are able to blame their differences on the past. History and time have become the cause of those differences. With the assumption that the division will eventually disappear, will the idealized unification truly become the answer that Koreans have pursued? Unification is the ultimate goal for Koreans; it has been believed that the division is what blocks Koreans from becoming 'what they are meant to be'. With a sudden collapse of the walls, the divisive system will be so overloaded with disparity that both nations risk an absolute failure of their own national systems. The question is no longer what unification will bring to each state, but what it will cost in order to achieve it and how it will be delivered.

fig. 1.2.01 Lyrics of "Woori-we Sowon" ("Our grand wish is unification")

Our wish is unification.

Even in our dreams the wish is unification.

With all efforts, unification, let's make reunification happen.

The unification, that will revive these people.

The unification, that will revive this nation.

Please let it come without delay.

Unification. Come.

In his book "Korean and its Futures", anthropologist Roy Richard Grinker argues that the continued conflict between North and South Korea, and the prospects for peace must be understood within the broader social and cultural contexts in which Koreans live. Grinker illustrates how the South Korean perception of unification should be about integrating two different identities rather than as an assimilation of the north. There are two central goals in his book: first, what role North Korea plays in defining South Korean identity and, second, to show how the South Korean discourse about relationships of homogeneity and heterogeneity creates the emblematic incorporation of North Korea into the South Korean identity.

The quest for Korean unification is a desire to return home, to discover an originary and autonomous identity. Paradoxically, however, a unified Korea also threatens much of the only world most Koreans have ever known, a world in which they are divided people whose paramount goal is to be unified. If Korean political identity can be characterized by its incompleteness – the self-conscious definition of the nation as anticipatory – then the search for unification places south Korea in an uncertain position in a series of oppositions: between real and unreal, between people and state, between unification and national division. These oppositions reflect not only the contest for legitimacy between south and north, but also underlying uncertainties and ambiguities about national identity, the future, and the journey toward a unified Korea. (Grinker 1993, 47)

This thesis identifies in particular to this passage and investigates the personal ambivalence that is created by the two opposing conditions: the idealized dream of homogeneity, and the factual reality of heterogeneity. 'Tong-il' encompasses the meaning of homogeneity in the Korean language, but a conflict arises where unification and recovery of homogeneity are sacred goals and where heterogeneity is a pejorative concept. As Korea enters into a new stage in its history, it will face innumerable challenges: separated families, varying

ideologies, infrastructural imbalance, managing a new mobility of people and information. Decades after the armistice, with today's modernity, the conditions of two nations change relentlessly as fast as their global status alters everyday. As global relations of two Koreas are so intertwined, it is impossible to make safe predictions of when the country may be unified and what will be the boundaries of unification. As Grinker has stated:

Unification is an idealized vision of homogeneity in a world of rapid historical changes, travel and globalization. In social theory, globalization is often conceived as a homogenizing process, but the opposite process occurs in Korea. Homogeneity is all the more elusive as Koreans forge transnational relations that create differences rather than similarities. (Grinker 1993, 43)

Koreans have failed or avoided realizing the obvious: any kind of transformation is always accompanied with risks. Everything Koreans have, everything they know, and everything they are will be threatened and questioned incessantly whether they choose to blindfold themselves or not. Koreans need to become aware of this pathology of reunification. This thesis attempts to analyze what created the pathology and where the individual is situated within it. There maybe nothing that can be done to reverse the pathology, but the thesis still strives to create an understanding of how Koreans got to this point. Carefully selected studies will reassess the memory of separation and examine penetration points. Although the thesis started from a personal aspiration for reunification, the thesis does not suggest a solution or envision the 'end' but it seeks first through analysis and then through a conceptual project to meditate and negotiate the 'present' moment. Even if as Koreans we end up going deeper into our nightmare in order to keep on dreaming, an awareness of the act at least provides a warning of what will happen when we have to wake up and face the reality.

1.3 PATHOLOGY

Eighteen years have passed since I drew my first poster of unification. When I went back to Korea for my thesis research, the new poster I began was not as simple as it used to be. As the thesis progressed more slogans, lines, and colors have been added so that it is now impossible to derive a clear solution for my new reunification poster. Some have declared that reunification will be a waste and the downfall of South Korea, and say that everything that we have achieved through hard labour will be diminished in order to support our supposed brothers and sisters in the north. Nowadays, the debate stretches to every limit and boundary of political, cultural, economical, and social differences. Yet, the debate always ends on the note that we are all Koreans and it is our ultimate dream and ideal to become one again.

Did the memory of drawing all those posters year after year curse me and other Koreans with an irrational ideal? Were those personal propagandas of our own making? Was it brainwashing of our own making? These are the main questions that confronted me throughout the study of this thesis. As the question for reunification seemed more unanswerable as I went deeper into my thesis, I still found myself convinced that somehow I could provide an answer at least for myself, if not for the nation. Yet the more I attempted to provide a resolution for the Korean dream, the more I found myself against a stone wall. The individual is caught up in the pathology that is created by two disparate conditions: the child who has grown up dreaming of a homogenous nation, and the grown-up who sees the absurd reality of what the division has created. As new memories are constructed by news headlines, events, and media, the paradigm of what 'tong-il (reunification)' represents shifts continuously and reacts to every incident that occurs not only within the Korean peninsula but also in global events. Koreans who have been occupied with the dream of a united nation have blinded themselves with a national ideal that has maintained the same parameters for

half of a century, while the individual finds himself/herself in an ambivalent position in a series of oppositions: between people and state, between real and unreal, between unification and national division.

DIALOGUE 1:

"What is your thesis about?"

"I just want to study the demilitarized zone to see what potential it holds."

"Wow, I wish I could work on that."

"Why is that?"

"Anything could be done...!! You can just imagine what the 'future' would be."

DIALOGUE 2:

"What is your thesis about?"

"I just want to study the demilitarized zone to see what potential it holds."

"You are crazy."

"Why is that?"

*"There is **nothing**
we can do. Absolutely
n o t h i n g ."*

1.4 DIALOGUE

The preceding dark pages, and pages to come, show several of many dialogues I shared with other Koreans during my research in Korea at the beginning of my thesis study. What usually started as a casual question sparked controversial responses from people telling me how brave I am to undertake such an impossible subject, to those who thought I was foolish for bringing the subject out into the open. The thesis started with an interest in the Demilitarized Zone in Korea, but it became more complicated as time passed. What I didn't realize earlier was that those conversations were to become dialogues that I continue to have with myself constantly. The frustrations that were created from those inner dialogues seemed to offer no solution at all. Little did I know that those two dialogues had the answer I eventually accepted: there is no answer to the Korean question.

The frustration of modern South Korea is caused from wanting a definite answer: do we abandon North Korea or do we embrace them. Increasingly it became clear to me that it is not the answer, but the process that becomes critical. One definition of a 'dialogue' is 'to discuss areas of disagreement frankly in order to resolve them.'¹ An answer that is offered with no dialogue can never provide satisfaction or a resolution as it ignores the deepest set conflict between the two. The ambivalence of the individual occurs from lack of discourse surrounding the perimeters of reunification. Although reunification has been an obvious answer to Koreans, the process of it has been much more obscure. This thesis attempts to raise questions, reveal conditions, and analyze the cause, so that it can become segments of a larger continuing dialogue.

¹ Random House Unabridged Dictionary, 2006

2.0

CONDITION

noun.

- 1: a state at a particular time [syn: status]
- 2: a mode of being or form of existence of a person or thing;
- 3: an assumption on which rests the validity or effect of something else
- 4: (usually plural) a statement of what is required as part of an agreement
- 5: the state of (good) health [syn: shape]
- 6: information that should be kept in mind when making a decision;
- 7: the procedure that is varied in order to estimate a variable's effect by comparison with a control

1945 Japanese occupation ends . Soviet troops occupy north of 38 parallel . American troops occupy the south. The United States drops atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. World War II ends. **1946** first fully electronic digital computer, called ENIAC (Electronic Numerical Integrator and Computer), is introduced by engineers at the University of Pennsylvania. Political power in Japan is transferred from the emperor to an elected assembly. The apartheid system is introduced in South Africa. **1947** American athlete Jackie Robinson joins the Brooklyn Dodgers, breaking the color barrier in major league baseball. **1948 People's Democratic Republic of Korea is declared.** Indian nationalist leader Mohandas Gandhi is assassinated. The state of Israel is proclaimed. London Olympic Games. **1949** The People's Republic of China is proclaimed. **1950 The Korean war begins between North Korea and South Korea; it will eventually involve the United States and 19 other nations. Chinese forces occupy Tibet.** United States Senator Joseph McCarthy charges that the U.S. Department of State has been infiltrated by Communists. **1951 1952** The Invisible Man by American author Ralph Ellison is published. Helsinki Olympic Games. **1953 Armistice established at the 38th parallel.** **1954** The United States Navy launches the first nuclear-powered submarine, the USS Nautilus. The U.S. Supreme Court rules in Brown v. Board of Education that segregated schools violate the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. The first polio vaccine, discovered by American physician Jonas Salk, is declared safe. **1955 1956** American clergyman Martin Luther King, Jr., emerges as a leader in the campaign for desegregation during the successful Montgomery Bus Boycott. **1957** The Space Age begins when the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) launches Sputnik I, the first artificial satellite. The European Economic Community is set up. **1958 KNA (Korean National Airlines) passenger airplane with 34 people including congressmen kidnapped to the North** **1959** Cuban revolutionary Fidel Castro takes control of Cuba and establishes a Communist dictatorship. The Vietnam War begins when Viet Cong guerrillas begin attacking the South Vietnamese government. Melbourne Olympic Games. **1960 A Student revolt against electoral fraud of President Seungman Rhee. Second Republic is established.** Rome Olympic Games. **1961 A Military coup let by Maj. Gen. Park Chunghee South Korea under military rule for two decades.** The 23rd Amendment to the United States Constitution gives residents of the District of Columbia the right to vote in presidential elections. Soviet cosmonaut Yury Gagarin becomes the first person to travel in space. The Bay of Pigs invasion takes place. The Berlin Wall is constructed to stop the flight of people from Communist East Germany through East Berlin to the West. **1962 Third Republic proclaimed by Park. Restores some political freedom, sparks economic and industrial growth.** Algeria wins independence from France. Publication of Silent Spring by American marine biologist Rachel Carson provokes worldwide concern for the preservation of the environment. Nuclear war between the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) is narrowly avoided in the Cuban missile crisis. **1963** A nuclear test-ban treaty is signed by the United States, the USSR, and Great Britain. President Kennedy is assassinated while riding in an open limousine in Dallas, Texas. **1964** The Civil Rights Act of 1964 becomes law, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of color, race, nationality, religion, or gender. American civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr., wins the Nobel Peace Prize. Tokyo Olympic Games. **1965** Federal health insurance for persons 65 years or older, called Medicare, is established in the United States. American black leader Malcolm X is shot and killed in New York City. Protest riots erupt in the Watts district of Los Angeles, resulting in 34 deaths. The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution begins in China to eradicate the remains of so-called bourgeois ideas. **1966 1967** The Six-Day War is fought between Israel and the Arab nations of Egypt, Jordan, and Syria, resulting in Israeli control of all Jordanian territory west of the Jordan River, the Golan Heights of Syria, and the Sinai Peninsula. **1968 31 Armed communist guerrillas intend to attack Cheongwadae.** Martin Luther King, Jr., and United States Senator Robert F. Kennedy of New York are assassinated in separate incidents. Warsaw Pact troops invade Czechoslovakia. Mexico City Olympic Games. **1969** Golda Meir becomes prime minister of Israel. American astronauts Neil A. Armstrong and Edwin E. Aldrin, Jr., become the first people to set foot on the moon. **1970** During an antiwar protest four students at Kent State University in Ohio are killed by National Guardsmen. **1971 The first South-North Red Cross preliminary conference.** The United Nations admits China and expels Taiwan. The 26th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution lowers the minimum voting age to 18. **1972 Park proclaims martial law and makes constitutional changes to increase his powers. Secret unification talks between North and South begin.** The United States returns control of Okinawa, an island lying between the East China Sea and the North Pacific Ocean, to Japan. President Nixon visits China and Russia. Eleven Israeli athletes are killed by terrorists at the Olympic Games in Munich, West Germany (now part of Germany). **1973 President Park Chunghee declares peaceful reunification foreign policy .** The Watergate scandal surfaces, resulting in the resignation of President Nixon in 1974. Egypt and Syria attack Israel and the Arab-Israeli War of 1973 begins. The Arab oil embargo causes an energy crisis in the industrialized world. **1974 Kim Jung Il declared as the successor of Kim Il Sung in North Korea.** Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie is peacefully deposed by military leaders after ruling Ethiopia for 44 years. **1975** Thirty-five nations sign the Helsinki Accords finalizing the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe, a multinational forum for the promotion of peace, security, justice, and cooperation in Europe. Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) raises oil prices by 10 percent. **1976 Ax Murder incident at Panmunjeom.** Isabel de Perón, president of Argentina, is overthrown by Lieutenant General Jorge Rafael Videla. Women are admitted into United States military academies. The United States of America celebrates its bicentennial. North and South Vietnam are united to form the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Montreal Olympic Games. **1977 President Park Chunghee emphasizes "Peace first unification later" policy at the president's annual State of the National message** **1978 3rd Tunnel for southward invasion discovered.** Egyptian President Anwar Sadat becomes the first Arab leader to visit and recognize Israel. **1979 Park is assassinated by the head of the Korean intelligence agency, sparking protest against authoritarian rule. Maj.Gen. Chun Doochan mounts a coup and assumes power.** A peace treaty, based on the Camp David Accords, is signed by Israeli and Egyptian leaders. The Shah of Iran is ousted by a revolution led by the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. Sandinistas overthrow Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza Debayle and install a Marxist government. **1980 Martial law is declared. The Korean army kills at least 200 civilians in student demonstrations in Kwangju. The Fifth Republic is declared and a new constitution introduced. Kim Jung Il officially appointed as future successor in North Korea.** Vigdís Finnbogadóttir becomes Iceland's first female president and the world's first popularly elected woman head of state. Lech Wałęsa emerges as a leader of the strikes in Poland that lead to the formation of the national Solidarity trade federation. Iraq invades Iran, beginning eight years of war. Moscow Olympic Games. **1981** The United States Centers for Disease Control publishes its first report on AIDS. President Reagan survives an assassination attempt. United States Navy jets shoot down two Libyan fighter planes over the Gulf of Sidra, which Libya claims as territorial waters. **1982 1983** President Reagan dubs the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) the "Evil Empire" and proposes the Strategic Defense Initiative. **1984 the South-North Economic Conference held at Panmunjeom for the first time.** Scientists discover

that ozone is being lost from the earth's atmosphere in an area above Antarctica. Los Angeles Olympic Games. **1985** **Realization of the first mutual visiting in 40 years since the partition of the Korean, which is a native place visit group or a visit group of art performance.** Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev becomes general secretary of the Communist Party in the USSR. **1986** **The constitution in South Korea is changed to allow the direct election of the president.** The United States bombs sites in Libya declared by President Reagan to be "terrorist centers." American political scandal, the Iran-Contra Affair, begins. High-ranking members in the Reagan administration arranged for the secret sales of arms to Iran in direct violation of existing United States laws. **1987** **Gen. Roh Tae-woo, Chun's protege, is elected president in country's first democratic elections.** President Reagan and Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev sign an agreement eliminating medium-range missiles from the military arsenals of the two countries. **1988** **Seoul Olympic Games.** Benazir Bhutto is elected prime minister of Pakistan, the first woman to hold this office in any modern Muslim state. **1989** The Chinese Army suppresses a prodemocracy celebration in Beijing's Tiananmen Square. The Exxon Valdez tanker spills 11 million gallons of oil into Prince William Sound, Alaska. Four-star General Colin Powell is the first black to become chairman of the United States Joint Chiefs of Staff. The Berlin Wall, a barrier between East and West Berlin, is demolished. **1990** **Discovery of the 4th Tunnel in Yang-gu, Gangwon-do of the DMZ. Opening of the north of JSA, Panmunjeom. Passing of 6 private vessels of South Korea through the mouth of Han River, demilitarized neutral waters in 37 years since division.** United States forces invade Panama and arrest Manuel Noriega on drug trafficking, racketeering, and money laundering charges. East and West Germany are reunified as the Federal Republic of Germany. The Americans with Disabilities Act becomes law, protecting disabled people from discrimination. **1991** **UN admits both South and North Korea as members.** South Africa officially ends apartheid by releasing African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela from prison and legalizing black African political organizations. Iraq is defeated in the Persian Gulf War. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) breaks into independent states, marking the end of the Cold War. The 12 members of the European Community sign the Maastricht Treaty, creating the European Union. **1992** **Signing of joint announcement about denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.** After the acquittal of four white police officers charged with the videotaped beating of a black suspect, Rodney King, rioting erupts in south central Los Angeles. Barcelona Olympic Games. **1993** **Kim Young Sam, a former opponent of the military regime, becomes the first elected civilian president.** Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) sign peace accords that pave the way for limited Palestinian self-rule in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Mosaic, the first major browser for the World Wide Web, is introduced. **1994** **Kim Il Sung dies on July 8th.** Nelson Mandela becomes the first black president of South Africa. About one million Rwandan refugees flee into neighboring Zaire to escape ethnic conflict. Russian troops invade the Republic of Chechnya in an attempt to suppress a separatist movement. **1995** **Former presidents Roh and Chun are charged with treason and corruption.** The Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City is bombed, killing 168 people. The leaders of Bosnia, Croatia, and Serbia sign an agreement to end the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin is assassinated by a Jewish extremist. **1996** **Infiltration of armed North Korea Army in the DMZ and occurring of gunfight. Demonstration of an economic support to North Korea during the 4th Conference by President Kim Young-Sam.** Atlanta Olympic Games. **1997** **Kim Jung Il becomes the head secretary of North Korea. Proposal of the South-North Cooperation for DMZ preservation by President Kim Young-Sam.** Scottish researchers announce the first successful cloning of a mammal, a sheep named Dolly. Britain returns Hong Kong to the control of the People's Republic of China. Rebels led by Laurent Désiré Kabila overthrow Mobutu Sese Seko, the longtime dictator of Zaire. Kabila declares himself president and renames the country the Democratic Republic of the Congo. **1998** **Kim Dae-jung is elected president. He initiates the country's "sunshine policy," and effort to reconcile with North Korea through economic and humanitarian aid. Kim Dae Jung becomes the president of North Korea. Departure of Hyundai, Geumgangho to North Korea for the first time.** Protestants and Catholics in Northern Ireland reach a historic power-sharing agreement that brings self-government to the British region. The United States House of Representatives impeaches President Bill Clinton for perjury and obstruction of justice. In 1999 the U.S. Senate acquits Clinton of the charges. **1999** **Announcement of support and supply plan of fertilizer by Jeong Won-sik, the president of Korean National Red Cross Society. South Korea made dispersed families a subject of discussion in the 2nd South-North Vice-Minister Talks but North Korea evaded it and paid attention to the west sea incident.** A majority of the European Union states introduces a common currency known as the Euro. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) conducts an 11-week bombing campaign in Serbia to halt the forced expulsion of ethnic Albanians from the Serbian province of Kosovo. **2000** **In Pyongyang, North Korea, between Kim Dae-jung and Kim Jong-il, agreement to reconstruct the railway between Seoul and Sinuiju. The North ends its propaganda broadcasts against the South. Border liaison offices open in the village of Panmunjom. More than 100 North Koreans meet their southern relatives in emotional reunions. Kim Dae-jung is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.** Sydney Olympic Games. **2001** World Trade Center collapses after a terrorist attack. 3000 people are killed. **2002** **25 North Korean defect to the South through the Spanish Embassy in China. A naval battle between vessels from the North and South leaves four South Koreans and some 30 North Koreans dead. Ro Moo-hyun is elected president. Completion of joint measurement of railroad/highway connection of the Donghae line, Gyeongui line, and mine removal in the South-North control district of DMZ.** Pakistani troops deployed in the Pakistani-controlled portion of Jammu and Kashmir listen to a military official's speech. Rising tensions between Pakistan and India over Jammu and Kashmir led to massive troop deployments along their shared border. **2003** **Starting of Mt. Geumgang tour by land for a civilian. 60,000,000 dollars from the South-North Cooperation Fund was supported for materials and equipments needed in railroad/highway construction of the north section.** A military coalition led by the United States invaded Iraq with the goal of removing Iraqi president Saddam Hussein from power and destroying Iraq's alleged stockpiles of banned weapons. Baghdad is bombed. The space shuttle Columbia broke apart and burned up while reentering the atmosphere. Irish farmers protest proposed reforms to the agricultural policy of the European Union (EU). **2004** **Parliament approves 3000 troops for Iraq. Roh is suspended after parliament votes to impeach him. The Constitutional Court later overturns the vote and reinstates Roh. The government announces it will spend \$52 million to move the capital from Seoul to the rural Kongju region by 2014.** Athens Olympic Games. World's tallest building, Taipei Financial Center opens. A magnitude 9.0 undersea earthquake triggered a tsunami that spread out over the Indian Ocean, hitting coastal communities in 12 countries. The official tsunami death toll ranges from 169,070 to 178,118. **2005** **North Korea declares possession of Nuclear weapon. A South Korean soldier stationed along the Korean demilitarized zone has gone on a shooting rampage, killing 8 of his colleagues.** Hurricane Katrina, Tsunami Pope John Paul II passes dies. The death toll soars to 30,800 in the aftermath of the worst earthquake to hit Pakistan.

“Do you know about the Hydra? She has one body with multiple opposing personalities. The hydra that was created by this generation... Today’s condition of separation has turned her [Korea] into the Hydra.”

- a dialogue from JaeKyu Kang's movie 'Shiri'

2.1 ONE VS. TWO

2.1.1 IDENTITY

The ideal of Korean unification has been sought after for so long that South Koreans have come to believe in the necessity and the inevitability of unification, with few efforts to critically assess the idea of unification and its ancillary concepts, such as homogeneity and nationalism, or the process of unification itself. One nation is simply what Koreans were meant to become, and what they have always been – a unified nation. Grinker, in “Korea and Its Futures”, addresses the convoluted issue by analyzing the two interdependent symbols of Korean identity: national division and national unification. While unification is defined in terms of homogeneity and recovery, he argues that unification, as it is often conceived in projections and fantasies of the future, is a contemporary threat to South Korean identity.

The quest for Korean unification is a desire to return home, to discover an originary and autonomous identity. Paradoxically, however, a unified Korea also threatens much of the only world most Koreans have ever known, a world in which they are divided people whose paramount goal is to be unified. If Korean political identity can be characterized by its incompleteness – the self-conscious definition of the nation as anticipatory – then the search for unification places south Korea in an uncertain position in a series of oppositions: between real and unreal, between people and state, between unification and national division. These oppositions reflect not only the contest for legitimacy between south and north, but also underlying uncertainties and ambiguities about national identity, the future, and the journey toward a unified Korea. (Grinker 1993, 47)

Korean identity is indeed defined by the 1953 armistice division. Both Korean states are identified in opposition to each other: the democratic versus the communist,

the capitalist versus the socialist, the developed versus the deteriorated, and the corrupt versus the truthful. South Korea has become a nation in which all facets of economic, political, and cultural identity are delineated in opposition to North Korea and the latter has become a strong component in defining South Korea. Heterogeneity, a historically pejorative concept to South Korean, has emerged over the intervening decades. Such heterogeneity has become what defines South Korea against its wish to be portrayed as a homogenous nation.

Grinker states that reunification in Korea is about 'regaining an identity. It is also, however, about overcoming and rupturing an identity – that of division and displacement – and many Koreans experience extraordinary ambivalence when they try to imagine that process'(Grinker 1993, 36). Grinker emphasizes that the ambivalence is not about "indecision in a choice between two stable desires (wanting unification or wanting a continued division) and between two stable identities (a unified Korea or a divided Korea), but that the notion represents a deeper and more latent problem of how to find a fixed or continuous identity in a world in which there are no such identities." (Grinker 1993, 34)

As South Koreans globalize their economy and culture, they find themselves increasingly threatened, fragmented, and disjointed, a condition popularly described in recent literature on social thought as modernity. Giddens asserts in his writing that modernity involves the loss of security, embeddedness, and identity in the process of globalization.

Unification is an idealized vision of homogeneity in a world of rapid historical changes, travel and globalization. In social theory, globalization is often conceived as a homogenizing process, but opposite holds in Korea. Homogeneity is all more elusive as Koreans forge transnational relations that create differences rather than similarities.(Grinker 1993, 43)

While South Korea wishes to secure a global status for itself on the global map, the confusion created by its fractured identity causes great ambivalence within

its culture. Although it may wish to move onto a bright future, the dark past is holding on firmly. Modern conditions of fluidity and uncertainty often give rise to a heightened awareness of the conflict between ideals and perceived realities. The irresolution of establishing the homogenous nation stops the nation from clearly moving onto the globalization process. If South Korea was to go further with globalization, the gap of political, economical, and social development would become greater between the two Koreas.

The replacement of the old generation of the Armistice places an important time-frame for the development of unification. The new South Korean generation, who has not experienced the old devastating days and has been handed the current state of wealth, desires to guard the high standard of living typical of a modern global state established only recently. The majority of South Koreans today can no longer recollect a Korean state that is both sovereign and undivided. Division has always been described as a temporary term, but when it spans generations, South Koreans need to overcome the myth of homogeneity and face the fact that the future will involve heterogeneity and difference. South Korea may even have to face that the ultimate resolution may not be a unified Korea, but a diverse Korea.

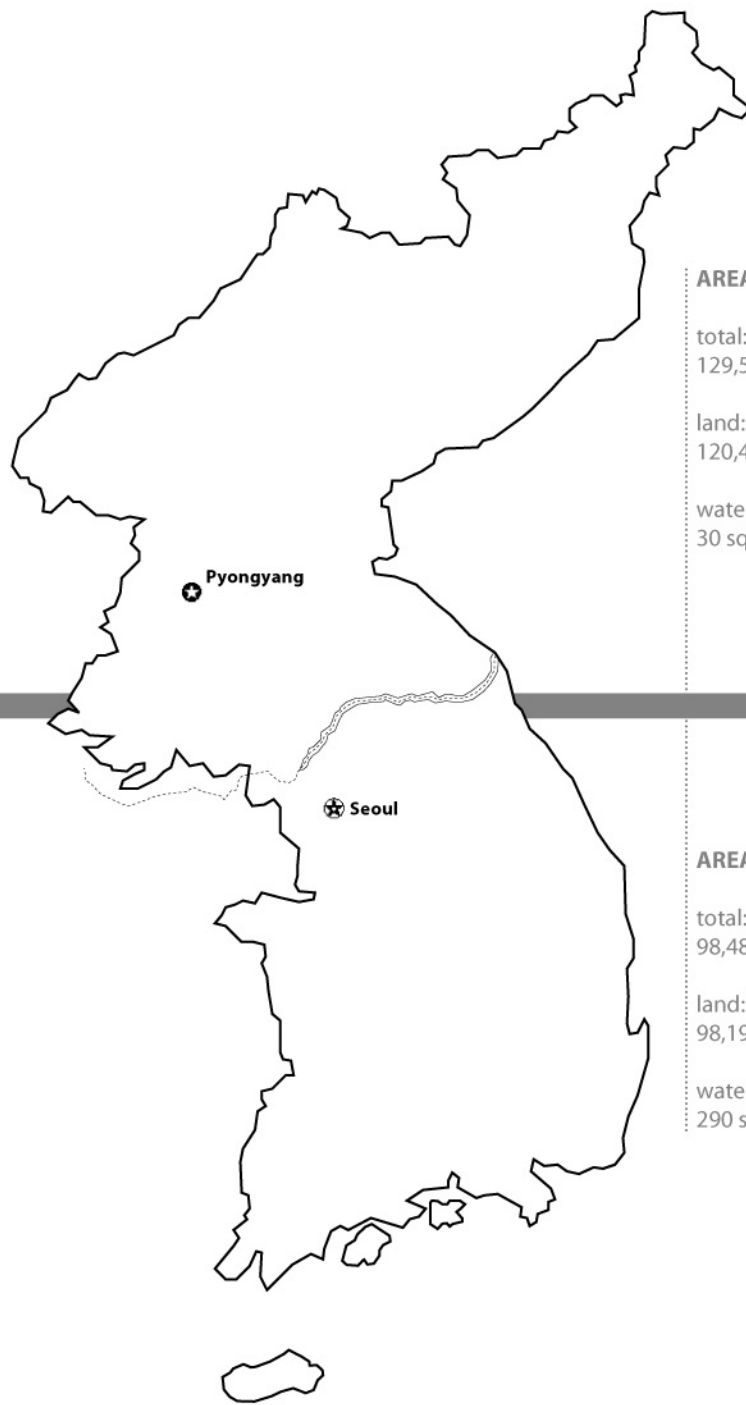
In these perspectives, the debate of one nation versus two states is not of importance. The identity that Korea will discover along the process of modernization may not be what it anticipated – returning to the homogenous nation it was meant to be. What emerges from the new identity may be something familiar, or something completely unexpected. Without realizing it, the two opposing Korean states have already composed the identity of Korea. Identity is something that cannot be fixed or continuous, but an entity that continuously redefines, ruptures, and reconfigures itself in order to give meaning to its existence. It is then critical to recognize that the process of the emergence itself is what will give Koreans a firm identity in their struggle with global Modernity.

2.1.2 KOREA VS. KOREA

Nations, one might suggest would not be nations if they embraced revisionist or competing histories; nations are partialities made to appear total, yet when that process is unmasked, certainties become uncertainties, truths become contingencies, the natural becomes the cultural. (Grinker 1993, 128)

Korea is actually a nation constructed from 'competing histories', with each state having established a totality of its own. The two Koreas are seen as the best living laboratories for comparativists, be they political scientists, sociologists, economists, or other social scientists. Ever since the armistice in 1953, North and South Korea have gone separate ways. Although both shared an equal base point after the devastation of the war, choices made by each country have resulted in significantly different environments.

To understand the condition of the peninsula at its most basic state, I started to gather and compare facts and statistics about both nations. Even though the information is heterogeneous, the closest one can begin to know North Korea is through limited publications and documentaries. Information is in fragments and disjointed. To overcome this heterogeneity of sources, turning the information into a graphic representation is used as a methodology to position different resources into more specific categories. While more detailed exploration of Korean identity will be discussed in later chapters, the following illustrations were initiated to understand the condition that the two opposing Korean national identities have created at a national scale. If the two opposing states have composed the present and possible future identity of Korea, then it is critical to understand the external conditions of the situation. What is the qualitative and quantitative status of the disparity between the two nations? How are they different from one another?



AREA

total:
129,540 sq km
land:
120,410 sq km
water
30 sq km

**ELEVATION
EXTREMES**

lowest point:
Sea of Japan
0m
highest point:
Paektu
Mountain
2,744m

TERRAIN

Mostly hills
and mountains
separated by
deep narrow
valleys; coastal
plains wide in
west,
discontinuous
in east.

**MAJOR MOUNTAIN
RANGES**

Extremely mountainous and
marked by deep, narrow
valleys. A complex system of
ranges and spurs extends
across the country in a
generally north-eastern to
south-western direction. The
most prominent mountain
range.

**NATURAL
HAZARDS**

Late Spring
droughts
often
followed by
severe
flooding;
occasional
typhoons
during the
early fall.

GEOMORPHOLOGY

AREA

total:
98,480 sq km
land:
98,190 sq km
water
290 sq km

**ELEVATION
EXTREMES**

lowest point:
Sea of Japan
0m
highest point:
Hanla
Mountain
1,950m

TERRAIN

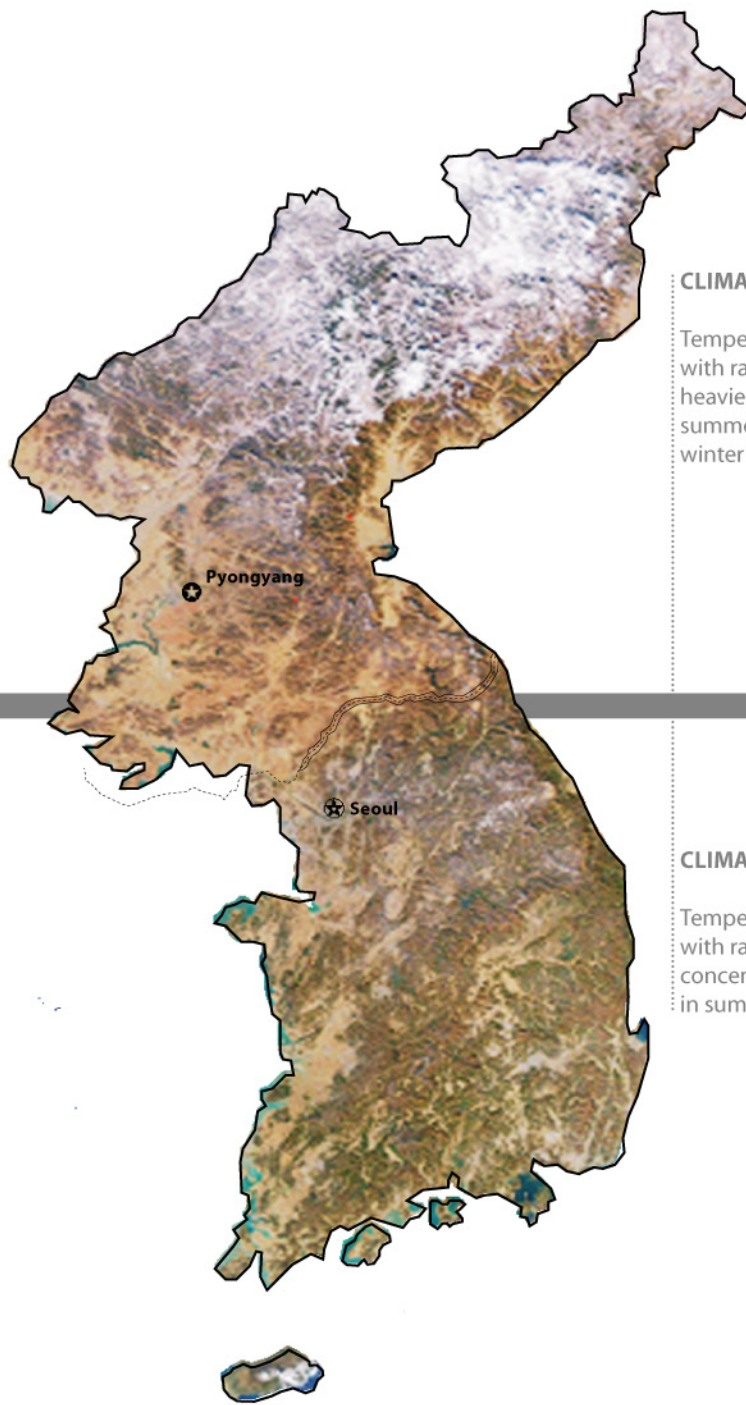
Mostly hills
and
mountains;
wide coastal
plains in west
and south

**MAJOR MOUNTAIN
RANGES**

The Taebaek range forms the
country's principal mountain
system. It extends in a
generally north-south
direction parallel to the
eastern coast. Four other
mountain ranges extend
from the Taebaek range,
including the Sobaek range,
the country's second largest
mountain system. The
Sobaek range branches
southwestward from the
Taebaek range, dividing the
southern part of the
country.

**NATURAL
HAZARDS**

Occasional
typhoons
bring high
winds and
floods;
low-level
seismic
activity
common in
south west.



CLIMATE

Temperate with rainfall heavier in summer than winter

ANNUAL AVERAGE TEMPERATURE

Southern coastal region: 13 degrees
Central region: 10 degrees.

PREVAILING WINDS

southeasterly in summer;
northwesterly in winter

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

highest in July with 80-90% nationwide, and is the lowest in January and April with 30-50%

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

water pollution; inadequate supplies of potable water; water-borne disease; deforestation; soil erosion and degradation

AIR

CLIMATE

Temperate with rainfall concentrated in summer

ANNUAL AVERAGE TEMPERATURE

Northern region: 8 degrees

ANNUAL AVERAGE PRECIPITATION

1,000m to 1,500mm.

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

highest in July with 80-90% nationwide, and is the lowest in January and April with 30-50%

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

air pollution in large cities; acid rain water pollution from the discharge of sewage and industrial effluents drift net fishing



IRREGATED LAND

11,590 sq km
(1998 est.)

WILD LIFE

Because of deforestation, large indigenous mammals of North Korea, which include leopards, tigers, deer, bears, and wolves, are becoming increasingly rare and are confined to remote forested regions. Birdlife includes crane, heron, eagle, and snipe.

NATIVE PLANT SPECIES

Predominant species include spruce, pine, larch, fir and cedar. The lowland areas of the west have been deforested and are under cultivation.

LAND

IRREGATED LAND

14,600 sq km
(1998 est.)

WILD LIFE

The Asiatic black bear can still be found in some remote mountain areas. Several species of deer are indigenous to the peninsula, including the roe deer, water deer, and Siberian musk deer. The musk deer, which has been overhunted for its musk glands, is legally protected as a threatened species. Smaller mammals indigenous to the peninsula include the wild boar, red fox, badger, rabbit, squirrel, and chipmunk.

NATIVE PLANT SPECIES

mixed deciduous and coniferous forests cover about three-quarters of the land. Most of the country's old-growth forests were cleared over many centuries for use as firewood and building materials, but they have rebounded since the 1970s as the result of intensive reforestation efforts. The country's few remaining old-growth forests are protected in nature reserves.



PRESIDENTS

[NORTH KOREA]

KIM IL SUNG
1948 - 1994 (until his death)

KIM JUNG IL
1998 - PRESENT

[SOUTH KOREA]

PARK JUNG HEE
military ruling
1961 - 1979 (assassinated)

CHUN DOO HWAN
1979 - 1986

ROH TAE WOO
1987 - 1992

KIM YOUNG SAM
first civilian president
1983 - 1998

KIM DAE JUNG
1998 - 2002

ROH MOO HYUN
2002 - present

COUNTRY NAME

conventional long form:
Democratic People's
Republic of Korea

conventional short form:
North Korea

local long form:
Choson-minjujuui-inmin-
konghwaguk

local short form: Choson

abbreviation: DPRK

POLITICAL PARTIES

major party - Korean
Workers' Party or KWP
[KIM Jong Il];

minor parties - Chondoist
Chongu Party [RYU Mi Yong]
(under KWP control),

Social Democratic Party [KIM
Yong Dae] (under KWP
control) .

GOVERNMENT TYPE

Communist State with
one-man dictatorship.

LEGAL SYSTEM

based on German civil law
system with Japanese
influences and Communist
legal theory; no judicial
review of legislative acts;
has not accepted compul-
sory ICJ jurisdiction.

GOVERNMENT

COUNTRY NAME

conventional long form:
Republic of Korea

conventional short form:
South Korea

local long form:
Taehan-min'guk

local short form: Han'guk

abbreviation: ROK

GOVERNMENT TYPE

Republic

POLITICAL PARTIES

Democratic Labor Party or
DLP [MOON Seong-hyun];

Democratic Party or DP
[HAHN Hwa-kap];

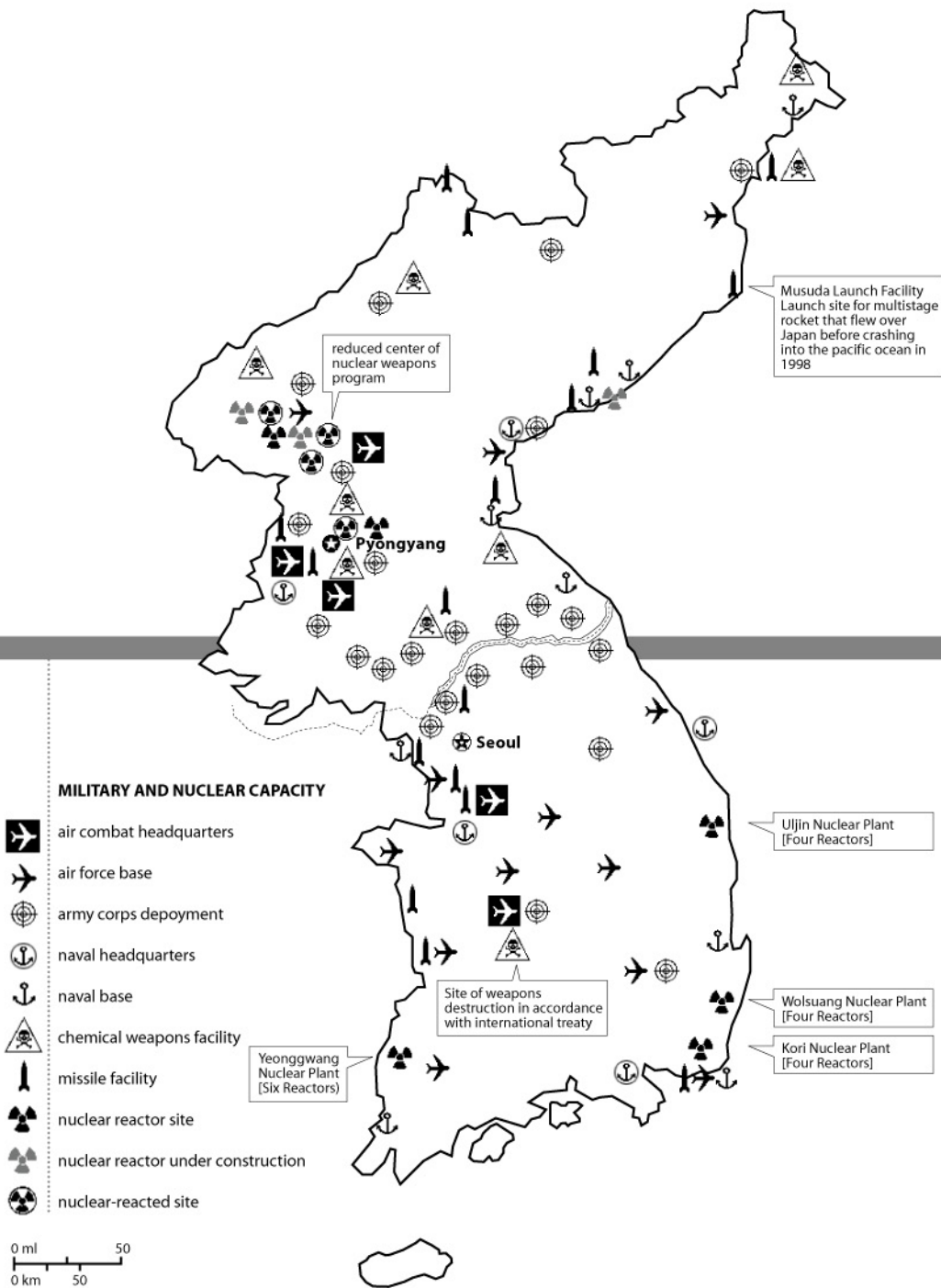
Grand National Party or GNP
[KANG Jae-sup];

People-First Party or PFP
[SHIN Kook-hwan and SIM
Dae-pyung];

Uri Party [KIM Geun-tae]

LEGAL SYSTEM

combines elements of
continental European civil
law systems, Anglo-
American law and Chinese
classical thoughts.



MILITARY MANPOWER AVAILABILITY
males age 15-49:
6,181,038

FIT FOR MILITARY SERVICE
males age 15-49:
3,694,855

EXPENDITURES (US DOLLAR FIGURE)
\$ 5,217.4 million (FY02)

EXPENDITURES - PERCENT OF GDP
22.9% (2003)

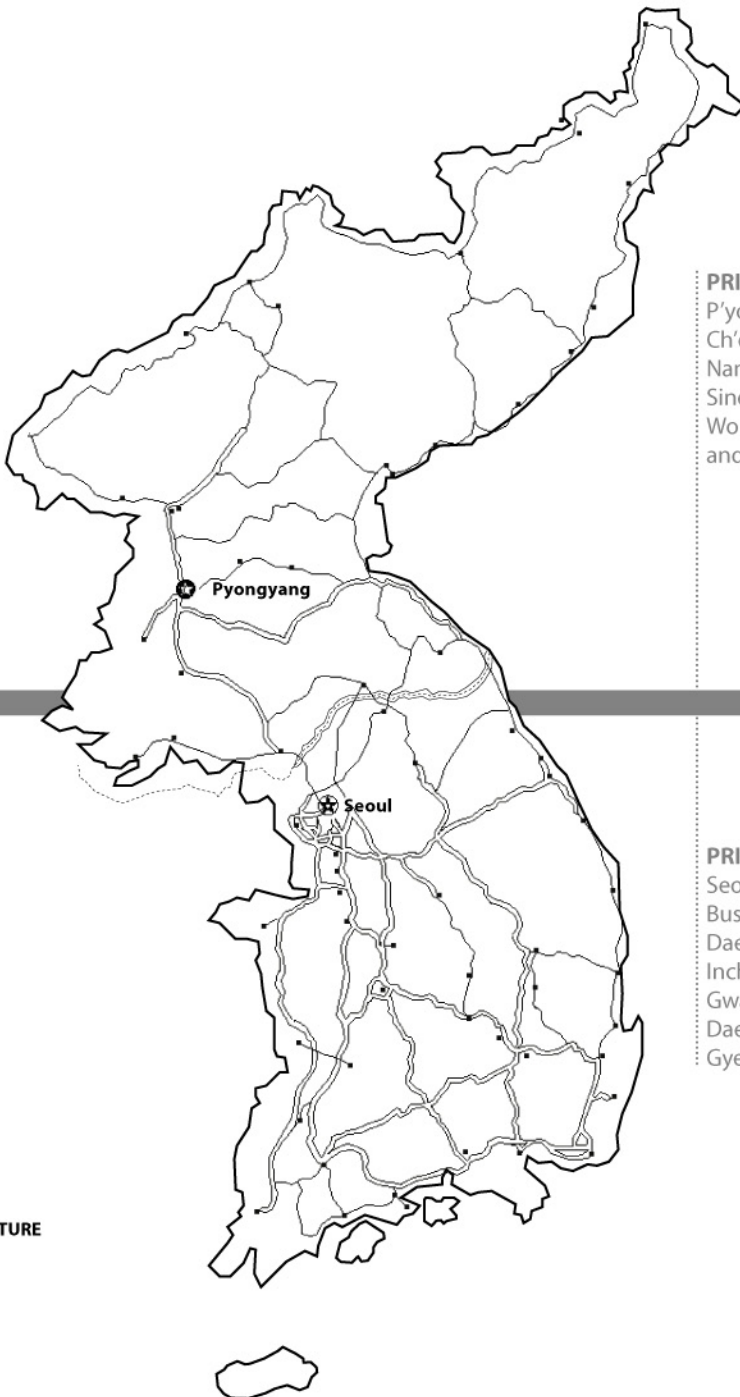
MILITARY

MILITARY MANPOWER AVAILABILITY
males age 15-49:
14,223,895

FIT FOR MILITARY SERVICE
males age 15-49:
8,966,241

EXPENDITURES (US DOLLAR FIGURE)
\$ 14.522 billion (FY03)

EXPENDITURES - PERCENT OF GDP
2.7%



PRINCIPLE CITIES
 P'yongyang (Capital),
 Ch'ongjin,
 Namp'o,
 Sineiju,
 Wonsan,
 and Kaesung

RAILWAYS
 total 5,214 km

HIGHWAYS
 total 31,200 km

WATERWAYS
 total 2,250 km

AIRPORTS
 78 (2003 est.)

PIPELINES
 oil 154 km

INFRASTRUCTURE

PRINCIPLE CITIES
 Seoul (Capital),
 Busan,
 Daegu,
 Incheon,
 Gwangju,
 Daejeon,
 Gyeongju.

RAILWAYS
 total 3,125 km

HIGHWAYS
 total 86,990 km

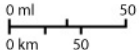
PIPELINES
 oil 154 km

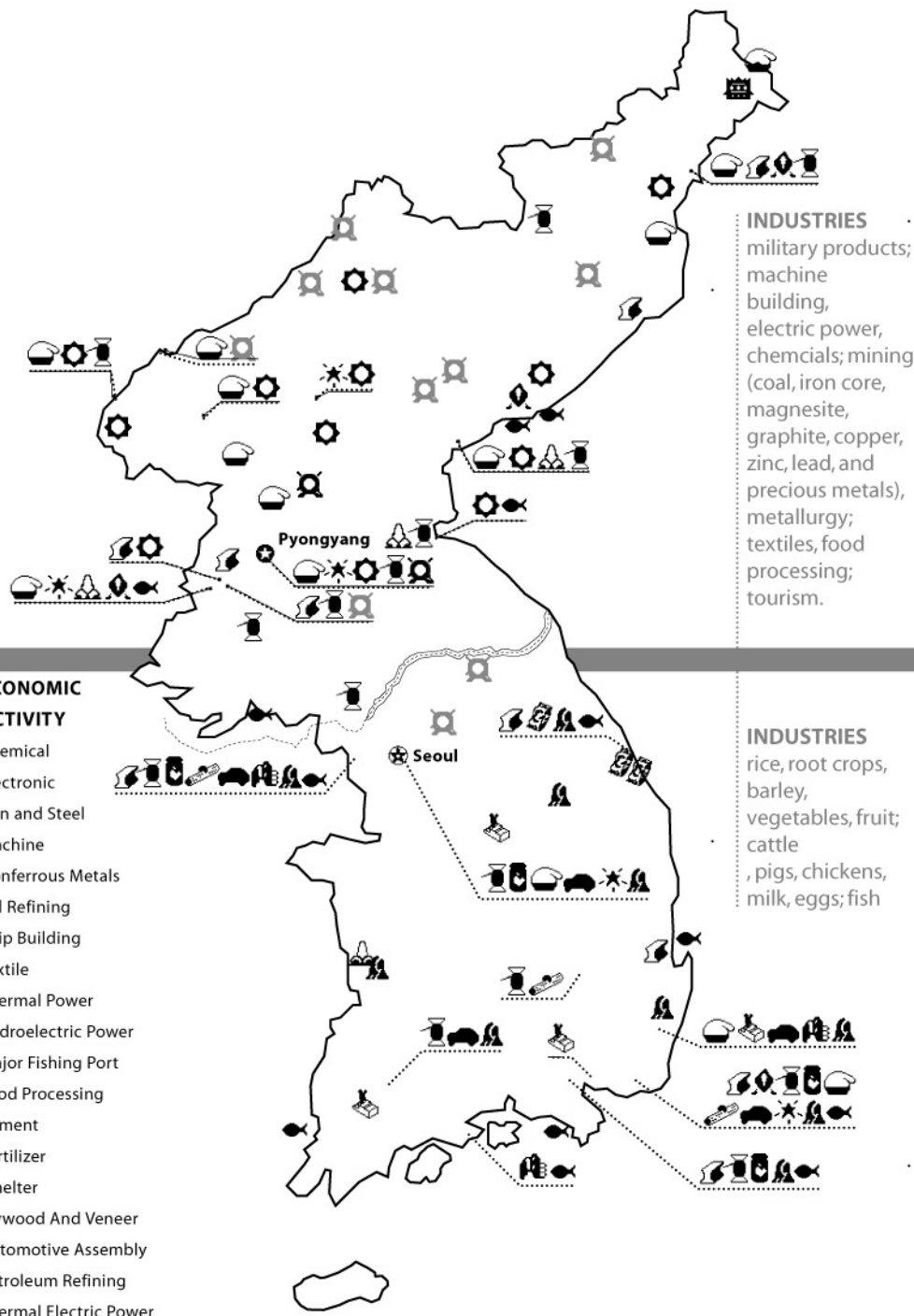
AIRPORTS
 102 (2003 est.)

WATERWAYS
 total 1,608 km

INFRASTRUCTURE

- == major roads
- minor roads





- ECONOMIC ACTIVITY**
- Chemical
 - Electronic
 - Iron and Steel
 - Machine
 - Nonferrous Metals
 - Pol Refining
 - Ship Building
 - Textile
 - Thermal Power
 - Hydroelectric Power
 - Major Fishing Port
 - Food Processing
 - Cement
 - Fertilizer
 - Smelter
 - Plywood And Veneer
 - Automotive Assembly
 - Petroleum Refining
 - Thermal Electric Power

INDUSTRIES
 military products; machine building, electric power, chemicals; mining (coal, iron core, magnesite, graphite, copper, zinc, lead, and precious metals), metallurgy; textiles, food processing; tourism.

INDUSTRIES
 rice, root crops, barley, vegetables, fruit; cattle, pigs, chickens, milk, eggs; fish

GDP
 \$40 billion (2006 est.)

GDP real growth rate
 1% (2006 est.)

GDP per capita
 \$1800 (2006 est.)

GDP composition by sector
 agriculture: 30.2%
 industry: 33.8%
 services: 36%
 (2002 est.)

GDP
 \$1.18 trillion(2006 est.)

GDP real growth rate
 5.1% (2006 est.)

GDP per capita
 \$24,200 (2006 est.)

GDP composition by sector
 agriculture: 3.3%
 industry: 40.7%
 services: 56%
 (2006 est.)

IMPORTS
 \$2.6 billion c.i.f (2006 est.)

IMPORTS COMMODITIES
 petroleum, coking coal, machinery and equipment; textiles, grain

IMPORTS - PARTNERS
 China 42%
 South Korea 28%
 Russia 9%
 Thailand 8%
 (2005 est.)

IMPORTS
 \$300.4 billion f.o.b (2006 est.)

IMPORTS COMMODITIES
 machinery, electronics and electronic equipment, oil, steel, transport equipment, organic chemicals, plastics.

IMPORTS - PARTNERS
 Japan 18.5%
 China 14.8%
 YS 11.8%
 Saudi Arabia 6.2%
 (2005 est.)

EXPORTS
 \$1.4 billion f.o.b (2005 est.)

EXPORTS COMMODITIES
 minerals, metallurgical products, manufactures (including armaments), textiles, fishery products

EXPORTS-PARTNERS
 China 35%
 South Korea 24%
 Thailand 9%
 Japan 9% (2005 est.)

DEPT - EXTERNAL
 \$12 billion (1996 est.)

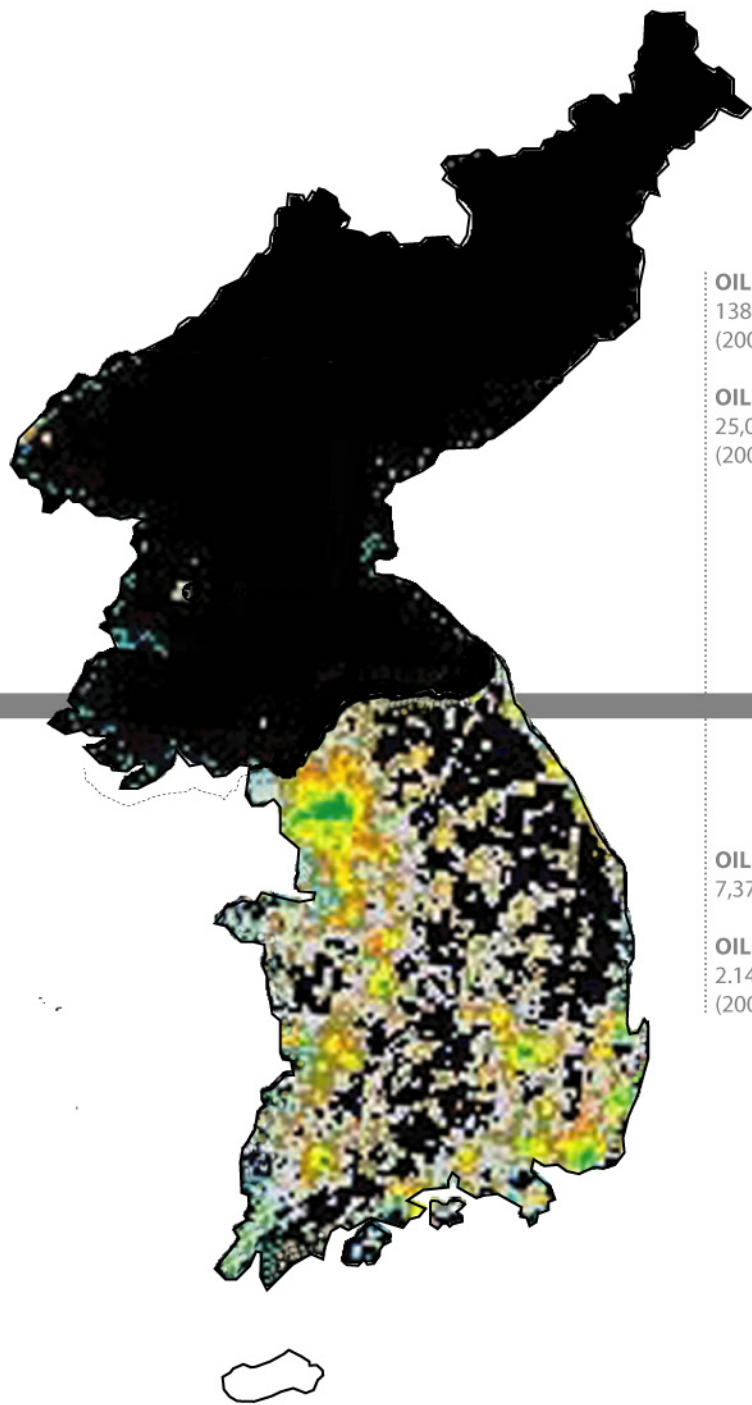
EXPORTS
 \$327.3 billion f.o.b (2006 est.)

EXPORTS COMMODITIES
 semiconductors, wireless telecommunications equipment, motor vehicles, computers, steel, ships, petrochemicals.

EXPORTS-PARTNERS
 China 21%
 US 14.6%
 Japan 8.5%
 Hong Kong 5.5%
 (2005 est.)

DEPT - EXTERNAL
 \$12 billion (1996 est.)

ECONOMIC



OIL PRODUCTION
138.5 bbl/day
(2004 est.)

OIL CONSUMPTION
25,000 bbl/day
(2004)

ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION
21.71 billion kWh
(2004)

ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION
20.19 billion kWh
(2004)

TELEPHONES - MAIN LINES IN USE
980,000 (2003)

TELEPHONES - MOBILE CELLULAR
N/A

RADIO BROADCAST STATIONS
AM 17, FM 14,
shortwave 14
(2006)

TELEVISION BROADCAST STATIONS
4 (2003)

INTERNET USERS
N/A

ENERGETIC

OIL PRODUCTION
7,378 bbl/day (2004)

OIL CONSUMPTION
2.149 million bbl/day
(2004)

ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION
345.2 billion kWh
(2004)

ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION
321 billion kWh
(2004)

TELEPHONES - MAIN LINES IN USE
23.745 million
(2005)

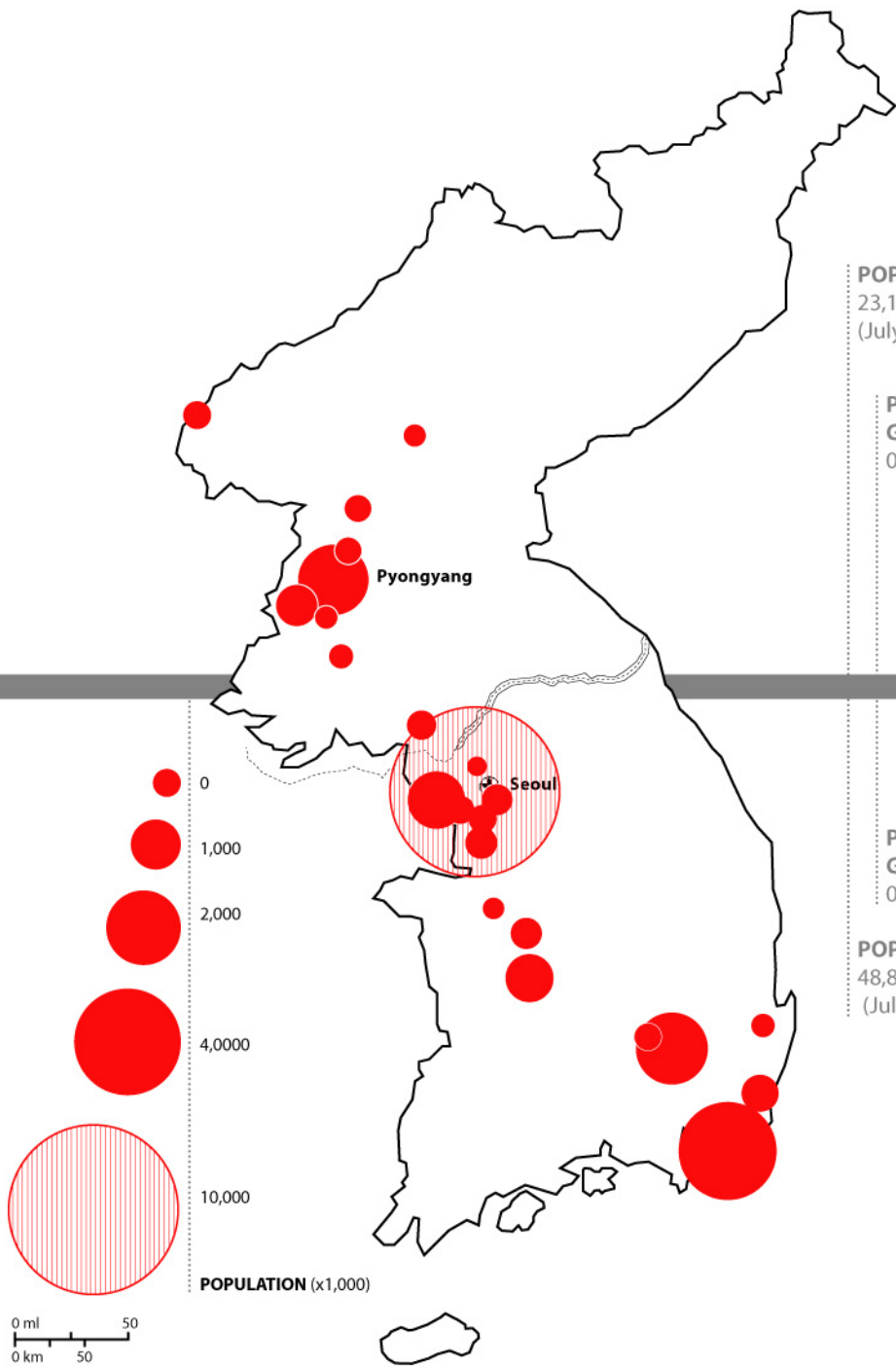
TELEPHONES - MOBILE CELLULAR
38.342 million
(2005)

RADIO BROADCAST STATIONS
AM 61,
FM 150,
shortwave 2
(2005)

INTERNET USERS
33.9 million
(2005)

TELEVISION BROADCAST STATIONS
43 terrestrial
stations ;
59 cable
operators ;
190 relay cable
operators
(2005)

0 ml 50
0 km 50



POPULATION
23,113,019
(July 2006 est.)

POPULATION GROWTH RATE
0.84% (2006 est.)

LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH
total population:
71.65 years
male: 68.92 years
female: 74.51 years
(2006 est.)

TOTAL FERTILITY RATE
2.1 children
born/woman
(2006 est.)

INFANT MORTALITY RATE
total: 23.29
deaths/1,000 live
births
male: 24.97
deaths/1,000 live
births
female: 21.52
deaths/1,000 live
births (2006 est.)

RELIGION
traditionally Buddhist
and Confucianist, some
Christian and syncretic
Chondogyo (Religion of
the Heavenly Way)
note: autonomous
religious activities now
almost nonexistent;
government-sponsored
religious groups exist to
provide illusion of
religious freedom

POPULATION

POPULATION GROWTH RATE
0.42% (2006 est.)

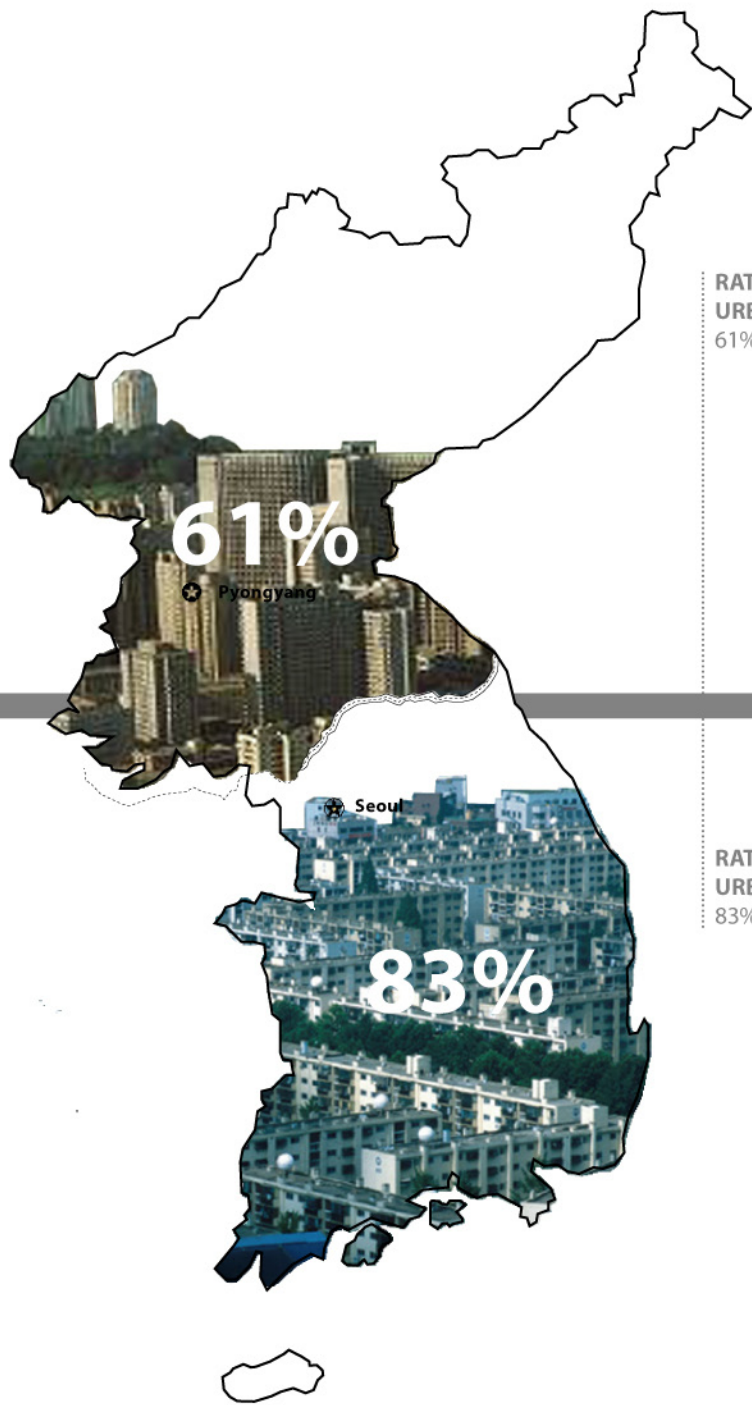
POPULATION
48,846,823
(July 2006 est.)

TOTAL FERTILITY RATE
1.27 children
born/woman
(2006 est.)

LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH
total population:
77.04 years
male: 73.61 years
female: 80.75 years
(2006 est.)

INFANT MORTALITY RATE
total: 6.16
deaths/1,000 live
births
male: 6.54
deaths/1,000 live
births
female: 5.75
deaths/1,000 live
births (2006 est.)

RELIGION
no affiliation 46%,
Christian 26%,
Buddhist 26%,
Confucianist 1%,
other 1%



RATE OF URBANIZATION
61%

POPULATION BELOW POVERTY LINE
N/A

LAND USE
arable land: 22.4%
permanent crops: 1.66%
other: 75.94%
(2005)

LABOR FORCE
9.6 million

LABOR FORCE BY OCCUPATION
agriculture: 36%
industry and services: 64%

URBANIZATION

RATE OF URBANIZATION
83%

POPULATION BELOW POVERTY LINE
15% (2003 est.)

LAND USE
arable land: 16.58%
permanent crops: 2.01%
other: 81.41%
(2005)

LABOR FORCE BY OCCUPATION
agriculture: 6.4%
industry: 26.4%
services: 67.2%
(2005 est.)

LABOR FORCE
23.88 million
(2006 est.)

0 ml 50
0 km 50



EXTERNAL DEPT
\$12 billion (1996 est.)

ECONOMIC AID
Recipient - \$NA;
note - approximately 350,000
metric tons in food aid, worth
approximately \$118 million,
through the World Food
Program appeal in 2004, plus
additional aid from bilateral
donors and non-governmental
organizations

1 IN 7
Statistics of
starvation

100,000
Number of
children's death
from starvation

OVER 47%
Malnourished children

PRICELESS
helping feed a child

AID

ECONOMIC AID
ODA, \$423.3 million (2004)

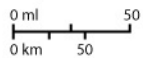
500,000
Number of
international
travellers for golf

**7,100 MILLION
US DOLLARS**
International
student spending
budget in 2004

EXTERNAL DEPT
\$229.3 billion
(30 June 2006 est.)

8.43 MILLION
Number of people
travelling
internationally

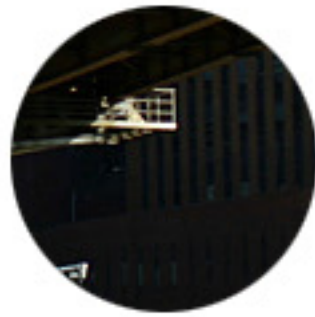
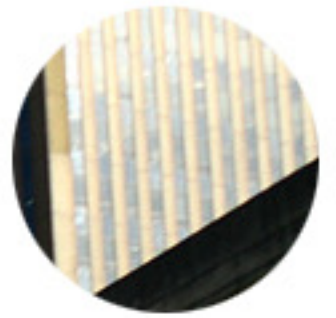
**9,500 MILLION
US DOLLARS**
International
travel spending
budget in 2004



It is done. Unification.
What is done? The mountain ranges.
That's right, our mountain ranges.
It is just one range, a range.
It is done. Unification.
What is done? The rivers.
That's right, the rivers in our country
Meet in the sea.
It is done. Unification.
What is done? The flowers.
That's right, in the spring the flowers
Bloom together.
It is done. Unification.
What is done? The birds.
That's right, in Korea [P'aldo Kangsan]
They fly freely.
Unification, Unification.
Only we remain.
Only people remain.

"Unification is Done", in "Guide to Social Life,"

Fourth-semester elementary school text, 1993.









“Brother-
I wish this was all a
dream. When I open
my eyes again, I will
be in our living room.
While I am having
breakfast, I will be
able to tell you that I
had a strange dream
that felt so real. We
must return home
alive.”

- a dialogue from Jaekyu Kang's movie 'Taegukki: Brotherhood of War' where Jinsuk was separated from his brother during the Korean War and find himself fighting against him.

2.1.3 GAJOK

[가족] 家族 = 家 + 族
(family) (ga) (jok)

The Korean War dislocated millions of family members from each other. Most emigrants from Korea have been a result of the Korean War as they have no home to return to. Some estimates suggests that about half of all Koreans living in Latin America, and quarter of all Koreans living in the United States, are of northern origin. (Abelmann and Lie 1995, 51-52) In South Korean alone, 7.67 millions are currently categorized as members of separated families. While reunions for the separated families are arranged twice a year, they do not even begin to satisfy the demands as only 500 people reunite at each meeting.

However small the groups of 500 Koreans may be, the limited reunification is the result of a dramatic recent cooperation between the two Korean governments. In June, 2000, the 6.15 North-South Joint Declaration became the beginning of a solution for reunion between South and North Korea by exchanging separated family and relative groups. Ever since, confirmation of a relative's life or death, or an address and correspondence, have been able to be carried out through North South Minister-level Meeting or talks between the South and North Korean Red Cross Society. This has been crucial as it has marked not only a beginning of cooperation between the two governments but also the reconciliation of the people.

To Koreans, both North and South, unification is a desire to return home in both a conceptual and physical sense, as millions of their respective populations are actually displaced from their hometowns. Family is a powerful symbol for the Korean nation as it conceptualizes unification. Separation of people and state

takes shape in discourses on the family. Identifying the concept of *'gajok'*, which means 'family' in Korean, is quintessential to understand its significance in Korean culture. *'Gajok'* is the most basic unit of a society. The individual always belongs to a *'gajok'*, and in Korean society, the need and loyalty to a *'gajok'* always come before individual interest. Koreans always refer to the other state as the *'uri ja-mae wa hyung-jae'* meaning 'our brothers and sisters'. This description encapsulates the notion of *'gajok'* which presents an interesting mindset Koreans have to political reunification. Even if one is not aware while using the term, it projects the unconscious 'need' to be reunited as a family.

"Dad- Do you think we will ever see the day Korea reunifies?"

"It will happen in one way or the other, but I don't know if it will occur in my lifetime."

"But do you agree with it? Do you actually want it to happen?"

"Yes, of course."

"You always say North Korea is such a pain. Why would you still want it?"

"Because of your grandma."

"What about grandma?"

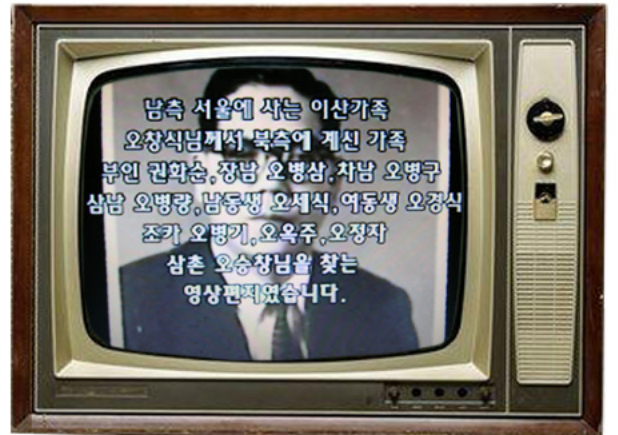
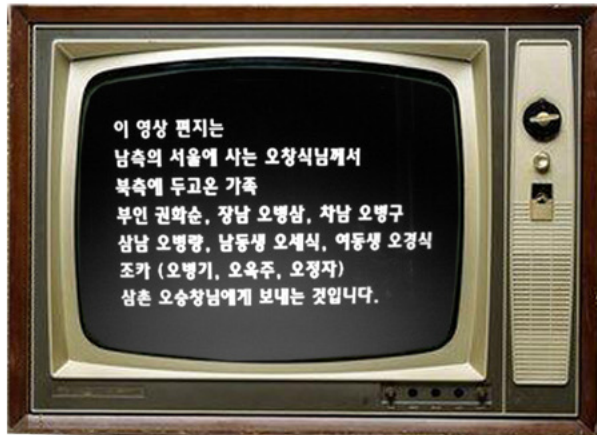
"Because her family is in the north. As much pain as the north may be, it does not compare to the pain she had to go through."

"I didn't know that.. I had no idea..."

I wish I had known this earlier. I wish I could have talked to her about this issue., not for the sake of my thesis., but for her sake. I wish I understood her better. I wish I understood myself better. It might have helped me to decide where I stood within this whole thing.

I wish I knew if I wish Korea to unify.

- dialogue from when I was starting my thesis back in January, 2006.





This video is a letter
dedicated to the family
Mr. Changsik Oh
has left behind in the
north after the war.

dedicated to **wife**
Hwasoon Kwon,

son Byungsanm Oh,
son Byungku Oh,
son Byungryang Oh,

brother Saesik Oh,
sister Kyungsik Oh,

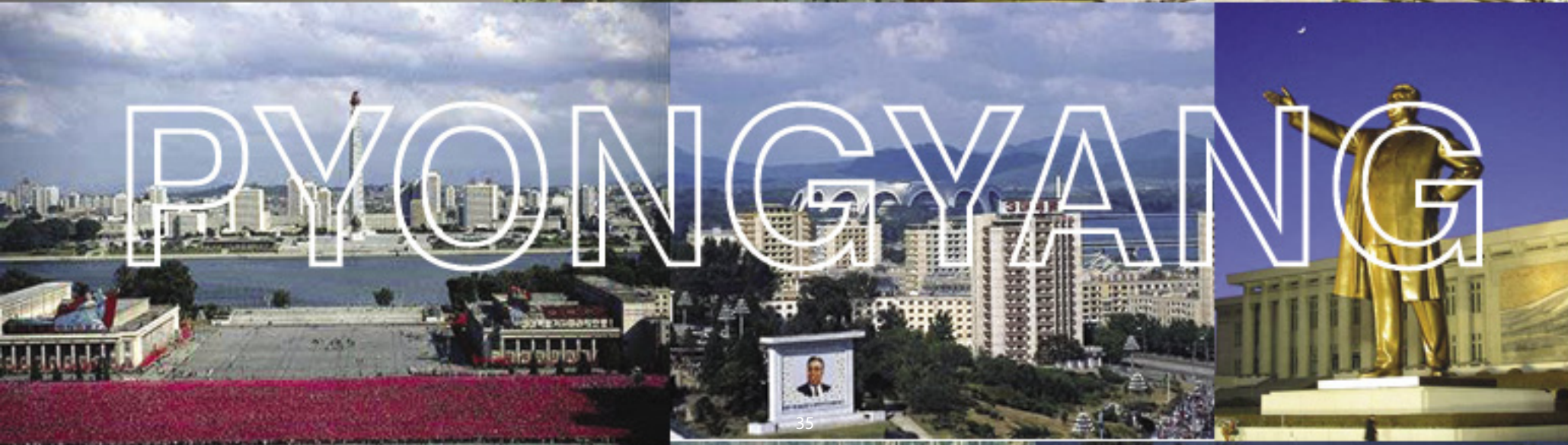
nephew Byungki Oh,
nephew Yookju Oh,
nephew Jungja Oh,

and
uncle Seungchang Oh.

Changsik Oh who
lives in the **south**

currently is looking for
his **family** in the **north**

in hopes to see
their faces
before he dies ...



35

46





IF WAR BROKE IN KOREA, THERE WOULD BE ONE MILLION CASUALTIES...





... WITHIN THE FIRST 24 HOURS."

- Pentagon estimates, 1993-



““Korea is like
a winter forest.
One small fire
can become a
disaster.”

- a dialogue from Chanwook Park's movie "Joint Security Area"

2.2 PEACE VS. WAR

2.2.1 POWER OF FEAR



fig. 2.2.1.01 Cartoon drawn by Jim Morin from Miami Herald



fig. 2.2.1.02 Cartoon drawn by Michael Ramires from Los Angeles Times

In July 1953, the armistice ended the Korean War that had lasted for three years. The border was moved to the military line of demarcation which lies mostly north of the 38th parallel. The armistice established the Demilitarized Zone on either side of the line as a buffer between the two countries to prevent further military confrontation. However, the two sides have remained at odds for decades, and despite the armistice, a state of war still exists between the two Koreas. (Gordon 2004)

Both Koreas have been protecting themselves by creating an atmosphere of 'fear'. People of both states are faced with regular Civilian Defense Drills. On the 15th of each month, a siren rings across all the cities in South Korea. All cars must stop. Every student in classes, families at home, and workers must drop anything they are doing and start assembling to predetermined areas in an orderly manner. Three of the eight annual drills consist of repeated training in case of unexpected attacks. While South Korean drills have become more of a habitual exercise, in North Korea the drills are more randomized creating an atmosphere for the civilian that reminds them that war can happen anytime. "Hatred of the US is ingrained in everyday life. As war looms in Iraq, America openly talks of a war on two fronts, implying Iraq and North Korea. Pyongyang is just 100 miles from 70,000 US troops based in South Korea. Pyongyang's daily life is disrupted by preparations of American attacks on the city."(Gordon 2004)

Fear of one another will always exist until a Korean common ground is established. The emotion of fear used to be a natural reaction that rose out of the separated condition. As time has progressed fear has become a method to protect the political interest of each state, especially in the case of North Korea, where the social structure has been destabilizing at an alarming rate with a lack of support from the government to its people. The main problem is that if North Korea

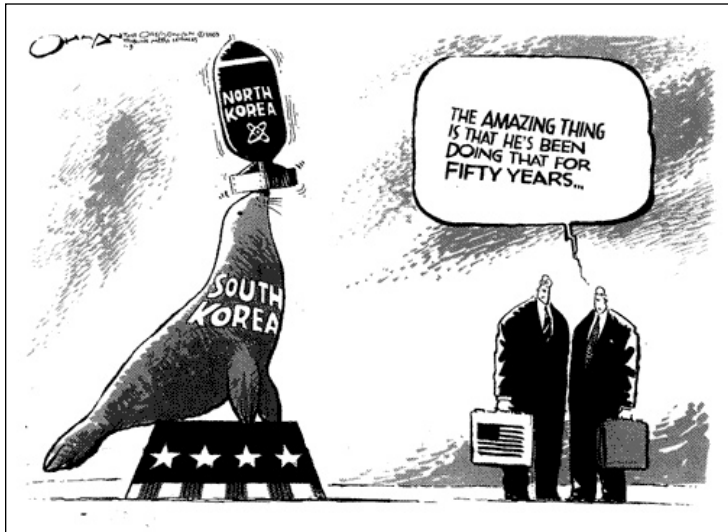


fig. 2.2.1.03 Cartoon drawn by Jack Ohman from The Orwegian



fig. 2.2.1.04 Cartoon drawn by Steve Breene from the San Diego Union Tribune

changes too quickly, it will collapse. If it changes too slowly, it will collapse. If it gives too much freedom to its people, it will collapse. If not enough freedom is granted, nothing will change. Within this seemingly impossible situation, North Korea has been playing the reunification game very well. South Korea often views itself as the hostage of North Korea in front of the rest of the world. With repeatedly see-sawing events of tension and reconciliation, it is hard to judge objectively what the real intentions are of the North. Even in the midst of rising instability of the social structure, Pyongyang is possibly in possession of enough nuclear material to build at least six weapons, and it maintains the world's fifth-largest army. History suggests that their leader takes his biggest risks when holding the weakest cards, to divert attention from the internal chaos and to rally public opinion against external enemies.

“Lieutenant Jang.
You don’t know what
Joint Security Area
is. It’s a place where
peace is preserved
by hiding the truth.”

- a dialogue from Chanwook Park's movie "Joint Security Area"



2.2.2 JOINT SECURITY AREA

"This is not London where everyone tries to make the palace guards move using any means necessary. The trick is to keep a poker face: no blinking, no smiling, no flashing a quick obscene gesture, no going cross-eyed to see if you can crack his stone-cold stare. Just don't do it. God forbid one harmless motion from a tourist cause an outbreak of war."

(PBS In Depth Coverage, "North Korea: Nuclear Standoff")

Despite the Armistice Agreement signed in 1953, technically there is no peace in Korea, just a truce that offers a pause button between peace and war. Depending on what button you push the country could go back to its devastating state of wartime military tension, or go forward to the idealized peace. Each step of understanding is crucial to both countries. Various negotiations have taken place between North and South over the years such as the reconnection of roads and railways, the reunification of separated families, the removal of the propaganda broadcastings along the demilitarized zone. However, between these outwardly affirmative movements, there have been increased tensions, as North Korea has used small violations of the armistice agreement to create provocations or responses from the United Nations or the United States.

The Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) epitomizes the strange tension between war and peace. Over the years, major clashes between the two countries have occurred at the site. Although movement on reconciliation has been presented in the zone, the zone simultaneously reminds each state of potential invasions by the other. Despite the danger, the DMZ attracts numerous tourists from around the world. In 2001, Seoul's Korea National Tourism Organization said some 180,000 people a year visited the zone from the South Korean side alone. The DMZ has become a wildlife sanctuary as it has been essentially untouched for fifty years, but the fact that it is a living Cold War museum is what attracts the most interest.

fig. 2.2.2.01

stills from Chanwook Park's movie "Joint Security Area"

It is one of the last frontiers of an active war. This very nerve-breaking experience is what has turned the Joint Security Area(JSA) in the Demilitarized Zone into one of the biggest tourist attractions.

The JSA is the locus of tension between war and peace. It is an area where North and South Koreans come face to face to a single line of division. A single movement that one makes is detected immediately and seen as a possible sign of aggression. While the perimeter of the Demilitarized Zone is somewhat more accessible for Koreans, the Joint Security Area presents higher security. The citizens of South Korea are required to file for government permission three months prior to their visit, while foreigners can simply book tours through hotels and visit the site the following day. Tour agencies are in high competition to secure access for the area. The place has become a strange Disneyland, where tourists are permitted to visit the site as if you are watching animals in the zoo. This system of allowing foreigners has become a mechanism of defense for South Korea. Because of the amount of tourists from various countries, North Korea cannot attack the zone knowing the international consequences it will bring. Thus the tension of war is used to actually preserve peace at the site. As for North Korea, the industry of tourism has become the means to partially alleviate the economic problems it faces. The secluded zone allows North Korea to be able to afford to open its gate without revealing too much about itself to the rest of the world.

The DMZ is described in newspapers and publications as the place where peace and war co-exist simultaneously. Fear of war is what actually preserves the peace on the site. The peace of the site is as illusionary as the peace of the peninsula seems to be. Just like the zone, the condition of unification presents a dialectic motion between peace and war, where one can no longer recognize which one comes before the other. Like the issue of peace and war, a dichotomy exists with any unification-related issues, which places the individual further into a labyrinth of personal and political ambivalence. The strange Disneyland no longer exists just within the zone alone.

“Hello,
I am calling to inquire about a possible visit to
the Joint Security Area.”

“I am sorry, but as a Korean citizen, you will need to file for a separate visa.”

“a v i s a ? ”

“You need permission from the government. I
can send you the required documents for you
to sign. It will take three months to process it.”

“But I am not really Korean.
I am visiting from Canada for thesis research.
Would that complicate the process?”

“Oh. In that case, it’s no problem.
You can book your tour with the hotel you are staying at.”

“How long would that take to process?”

“No time. You can just join the tour bus.”

I called immediately the number she gave me. And next
morning I was on a tour bus heading to the Demilitarized Zone.

Thank goodness I am not Korean.

- a dialogue from my trip on May 20th, 2005



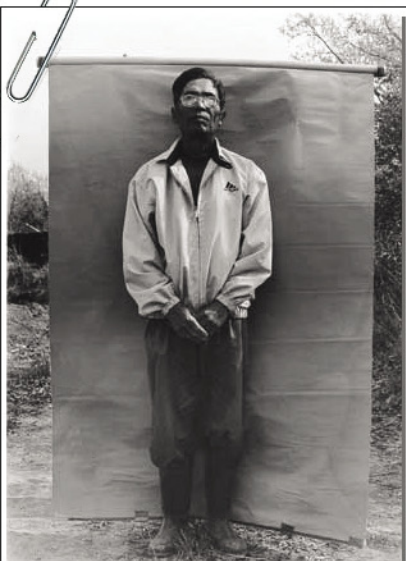
Name
Baek, Choon-Ok
Date of Accident
Aug. 12, 1998
Place of Accident
Near the brook in Weolsan-ri
Age at the Time
58
Occupation
Farmer
Result
Lost her foot
Details
She is in financial difficulty and in poor condition too. She had a landmine accident in a stream and lost her foot. She has demanded national reparation from the 12th Division of the Army for her injury and is still waiting for the court's decision.



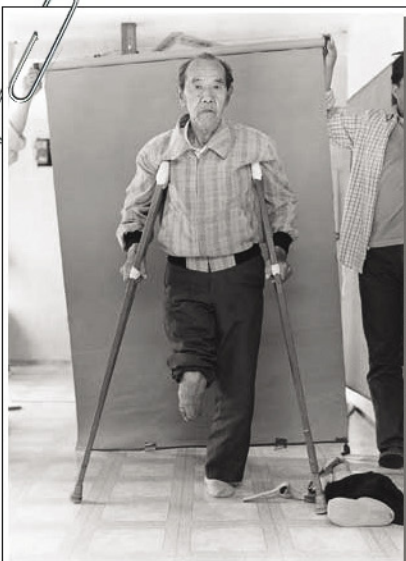
Name
Park, Kyoung-Seo
Date of Accident
Apr. 1968
Place of Accident
His farmland in Daema 2-ri, Cheolwon-gun, Kangwon-do
Age at the Time
30
Occupation
Farmer
Result
Lost his leg
Details
According to him, most of the residents migrated to this village relying on what the government had promised i.e., that anybody could be the owner of the land once he had cultivated it. The original owners of the land, however, have shown up to get their land back after the land has been cultivated by the new residents. Finally, the residents lost a lawsuit and had to buy the land from the original owners and some of the cases have continued for 20 years.



Name
Kim, Il-Bok
Date of Accident
Jul, 1983
Place of Accident
His farmland
Age at the Time
62
Occupation
Farmer
Result
Lost his foot
Details
- happened while working at his field.
- reported to the army, but compensation rejected because the landmine was planted by North.
- compensation received when he filed lawsuit against the country.



Name
Park Kyung-Jae
Date of Accident
January 4, 1975
Place of Accident
Kyunggido Yoenchungun Baekhwamyon JunDongRi
Age at the Time
19
Occupation
Farmer
Result
blind left eye, severely damaged right eye
Details
while digging arrow-roots, the landmine blew up.



Name
Kim, Yong-Kwan
Date of Accident
June 30, 1990
Place of Accident
his farmland in Kyunggido Yoenchungun Dohyunri
Age at the Time
73
Occupation
Farmer
Result
Lost his foot
Details
accident occurred while recovering the wheat field from the flood damage. According to him, there are still many landmines around the village, but the villagers have given up in its removal. There are no telling when another accident will occur in the future.



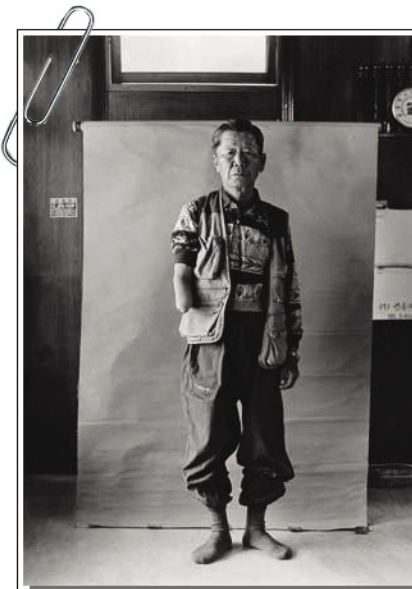
Name
Ju, Soo-San
Date of Accident
1953
Place of Accident
A mountain near his village
Age at the Time
32
Occupation
Farmer
Result
Lost his right leg
Details
He was injured on a mountain while cutting trees. He has been heartbroken for his six uneducated sons due to financial difficulties.



Name
Yu, Chul-Hoon
Date of Accident
Apr. 1968
Place of Accident
local school in Daema 2-ri, Cheolwon-gun, Kangwon-do
Age at the Time 31
Occupation Farmer
Result Lost his foot
Details
He was injured while working on a local school and hasn't obtained any reparations just as the other victims have not. He is now concerned about local children who haven't really experienced landmine accidents and are not taking this threat seriously enough. He has been also keeping anger inside him all of his life against the government for their irresponsible lack of action.



Name
Yoon, Kum-Ok
Date of Accident
1988
Place of Accident
Her farmland
Age at the Time
35
Occupation
Farmer
Result
Lost her foot
Details
She was injured while cultivating her farmland. She seemed to be very tired of walking due to her heavy artificial leg.



Name
Lee, Min-Sang
Place of Accident
Kyunggido Yonchun-gun Baekhwamyon Nogok 1-Ri
Age at the Time
late 40s
Occupation
Farmer
Result
Lost his right arm
Details
- discovered the missing landmine in his field after a flood. - while removing for future safety, it blew up during transportation.



Name
Cho, Chang-Haeng
Date of Accident
Spring, 1965
Place of Accident
His farmland in Cheolwon-yup, Cheolwon-gun, Kangwon-do
Age at the Time 30
Occupation Farmer
Result Lost his leg
Details
He was injured while making a road for his pre-arranged move to that village. His wife passed away a short time after the accident and he has been taking care of his 3 children alone. Now he needs to change his artificial leg for a new one but it is so expensive that the very thought of it is too much for him.



Name
Cho, Doo-Hyun
Date of Accident
1983
Place of Accident
His farmland
Age at the Time
45
Occupation
Farmer
Result
Lost his foot
Details
He was injured on his farmland and hadn't gone out for more than one year due to shock from his accident.



Name
Jung, Jung-Sook
Date of Accident
Dec. 1980
Place of Accident
Her farmland
Age at the Time
55
Occupation
Farmer
Result
Lost her leg
Details
She had to leave the hospital before she was well due to financial difficulties and had been having a very hard time with her leg for two months. She still has a problem with her leg and it is hard to even stand up by herself.

fig. 2.2.2.02 minefield victims



fig. 2.2.2.03
from Michael Browne's
original article

DH IN THE DMZ

by Michael Browne

article 682 from *Dirty Rag Magazine*

DMZ. To most, this means “demilitarized zone,” the 2.5-mile wide, 151-mile long swath of land that separates North and South Korea. To politicians, it marks the sight of the longest-standing military standoff in current world politics. And with the announcement that North Korea possesses nuclear weapons, it also ranks at the top the list of the world’s most dangerous places.

To me, it means the most adventurous place in the world to ride a downhill mountain bike. But I didn’t arrive at this conclusion easily. Contrary to any piece of advice offered by any of my Dirt Rag colleagues, my family or anyone I spoke to prior to my trip, I took a flight from Pittsburgh to Beijing, China. From there, I met up with my contact, Long-Jon Dil, and caught a train to Pyongyang, the closest train station to the North Korean side of the DMZ. According to research I performed after my trip, only 2,000 Westerners per year ever make it this far. I suspect I made it through the military state because I studied the appearance of North Korea’s president and my favorite public personality, Kim Jong Il, and sported the same khaki straight jacket, aviator glasses and nice tall bouffant hair-do to compensate for my 5’9” stature.

“What Westerners don’t understand is that we have it incredibly good. None of your rules apply here. In your Dirt Rag, you complain about paying too much for good suspension designs, but we don’t worry about patents,” wrote Long-Jon in an email two weeks prior to my departure. “We wait for China to reproduce your best design, and then we knock it off using our own designers and materials. Sure, we’re stuck eating MRE’s (meals ready-to-eat) left over from the Korean War, but at least we don’t pay royalties to Specialized!”

Admittedly, Long-Jon is taking a risk by setting up his touring company. Nearly 50,000 North Korean troops mark the contested border. But the constant floods and tsunamis that make up Korea’s weather patterns also create fall-line trails perfect for the extreme style of riding that Long-Jon’s company, “Extreme Happy Fun Adventures” is secretly promoting using a website maintained from a Russian

friend's home computer.

The first trail we arrive at, Fatty-Fat Fun Spot, was created by one of Long-Jon's friends during a trail scouting mission. After sneaking out on a full moon to avoid detection in the heavily monitored area, he set off an uncharted land mine. He escaped with only a bent derailleur hanger. When he returned to the site a month later, he realized the land mine had created a perfect set of doubles which launched into the beginning of what is now Long-Jon's favorite trail.

"Fawk Yeah!" Long-Jon whispers in his best Western accent. "I'm like Aaron Chase!" as he reaches down to touch the top of the double in a perfect 360 spin. And I have to admit, I'm amazed too, not only by his moves, but by what comes next. As we plummet down a near-vertical hillside, Long-Jon looks like he's nearing head-on contact with the flat earth below and I'm second-guessing my decision to just follow him. But it's too late, as we're both shooting down the steep terrain to what appears to be certain death. But a flash moment before what should be impact with the ground, Yong-Jon disappears through the ground floor into a tunnel cleverly disguised with bamboo chutes and other foliage.

Long-Jon drops further into the dimly lit tunnel, and just as we lose all light, the tunnel levels out. This is presumably the same style of tunnel that the North Koreans built over 30 years ago while trying to infiltrate the South Korean border undetected. And while U.S. troops shut down these tunnels after bloody conflicts ensued, I have to hand it to my man Long-Jon for digging his own tourist tunnel despite the inherent risk.

As we continue further, tikki torches that look like they came from the Dollar Store light the way. The tunnel widens and suddenly ends abruptly, with a small table, a Park repair stand, a full stock of Pedro's tools and a complete set of Dirt Rag back issues. "Now we're in South Korea!" he says with a big grin. I can't believe it. Posters hang on the tunnel walls aside graphite-sketched portraits of famous downhill racers drawn by Long-Jon himself. I stare at him in disbelief.

Setting my "Big American" aside, I take a seat and start to discuss how exactly we're going to get out of this tunnel, sight unseen.



fig. 2.2.2.04
Dubbed Intelligent
Surveillance and Guard
Robots

ROBOTS THAT CAN KILL

by Daniel Dasey

from Sydney Morning Herald Blog: Science

posted on December 6th, 2006

It's heavily-armed, has no conscience and if it doesn't like what you're doing it can kill you. Korean researchers have unveiled a robot security guard capable of killing human beings who get too close to sensitive areas or can't produce a correct password when questioned. Produced by a specialist research wing of electronics giant Samsung, the robots may be picked up by the South Korean military for protecting that country's borders with North Korea. But ethicists will shake their heads at the arrival of machines which appear capable of killing without discretion or conscience.

Technology website CNET.com this week carried updated news on the robot sentries which it says may be the first devices "that would fire autonomously on human targets." Dubbed Intelligent Surveillance and Guard Robots, the devices have surveillance, tracking, firing, and voice recognition systems built into a single unit and were first flagged in late September. Each robot sentry is equipped with a daytime camera, an infrared camera for night use and a laser rangefinder. Targets can be identified from about four kilometres during the day and about two kilometres at night.

Speakers and microphones on the devices allow them to demand passwords from humans and then analyze whether a correct response has been given. If an inappropriate password is given options include sounding an alarm, using non-lethal force such as rubber bullets or firing a built-in machine gun.

Human beings can control the robots using a touch screen and joystick.



fig. 2.2.2.05 stills from Samsung Anycall TV Commercial "One Sound"

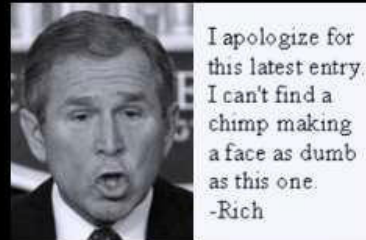
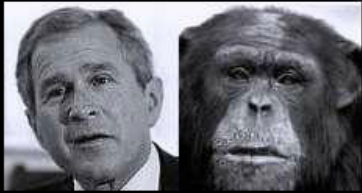
GOOD MORNING AMERICA, KOREA IS REUNIFYING

by Christine Ahn

from an abridged version of Christine Ahn's
Congressional testimony on January 25, 2005

On my recent trip to South Korea last November, I was struck by how much reunification was in the air. I first got this impression as I waited at customs at Incheon International Airport. Looming above me were large flat screen TVs beaming a Samsung cell phone commercial with two of Korea's most popular female stars, South Korea's pop icon Lee Hyo-Ri and North Korean dancer Jo Myung-Ae. In the commercial, the two superstars sing a song about parted lovers, and the lyrics go something like, "Someday we will meet again, although no one knows where we're going, someday we will meet again, in this very image of us separated." As they hold hands during the concert, the new blue One Korea peninsula flag rolls down behind them. As they turn to watch the flag, Lee Hyo-Ri's voice says in the background, "That day I was so nervous...because the story wasn't just about the two of us."

Here was Samsung, one of Korea's most powerful corporations, popularizing reunification. But the South Korean government was also sending a clear message to all foreigners landing on Korean soil: reunification is happening, slowly, but surely.



I apologize for this latest entry. I can't find a chimp making a face as dumb as this one. -Rich

2.3 GOOD VS. EVIL

2.2.1 AXIS OF EVIL

When I was in elementary school, the North was always presented as the evil side to South Koreans. The poor people of the north were brainwashed by their government. The communist state abused its power over the public. North Korea was a product of one man – Kim Il Sung, who was the dictatorial leader of the state. With the assumption that the North Korean state neither constructed nor was constructed by the people, the North Korean population was erased from the past discourse of unification. For South Koreans, the only way to save our fellow Koreans was by assimilation. According to Jang-jip Choi, immediately following the armistice of 1953 and national division, “Korean nationalism became transformed into a statism that privileged anti-communism over unification”. (Choi and Chung 1989) The South Korean government fed the public the necessity of destroying its northern enemy and used anti-communism as an ideological weapon to achieve the goal. Unification was a term to describe the objective of assimilating the other state. For over forty years of the cold war, it was believed that the collapse of the government of the North was what was needed to end the ‘unfinished’ civil war, a war which had quickly turned into a propaganda war between the two Koreas.

Despite today’s meaningful progress between the two Koreas in the post cold war period, the Korean peninsula as it is understood by the international order is still caught between the past and present. The Korean War, for all its globalized propaganda, has been a civil war. The scars left behind by this conflict are still in the open; the altercation of ideologies has left little room for conciliation. This confrontation has particularly tainted the domestic politics in the South, with supporters of a reconciliatory approach toward the North poised against supporters with strong positions of skepticism. As the ideological dispute is repeated with each presidential election, its motive is blurred with a dubious line between the interest of the government and the people. The role of evil continuously still shifts as time passes by.

fig. 2.3.1.01

Monkey shots with U.S. President George W. Bush

1949

“Education shall be carried out in accordance with its original purpose and shall never be utilized as an instrument of propaganda for any political, partisan, or other personal prejudices.”

- *Section 1 of Article 5 of the 1949 Education Law*

1970

Ah ah, how could we forget
The day our enemies trampled on our country
Blocking them with our bare fists and red blood
Stomping on the ground, shaking with righteous indignation
Now we will pay you back, our enemies of this day
We will run and run after the retreating enemy.
And our country and people will shine
When we defeat each and every man among our enemies.

- *Elementary-school song, South Korea*

1987

Question: Why might the north Koreans want to build a dam at Kumgang mountain?

- A. To prevent future floods
- B. To use it as a military facility
- C. To divert water for agricultural use
- D. To develop tourism.

[The correct answer is B.]

Questions: Why would north Koreans want to carry out land reforms?

- A. To establish a stronger political base for the party
- B. To collectivize agriculture
- C. For farmer ownership

D.To isolate middle-class farmers

[The correct answer is A.]

Question:What is the best description of north Koreans' daily life?

A. They are permitted to build a happy life

B. People are forced to entertain themselves

C. Individuals have few freedoms

D. They are free to develop their own talents.

[The correct answer is C.]

- *High-school entrance exam questions.*

1993

We are all one

One heart

We are one

I am one

We are one

Like drops of water make a river If you meet me we will become one

Where the river flows

Ah

Into a wide sea with blue waves

You and I make us

WE are one

Your heart,

My heart,

All one heart

- *Fourth-year elementary-school text*

2002

In Bush's State of the Union address, a speech designed to shift the political debate from a battle against al-Qaeda to a possible confrontation with Iraq, the U.S. president mentioned North Korea, Iraq, and Iran and declared:

“States like these, and their terrorist allies, constitute an axis of evil, arming to threaten the peace of the world. By seeking weapons of mass destruction, these regimes pose a grave and growing danger. . . . In any of these cases, the price of indifference would be catastrophic.”

After the Korean civil war in the early 1990s, two major forces have backed up each state; China and United States respectively behind North and South Korea. Because of the larger international need to protect each territory, the involvement of a third party had been necessary to each side. However, it is now a common attitude that reunification will be a slow process unless Korea is able to make decisions on its own. With United States naming North Korea as part of a global ‘axis of evil’, with possible warnings for attack, strong disapprovals have risen from the South. Strong anti-American public movement has escalated in the South. South Koreans believe that United States is putting North Korea into a corner. In June 2005, the military force from the United States was withdrawn from the DMZ frontline due to this change in South Korean perception.

2006

After North Korea’s nuclear test and subsequent declaration of nuclear weapons’ possession, relations today between Pyongyang and Washington are in a stalemate. This situation is also causing a rift between South Korean and American relations. Koreans, seeing the significant gains in peace and reunification, are no longer willing to blindly accept America’s Cold War mentality. On January 18th, the Journalist Association of Korea, the country’s largest journalist group with 6,000 members, asked U.S. ambassador Alexander Vershbow to “stop making anti-North Korean remarks that do more harm than good,” and to apologize for his remarks which they viewed as “an intrusion in domestic affairs.” South Korean President Roh Moo Hyun has also recently made clear that he does not endorse U.S. sanctions against North Korea. If the Bush administration continues the hostility and promote regime change policies with regard to North Korea, Roh said, “there will be friction and disagreement between Seoul and Washington.”

Question:

Why should North and South Korea unify?

- A. Because we should make nuclear power together.
- B. Because South Korea should also become a communist country.
- C. Because there are a lot of separated families.
- D. Because we need more land.

When I took my first Korean exams in grade three, I had just moved to Korea. I understood simple spoken words, but when it came to a written exam, I was lost. I remember guessing random letters to get the answers and my score totaled to 18 points out of 100.

According to my mother, my answer to this question was B.

- exam question from my grade 3 social studies.



fig. 2.3.1.02

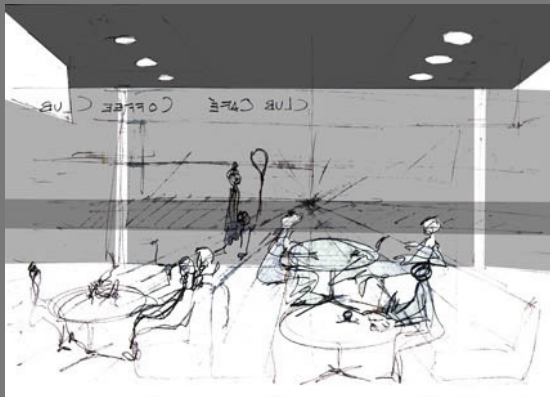


fig. 2.3.1.03



fig. 2.3.1.04

LETTER ON DOMUS 883

by Jan Kaplicky

issue 883 from Domus Magazine

I have read Domus since 1956, almost 50 years. I always thought that your magazine was about architecture, design, beauty and people. In the last few months it has become just a political journal. I was shocked, horrified, angry and sad when Domus 882 June 2005 arrived. 22 pages and 3 covers full of North Korean propaganda. Propaganda of a regime with a horrific human rights record. A country led by a dictator responsible for the deaths of more than 2 million of his people. Hunger used as the main weapon. Nuclear weapons. Supporting terrorism abroad. Concentration camps. Prisons. What more do you want me to say? Your pictures and text support that evil empire without a single critical comment. Phrases like "visionary plan of the leader" are laughable.

How are we supposed to take you seriously? Not a single word about starving people, prisons and camps. People brainwashed to be 'yes robots'. Scared people. Your favourite hotel costs \$750 million of state money to build. How many lives could that save? This is all the product of the magazine and its editor. His team sitting comfortably in one of those famous Milano coffee places trying to pretend they are fashionable left wing intellectuals. How pitiful.

Who you are trying to impress? Yourselves. Certainly not architects. Certainly not. There is no philosophy on these pages. Maybe admiration of that regime. Please note that even Jean Paul Sartre refused to accept Stalin's horrors. I am reminded of the picture of Jane Fonda sitting on a North Vietnam anti-aircraft gun. How naïve that was. You must stop these meaningless intellectual exercises. You cannot support cruel regimes. Mussolini built railway stations, Hitler autobahns and Stalin underground systems, often using slave labour. Kim Jong-Il Hotel. Millions of people affected. Millions of people dead. What you talk about is not even architecture. Possibly only piles of bricks or concrete. The Ryugyong Hotel is certainly not architecture. It is empty. Without people. It cannot be designed



fig. 2.3.1.05

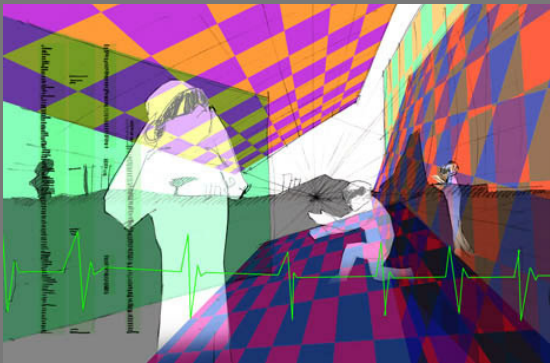


fig. 2.3.1.06

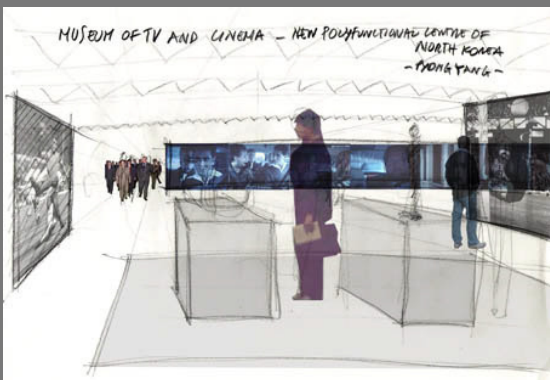


fig. 2.3.1.07

and used by brainwashed robots. Modern architecture cannot exist without free human beings. Not a single word about that in your article. Please do wake up. You are isolated. You are alone. It is too dangerous. Please look around for beautiful things, they are happening. Your responsibility is enormous to young architects, students and humankind. This cannot and should not be of any inspiration to anybody. Please think new, beautiful, useful and particularly progressive. Think of the human cost of these projects whilst having another coffee in Bar Magenta. What is the next issue of Domus going to be about - Mussolini, Hitler or Mao? Mugabe destroying buildings? Next time celebrate creativity, not destruction. Please!

MEDIA, ARCHITECTURE AND GEOPOLITICS: INSIGHT

by Stefano Boeri

issue 883 from Domus Magazine

Since our very first issue, we've made it clear: we believe that today's architecture is an instrument, both useful and necessary, for looking at the world. We think that the act of observing, describing, interpreting space and the built environment is one of architecture's resources and helps us understand the community we inhabit. We believe that the landscape - the territories continually defined by our movements, re-invented by our desires, punctuated by what we build - is an excellent metaphor for our society. Why? Because the local is a treasure-chest rich in details and clues that can tell us about the forces that permeate our daily lives. Forces that at times are manifest only in the space that surrounds us, perhaps just for a few instants, like footsteps in the snow.

Architecture's political dimension is not to be found in the labels we attach to our projects, nor in our magniloquent political declarations; rather it lies in the production of useful and critical knowledge about the world that surrounds us. Knowledge that is useful because it is critical. With this in mind, in the past months, we have visited the ex-USSR's nuclear "ghost cities," followed illegal immigrants across the Mediterranean, documented the history of an infernal prison in Buenos Aires, and charted the savage exploitation of migrant workers in Shanghai's massive building sites.

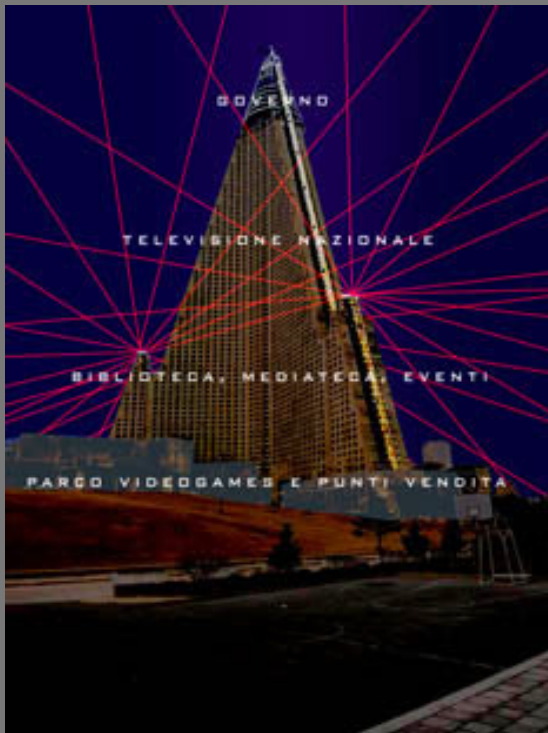


fig. 2.3.1.08

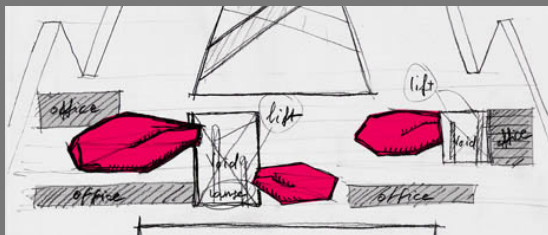


fig. 2.3.1.09

It was with the same interest in investigating local space that we travelled to Pyongyang. We described, without feeling the need for ideological proclamations, a horrific city delineated by oversized, shopless roads in which citizens take on the appearance of extras on a movie set. Citizens who inhabit decrepit high-rises and move on foot because public transportation is virtually nonexistent. Armin Linke's photographs depict a city invented and realized all at once by a dictator and his staff of architects. A city punctuated by immense, semi-abandoned monuments that revolve around Ryugyong Hotel, a gigantic ruin, symbol and consequence of the failure of a regime that is perhaps trying to escape from its suicidal isolation.

But there is something else. Pyongyang's sinister landscapes are not to be quickly dismissed as the tangible proof of the existence of a "kingdom of evil." As we pointed out, one can perceive something familiar in them. Something eerily familiar to the eye accustomed to the imagery of western science fiction. It's as though in the aftermath of the bombing in 1952 of Pyongyang (an entire city razed to the ground seven years after Hiroshima and Dresden — have we all forgotten?) someone like George Orwell or Ridley Scott decided to create, without a hint of irony, Western culture's worst dystopia. It is impossible to remain indifferent to the bizarre collection of architectural caricatures built by the North Korean nomenklatura. They created a city populated by automata unable to exercise their free will, the incarnation of an absolute regime isolated from the world, nevertheless capable of unscrupulous recourse to the symbolic language of Western democracies. Whether we like it or not, we are a part of that nightmare.

For this reason, we launched a call for architectural and geopolitical ideas to rethink Pyongyang's immense concrete pyramid (www.domusweb.it/domus/ryugyong). We used this ruin as a symbolic bridge, a tool to denounce this dictatorship while at the same time opening a crack in the regime's isolation, without resorting to the use of "smart bombs." The quality and sophistication of the proposals we are receiving from around the world (even from inside North Korea) confirms our intuition: at times architecture is capable of insights that the politics of spies and international diplomacy cannot perceive. We truly regret having disrupted Jan Kaplicky's black and white vision of the world, but it was worth it.

2.3.2 DATASCAPE

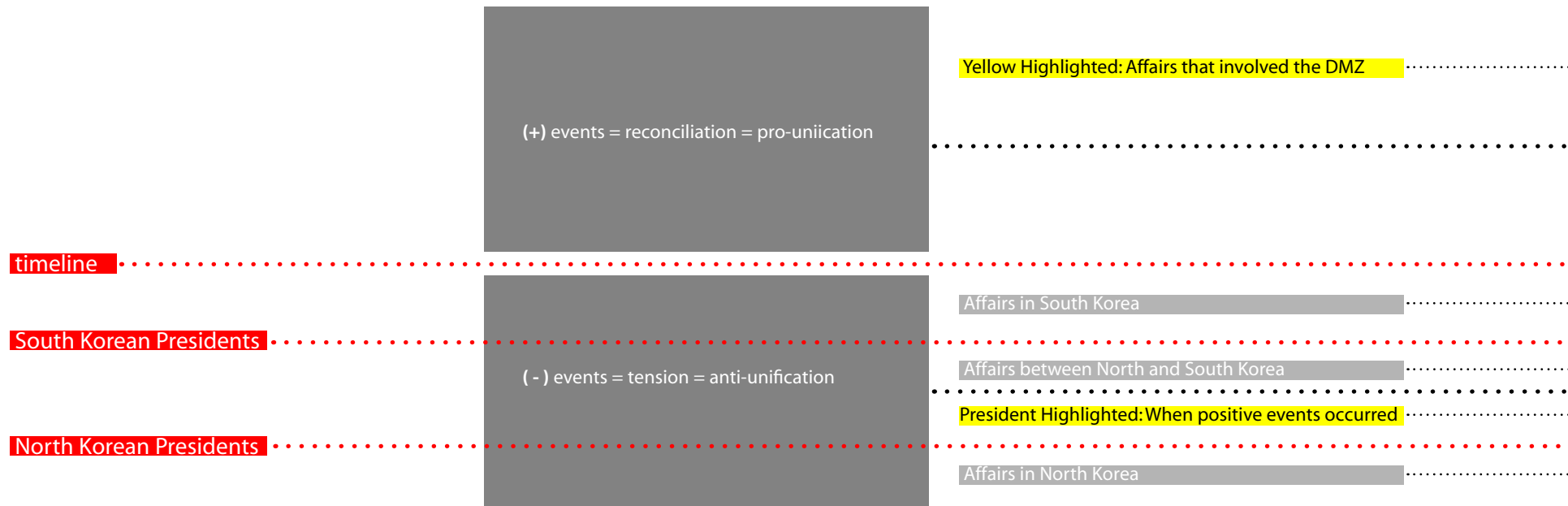
Along with creating friction between South Korea and the U.S., the recent announcement of nuclear possession from North Korea has also raised an international alert. Despite international concern, according to the Korean Institute for National Unification, a national research policy institute, a recent public opinion poll of 1000 South Korean citizens and 300 South Korean leaders from political, media and civil organizations found that 84 percent of the public and 96 percent of opinion leaders believed that unification was still an urgent task for the nation, and 85 percent of the general public and 95 percent of opinion leaders approved of North-South economic cooperation.

As I delved deeper into my thesis research, I became confused about the South Korean position. Each South Korean individual seems nonchalant, detached, almost taking a position of stoicism towards unification. Yet taken as a whole, the dream of a united nation has never ceased to be a stated and visible pursuit. Many factors in the unification outlook have been piling up in layers for the past fifty years. Within these layers, it has become impossible to summarize the current collective state of mind into a single description. By examining social, economical, political, cultural, and geographical affairs at a national scale, an exercise of factual documentation was executed for this thesis in order to understand the momentum of the relations between the two countries. Data gathered during the course of the thesis research has been placed in an illustrated datascape which creates a series of graphs of pro-unification. The affairs between North and South have been positioned along a timeline in accordance with whether they were negative or positive towards reconciliation. Rules have been established as datum lines such as the installation of a president and the timeline of national policies. Then national affairs have been added accordingly in categories of politics, economy, geography, culture, and people. The datascape in this section is meant to examine the dichotomy between events of reconciliation and ongoing historical tension. As events that illustrate reconciliation between the two Koreas have accumulated on the top portion of the datascape, the graph has started to indicate that the pursuit of a united nation has even stronger as you approach the present.

2.7.1
HOW TO READ

DATUM LINES

EVENTS



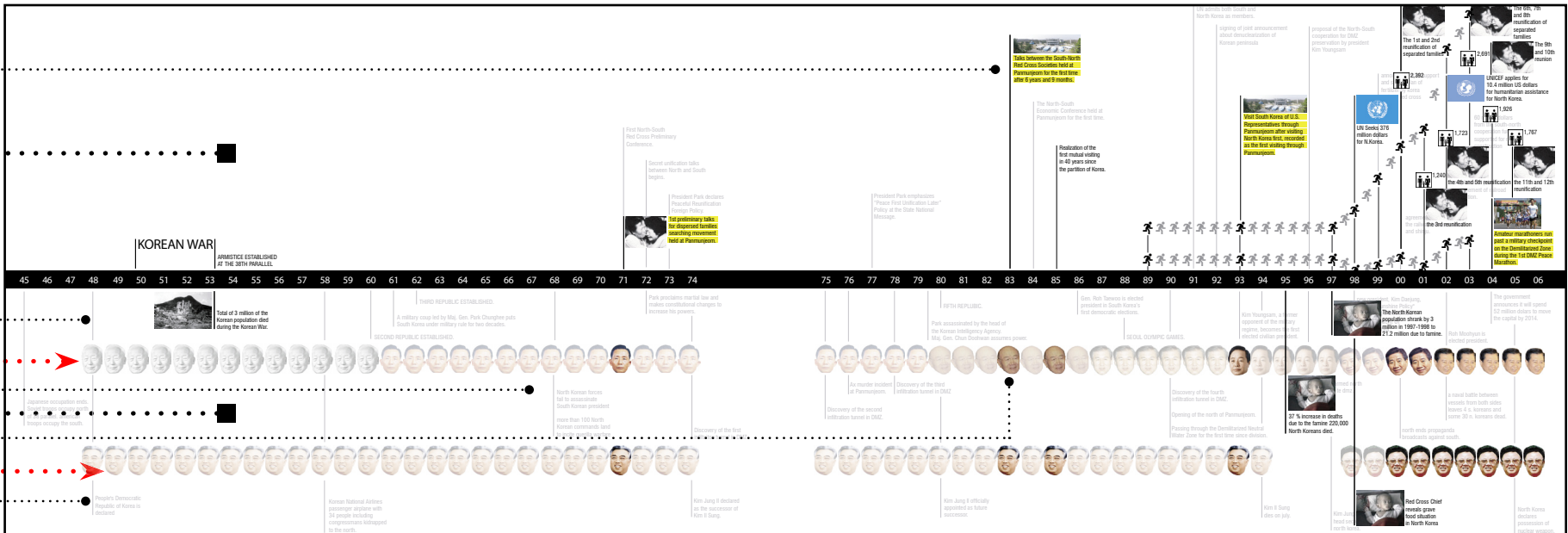


fig. 2.3.2.01

2.7.2
DATASCAPE: POLITIC


KOREAN WAR

ARMISTICE ESTABLISHED
AT THE 38TH PARALLEL

First North-South
Red Cross Preliminary
Conference.

Secret unification talks
between North and South
begins.

President Park declares
Peaceful Reunification
Foreign Policy.



45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74



THE FIRST REPUBLIC
ESTABLISHED.



SECOND REPUBLIC ESTABLISHED.



THE THIRD REPUBLIC
ESTABLISHED.

A military coup led by Maj. Gen. Park Chunghee puts
South Korea under military rule for two decades.



THE FOURTH REPUBLIC
ESTABLISHED.



Japanese occupation ends.
Soviet troops occupy north
of 38 parallel. American
troops occupy the south.



People's Democratic
Republic of Korea is
declared



Korean National Airlines
passenger airplane with
34 people including
congressmen kidnapped
to the north.

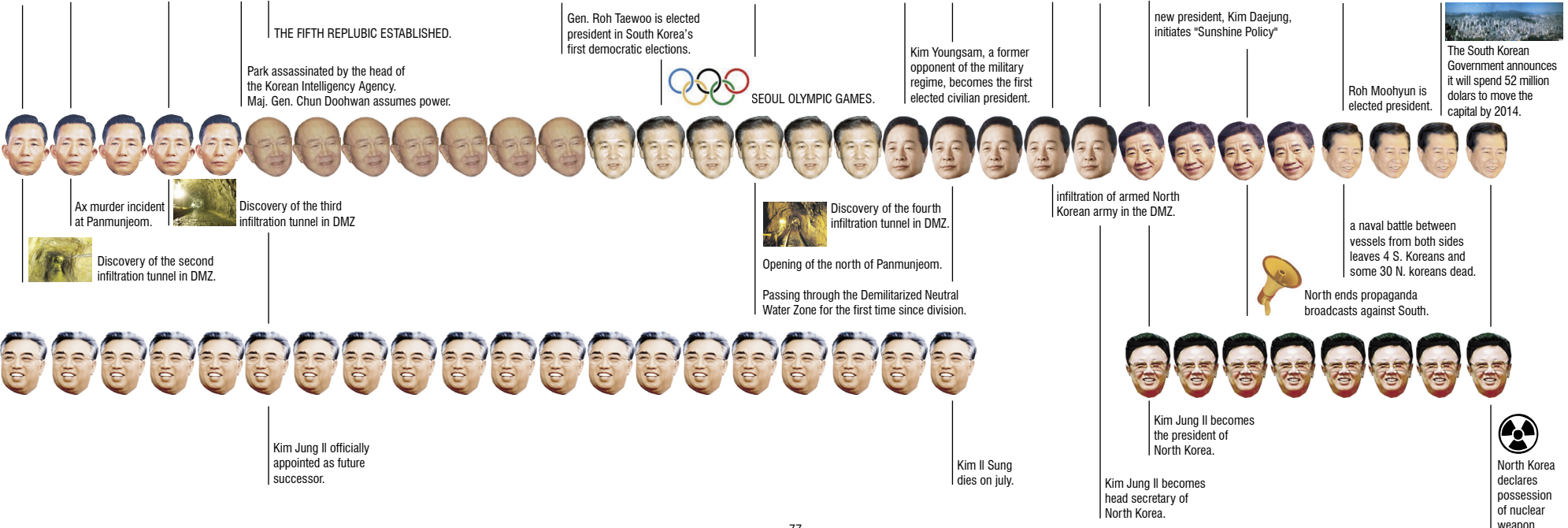
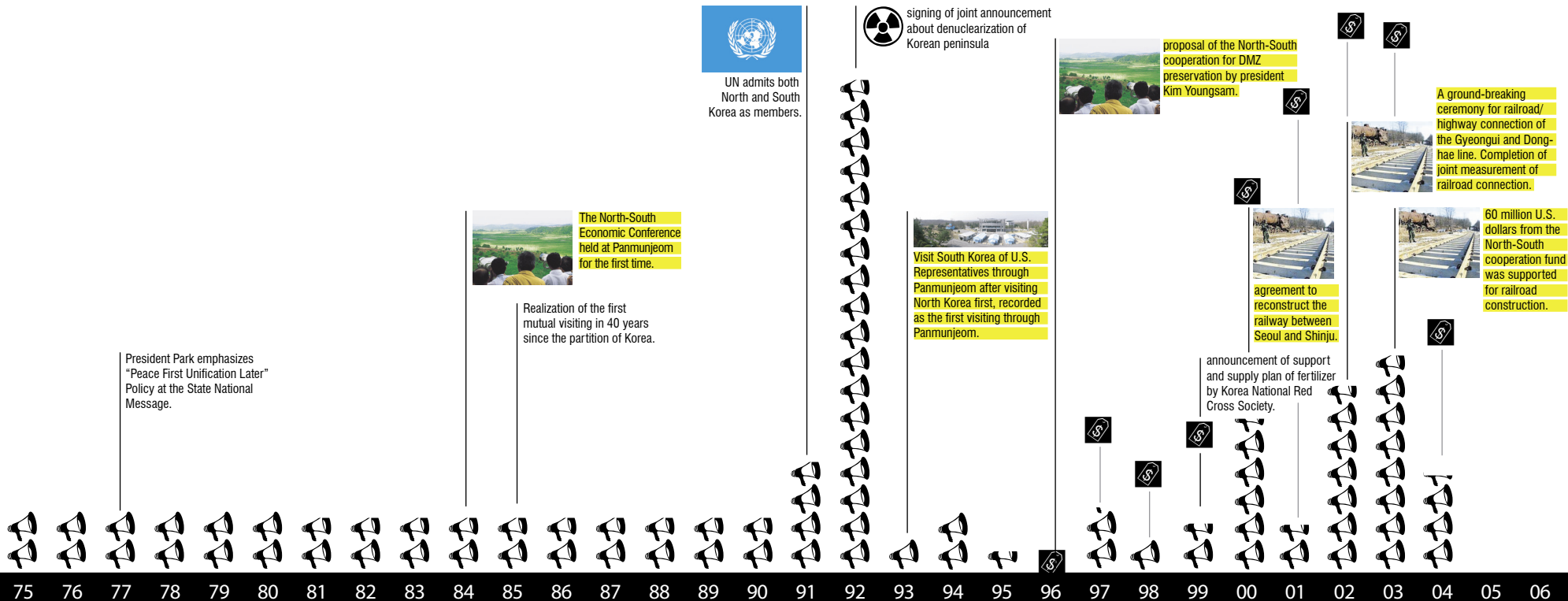
North Korean forces
fail to assassinate
South Korean president

more than 100 North
Korean commands land
to incite guerilla warfare



Discovery of
the first
infiltration
tunnel in DMZ

Kim Jung Il declared
as the successor of
Kim Il Sung.



2.7.2
DATASCAPE: ECONOMY

KOREAN WAR

ARMISTICE ESTABLISHED
AT THE 38TH PARALLEL

First North-South
Red Cross Preliminary
Conference.

Secret unification talks
between North and South
begins.

President Park declares
Peaceful Reunification
Foreign Policy.



The 1st North-South
Coordinating Committee
held at Panmunjeom.

45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74

Japanese occupation ends.
Soviet troops occupy north
of 38 parallel. American
troops occupy the south.

FIRST REPUBLIC ESTABLISHED.

Total of 3 million of the
Korean population died
during the Korean War.

SECOND REPUBLIC ESTABLISHED.

THIRD REPUBLIC ESTABLISHED.
A military coup led by Maj. Gen. Park Chunghee puts
South Korea under military rule for two decades.

North Korean forces
fail to assassinate
South Korean president
more than 100 North
Korean commands land
to incite guerilla warfare

Park proclaims martial law and
makes constitutional changes to
increase his powers.

Discovery of the first
infiltration tunnel in DMZ

People's Democratic
Republic of Korea is
declared

Korean National Airlines
passenger airplane with
34 people including
congressmen kidnapped
to the north.

Kim Jung Il declared
as the successor of
Kim Il Sung.

fig. 2.3.2.03

President Park emphasizes "Peace First Unification Later" Policy at the State National Message.



The North-South Economic Conference held at Panmunjeom for the first time.

Realization of the first mutual visiting in 40 years since the partition of Korea.



Passing of 6 private vessels of South Korea through the mouth of Han River, demilitarized neutral waters in 37 years since division.

UN admits both South and North Korea as members.

signing of joint announcement about denuclearization of Korean peninsula

Opening of communication between North and South Korea for a light-water reactor project.

proposal of the North-South cooperation for DMZ preservation by president Kim Youngsam

supporting of the 8th flood relief supplies by Korean National Red Cross Society.



Hyundai Asan of South Korea and the Asia Pacific Peace Committee of North Korea first signed a Development Agreement for the Gaesung Industrial Complex.

announcement of support and supply plan of fertilizer by Korea National Red Cross Society.



A ground-breaking ceremony for railroad/highway connection of the Gyeongui and Donghae line. Completion of joint measurement of railroad connection.



Departure of Hyundai, Geumgangho for the first time.



agreement to reconstruct the railway between Seoul and Shinju.



60 million dollars from the N-S cooperation fund was supported for railroad construction. The fifth Inter-Korean Economic Cooperation Promotion Committee Meeting.

ground-breaking ceremony for Gaesung Industrial Complex.

75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 05 06

FIFTH REUBLIC.

Park assassinated by the head of the Korean Intelligency Agency. Maj. Gen. Chun Doohan assumes power.

Gen. Roh Taewoo is elected president in South Korea's first democratic elections.

SEOUL OLYMPIC GAMES.

Kim Youngsam, a former opponent of the military regime, becomes the first elected civilian president.

new president, Kim Daejung, initiates "Sunshine Policy" in effort to reconcile with the north through economic and humanitarian aid.

Roh Moohyun is elected president.



The South Korean Government announces it will spend 52 million dollars to move the capital by 2014.

Discovery of the second infiltration tunnel in DMZ.

Ax murder incident at Panmunjeom.

Discovery of the third infiltration tunnel in DMZ

Discovery of the fourth infiltration tunnel in DMZ.

Opening of the north of Panmunjeom.

Passing through the Demilitarized Neutral Water Zone for the first time since division.

infiltration of armed north korea army in te dmz.

a naval battle between vessels from both sides leaves 4 s. koreans and some 30 n. koreans dead.

north ends propaganda broadcasts against south.

Kim Jung Il officially appointed as future successor.

Kim Il Sung dies on july.

Kim Jung Il becomes the president of North Korea.

Kim Jung Il becomes head secretary of north korea.

North Korea declares possession of nuclear weapon.

2.7.3 DATASCAPE: PEOPLE

KOREAN WAR

ARMISTICE ESTABLISHED
AT THE 38TH PARALLEL

First North-South
Red Cross Preliminary
Conference.

Secret unification talks
between North and South
begins.

President Park declares
Peaceful Reunification
Foreign Policy.



1st preliminary talks
for dispersed families
searching movement
held at Panmunjeom.

45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74



Total of 3 million of the
Korean population died
during the Korean War.

THIRD REPUBLIC ESTABLISHED.

A military coup led by Maj. Gen. Park Chunghee puts
South Korea under military rule for two decades.

Park proclaims martial law and
makes constitutional changes to
increase his powers.

SECOND REPUBLIC ESTABLISHED.

Japanese occupation ends.
Soviet troops occupy north
of 38 parallel, american
troops occupy the south.

North Korean forces
fail to assassinate
South Korean president

more than 100 North
Korean commands land
to incite guerilla warfare

Discovery of the first
infiltration tunnel in DMZ

People's Democratic
Republic of Korea is
declared

Korean National Airlines
passenger airplane with
34 people including
congressmen kidnapped
to the north.

Kim Jung Il declared
as the successor of
Kim Il Sung.

fig. 2.3.2.04

75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 05 06

President Park emphasizes "Peace First Unification Later" Policy at the State National Message.



Talks between the South-North Red Cross Societies held at Panmunjom for the first time after 6 years and 9 months.

The North-South Economic Conference held at Panmunjom for the first time.

Realization of the first mutual visiting in 40 years since the partition of Korea.

UN admits both South and North Korea as members.

signing of joint announcement about denuclearization of Korean peninsula

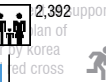


Visit South Korea of U.S. Representatives through Panmunjom after visiting North Korea first, recorded as the first visiting through Panmunjom.

proposal of the North-South cooperation for DMZ preservation by president Kim Youngsam



UN Seeks 376 million dollars for N.Korea.



announ... support and s... of fertil... Korea ed cross

The 1st and 2nd reunification of separated families



2,691



The 6th, 7th and 8th reunification of separated families



The 9th and 10th reunion



UNICEF applies for 10.4 million US dollars for humanitarian assistance for North Korea.

1,926

60... dollars from the south-north cooperation fu... supported for construction

1,723



the 4th and 5th reunification

1,767



the 11th and 12th reunification

1,240



agreements the rail... and shi... the 3rd reunification



Amateur marathoners run past a military checkpoint on the Demilitarized Zone during the 1st DMZ Peace Marathon.

FIFTH REPLIC.

Park assassinated by the head of the Korean Intelligency Agency. Maj. Gen. Chun Doo-hwan assumes power.

Gen. Roh Tae-woo is elected president in South Korea's first democratic elections.

SEOUL OLYMPIC GAMES.

Kim Youngsam, a former opponent of the military regime, becomes the first elected civilian president.

new president, Kim Dae-jung, "Sunshine Policy" The North Korean population shrank by 3 million in 1997-1998 to 21.2 million due to famine.

Roh Moo-hyun is elected president.

The government announces it will spend 52 million dollars to move the capital by 2014.



Ax murder incident at Panmunjom.

Discovery of the third infiltration tunnel in DMZ

Discovery of the second infiltration tunnel in DMZ.

Discovery of the fourth infiltration tunnel in DMZ.

Opening of the north of Panmunjom.

Passing through the Demilitarized Neutral Water Zone for the first time since division.



37% increase in deaths due to the famine 220,000 North Koreans died.

north ends propaganda broadcasts against south.

a naval battle between vessels from both sides leaves 4 s. Koreans and some 30 n. Koreans dead.



Kim Jung Il officially appointed as future successor.

Kim Il Sung dies on July.

Kim Jung head sec north Korea.



Red Cross Chief reveals grave food situation in North Korea

North Korea declares possession of nuclear weapon.

2.7.4
DATASCAPE: CULTURE

KOREAN WAR

ARMISTICE ESTABLISHED
AT THE 38TH PARALLEL

45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74

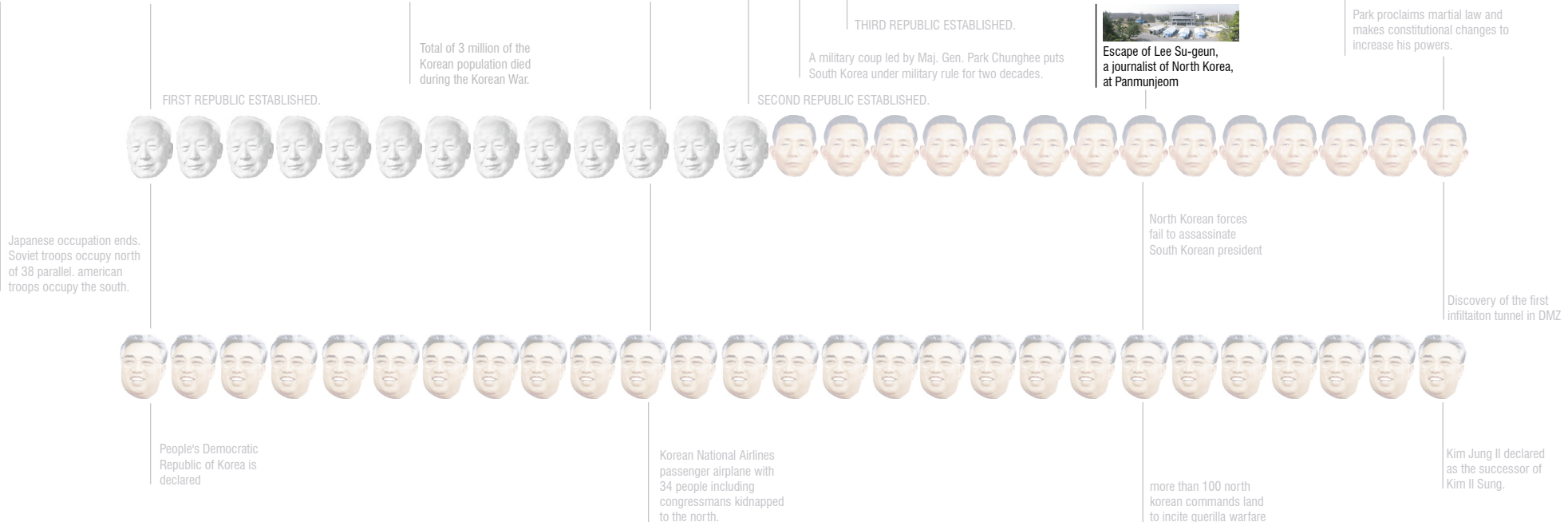


fig. 2.3.2.05

75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 05 06

President Park emphasizes "Peace First Unification Later" Policy at the State National Message.

Talks between the South-North Red Cross Societies held at Panmunjeom for the first time after 6 years and 9 months

Visit South Korea of North Korea concerned and journalists for the first time after 12 years

The North-South Economic Conference held at Panmunjeom for the first time since division.

Realization of the first mutual visiting in 40 year since the division of Korea, which is a native place visit group or a visit group of art performance



Coming back to South Korea of Im Su-kyoung and Mun Kyu-hyeon through Panmunjeom, who are national university representatives for Pyeongyang festival.



a new flag is introduced for the 41st International Ping-pong Games held in Japan to represent the United Korean team.

UN admits both South and North Korea as members.

signing of joint announcement about denuclearization of Korean peninsula

Visit South Korea of U.S. Representatives through Panmunjeom after visiting North Korea first, recorded as the first visiting through Panmunjeom.

proposal of the North-South cooperation for DMZ preservation by president Kim Youngsam



Visit North Korea of Jeong Ju-young, an honorary president of Hyundai through Panmunjeom in order to discuss Mt. Geumgang project and participate in a ground-breaking ceremony of Pyeongyang gymnasium.

announcement of support and supply plan of fertilizer, area national university society.



Starting of Mt. Geumgang tour by land for a civilian.



Opening of communication between North and South Korea to support Mt. Geumgang Tour.



Departure of Hyundai, Geumgangho for the first time.

60 million dollars from the south-north cooperation fund used for railway connection



completion of joint measurement of railway connection.



The 1st DMZ Peace Marathon.



The First DMZ Bird Festival held at Chulwon.



"Peace Festival" beyond the DMZ" is held for 42 days nationally in South Korea.



The "Arirang Festival" celebrates the 60th anniversary of independence day. South Koreans are allowed for the first time to fly directly.



North-South joint archaeological study of historical "Goong-yaee Palace" within the DMZ for the first time.

FIFTH REUBLIC.

Park assassinated by the head of the Korean Intelligence Agency. Maj. Gen. Chun Doo-hwan assumes power.

Gen. Roh Tae-woo is elected Korea's first democratic president



SEOUL OLYMPIC GAMES.



North-South Peace Soccer Games are held in Pyeongyang and Seoul [1929-1950].

Kim Youngsam, a former opponent of the military regime, becomes the first elected civilian president.

new president, Kim Dae-jung, initiates "Sunshine Policy" in effort to reconcile with the north through economic and humanitarian aid.



2002 Soccer World Cup held by 2 million South Koreans



The 3rd North-South Peace Soccer Game.

Ax murder incident at Panmunjeom.

Discovery of the third infiltration tunnel in DMZ

Discovery of the second infiltration tunnel in DMZ.

Discovery of the fourth infiltration tunnel in DMZ.

Opening of the north of Panmunjeom.

Passing through the Demilitarized Neutral Water Zone for the first time since division.

infiltration of armed north Korea army in the DMZ.



The "Arirang" incarnation of the mass games premiered to mark the 90th anniversary of the Kim Il Sung (1912-1994), featuring some 100,000 performers altogether and running six nights a week through Liberation Day.

Kim Jung Il officially appointed as future successor.

Kim Il Sung dies on July.

Kim Jung Il becomes the president of north Korea

Detainment of Mt. Geumgang tourist, Min Young-mi by North Korea. South Korea urged detainee to be sent home and Mt. Geumgang tour to be stopped through the Security Council.

North Korea declares possession of nuclear weapon.

2.7.5
DATASCAPE: GEOGRAPHY

KOREAN WAR

ARMISTICE ESTABLISHED
AT THE 38TH PARALLEL

The first North-South
Red Cross Preliminary
Conference.

Secret unification talks
between North and South
begins.

President Park declares
Peaceful Reunification
Foreign Policy.

The 1st North-South
Coordinating Committee
held at Panmunjeom.

45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74

Japanese occupation ends.
Soviet troops occupy north
of 38 parallel. American
troops occupy the south.



People's Democratic
Republic of Korea is
declared

Korean National Airlines
passenger airplane with
34 people including
congressman kidnapped
to the north.

THIRD REPUBLIC ESTABLISHED.
A military coup led by Maj. Gen. Park Chunghee puts
South Korea under military rule for two decades.

SECOND REPUBLIC ESTABLISHED.

North Korean forces
fail to assassinate
South Korean president

Park proclaims martial law and
makes constitutional changes
to increase his powers.

Discovery of the first
infiltration tunnel in DMZ

more than 100 North
Korean commands land
to incite guerilla warfare

Kim Jung Il declared as
the successor of Kim Il Sung.

fig. 2.3.2.06

75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 05 06

President Park emphasizes "Peace first unification later" Policy at the State National Message.

The North-South Economic Conference held at Panmunjeom for the first time.

Realization of the first mutual visiting in 40 years since the partition of Korea.



The 1st research of natural resources in the north of CCL by the Central Conservation of Nature Council of the Ministry of Home Affairs.



Passing of 6 private vessels of South Korea through the mouth of Han River, demilitarized neutral waters in 37 years since division.

UN admits both North and South Korea as members.

signing of joint announcement about denuclearization of Korean peninsula.



proposal of the North-South cooperation for DMZ preservation by president Kim Youngsam.



Departure of Hyundai, Geumgangho for the first time.

announcement and supply by Korea and Cross Sea



agreement to reconstruct the railway between Seoul and Shinju.

60 million dollars from the North-South Cooperation Fund was supported for railroad construction



Completion of mine removal in the North-South control district of DMZ for connection of the Gyeongui and Donghae line.



Proposal to establish DMZ Peace Park and a tourist route from Japan to Russia through Korea and China.

A ground-breaking ceremony for railroad/highway connection of the Gyeongui and Donghae



North-South joint archaeological study of historical "Goong-ye Palace" within the DMZ for the first time.

completion of joint measurement of railroad connection.



The First DMZ Bird Festival held at Chulwon.

FIFTH REPUBLIC ESTABLISHED

Park assassinated by the head of the Korean Intelligency Agency. Maj. Gen. Chun Doohan assumes power.

Gen. Roh Taewoo is elected president in South Korea's first democratic elections.

SEOUL OLYMPIC GAMES.

Kim Youngsam, a former opponent of the military regime, becomes the first elected civilian president.

new president, Kim Daejung, initiates "Sunshine Policy"

Opening of communication between North and East Korea for a light-water reactor project.

Roh Moo-hyun is elected president in South Korea..



The South Korean Government announces it will spend 52 million dollars to move the capital by 2014.

Ax murder incident in Panmunjeom.

Discovery of the second infiltration tunnel in DMZ.

Discovery of the third infiltration tunnel in DMZ



Discovery of the fourth infiltration tunnel in DMZ.

infiltration of armed North Korea army in the DMZ.

a naval battle between vessels from both sides leaves 4 s. Koreans and some 30 n. Koreans dead.

North ends propaganda broadcasts against South.

ground-breaking ceremony for Gaesung Industrial Complex

Kim Jung Il officially appointed as future successor.

Ki Il Sung dies on July.

Kim Jung Il becomes the president of North Korea.

Kim Jung Il becomes head secretary of North Korea.

North Korea declares possession of nuclear weapon.

3.0

cause & effect

cause *noun.*

1: events that provide the generative force that is the origin of something;

2: a justification for something existing or happening;

3: a series of actions advancing a principle or tending toward a particular end;

4: any entity that produces an effect or is responsible for events or results

5: a comprehensive term for any proceeding in a court of law

effect *noun.*

1: something that is produced by an agency or cause; result; consequence

2: power to produce results; efficacy; force; validity; influence

3: the state of being effective or operative; operation or execution; accomplishment or fulfillment

4: a mental or emotional impression produced, as by a painting or a speech

5: meaning or sense; purpose or intention

6: the making of a desired impression

7: an illusory phenomenon

8: a real phenomenon (usually named for its discoverer)

The disparity between a series of North and South Korean oppositions, which illustrate the external condition of partition, have been presented in the previous chapter. An investigation of Korean identity is presented in this chapter to analyze the causes of this condition. The following writings focus on different concepts that are suggested by different authors as being the essence of being Korean. The revelation of such a distinct Korean mentality seeks to enrich an understanding of the current situation that has already been developed.

“What?
There is a war? Who
attacked this time?
The Japanese? The
Chinese?”

“No... Actually we
are fighting each
other...”

“I don’t understand.”

- a dialogue from Kwang-Hyun Park's movie 'Welcome to Dongmakgol'
where the soldier is talking to a villager who did not know the Korean War had started.

3.1 THE KOREA

Korea presents a pathology that is created from the polarity between the dream and reality. The idealized fantasy suggests a naïve, hopeful nation that is in denial. In contrast, the reality presents a stone wall of seemingly irresolvable issues. While the condition between the dream of unification and the reality of separation seems irreconcilable, both poles are created by the same agent or identity. Such an indigenous identity of Korea and the desire to preserve it can be understood as the creative forces behind the dichotomy of Korea.

Wonbok Rhie, author of 'Korea Unmasked', argues that Korea historically became obsessed with homogeneity due to its geographical location as a peninsula. He states that a peninsula country is strategically important as it serves as a natural bridge for continental countries and islands to cross over. Korea is a nation that throughout its history has always been surrounded by strong nations such as Japan and China. With constant invasion by outsiders, the obsession with a homogenous nation was generated by the desire for self-preservation. In Rhie's book, he further states that:

In addition to these two powerhouses, numerous other foreigners incessantly committed aggressions upon Korea. The constant invasions and plundering greatly distressed the Koreans. Their first priority was survival. For survival, the Koreans had to be ready at all times to fight off foreign aggressors. Frequent foreign invasions result in frequent contacts with foreigners, which significantly increase the probability that different races would mix. For the sake of preserving their lineage, the Koreans became very exclusionary, discouraging the mixing with other races. This exclusionism is attributable to the survival instincts of peninsular people. (Rhie 2005,43)

Although South Korea may seem more open to foreign contact in modern days, the concept of '*dan-il-min-jok*' which means 'a racially homogenous nation' is a term that Koreans state themselves. The social studies and history textbooks still emphasize the importance of this concept and the desire for a unified nation is deeply rooted within this concept. In such a view, a homogenous nation was always what Korea was, and what Korea was meant to be. A term '*i-jil*' which can be interpreted as foreign, different, alien, or heterogeneous is a term that employs a very negative connotation for Koreans. Anything that suggested heterogeneity has historically become a term that is unacceptable to Korean survival instincts. Ironically, the term '*i-jil-gam*' – sense of difference – has also been used to describe the relationship within Korea as North and South established contradictory identities. Today's irony is that if Korea needs to unify the two parts to become the proper Korea, heterogeneity, which Koreans have always rejected, conflicts with their ideal of unification.

Taken from a different viewpoint, however, the obsession to establish the right Korea can also be interpreted as the same agent that pushed the two states to create extreme heterogeneity. After the Korean War, North and South Korea had to rebuild themselves from the ground up. The war was never technically over. Each state still wanted to destroy its enemy and used ideological weapons to achieve its goal. As different political agendas were used to justify themselves, the empty aftermath of the war was quickly filled with a propaganda war. The indigenous obsession of establishing the right Korea pushed each Korea further and further to become 'the' communist or 'the' capitalist state. They convinced themselves that the other state was brainwashed by their respective governments. Unification only presented an idea of assimilation as the correct solution for each Korea.

Inevitable questions arise in the modern peninsula: Which one is the right Korea? How do we rebuild an autonomous and homogenous nation out of heterogeneity? In a nation where the myth of a homogenous nation has been presented as the only answer, could the fifty years of separation be overcome with an identity seemingly built over thousands of years? The media, textbooks,

politicians, and the general public of the South may have changed their position from demonizing the North to accepting the matter of two states, but the danger falls upon the fact that North Korea is meant to be an 'eternal part of Korea'. Could a diverse Korea ever become the right Korea?

**“Don’t you think
you are being delusional?”**

Your perception may be skewed, you know. I believe you don’t want to be disloyal to your people, yourself, and your country. But you don’t need to be a part of this deception, delusion, or this ugly pathology. You could completely denounce the whole thing. You say it yourself how hopeless this whole situation is. You see it clearly, so why not make it easier on yourself and just abandon that absurd optimism?”

“But I can’t.”

“Why not?” “I don’t know... I just can’t.. Maybe because I am Korean.”

- a dialogue from discussions of what direction the thesis should take.

3.2 CHOONG

忠 = 中 + 心
(choong) (middle) (heart)

"The character choong(忠) represents the heart(心) embracing joong, the center(中). It is the heart that places common values ahead of personal interests. Another meaning for joong is equilibrium. In sum, choong is a mindset that stresses justice, fairness and sharing. More simply, what is right and fair for all is to be valued, and one must never be fickle because of trivial personal interests." (Rhie 2005, 45)

Wonbok Rhie presents the concept of *choong* as the essence of being Korean. Suggesting it as a survival instinct, he argues that the method Koreans pursued to protect their lives and possessions can be succinctly expressed by one Chinese Character *choong*. To comprehend the origin of the word, some aspects of the formation of social values in Korea need to be understood.

Contemporary South Korea presents social values that are the synthesis and development of various influences, both indigenous and foreign. Chinese classical thoughts, such as Neo-Confucianism, are considered to be one of the most influential to Korean social structures and values. Neo-Confucianism which combines the social ethics of the classical Chinese philosophers Confucius and Mencius with Daoist and Buddhist metaphysics, defines formal social relations on all levels of society. Neo-Confucianism emphasizes that social relations are not conceived in terms of the happiness or satisfaction of the individuals involved, but in terms of the harmonious integration of individuals into a collective whole that mirrors the harmony of the natural order.

The practice of Neo-Confucianism emphasized hierarchy in human relations and self-control on the individual level. Society was defined in terms of the Five Relationships (o ryun in Korean; wu lun in Chinese): "between father and son there should be affection; between ruler and minister there should be righteousness; between husband and wife there should be attention to their separate functions; between old and young there should be a proper order; between friends there should be faithfulness." (Federal Research Division of the Library of Congress)

In his lectures, Confucius says "*Ji Choong Pil Ji Jung*"¹ which means "to know 'loyalty'(choong), one must know the 'middle'. The middle path that is often mentioned by Confucius represents fairness, righteousness, moderation and balance. The true meaning of the 'middle' represents 'the great essence of all things'. He also emphasized that "the spirit of fairness and righteousness should be freed from private interests." Wonbok Lee ties this mindset to the foundation of the Korean scholar's spirit, called *seonbi spirit*.

The clearest manifestation of 'choong' has to be the seonbi(scholar) spirit of the Koreans. The Korean ruling class armed themselves with the seonbi spirit. Over time, the seonbi spirit formed the spiritual basis of the Korean nation such as loyalty to country, devotion to parents, and fraternity to friends. (Rhie 2005, 50)

As the ruling class of Korea historically ruled with the manifestation of the 'scholar' spirit, it formed the spiritual basis of a Korean nation. In this synthesis, the character *choong* represents a mindset that emphasizes justice, fairness and sharing. When the emphasis is given on the righteousness and fairness for all, it strongly negates the idea of righteousness for oneself. *Choong* provides insight into how the *gajok* and loyal duty to the nation are placed before the individual interests. The concept of *gajok*, noted in an earlier chapter, plays a significant role in the discourse of reunification in Korea in both a conceptual and a physical sense. How the need and loyalty to a *gajok* comes before the individual interest can be identified further with the concept of *choong*. It is the duty of the

individual to serve its country faithfully. If *choong* is the essence of being Korean, then it becomes the individual's duty to follow the righteous path by putting the need of the nation before one's own interest.

Choong, however, also presents a darker mentality as it can represent stubborn loyalty and dedication towards one's allegiance. This provides a glimpse into a Korean mentality that does not allow any grey areas. Korea is either one unified nation or two different nations. No other relationship can possibly exist on this matter. But as the actual state of two separated nations conflicts with that of the nation Korea was meant to become, confusion and ambivalence are presented. Then the question becomes more confused: what is the righteous path? What happens when the whole nation is ambivalent and confused?

¹ 知忠必知中, original writing in Chinese

“If we met
somewhere else,
and not under
these conditions,
We would have had
such a blast.
Don’t you think?”

- the same dialogue from two movies, Kwang-Hyun Park's movie 'Welcome to Dongmakgol'
and Chan-wook Park's movie 'Joint Security Area'

3.3 CONCEPT OF 'HAN'

恨 = 心 + 良
(han) (heart) (remain)

For many people in south and north Korea, national division is widely characterized as Korea's han. The loss of autonomy due to past invasions and Japanese colonization has also created han, but division is a more immediate referent; division represents not only the (temporary) loss of the nation but also the two Koreas' frustrating inability to retrieve it. In contemporary south Korea the loss of autonomy is experienced largely in terms of division and in terms of the national security state that necessitates oppressive laws and makes south Koreans depend, to some extent, on U.S. military assistance. Han, in turn, is widely characterized as the essence of being Korean. (Grinker 1993, 78)

Koreans refer to the unfulfilled dream of a unified nation as the *han* of the nation and the people. *Han* is a term that can be appropriated for many different contexts in which "the speaker or writer intends to express regret, lamentation, and frustration over an inability to achieve something or redress a wrong." (Grinker 1993, 80) *Han*, which could be loosely identified as "resentment", conveys both personal and collective losses, violations, and consequent resentment. Grinker argues that a central concern for "South Korean identity politics is an inability, engendered in the conception of both *han* and complicated mourning, to recognize and adapt to loss." (Grinker 1993, 75) He not only compares the notion of *han* to Freud's term of "complicated mourning" but also to what other authors have referred to as an "inability to mourn". Using the resemblance between these concepts, he identifies *han* as in many ways an overarching "problem of mourning".

In order to recognize resemblances to western states of mourning, the fundamental nature of *han* needs to be first comprehended. Ch'on Yi-du, a Korean literary critic, presents an analysis of *han* and the impact it has created to the Korean culture in his book titled "The Analysis on the Structure of *Han*". He divides different meanings of *han* into two categories, the dark and the bright sides. Like the word *choong*, *han* can be used as a prefix or suffix to another word. According to Ch'on, the dark side presents such meanings as enmity, vengeance, false accusation, sorrow, lamentation, grief, and regret, while the bright side consists mainly the notion of *chonghan* which connotes attachment.

The central feature of all of these aspects of han, bright and dark, is their capacity to constitute many different kinds of misfortune as a coherent set of sentiments and their temporal orientation toward the future resolution of those sentiments. In this regard, Korean tragedies do not "speak for themselves" but are always distilled, filtered, converted into something else; han is a culturally distinctive manner of conceptualizing and experiencing misfortune, but it is also a method for thinking about the relationship between historical experience and the future. It provides for sufferers a means of converting their tragedy into a dynamic and active process – whether externally through revenge or internally by self-reflection and the development of a new identity and art. (Grinker 1993, 80)

For many Koreans, *han* is essentially referred to as *hant'an* which presents an irresolvable discontent and longing. The dark side of *han* presents hereditary suffering as it is a feeling that accumulates over time and can be passed on to future generations. Within the discourse of Korean separation, the irresolvable situation of the peninsula creates frustration which generates additional *han*. With frustrations, hate aimed at the perceived enemies which further complicate the prospect of unification. This chain of events constructs a 'continuous circle of *han*'.¹ Such a *han* of national division accumulates as more Koreans are born and die in a divided nation without being able to fulfill the dream. *Han* also, however, paradoxically presents a means of resolution. The bright side of *han* suggested by Ch'on focuses on *han* as:

an engine for creative, active, and positive struggle, and the psychoanalysts' emphasis on mourning as liberation and adaptation. Han as chong or attachment can refer to an attachment to nature, to art, and to love, most often experienced by the elite scholars or yangban, especially during the Koryo and Choson dynasties. Unlike most commoners, some yangban did not work and thus were free to wander in the countryside and heighten their enjoyment of nature to the level of an art. But in their separation from society they sacrificed their families, and in some cases their personal well-being, for nature; therein lies their han. (Grinker 1993, 88)

Han can also become a catalyst of aspiration. In Korean indigenous culture, one is said to be able to reach "a state of exuberance" (*sinmyong*) and fineness in art and literature when one is capable of truly resolving one's *han*. Thus, the bright side of *han* can be associated to the notion of reconciliation. Grinker links this aspect of *han* to the theory of complicated mourning by Freud. He specifically refers to Freud's early definition of mourning as the "loss of an abstraction" (1917), an abstraction that could be not only a person but also one's country, liberty, or ideal.² Mourning which is fundamentally about loss, brings out the issue of denial in Korea.

Mourning is not about closure as much as it is about working through trauma.... "Working through" involves balancing two countervailing tendencies: the denial of the emotional dimension of loss in favor of an objective or detached perspective, and the overemphasis on emotion as definitive of the experience of loss.(Grinker 1993, 91)

Freud distinguished between two kinds of reactions to loss, mourning and melancholia. Mourning is linked to a sense of realism and attempts to reconcile with the past. But in melancholic reactions, individuals experience the loss of a loved one or an ideal as an impoverishment of the self. (Grinker 1993, 93)

If Korea needs to “work through” its current state, acknowledgement of the past is crucial. Grinker points out the lack of memorials or monuments in South Korea as one indication of a crisis in mourning. He states that although monuments typically bear state sponsorship, they nonetheless “tend to unite the suffering of individuals into a collective symbol of shared history and loss.” (Grinker 1993, 30) The absence of monuments shows the denial by South Korea of its reality: construction of monuments would become an acknowledgement of a lost ideal. For South Koreans to continue to fantasize, a myth of a recoverable homogeneity has become necessary.

Koreans have severed their bridges to the past, even the immediate past, but this is in large part because they have denied loss and denied diachrony. The denial of loss has been inherited by successive generations, for they too have been appropriated into their parents' unmourned traumas. Korean lamentations about division and separated families are ambivalent and awkward because they simultaneously involve both grief and outright denial. The nation was lost, but this is only temporary, for the nation will be united again and homogeneity will be recovered. (Grinker 1993, 94)

If we think of mourning as a kind of reconciliation, not with past traumas but with the ongoing strength of continuing traumas, then han itself represents the inability to mourn. Han refers to a consciousness of ongoing trauma and a lack of resolution and reconciliation. Paradoxically, however, han also provides a means of resolution, for the concept provides a path for the movement of the present into the past, for a fresh and creative movement from the past and present into the future. The important question is whether this path can be identified and taken. (Grinker 1993, 88)

If division of Korea is the greatest *han* of the nation, unless a resolution is presented, it will accumulate continuously. In order to move into a new stage, it is necessary for South Korea especially to acknowledge a lost nation of brothers

and sisters. How could the path for a movement of the present into the future be found if the past is denied?

Regardless of the myth of a homogenous nation we have at hand two opposing identities. It is not the end or the grand vision that Koreans should be concerned about, but the path it decides to take. Seeing the whole forest instead of each tree could be more dangerous. Korea may end up becoming one nation due to inevitable situations such as the collapse of the north. When the blindfold is forced to come off by such catastrophic event, the damage of denial will be greater than not being able to resolve the *han* of Korea.

¹ Grinker, *Korea and Its Futures*, 83

² *Ibid.*, 75

4.0 LOCATE

verb. (used with object)

1: to identify or discover the place or location of: to locate the bullet wound.

2: to set, fix, or establish in a position, situation, or locality; place; settle.

3: to assign or ascribe a particular location to (something), as by knowledge or opinion.

4: to survey and enter a claim to a tract of land; take possession of land.

5: to establish one's business or residence in a place.

1953.07.27 Signing of the Armistice Agreement at Panmunjeom, and birth of the Military Demarcation Line (MDL) & DMZ 1961.08.25 Invasion of 200m south of MDL in the neighborhood of Gimhwa by combat patrol team of North Korea 1967.03.22 Escape of Lee Su-geun, a journalist of North Korea, at Panmunjeom 1968.01.21 Infiltration of 31-armed red guerrillas, belong to the 124th North Korea Army, through Imjin River & t killing by shooting of those including Kim Sin-ho, who tried to make a surprise attack the Blue House on the same day 01.23 A closed negotiation held at Panmunjeom over 28 times for solution of the problem that 'Pueblo' hijacked to the north in open waters of Wonsan Bay, which is a ship collecting information of U.S. A Navy 06.19 Killing by shooting of 7 soldiers of North Korean Army who crossed South Limited Line (SLL) of the middle front line 06.22 Killing by shooting of 7 soldiers of North Korean Army who crossed South Limited Line (SLL) of the west front line 12.23 Sending back of a dead body of a crew through 'The Bridge No Return' 1971.8.12 Suggestion of the South-North conference for dispersed families searching movement to North Korean Red by the South Korean Red Cross Society Cross Society & the 1st preliminary talks for dispersed families searching movement held at Panmunjeom on 20 Sep. 1972.07.04 Announcement of the joint communique of 4 July 1972 between the South and the North of Korea 08.30 Passing of those participating in the 1st Pyeongyang full-dress Talks of the South-North Korean Red Cross Societies through Panmunjeom 10.12 The 1st South-North Coordinating Committee held at Panmunjeom 1974.11.15 The U.N. Forces Command announced the discovery of a tunnel which was constructed 1,000 meters south of MDL of the west front line, DMZ and it is 1 meter wide and 1.2 meters high 1975.3.19 Discovery of the 2nd Tunnel in DMZ of the northeast of Cheolwon. 1976.8.18 Occurring of 'Ax Murder Incident' in the Joint Security Area of Panmunjeom & killing of Capt, Arthur G, Bonifas and Lieutenant mark Tl. Barrett 08.19 Ordering of 'Battle Position Law' to the entire army of North Korea 09.16 Indication of MDL in the Joint Security Area of Panmunjeom and starting of separated defense 1978.10.27 Discovery of the 3rd Tunnel in Munsan, the south of DMZ 1983.09.08 Suggestion of flood relief supplies to South Korea by North Korean Red Cross Society 09.18 Talks between the South-North Red Cross Societies held at Panmunjeom for the first time after 6 years and 9 months & starting to deliver of flood relief supplies to the south & Visit South Korea of North Korea concerned and journalists for the first time after 12 years 1984.11.15 The South-North Economic Conference held at Panmunjeom for the first time 1985.04.09 Suggestion of the South-North Assembly Meeting by People's Supreme Council of North Korea 07.23 The first preliminary talks of the South-North Assembly Meeting held at Panmunjeom 08.22 The 3rd Working-level Contact between the South-North Red Cross Societies held at Panmunjeom and agreement of a native place visit group and a visit group of art performance 09.20 - 23 Realization of the first mutual visiting in 40 years since the partition of the Korean, which is a native place visit group or a visit group of art performance 11. Reporting by Japanese Sankei Paper that 4 armored units, shock troops and 4 defense corps were disposed in the vicinity of the north of DMZ and attack presuming time to South Korea was shortened from 48 hrs to 24 hrs 1986.06.11 The 1st research of natural resources in the north of CCL by the Central Conservation of Nature Council of the Ministry of Home Affairs 1989.08.15 Coming back to South Korea of Im Su-kyoung and Mun Kyu-hyeon through Panmunjeom, who are national university representatives for Pyeongyang festival 1990.01.19 Opening to the public of concrete barrier in the south of DMZ to 70 national and international journalists and ascertainment of a barrier to protect from a supertank 03.03 Discovery of the 4th Tunnel in Yang-gu, Gangwon-do of the DMZ 08.15 Opening of the north of JSA, Panmunjeom 11.30 Passing of 6 private vessels of South Korea through the mouth of Han River, demilitarized neutral waters in 37 years since division 1991.03. Removing of an iron impalement covered along the east coast in the first half of 1991 & assignment of Hwang Won-tak as the chief delegate of the U.N. Forces on 3 March for the first time, who is the vice-chief of the Korea-US Joint Council 10.01 Transfer of the control for 1 mile rear of Panmunjeom from U.S Army to R.O.K. Army 12.10 - 13 Visit South Korea of U.S. Representatives through Panmunjeom after visiting North Korea first, which was recorded as the first visiting through Panmunjeom 1992.01.20 Signing of joint announcement about denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula 05.22 Infiltration of armed North Korea Army in the DMZ and occurring of gunfight 05.29 Adjournment of the 460th Military Armistice Commission (MAC) which was proposed by the U.N due to North Korea representative's nonattendance 1993.10.12 Visit South Korea of U.S. Representatives through Panmunjeom after visiting North Korea first, which was recorded as the first visiting through Panmunjeom 1994.04.28 Chief secretary meeting of MAC held at Panmunjeom Notification of withdrawal of MAC unilaterally by North Korea and organization of 'People's Army Delegation of Panmunjeom' 09.01 Supporting of withdrawal of MAC by China 1995.4.23 Informing that U.S MAC is planning to appoint an American as a chief delegate of the U.N. Forces 1996.04.04 Announcement of not observation of the Armistice Agreement Regulations in the DMZ unilaterally by North Korea 04.05 - 07 North Korea put armed troops in JSA, Panmunjeom and demonstrated by force of arms 04.19 Infiltration of two patrol boats of North Korea from 16 km southwest coast of Yeonpyeong island to 1 km south of North Limited Line 07.25 Suggestion of the North Korea-America General Conference by Panmunjeom spokesman of Choseon People's Army 07.29 Repatriation of Kim Young-gil, a staff sergeant of North Korea Army through Panmunjeom 07.31 Demonstration of an economic support to North Korea during the 4th Conference by President Kim Young-Sam 08.01 Suggestion of repatriation of 2 dead bodies of North Korean ship by Gang Young-hun, the president of Korean National Red Cross Society 08.07 Repatriation of 4 dead bodies of soldiers or civilians through Panmunjeom 08.12 Suggestion of the South-North Red Cross President Talks regarding flood damage of North Korea by Gang Young-hun, the president of Korean National Red Cross Society 09.09 supporting of the 8th flood relief supplies by Korean National Red Cross Society 09.18 Infiltration of North Korean armed submarine with 26 agents on the east coast. 09.19 Sending of a notification in writing to North Korea regarding infiltration of armed submarine by the U.N. Forces Command 11.08 President Kim Young-Sam demonstrated not to support a light-water reactor unless North Korea apologized for the infiltration 11.13 A ground-breaking ceremony for The Freedom House held 11.19 Announcement of withdrawal and cease of a liaison office of Panmunjeom by North Korea 11.20 Closing of a liaison office of Panmunjeom tentatively. 12.03 Contact of a chief secretary of MAC between the U.N. Forces Command and North Korea 12.20 Announcement of food support to North Korea after submarine incident was solved by Gwon Oh-gi, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Unification 12.30 Contact of a chief

secretary of MAC between the U.N. Forces Command and North Korea & repatriation of 24 dead bodies of red guerrillas 1997.04.24 Proposal of contact between members of the South-North Red Cross at Panmunjeom by Gang Young-hun, the president of Korean National Red Cross Society 06.24 Proposal of the South-North Cooperation for DMZ preservation by President Kim Young-Sam 07.23 Discussion of matters regarding support of relief supplies to North Korea in the 3rd South-North Red Cross President Meeting 07.25 Closing of an agreement regarding the 2nd delivery of relief supplies & the South-North Red Cross President Meeting 08.04 Opening of communication between south and north Korea for a light-water reactor project 08.29 Notification of the plan for relief supplies to North Korea by Jeong Won-sik, the president of Korean National Red Cross Society 10.17 Kidnapping to the north of 2 inhabitants of Daeseong-dong 11.07 Proposal of the 4th South-North Red Cross President Meeting by North Korea 1998.5.16 Supporting of 500 heads of cattle through Panmunjeom by Jeong Ju-young, an honorary president of Hyundai 06.23 Panmunjeom General Talks 06.30 Panmunjeom General Talks 07.09 Completion of The Freedom House 07.12 Discovery of the dead body of North Korea agent in Mukho 07.15 South Korea government urged that North Korea approved, apologized, and prevented recurrence of infiltration by submarine and armed agents through resolution of the Security Council 10.27 Supporting of 501 heads of cattle for the second time by Jeong Ju-young, an honorary president of Hyundai 11.17 Opening of communication between south and north Korea to support Mt. Geumgang Tour 11.18 Departure of Hyundai, Geumgangho for the first time 1999.2.11 The 4th U.N.-North General Conference held at Panmunjeom Making ordinary of Y2K Conference by the U.N. Forces Command Request of establishment of 3-nation joint military organization again by North Korea 03.09 The 5th U.N.-North General Conference held at Panmunjeom Rejection of North Korean request, which is to establish 3-nation joint military organization again by the U.N 03.09 - 11 Visit North Korea of Jeong Ju-young, an honorary president of Hyundai 03.11 Announcement of support and supply plan of fertilizer by Jeong Won-sik, the president of Korean National Red Cross Society 03.17 The Speaker of the National Assembly of South Korea urged North Korea to fulfill the South-North Basic Agreement 03.19 Decision of support fertilizer of 50,000 ton by Jeong Won-sik, the president of Korean National Red Cross Society 03.23 Informing of North Korea of delivery of '1999 2nd Relief Supplies' by Jeong Won-sik, the president of Korean National Red Cross Society 03.24 Sending out of notices regarding delivery of fertilizer by Jeong Won-sik, the president of Korean National Red Cross Society 05.07 Proposal of the South-North joint event for the 27th anniversary of the Joint Communique of 4 July 1972 by South Korea government 05.14 Receiving of 6 dead bodies of American through Panmunjeom, which were excavated in North Korea by The U.N Forces Command 05.18 - 24 Investigating of the facility of Geumchang-ri by 14 researchers 06.07 Informing of transportation plan of fertilizer & invasion of three patrol boats to North Limited Line of the southwest coast 06.11 Withdrawal of a patrol boat of North Korea by force by the navy of South Korea Announcement of apology for patrol boat encounters by People's Army Delegation of Panmunjeom 06.15 Engagement between south and north war vessels on the east sea North Korea stroke South Korea first and one war vessel of North Korea was torpedoed and sunk Discussing of the engagement on the west sea in the 6th U.N.-North Korea General Talks held at Panmunjeom 06.21 - 25 Detainment of Mt. Geumgang tourist, Min Young-mi by North Korea 06.21 Delay of the South-North Vice-Minister Talks unilaterally by North Korea South Korea urged detainee to send home and Mt. Geumgang tour to be stopped through the Security Council 06.22 The 7th U.N.-North Korea General Talks held at Panmunjeom The U.N. Forces Command suggested a plan to North Korea as follows; Mutual agreement of signal regulations between naval vessels; Setting up of official frequency between naval vessels; Establishing of a direct telephone between UNC-KPA; Setting up of official communication network between neighboring naval vessels 07.01 - 07 South Korea made dispersed families a subject of discussion in the 2nd South-North Vice-Minister Talks but North Korea evaded it and paid attention to the west sea incident 07.02 North Korea suggested 5 items in the 8th South-North General Talks as follows; Withdrawal of North Limited Line & reconsidering about a boundary line Withdrawal of South Korea's naval vessels Discontinuance of invasion of territorial waters Punishment of a commander or compensation of damage Holding of working-level talks 07.04 suggestion of joint meeting and celebration event of 8.15 political party & social organization to North Korea on 10 July by National Reconciliation Council 07.21 The 9th U.N.-North Korea General Talks held at Panmunjeom Insistence on a sea boundary line unilaterally and proposal of working-level talks by North Korea 09.28 - 10.02 Visit North Korea of Jeong Ju-young, an honorary president of Hyundai through Panmunjeom in order to discuss Mt. Geumgang project and participate in a ground-breaking ceremony of Pyeongyang gymnasium 12.16 Suggestion of a joint meeting of political party & social organization between the south and north through a liaison office of the South-North Red Cross at Panmunjeom by National Reconciliation Council 2000.3.23 announcement of 'passage regulations for 5 islands' with 6 Clauses as the following measure for confirmation of the MDL on the west sea by the Navy Command of People's Army 04.22 04.27 05.03 05.08 05.18 The 1st - 5th preliminary talks for the South-North Summit conference held at Panmunjeom 05.13 05.17 The 1st and the 2nd Communication & Report Working-level Talks of the South-North Summit conference held at Panmunjeom 05.16 Protocol Guidance Working-level Talks of the South-North Summit Conference held at Panmunjeom 08.08 Visit North Korea of Jeong Mong-heon, president of Hyundai Asan with 500 heads of cattle 08.14 Reopening of a liaison office between the south and north 09.18 A groundbreaking ceremony for railroad restoration of the Gyeongui line held at Imjingak 11.16 The U.N.-North Korea General Talks held at Panmunjeom 11.28 12.05 12.21 The 1st - 3rd South-North Military Working-level Talks held at Panmunjeom 2001.01.31 02.08 The 4th and the 5th South-North Military Working-level Talks held at The Peace House 02.21 - 24 The 1st Imjingak Flood Control Measure Working-level Talks held at Pyeongyang 03.03 sending of a letter to North Korea by Imjingak Flood Control Measure Working-level Council 03.24 Jeong Ju-young, the late honorary president of Hyundai passed away on 21 March and 4 condolence callers of North Korea including Song Ho-kyoung, vice-chairman of Asia-Pacific Committee visited South Korea 11.27 Firing on a guard post of friendly forces from the DMZ of North Korea 11.29 Announcement of the firing in DMZ occurred by North Korea Army by the Ministry of National Defense spokesman 2002.4.11 Opening ceremony for Dorasan station of the Gyeongui line where is in CCL. Train has travelled twice a day 05.11 - 14 Meeting an assemblyman, Park Geun-hye, visited North Korea in the capacity of the chief director of 'Europe-

Korea Foundation' with Kim Jeong-il and returned through Panmunjeom 06.29 Conflict between South and North Korea in the vicinity of Yeonpyeongdo of the west sea 07.20 A test flight of the South-North direct line from Yangyang to Seondeok 07.25 North Korea expressed the regret of engagement on the west sea and suggested talks between authorities 09.12 Signing of an agreement regarding transfer of control for DMZ construction by the U.N-North Korea 09.14 The 6th South-North Military Working-level Talks held at Panmunjeom 09.17 Agreement was adopted and became effective in the 7th South-North Military Working-level Talks held at Panmunjeom, which is regarding establishing of the South-North control district for the east and west sea and military security for railroad/highway construction 09.18 A ground-breaking ceremony for railroad/highway connection of the Gyeongui and Donghae line 09.19 South and North Korea set to mine removal along the Gyeongui and Donghae line in DMZ 10.03 Contact between the chief delegates of the South-North Military Working-level Talks held at Panmunjeom 10.30 - 11.02 The 2nd Imjingak Flood Control Measure Working-level Talks held at Pyeongyang 11.18 - 20 The 2nd South-North Railroad/Highway Connection Working-level Talks held in Mt. Geumgang 11.26 Completion of joint measurement of railroad/highway connection of the Donghae line 11.29 Completion of joint measurement of railroad/highway connection of the Gyeongui line 12.12 Completion of provisional highway of the Donghae line for Mt. Geumgang tour by land 12.14 Completion of mine removal in the South-North control district of DMZ for connection of the Gyeongui and Donghae line 2003.01.27 The South-North Military Working-level Talks regarding passage of DMZ held at Panmunjeom & adoption of agreement of military safety for passage of the South-North control district 02.13 - 15 The 1st South-North Construction Promotion Meeting of Mt. Geumgang dispersed families' meeting place 02.17 People's Army Delegation of Panmunjeom announced not to observe the Armistice Agreement Regulations in the DMZ if USA applied a sanction measures against North Korea 02.20 A fighting plane of North Korea invaded North Limited Line in the vicinity of Yeonpyeongdo on the west sea and the Ministry of National Defense made a strong protest the invasion 02.21 Survey of Gaeseong industrial complex in advance through provisional highway of the Gyeongui 02.23 Starting of Mt. Geumgang tour by land for a civilian 03.02 An air force plane of North Korea approached and threatened US scout plan in the upper air of the east sea 03.10 - 12 The 4th South-North Railroad/Highway Connection Working-level Talks held in Gaeseong 05.26 The Ministry of National Defense announced that North Korea's 6 fishing boats working around Yeonpyeongdo on the west sea invaded NLL and returned 05.27 Roh Moo-hyun mentioned to succeed to the North Korean tolerance policy of the former president Kim Dae-jung 05.28 Exchanging of the list of 200 candidates for the 7th reunion of separated families and a written request to ascertain address and life or death between the South-North Red Cross Societies 06.04 The South-North Railroad/Highway Connection Working-level Talks held at Panmunjeom 06.06 - 07 The 5th South-North Railroad/Highway Connection Working-level Talks held in Gaeseong 06.20 Military working-level contact to establish a direct telephone over the military demarcation line of DMZ in connection with the South-North railroad/highway connection 07.02 - 04 The 3rd meeting of South-North Railroad/Highway Connection Working-level Talks 07.10 The Joint Chiefs of Staff announced that a patrol boat of North Korea came down to 0.3 mile on the sea and went up to the north at 11:48 A.M. when South Korea's naval high-speed ship mobilized 07.17 North Korea Army in Yeoncheon, DMZ fired on South Korean GP and both gunfight was occurred 08.02 North Korea submitted the list of 189 athletes including Jeon Geuk-man and official group to Daegu Universiade Arrangement Committee through a liaison officer 08.21 - 22 The 6th South-North Railroad/Highway Connection Working-level Talks held in Gaeseong 10.06 Visit North Korea of 800 participants for Jeong Ju-young Gymnasium through the Gyeongui line 10.09 60,000,000 dollars from the South-North Cooperation Fund was supported for materials and equipments needed in railroad/highway construction of the north section 10.28 The 7th South-North Railroad/Highway Connection Working-level Talks held in Gaeseong 11.14 Contact between the chief delegates of the 9th South-North Military Working-level Talks held at The Peace House 11.21 The 2nd Communication Working-level Meeting between the South-North Authorities 11.24 A section chief of an official report announced that South Korea gave North Korean patrol ship a warning shots, which infiltrated NLL, while North Korea strained the truth 11.28 Contact between the chief delegates of the 9th South-North Military Working-level Talks held at Tongilgak 12.02 - 05 The 8th South-North Railroad/Highway Connection Working-level Talks held in Sokcho 2004.02.25 - 26 The 9th Railroad/Highway Connection & 4th Marine Transportation Cooperation Working-level Talks held in Gaeseong 04.08 - 10 The 4th Railroad/Highway Connection & 3rd Imjin River Flood Control Working-level Talks held in Gaeseong & discussed matters; offer of materials and equipments needed in railroad/highway construction and research of Imjin River flood control 05.26 The 1st South-North General-level Military Conference held in Mt. Geumgang Discussion of matters about ease of military tension, such as a preventive measure of an armed conflict on the west sea 06.16 South Korean Army soldiers remove a propaganda loudspeaker near the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) in Paju, north of Seoul. 07.22 Amateur marathoners run past a military checkpoint on the Demilitarized Zone in Chorwon, Kangwon Province, during the 1st DMZ Peace Marathon. 2005.02.21 The Defense Ministry plans to install electronic alarm systems and computerized monitoring services along the border areas with North Korea to prevent the North's possible infiltration. 04.08 Helicopters have entered the DMZ for the first time in 50 years to fight forest fire. 06.19 A soldier goes on a shooting spree, killing eight other soldiers at a DMZ guard post. 06.24 Declaration Adopted to Promote DMZ as Global Symbol of Peace. The declaration includes five provisions: the unconditional abandonment of all nuclear weapons, bilateral efforts between the two Koreas to fulfill what was agreed on during the historic North-South summit of 2000, enhancing joint projects between the two Koreas, adopting a comprehensive and persistent program to revive endangered global environment and making the DMZ a public resource for world peace. 07.17 Two Koreas May Discuss Guard Post Removal From DMZ 08.01 - 09.11 "The Peace Festival 2005: Beyond the DMZ" will take place for 42 days at various sites in Paju city, including the Imjingak Observatory overlooking North Korea to promote the spirit of peace. 09.11 South Korean government decided to designate the area as a special environmental zone in the long term, as well as conduct regular studies of the DMZ's environment. DMZ has become a habitat for more than 2,500 species of wild animals and plants as it has remained no-man's land since the Korean War (1950-53). 12.02 Archeological study of the Old City of Goong Ye which marks its 1100th year anniversary is to be pursued in early 2006.

4.1 LOCATING MYSELF

If we think of mourning as a kind of reconciliation, not with past traumas but with the ongoing strength of continuing traumas, then han itself represents the inability to mourn. Han refers to a consciousness of ongoing trauma and a lack of resolution and reconciliation. Paradoxically, however, han also provides a means of resolution, for the concept provides a path for the movement of the present into the past, for a fresh and creative movement from the past and present into the future. The important question is whether this path can be identified and taken. (Grinker1993, 78)

The dichotomous identity of Korea is entrenched within the Demilitarized Zone or DMZ. This dangerous zone, free from human intervention for fifty years, has become a wildlife sanctuary, home to thousands of natural species in ecosystems ironically underlaid by an unpredictable layout of land-mines. It is a place where time has stopped in 1953. Hopes for the future, however, accumulate continuously as people project their personal and national dream upon this still open space. The DMZ site is stagnant as it is locked between two borders and is absent of human movement. It remains, however, also vigorously loaded with stratum of history, culture, and nature.

Korean division is epitomized with the Demilitarized Zone, yet nobody knows how far the Demilitarized Zone extends exactly. The Demilitarized Zone remains after fifty years as a place of division, of hidden bombs and hidden treasures, of tension and of peace. It is a symbolic place as much as it is a physical division in the minds of Koreans. Because of its symbolism of division, more and more South Koreans gravitate towards the Demilitarized Zone in order to present their aspiration of unification. As part of my own personal path, my thesis moves to its next iteration.

First, metaphysical nodes are located in the Demilitarized Zone. As they are categorized into nodes of fear, necessity, possibility, and goodwill, the earlier discourses of the conditions are projected further onto the Demilitarized Zone. The design exploration in the following chapter is presented as a personal meditation of identifying a potential path for reunification or not.

The dialogues presented earlier in the introduction (1.4) have reoccurred numerous times during course of this thesis. As I attempted to locate myself within the two extremes of the dialogue, the present day has become vital. With repetitive see-saw events of tension and reconciliation, I have found myself in an ambivalent position between a series of oppositions: "people and state, real and unreal, unification and national division." In the previous chapters, the study of the past illustrates the disparity between these oppositions, and the obsession with future is recognized as the cause of the condition. The past reveals the condition, but not necessarily represents the reality as it is written, remembered, and projected differently. On the other hand, a study of the future becomes convoluted due to its connection to the grand dream. Addressing the future advocates a solution and becomes problematic as it suggests to as a termination point. As the study of each possibility directs me to different ending points, the present then becomes a critical point of departure. It is neither the end nor the solution, but acknowledges the past and grants a foretaste of the future.

This chapter then does not offer a solution or the grand vision, but continues my own dialogue to identify a personal path from the past to the future. The personal ambivalence results from a clear past and the future, while the process remains ambiguous. Regardless of whether the process is about mourning a lost nation, or about the reconciliation of opposing identities, the delusion has been pushed further into a nightmare as the vision of the dream remains the same while reality has shifted in every direction. Becoming aware of and admitting the absurd Korean reality was and still is personally the hardest part of the process as I do not want to be disloyal to myself, Koreans, and Korea. Even when I wish that I could refuse to partake in the collective pathological deception, abandoning such absurd optimism is unbearable.

The study of the past in this thesis presents a disordered, funny, grotesque, even endearing pathology of South Koreans. It demonstrates a seemingly impenetrable stone wall: a condition that pulls the Korean dream and reality further apart. All evidence points one to a termination of the fantasy, yet the strange dream continues on even more vividly in South Korea. The compilation of current events along the timeline showcases the South Korean goodwill as they refuse to let it go and put it away. What this thesis outlines as goodwill is based upon present active events created by the stubborn faith of South Koreans as it projects South Korean hopefulness. Goodwill could be interpreted as the epitome of the pathological obsession with the dream. The individual need created by *choong* to follow the righteous path and the desire to release the accumulated *han* are what perpetuates South Korean goodwill. *Han* presents frustration over irresolvable situations, but it is also supposed to be a measure for Korean to distill, filter, and convert tragedies into a dynamic and active process. Goodwill could then be understood as an element that uplifts transpires the active aspects of *han*. Goodwill exhibits the critical aspects of *choong* and *han* as it brings out the question of why I am incapable of giving up and calling reunification impossible despite the awareness of the real situation.

MEANING

The military demarcation line was established according to the Armistice Agreement in 27 July 1953. DMZ is the place formed by the agreement that both parties should retreat 2km from the line. Total 1,292 signboards of the Military Demarcation Line were established from Imjin riverside to the east coast. 696 signboards have been controlled by the U.N. Forces and the rest are under the control of North Korea and China. Contrary to the Armistice Agreement, both parties have not observed the principle that they should retreat 2km from the line.

EXTENT

DMZ includes the whole area from the military demarcation line to the boundary line of the south.

DMZ [DE-MILITARIZED ZONE]

Civilian control line is the agricultural line, which was established by the commander of the 8th U.S. Army Corps in Feb. 1954 to restrict entering and farming of civilian. The agricultural line was changed to the civilian control line since military carried out the duties of defense. Civilians were allowed to enter or stay for agriculture. As a result, more than 100 villages had generated between 1959 and 1973; 99 independence & stability villages, 12 reconstruction villages, and 2 unification villages. Also, the villages were made with the purpose of facing the propagation villages of North Korea. Although the civilian control line had been allowed to proceed northward according to the request of lightening restrictions for the procedure of entering and farming facilities in the 1980s, the number of villages decreased to 105 in the 1990s.

According to the Military Equipments Protection Law, the Military Equipments protection Zone is divided into two areas; 'Controlled Protection Zone' where there is an adjacent area from the Military Demarcation Line and military activities should be secured and other important military installations should be protected; and a 'Limited Protection Zone', that is a protective area for military installations or civilian's safety and an essential area for carrying out military operations. The Controlled Protection Zone and the Limited Protection Zone were established in the Military Equipments Protection Zone, which is within 25 km of the southern limit of the Military Demarcation Line. Also, CCN was established within the Protection Zone and is within 15km from the southern limit of the Military Demarcation Line.

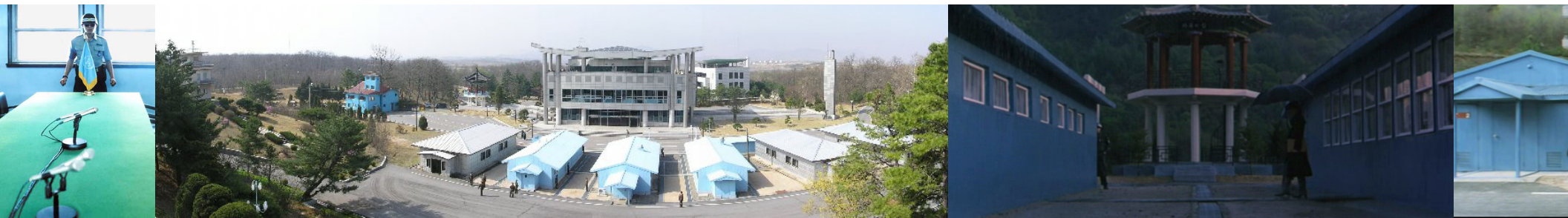
CCZ [CIVILIAN CONTROL ZONE]

A border defined by the 'Border Support Law' is the place that belongs to the jurisdiction south of the CCZ in accordance with Item 3, Art. 2, of Military Establishments Protection Law. It is determined by a Presidential decree according to distance from the Civilian Control Line, geographical condition, and the extent of development. In other words, the border is the area between the two lines (the 2 km Military Demarcation Line and the Civilian Control Line). As well, a mass residence area and the area along the north boundary line of the territory on the sea belong to the border as provided by Presidential decree.

BORDER SUPPORT LINE

Besides DMZ and CCZ, there is another concept, the border by 'Border Support Law', which is included in the boundary between South and North Korea.





4.2 LOCATING THE FEAR

The power of fear is used as a mechanism to preserve peace in the Demilitarized Zone. The nodes of fear within the Demilitarized Zone are the most obvious to Koreans as the infrastructures they contain are direct results of the Korean War. They include infiltration tunnels, observation platforms and the Joint Security Area. These are highly sought-after places, acting as venues that turn the Demilitarized Zone into a living Cold-War museum. (Refer to Condition 2.2)

INFILTRATION TUNNELS

- fig. 4.2.01 *The First Infiltration Tunnel*
- fig. 4.2.02 *The Second Infiltration Tunnel*
- fig. 4.2.03 *The Third Infiltration Tunnel*
- fig. 4.2.04 *The Fourth Infiltration Tunnel*

It is estimated that about 20 tunnels exist within the Demilitarized Zone, and four infiltration tunnels have been discovered since the Korean War. The tunnels were discovered in 1974, 1975, 1978, and 1989 and have the capacity to move armed forces of various sizes from 1 unarmed soldier to 30,000 troops in under an hour.

OBSERVATION TOWERS

- fig. 4.2.05 *The Iron Triangle Observation Platform*
- fig. 4.2.06 *The Gosung Ton-il Observation Platform*
- fig. 4.2.07 *The Odoosan Peace Observation Tower*
- fig. 4.2.08 *The Eulji Peace Observation Tower*
- fig. 4.2.09 *The Dorosan Peace Observation Tower*

Five observation platforms currently exist in South Korea, where numerous visitors pour in to get a glimpse of North Korea. Strict restrictions on photography apply depending on the location. They are one of the most popular sites for educational field trips.




JOINT SECURITY AREA

- fig. 4.2.10 *meeting room*
- fig. 4.2.11 *view towards the South*
- fig. 4.2.12 *from movie 'Joint Security Area'*
- fig. 4.2.13 *from movie 'Joint Security Area'*

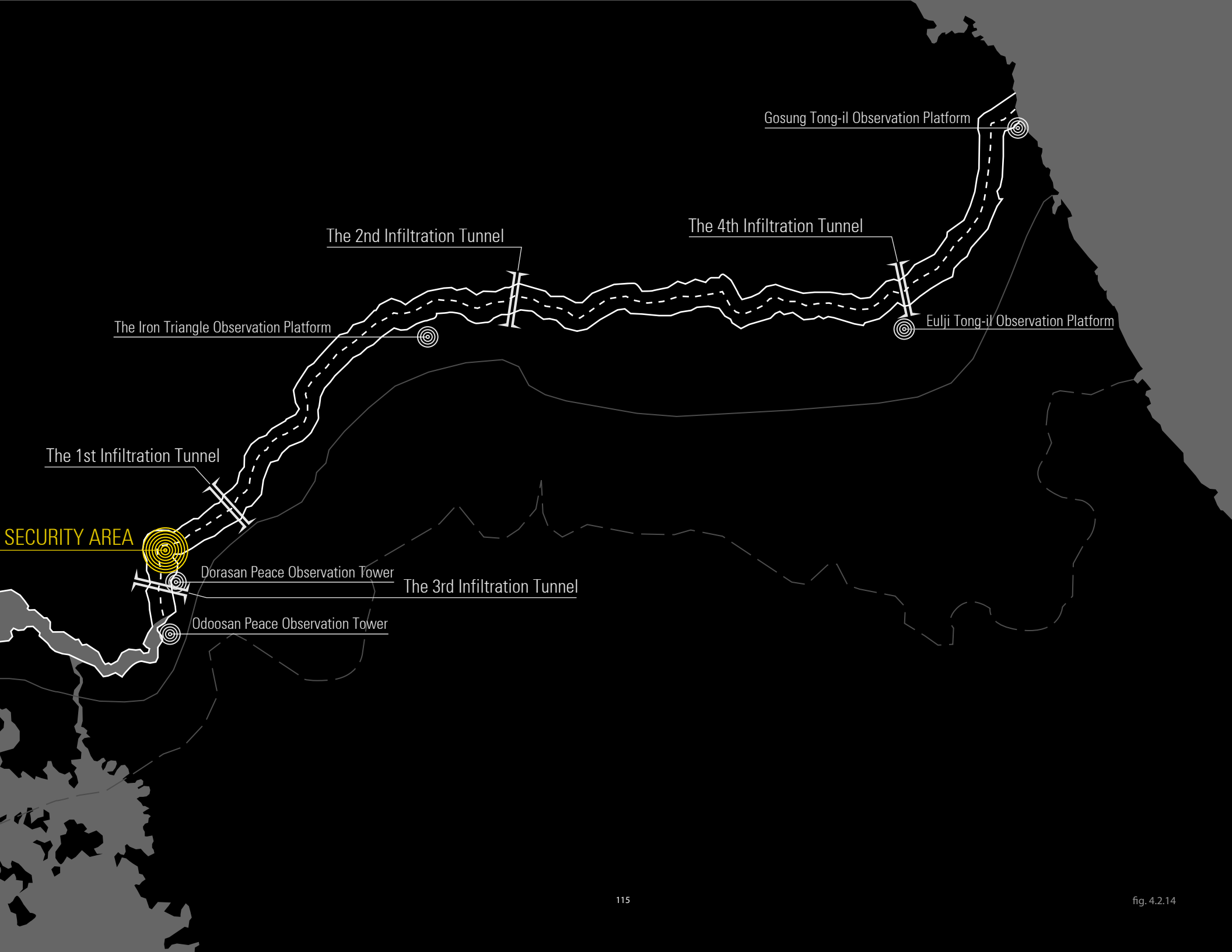
Established in 1953, as the armistice agreement was signed, this is the only place where North and South Koreans come face to face down to a single line. It epitomizes the division as even the microphone lines are aligned along the demarcation line.



NODES OF FEAR

-  Inter-Korean nodes
-  Observation Platforms
-  Infiltration Tunnels

JOINT



SECURITY AREA

The 1st Infiltration Tunnel

The 2nd Infiltration Tunnel

The 4th Infiltration Tunnel

Gosung Tong-il Observation Platform

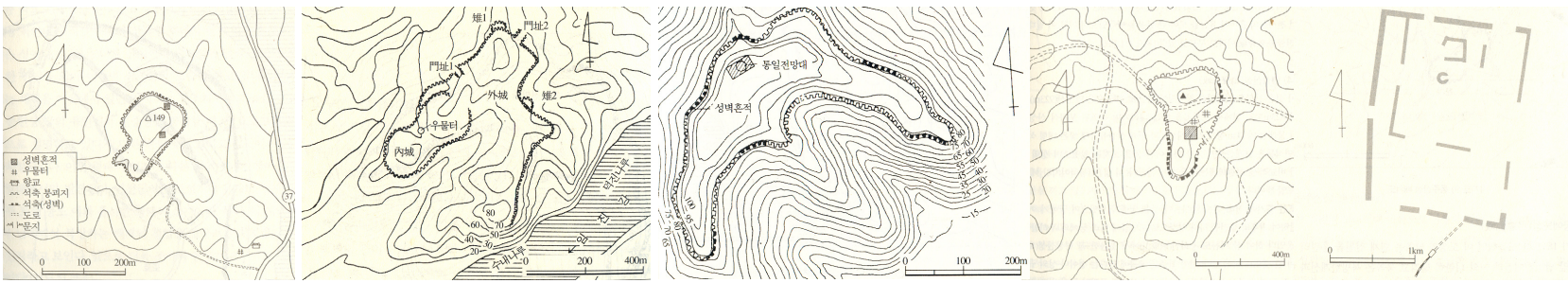
The Iron Triangle Observation Platform

Eulji Tong-il Observation Platform

Dorasan Peace Observation Tower

The 3rd Infiltration Tunnel

Odoosan Peace Observation Tower



4.3 LOCATING THE NECESSITY

These nodes identify events that occur from necessity. The nodes of necessity represent the location of events that no Korean would oppose. They are undeniable, critical, and primary nodes that display the obligation for unification: the reunion of separated families, the archaeological sites, and ecology study labs for the DMZ. (Refer to Condition 2.1.)

REUNION OF SEPARATED FAMILIES

fig. 4.3.01 - 4.3.05 *Reunion of Separated Families*

The reunion of separated families takes place twice a year, reuniting approximately 500 people from each state per meeting. The event has become possible due to the cooperation between the two governments of North and South Korea. However, this is a small fraction of the estimated 7.67 million that are categorized as members of separated families in South Korea alone.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

fig. 4.3.06 *mapping of Chiljoong San Sung*

fig. 4.3.07 *mapping of Dukjin San Sung*

fig. 4.3.08 *mapping of Odusan San Sung*

fig. 4.3.09 *mapping of Sungryung San Sung*

fig. 4.3.10 *remains of Chiljoong San Sung*




fig. 4.3.07 *remains of Dukjin San Sung*

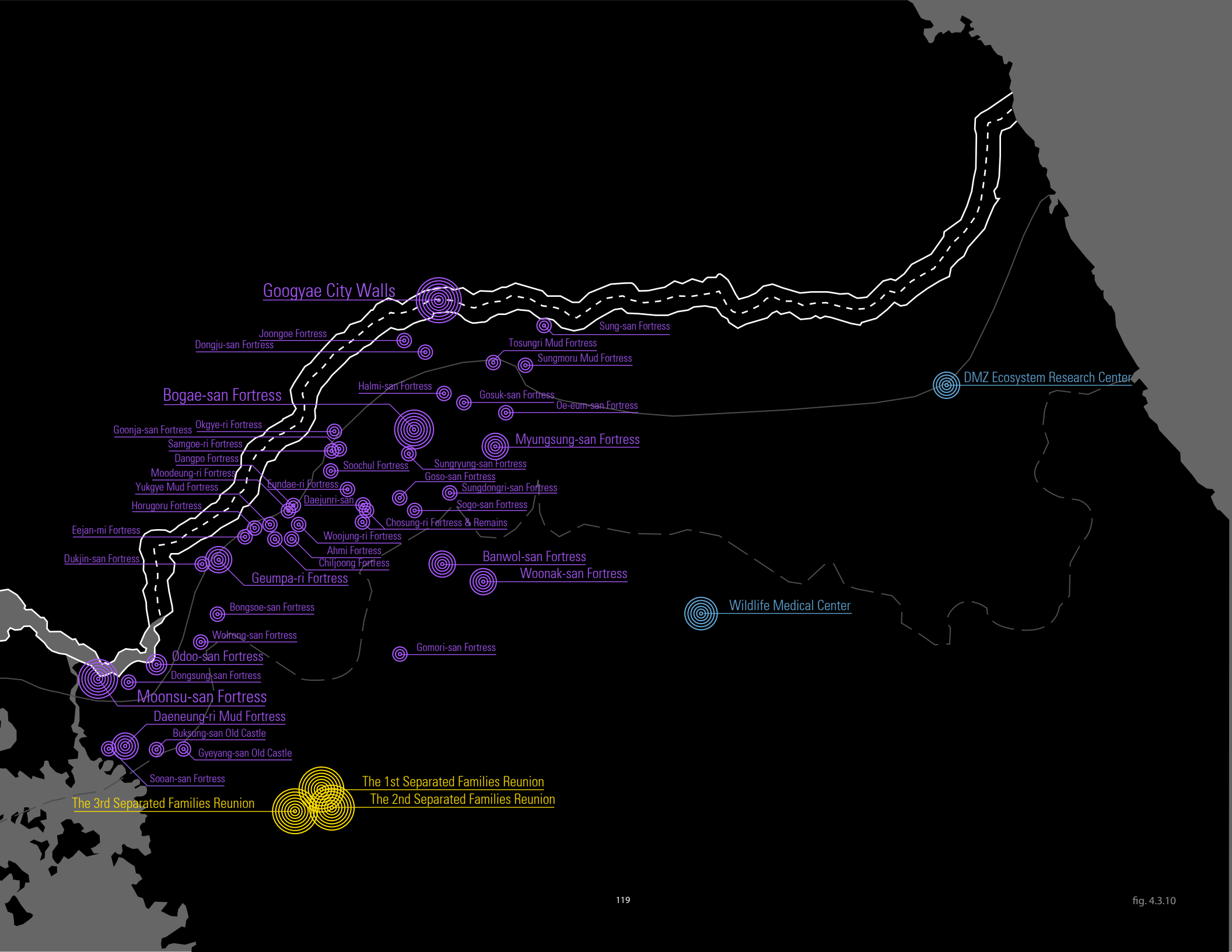
fig. 4.3.08 *remains of Odusan San Sung*

fig. 4.3.09 *remains of Sung San Sung*

With limited access of civilians to the Demilitarized Zone, all historical sites that are important to both North and South Korea have been poorly preserved. As academic interests escalate around the historical remains and the ecology of the DMZ, the National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage has promoted research by related professionals. The ones marked in the following map are recorded by Yonghee Choi, and only includes sites reported in South West part of the DMZ. As the location of the DMZ is central in the peninsula, it has been a critical area historically for military strategies. The ancient city walls and palaces vary in sizes and in dates of construction. As they carry important historical information for both North and South Korea, there are increasing interests in joint archaeological projects.

NODES OF NECESSITY

-  Historical Sites
-  Inter-Korean nodes
-  Educational



Googye City Walls

Bogae-san Fortress

Myungsung-san Fortress

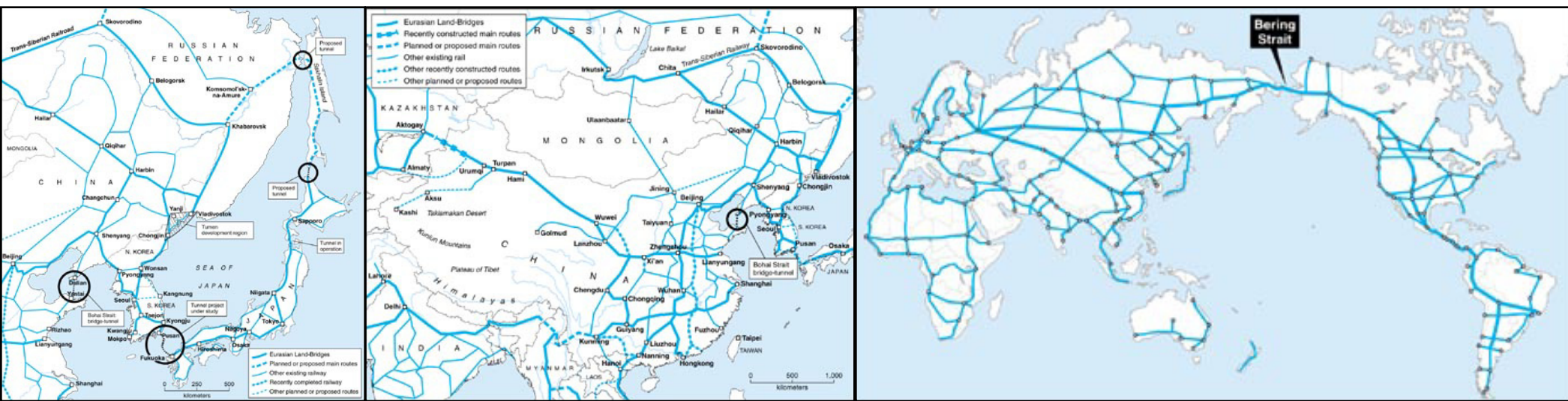
Moonsu-san Fortress

DMZ Ecosystem Research Center

Wildlife Medical Center

The 3rd Separated Families Reunion

The 1st Separated Families Reunion
The 2nd Separated Families Reunion



4.4 LOCATING THE POSSIBLY

Nodes of possibility are those that cannot exist without the support of the North Korean government. Ever since the Sunshine Policy of 2000 executed by President Daejung Kim, more projects have flourished in the peninsula. These nodes represent the potential between the two governments as they require inter-Korean cooperation. They mainly relate to the economic cooperation between the two Koreas such as the mapping of the Pan-Eurasia connection proposal, the Gaesung Industrial Complex, and the disconnected railroads.

RECONNECTION OF RAILROADS

fig. 4.4.01 - 4.4.03 *disconnected railroads*
fig. 4.4.04 *Dorosan Station*

In June 2000, the leaders of North and South Korea decided to finally reconnect the old Kyongi Railway Line. Amongst the three lines planned for reconstruction, the Kyongi Railway Line was completed and a train crossed the border for the first time in 50 years in 2007. At the same time, Russia wants to work together with North Korea, to restore the long interrupted Kyongwon Line which, via Vladivostok, makes the connection with the Trans-Siberian Railway.

THE NEW EURASIAN LAND-BRIDGE PROPOSAL

fig. 4.4.05 - 4.4.07 *The new Eurasian Land-Bridge Proposal*

The concept of the Eurasian infrastructure corridor (developed by Lyndon LaRouche), has been circulated worldwide since Executive Intelligence Review's 1997 Special Report, and increasingly become a leading topic of international relations. Significantly, the leaders of the Korea's and Russia have been talking about the creation of an "Iron Silk Road," which would result from joining the new Trans-Korea Railroad (TKR) from South Korea to North Korea, to the Trans-Siberian Railroad (TSR), and thereby creating a continuous connection to Europe. The completed network would become a foundation for the development of a gigantic economic area of roughly 4 billion people.

GAESUNG INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX

fig. 4.4.08 - 4.4.11 *Gaesung Industrial Complex*

Hyundai Asan of South Korea and the Asia Pacific Peace Committee of North Korea first signed a "Development Agreement for the Gaesung Industrial Complex" on August 20, 2000. The construction of the complex is an economic cooperation project that brings together the technologies of the South and the labor and rich resources of the North for mutual benefit. Along with railroad and highway construction works to re-link the two Koreas, the industrial complex is an essential part of a larger project that is aimed at developing an inter-Korean economic entity.



NODES OF POSSIBILITY

- Inter-Korean nodes
- North-South Railroad Connections
- Potential Stations

Kyungwee Connection Line

Gaesung Industrial Com



Onjungri

Joejin

East Sea Connection Line

Chulwon

Keumkang-san Connection Line

Paju

Seoul

plex

aesung



4.5 LOCATING THE GOOD-WILL

The nodes of good-will display the stubborn faith of South Koreans as these events come from neither necessity nor possibility but from pure aspiration and hopefulness. Nodes of good-will include events such as the DMZ Peace festivals, the Peace Marathon, exhibitions and performances. Organized by the government and various organizations, more and more events have been accumulated.

HEYRI ART VALLEY

fig. 4.5.01 - 4.5.05 *Heyri Art Valley - proposed and built houses*

Despite the rich and varied landscape, little has been built in the DMZ since 1948, due to the site's reputation as both neutral terrain and a political no-man's land. As a part of the "Unification Land Development Project", Heyri Art Valley established by teachers, writers, artists, and filmmakers, was planned by Jun Sung Kim and Jung Kyu Kim. The two developers invited a cadre of young Korean and international architects to design buildings for this artistic utopia. Operating at multiple scales, the village has become a 24 hour community committed to the production and exhibition of art related activities.

DMZ PEACE FESTIVALS

fig. 4.5.06 *DMZ Peace Marathon*
fig. 4.5.07 *DMZ Bird Festival*
fig. 4.5.08 *DMZ Peace Festival 2005*

Every year, more Peace Festivals flourish in the Demilitarized Zone. Some involve Peace Conferences that focus not only on the Korean issue, but also global peace issues. Other activities include the DMZ Peace Marathon, which takes place annually, with runners getting a chance to run across the border within the forbidden areas. The DMZ Bird Festival also occurs during fall where birdwatchers gather to observe hundreds of migrating cranes. A 1995 research study identified 25 types of birds, with natural monument status, with habitation in the DMZ.

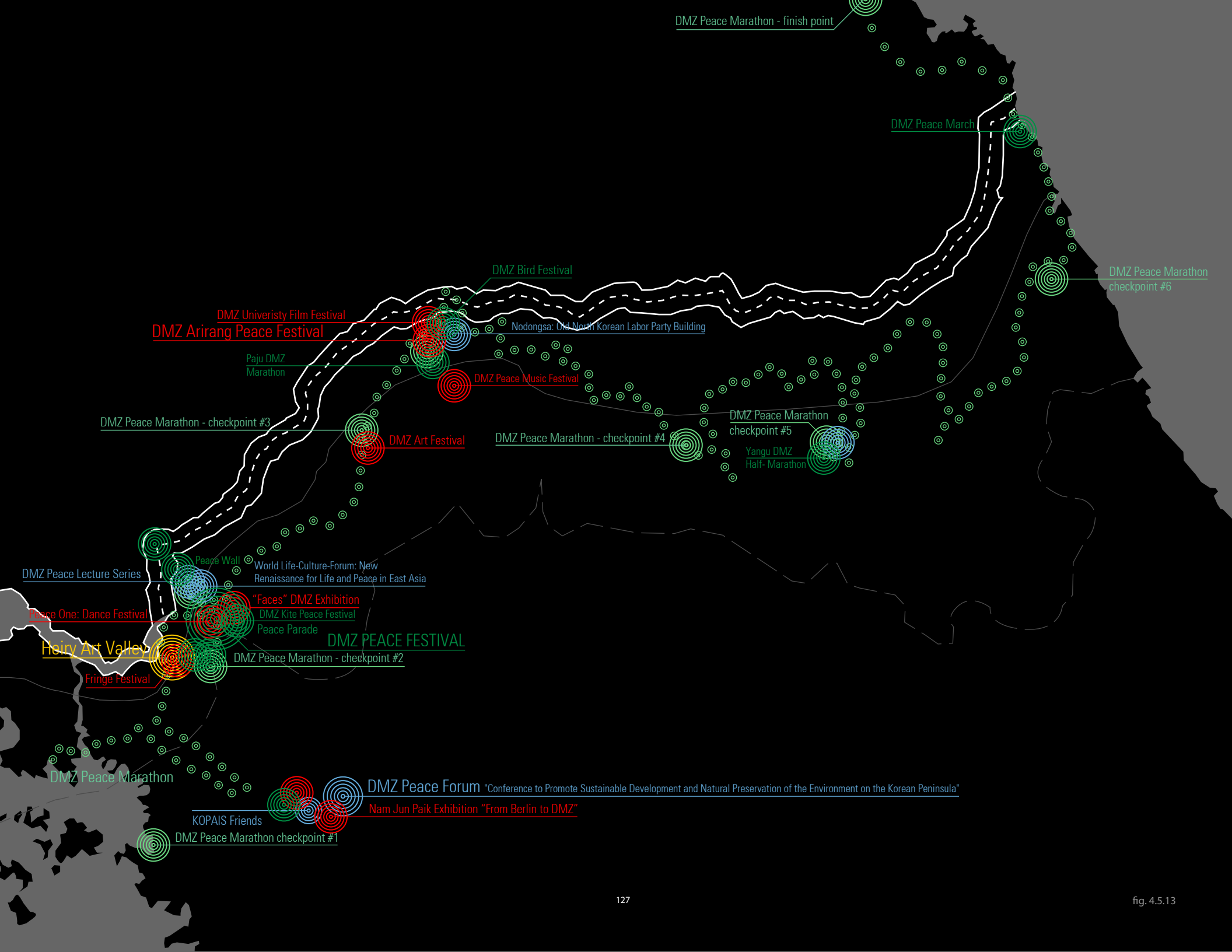
EXHIBITIONS & PERFORMANCES

fig. 4.5.09 *Mural Exhibition of Goguryo*
fig. 4.5.10 *Atta Kim Exhibitions*
fig. 4.5.11 *Arirang Performance in North Korea*
fig. 4.5.12 *Fringe Festival*

As they provide an opportunity for Korean citizens to go beyond the civilian control zone, exhibitions and performances for various audiences and themes are flourishing near the DMZ.








NODES OF GOOD-WILL

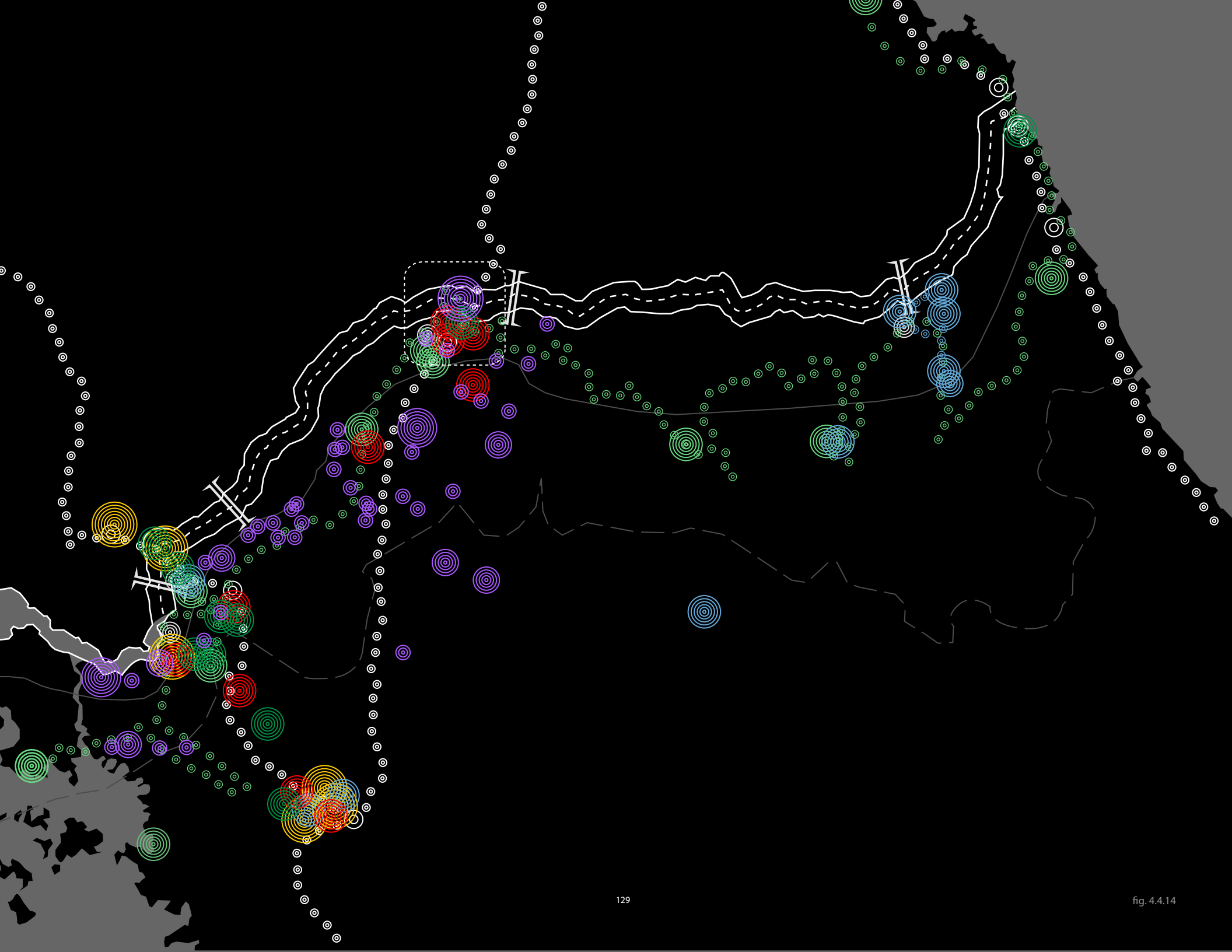
-  DMZ Performances & Exhibitions
-  Inter-Korean nodes
-  DMZ Festivals
-  DMZ Marathon
-  educational





ACTIVE NODES OF THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE
COMPILATION OF ALL THE NODES

-  infrastructure
-  performances & exhibitions
-  Inter-Korean
-  festivals
-  DMZ Marathon
-  educational
-  archaeological



5.0 MY UNIFICATION POSTER

poster *-noun*

1: A large, usually printed placard, bill, or announcement, often illustrated, that is posted to advertise or publicize something.

2: An artistic work, often a reproduction of an original painting or photograph, printed on a large sheet of paper.

3: One that posts bills or notices.

“Dreams are always nice. It’s just painful when you wake up from it.”

- a dialogue from *Kisun Hong's movie 'the Road Taken'*

5.0 MY UNIFICATION POSTER

The thesis has gone through the process of categorizing, analyzing, and dissecting the Korean condition and its causes in hopes that all the fragments could reach a verdict on reunification in a persuasive manner. The primary aspiration was to establish a solid ground to resolve my personal ambivalence. Only two things remained in the end: the realization of the strange and very propagandistic Korean ground, and the inability of denouncing the pursuit of the reunification illusion. The design exploration does not to suggest or envision the end or the solution of my personal ambivalence, but rather seeks to meditate and negotiate the personal struggle in the present moment.

The thesis now moves to its next iteration, and seeks to expand my personal struggle with a design exploration. The sketches and diagrams in the next section are a personal meditation and creation of moments that outline a personal allegory, one embodied in a design. In this design, a series of thresholds disarm the individual, strip her down at various scales, and confront her with the issues of Korea. A series of thresholds investigate the personal struggle that has emerged throughout the exploration of this thesis. A sequence of moments are designed in such a way as to gradually provoke the individual with questions.

As she progresses through the site, she departs from notions that are attached to the state, the mob, and the memory. How she pieces each moment together after her visit is entirely up to her. One moment might engrave itself more strongly than the other in her mind; each piece will present itself differently; each visit will change with elapsing time and landscape. Layers of history, culture, people, and nature will shift but remain to be examined.

Choong presents the struggle of the individual between personal needs and the interests of the nation, but it also brings out the essence of the individual's responsibility and need to follow the righteous path: the middle path that maintains moderation and balance. Within the designed moments, she will

always attempt to locate herself and her path within the series of oppositions between people and state, real and unreal, unification and national division. The path will constantly question and re-examine boundaries between the oppositions in order to release her *han*.

The desire to return home and to reclaim an original and autonomous identity is what previously created the *han* of unification. This *han* is a product of an inability to achieve the dream of unification. When it is accumulated, *han* is supposed to demonstrate an ability to convert the tragedy into a dynamic process. While the process of mourning necessitates an acknowledgement of loss in order to work through a trauma and move on, that dynamic process is prohibited due to the South Korean inability to recognize their loss. The issue of denial is the biggest threat at the moment: the refusal to recognize a lost nation. The design investigates this lack of consciousness. Exploration in the thesis has resulted in a shift of my personal *han*. If *han* refers to the consciousness of ongoing trauma and lack of reconciliation, awareness of the trauma itself is critical to release the *han*. The ongoing trauma is no longer the one that results from the vision of a united nation, but one from the realization of a lost nation. Korea as a whole may return home whether the individual is ready or not, but the home she returns to may not be the one she remembers or expects.

The design's path is meant to evoke awareness in order to make each individual conscious of her own trauma. Each moment builds on the pathology as she is propelled by the obsession of the ideal and needs presented by the division. The layers of history, culture, people and nature are presented as is, but it is the contrast in the scale of geometry between her and the space and in her relation to the primal ground that plays upon the condition. The design plays with her goodwill and the hopeful assumptions in order to reveal the absurd reality set against the ideal fantasy. As she goes further into the site, the anticipation and expectation, which were built up prior to the visit of the forbidden zone, will be questioned. She wonders what she will find in the end and hopes for a revelation. The revelation she encounters may be an unexpected one, but is she prepared for the discourse? Yes.

“A place where you
are heading north,
and if you cannot
go any further...
Would that be the
D e m i l i t a r i z e d
Zone?”

- Gwangbok Han



fig. 5.0.01 *The Demilitarized Zone*



5.1 EXISTING LAYERS

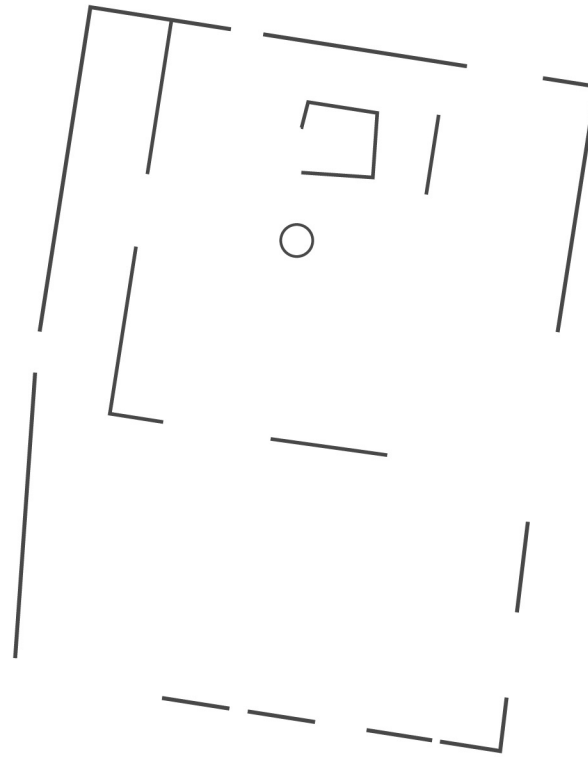


fig. 5.1.01 *Outline of GoogYae Palace*

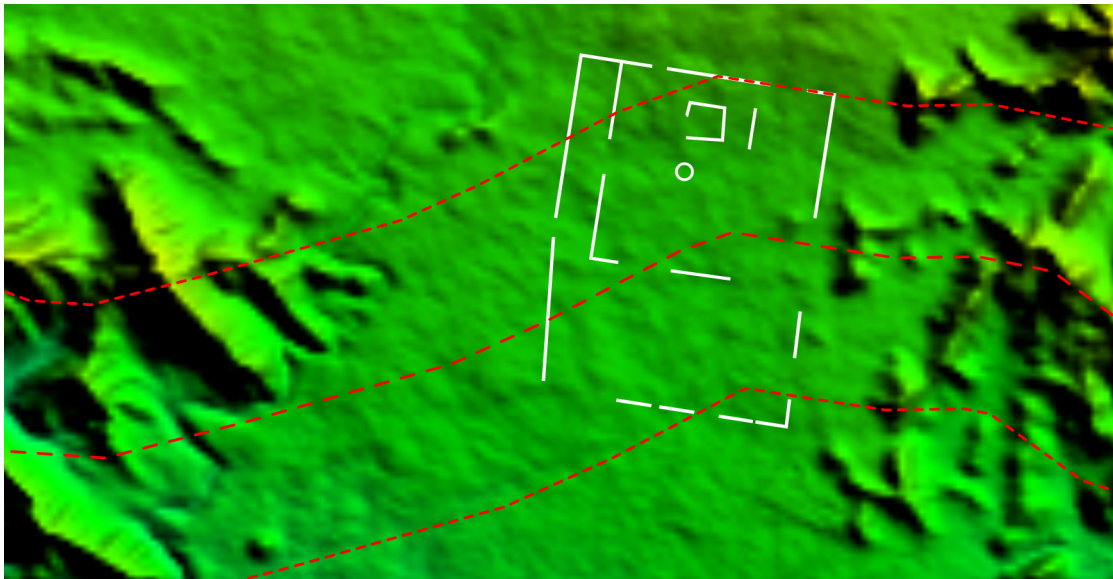


Fig. 5.1.02 map: historical layer from 908-915

YEAR 908 - 915

Within the Demilitarized Zone and the Civilian Control Zone, 47 historical sites have been located during the six year search until 1999. Among these, one location lies within the boundary of the Demilitarized Zone. When overlaid with aerial maps, the rough outline of an old city falls coincidentally in the center of the divided zone: half of it in the north, the other half in the south. The city dates back to 905 when Googyae, a Buddhist monk who founded the nation of Koryo, built his capital for his new nation called Taebong. Unlike most capitals that are built on higher grounds for security purposes, this site is unique as it is situated on a flat plain surrounded by mountains. When the monk/emperor was asked for reasons of its location, his answer was: "This site holds the future of this nation; you will see its full potential unfolded in 1000 years."

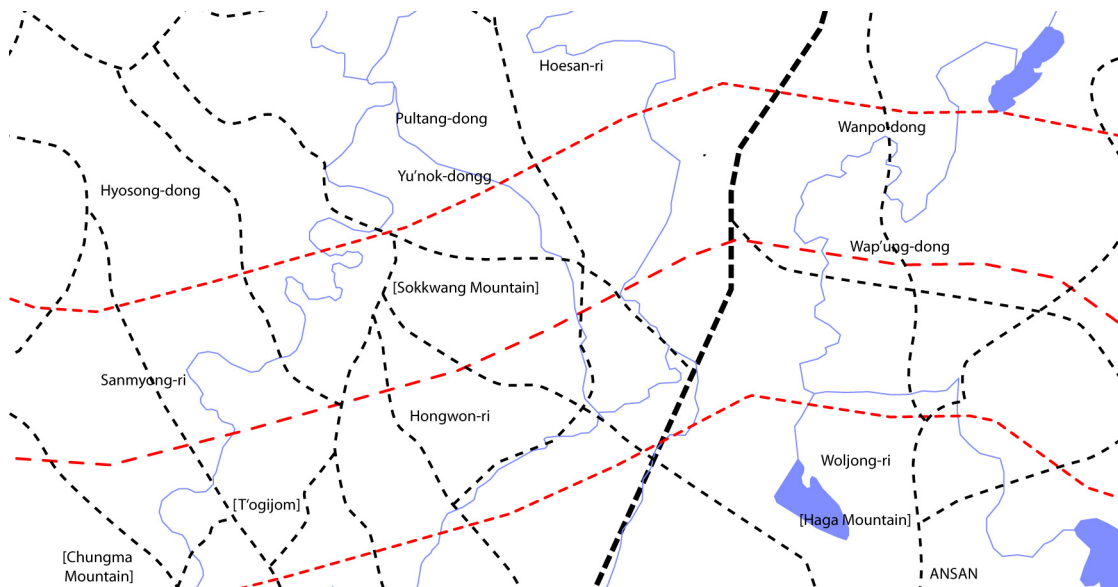


Fig. 5.1.03 map: infrastructural layer from 1943

YEAR 1943

Before the Korean War occurred, few road and rail connections existed. As the Demilitarized Zone severed them, a few remained with the anticipation of future reconnection. The interrupted Kyungwon rail line is, which passes through the city site, especially critical as a section of the Eurasian Land Bridge Project Proposal. This is one of the three proposed North-South railroad connection plan, and it is the most vital as it would make connections with the Trans-Siberian Railway which would establish a connection starting from Japan all the way through Europe. (Fig. 5.1.02)

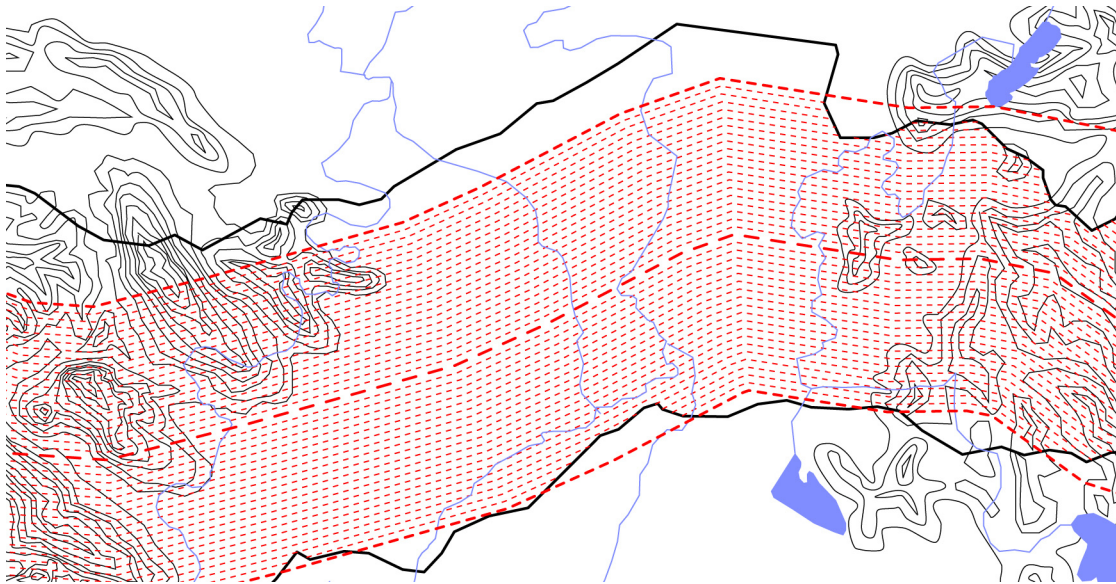


Fig. 5.1.04 map: the new boundary of the Demilitrized Zone and the estimated lanmine layout pattern

YEAR 1950 - 1953

On July 27th 1953, the Demilitarized Zone was born from the armistice agreement. At 10:01am, the representatives of United Nations and North Korea signed 18 forms as they sat across from each other at Joint Security Area. Just like that, a devastating war of three years ended in 12 minutes. In figure 5.1.03 the red lines, however, present an estimated outline of the subsequent minefield layout. Mines are planted approximately every 2 to 3 metres, typically in rows 100 metres apart.



Fig. 5.1.05 map: aerial map from 2005

YEAR 1953 - 2005

As time passed by, the Northern and Southern boundarylines have constantly been shifted, the black line presents the new Northern and Southern Limit Lines which are extracted from a 2005 aerial photo (fig. 5.1.04).

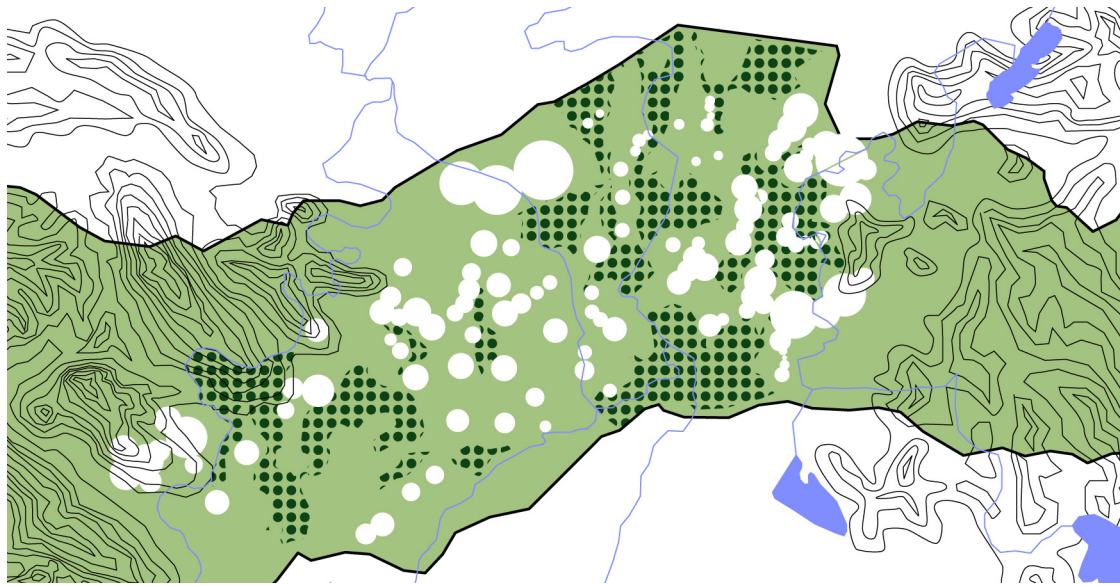


Fig. 5.1.06 map: density study based on the aerial map

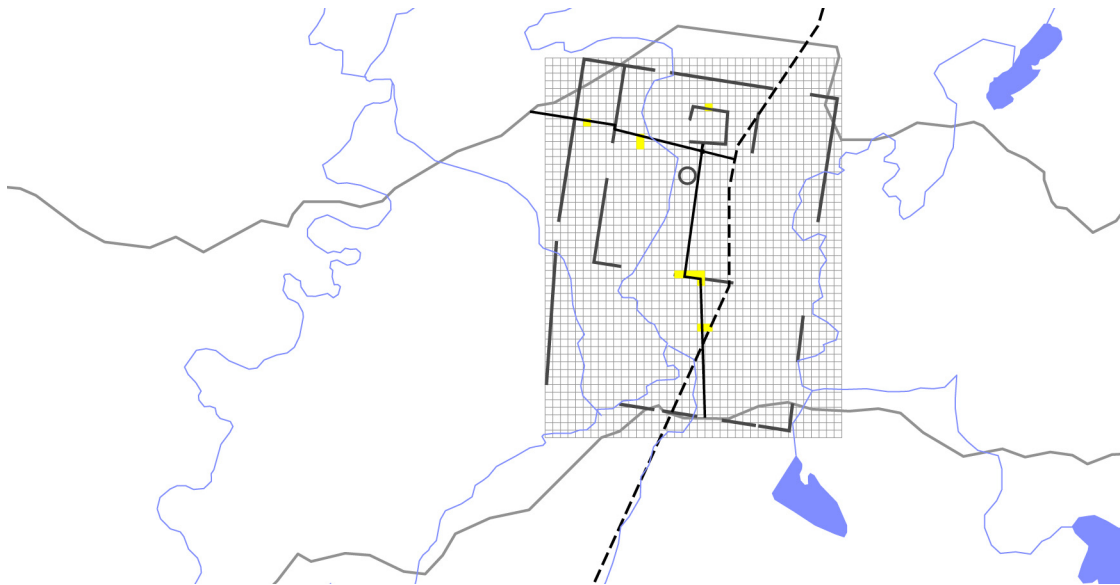


Fig. 5.1.07 map: plan of the path through the site with the highlighted archaeological study areas

YEAR 2005

The Demilitarized Zone has been untouched for fifty years, having now been given the classification of a wildlife sanctuary. However, with repeated bomb testing and mine-field detonations, it is difficult to estimate the current site conditions. Fig. 5.1.05 is an inferred study of the vegetation density within the site; the dark green represents densely forested areas, the white circles represent the most open areas, establishing possible points for design strategies.

YEAR 2006

In 2006, both governments agreed upon a joint archaeological project based on the Goong-Yae Palace as they recognized the historical value the site contains. The project is currently on hold as the military defense section has denied access to the site. Fig. 5.1.06 shows a typical archaeological grid of 5x5 meter study blocks and 1 meter passage in between for recording purposes. The yellow nodes indicate beginning points for digging. This is determined by the availability of open areas and predicted location of the inner and outer wall of the old city.

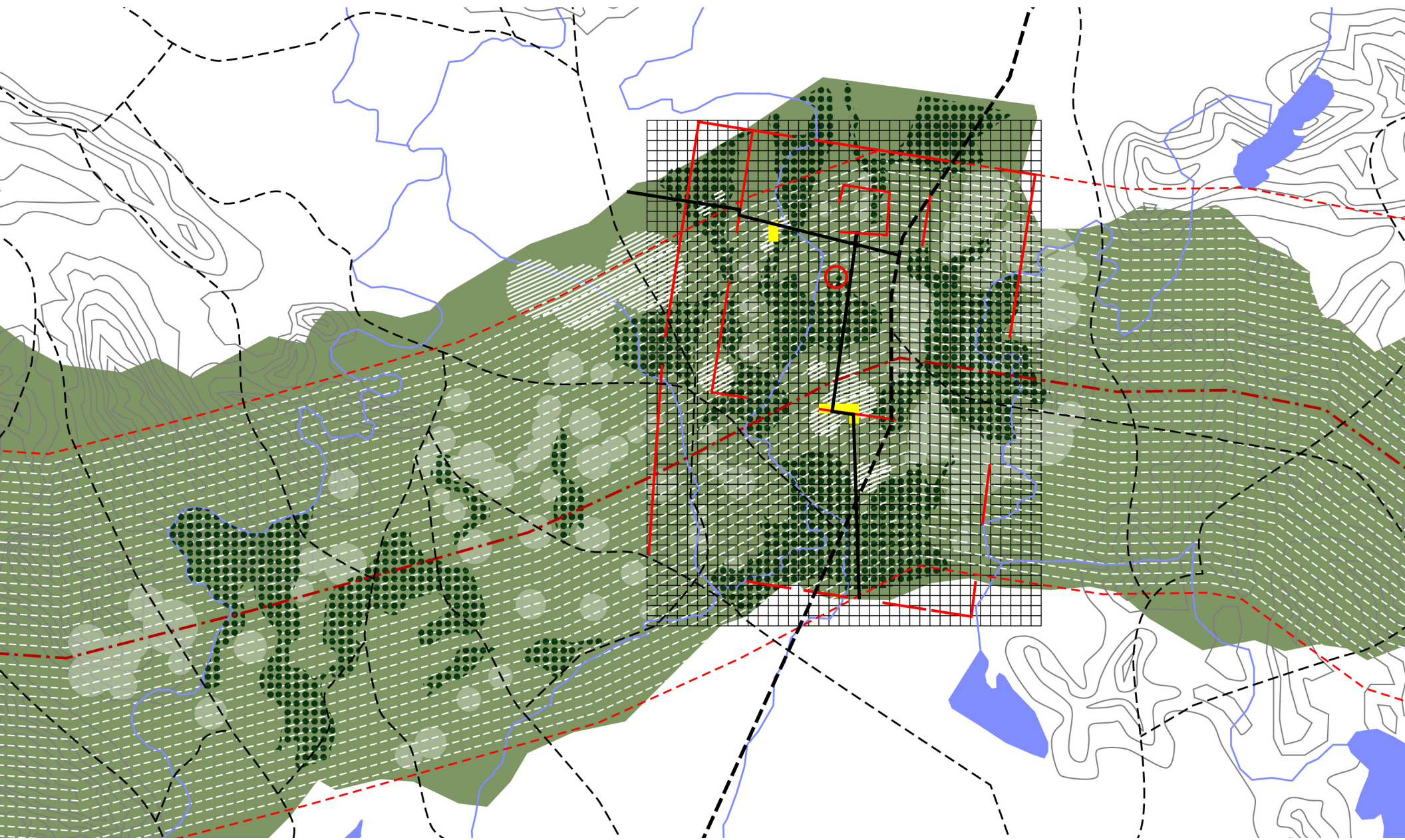
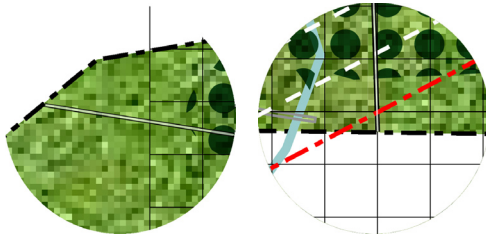


Fig. 5.1.08 *masterplan*

5.2 NARRATIVE MAP

North Korean axis

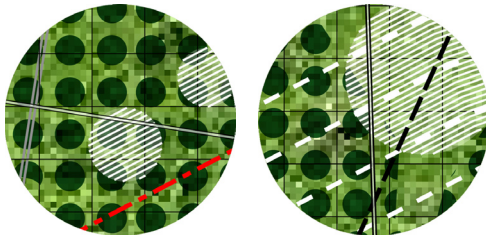
South Korean axis



*The first moment:
the entrance*

Fig. 5.2.01

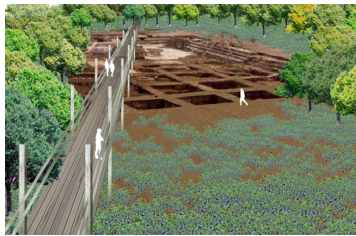
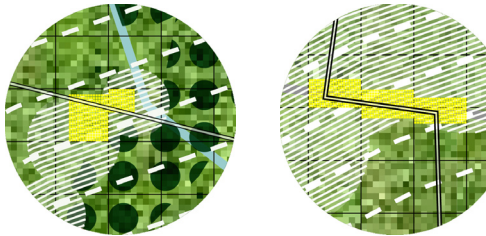
Her path follows the historical path of entry. The sequence points are determined by the locations of the old city gates. The path follows an interpolation of how she would have approached the city palace from these entrances in the historical days. South Korean would use the North-South Gate passage while North Korean accesses the East-West Gate passage.



*The second moment:
the de-mining fields*

Fig. 5.2.02

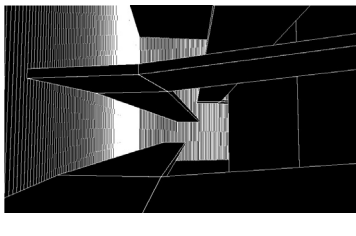
After the entrance point, the site is forested but then she follows the path into an open area. The first encounter with an open area is where the second threshold occurs.



*The third moment:
the archaeological site*

Fig. 5.2.03

As she goes deeper into the site, the third moment occurs when the path reaches the inner city wall. This is the starting point of the archaeological study where she realizes the history of the site that she is passing through.

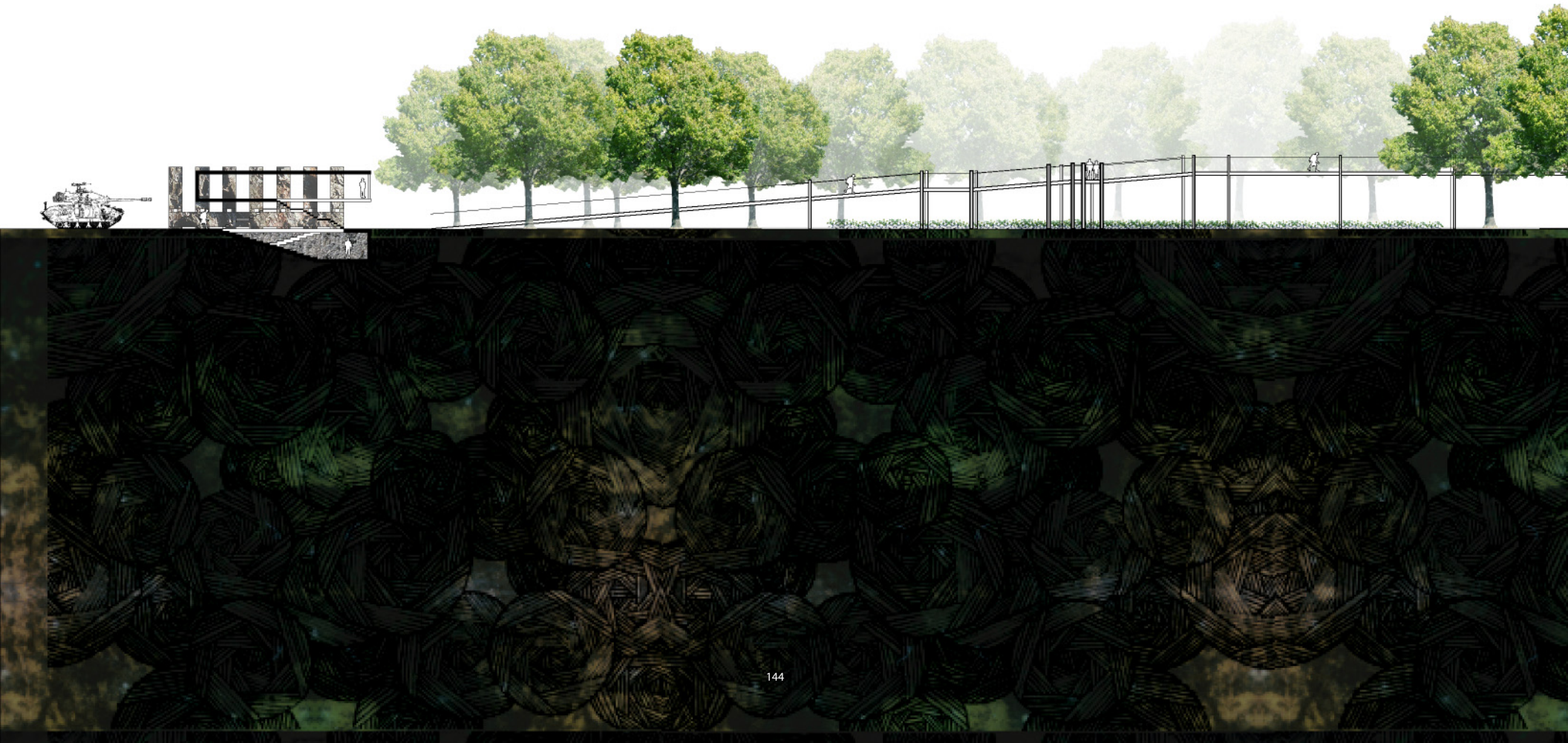


*The fourth moment:
the intersection*

Fig. 5.2.04

Two paths from two entrance gates, one from the South, the other from the North, each follow the axis of the historical passage. Before reaching the monument, a moment is present where the two axes cross each other. As the two axes intersect, she runs into the others for the first time.

5.3 NARRATIVE LINE





5.4 THE FIRST THRESHOLD: THE ENTRANCE

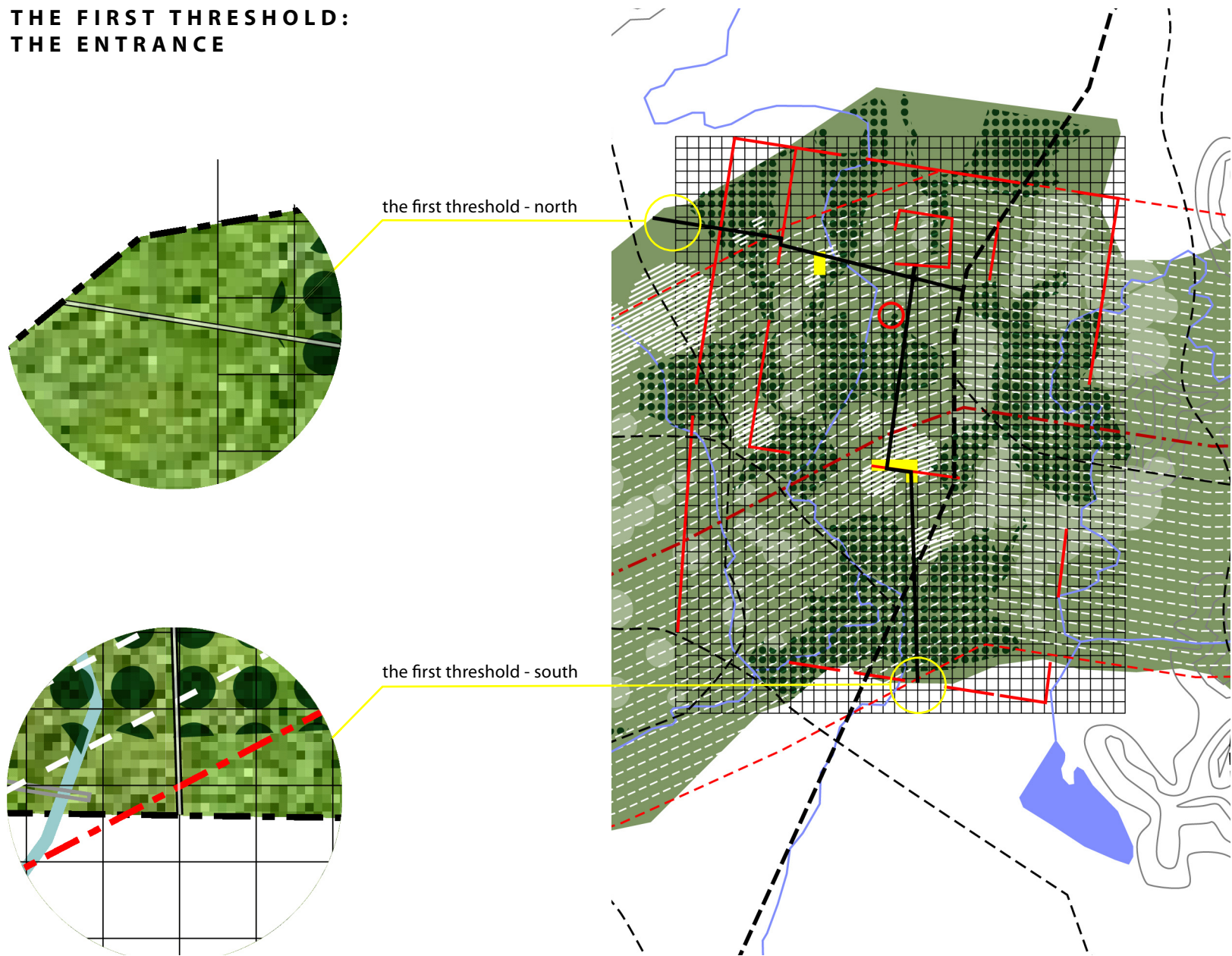
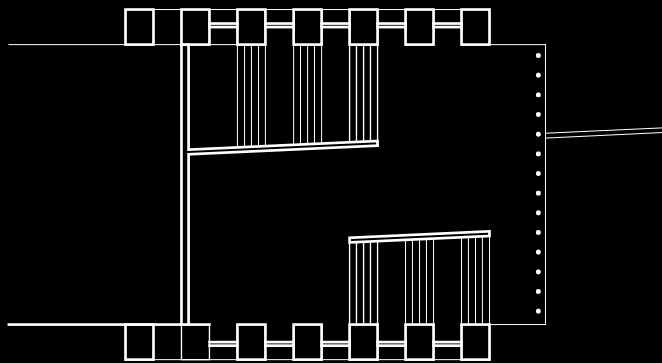
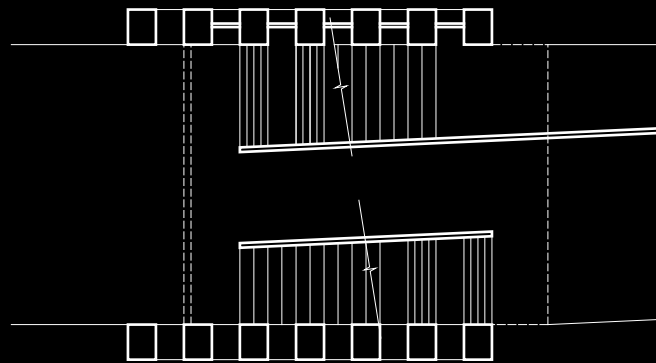


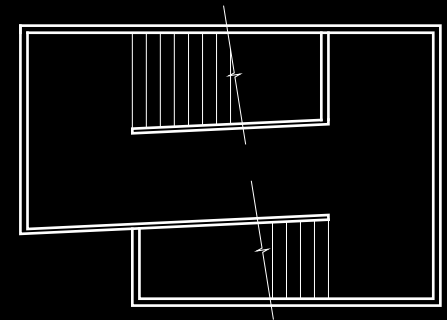
Fig. 5.4.01



Second Floor Plan



Ground Floor Plan



Basement Floor Plan



North-South Section



East-West Section

Fig. 5.4.02

The first threshold occurs as I enter the Demilitarized Zone. Loaded with their presumptions, the usual visit to the Demilitarized Zone takes in a group of tourists who have passed through strict checkpoints of identification previously at the Civilian Control Line. The trip consists of a big, mixed, group of tourists, who disembark from the bus as they reach the tank checkpoint which is designed to block military vehicles from crossing the border. The feared movement has always been from North to South or South to North. Barricades are designed to block the vehicles from entering into the DMZ and thus shift the movement from North and South to the middle ground of the site.

The barricade building is divided into three passages, with the entrance compressed even more as the original entrance volume is split into three spaces. The tour group starts to disintegrate into a smaller cluster when the first threshold offers three choices of passage. Each person goes above, under, or straight through. I follow the path that goes up as this has been the standard approach to DMZ. All my previous DMZ visits started with a movement from above, where observation towers offered a view of the horizon with a look towards the north. This view successfully reaffirmed in me the frustration of Korean division. As I go upstairs, I find all the standard information about the history of the war available to me. But I realize that the expected view to the North is denied as the only allowed view is at the level of the tree line in the forest to the north.

My past is at a climax due to my anticipation of the visit and the possibility of stepping inside the forbidden zone. When I follow the passage that leads me below, I find a gallery filled with unification posters drawn by children. As I finally get to embark into DMZ, the last poster is drawn by Kwan-nam Kim, age 10, which is entitled "The Approaching Reunification. Attitude of Always Being Prepared." I think I am ready...



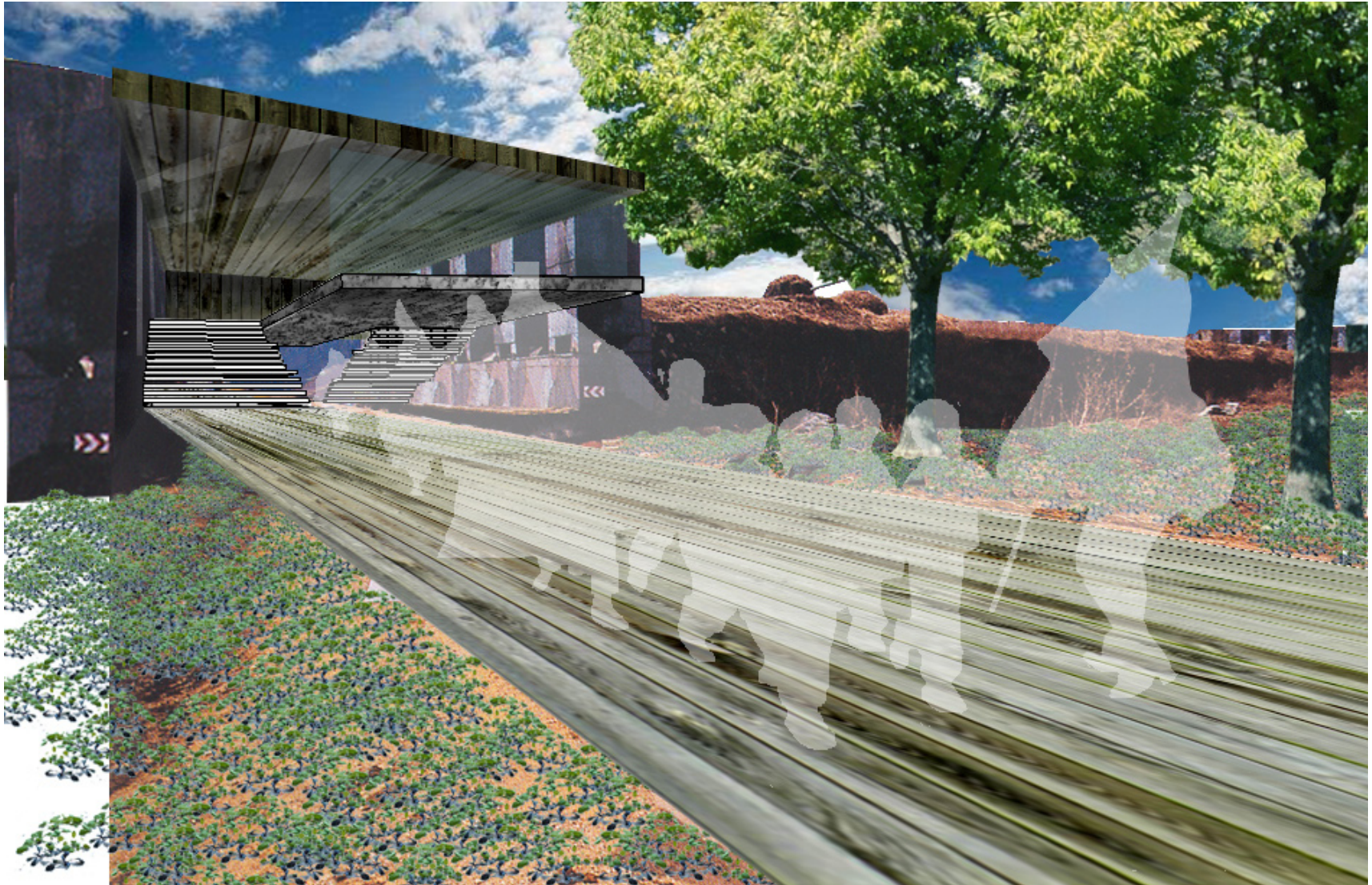
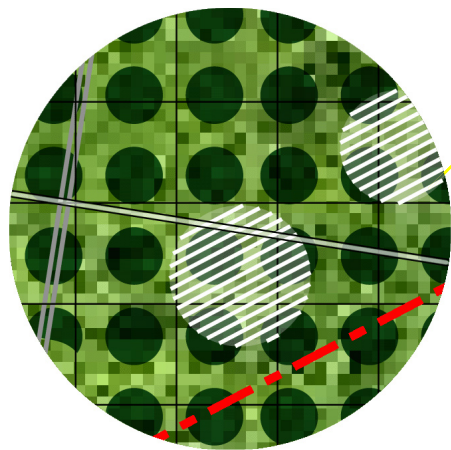
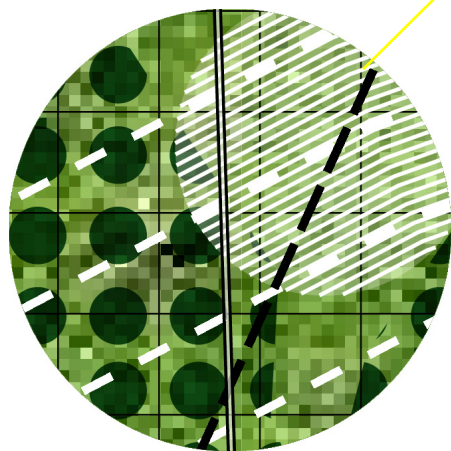


Fig. 5.4.03

5.5 THE SECOND THRESHOLD: THE DE-MINING FIELDS



second threshold - north



second threshold - south

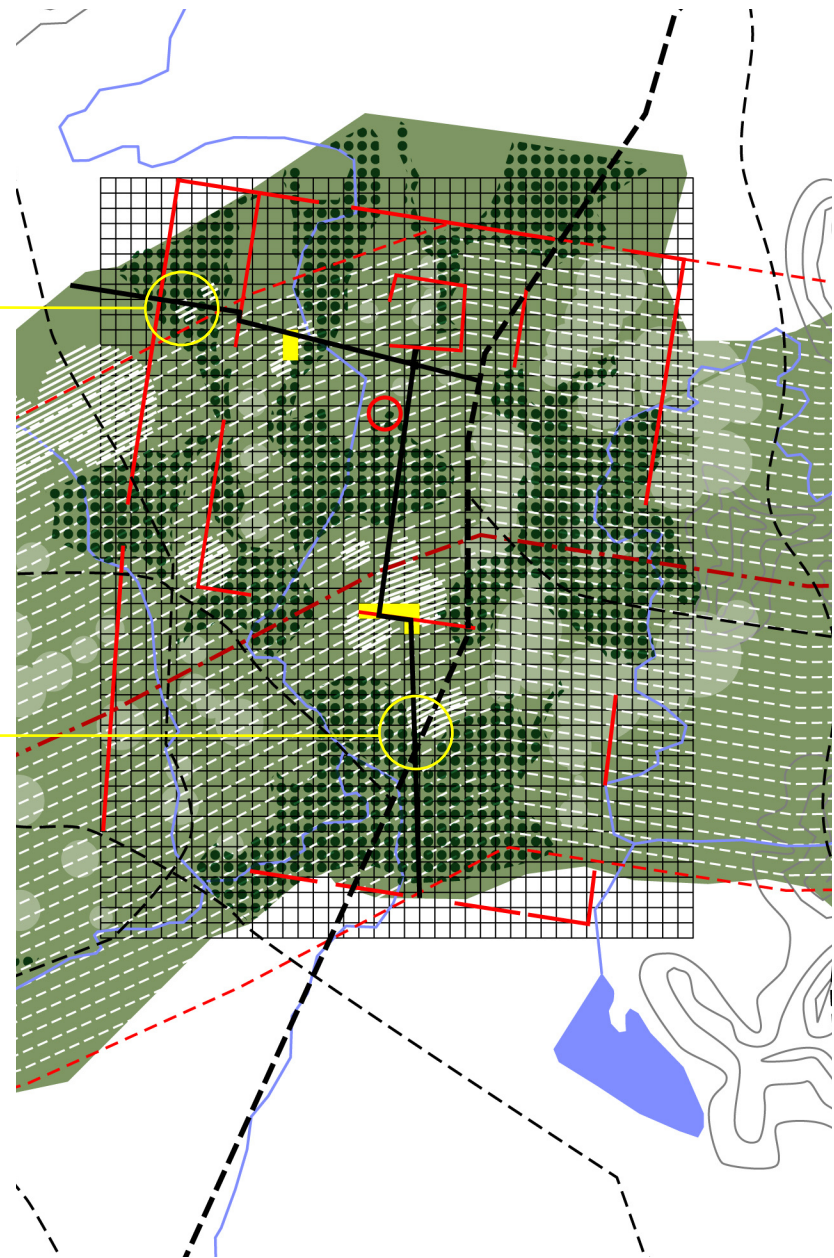
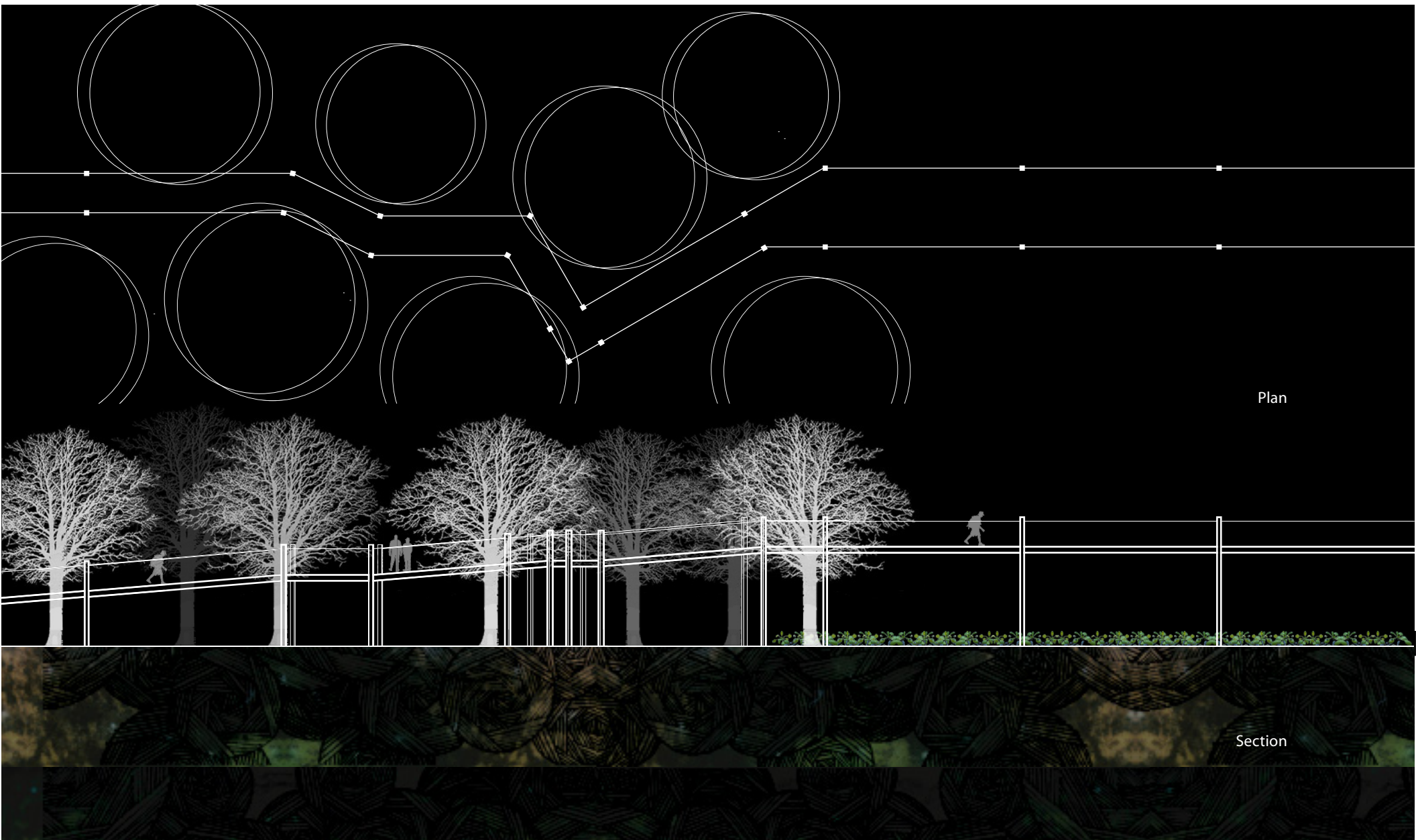


Fig. 5.5.01



Plan

Section

Fig. 5.5.02

As I pass the entrance barricades, the constructed path gradually rises from the ground. As I pass through the forest, the path goes between and around existing trees. The meandering sets me further and further apart from the group as the path narrows down through the woods. When it is time to leave the forest, the path then leads me to a vast field covered with flowers and green and red plants.

I can only marvel at the beauty of the nature that has been untouched for fifty years. The openness and the field of flowers below are amplified by the contrast with the congestion of the barricade and the arrival through dense trees.

As I pass through the field, I become aware of the role of the flowers in de-mining. A small weed called *Arabidopsis thaliana* or thale cress has been re-engineered by Danish biologists to turn red when exposed to the presence of a land-mine in the soil. The residual of the botanical de-mining strategy is left for scrutiny. I am no longer sure of the safety of the ground on which I am walking.

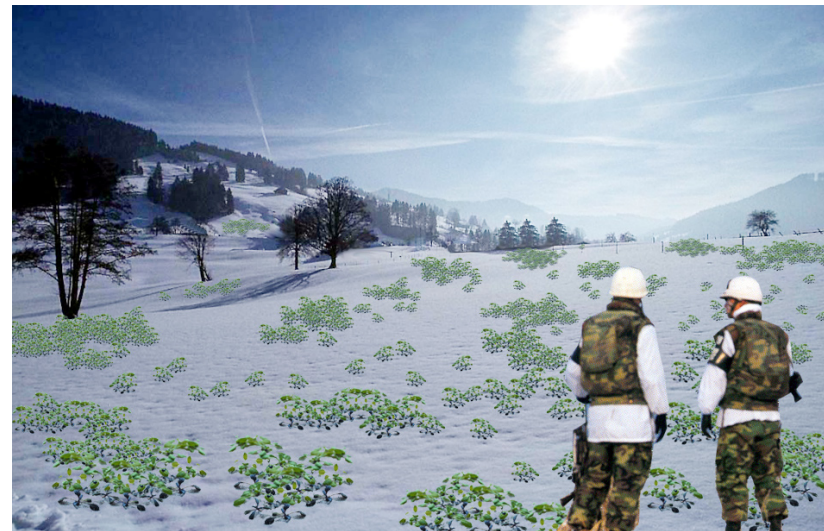




Fig. 5.5.03

5.6 THE THIRD THRESHOLD: ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

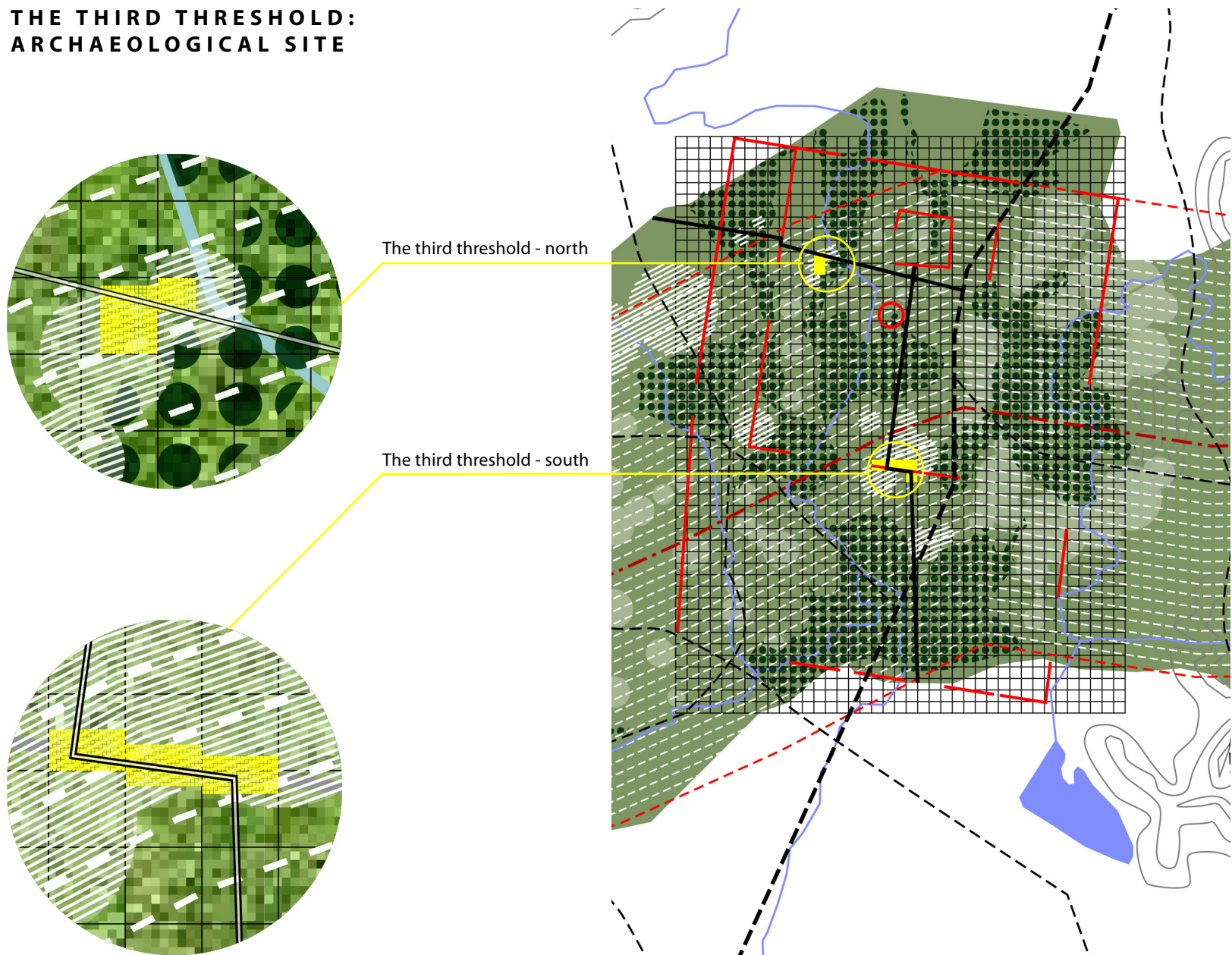
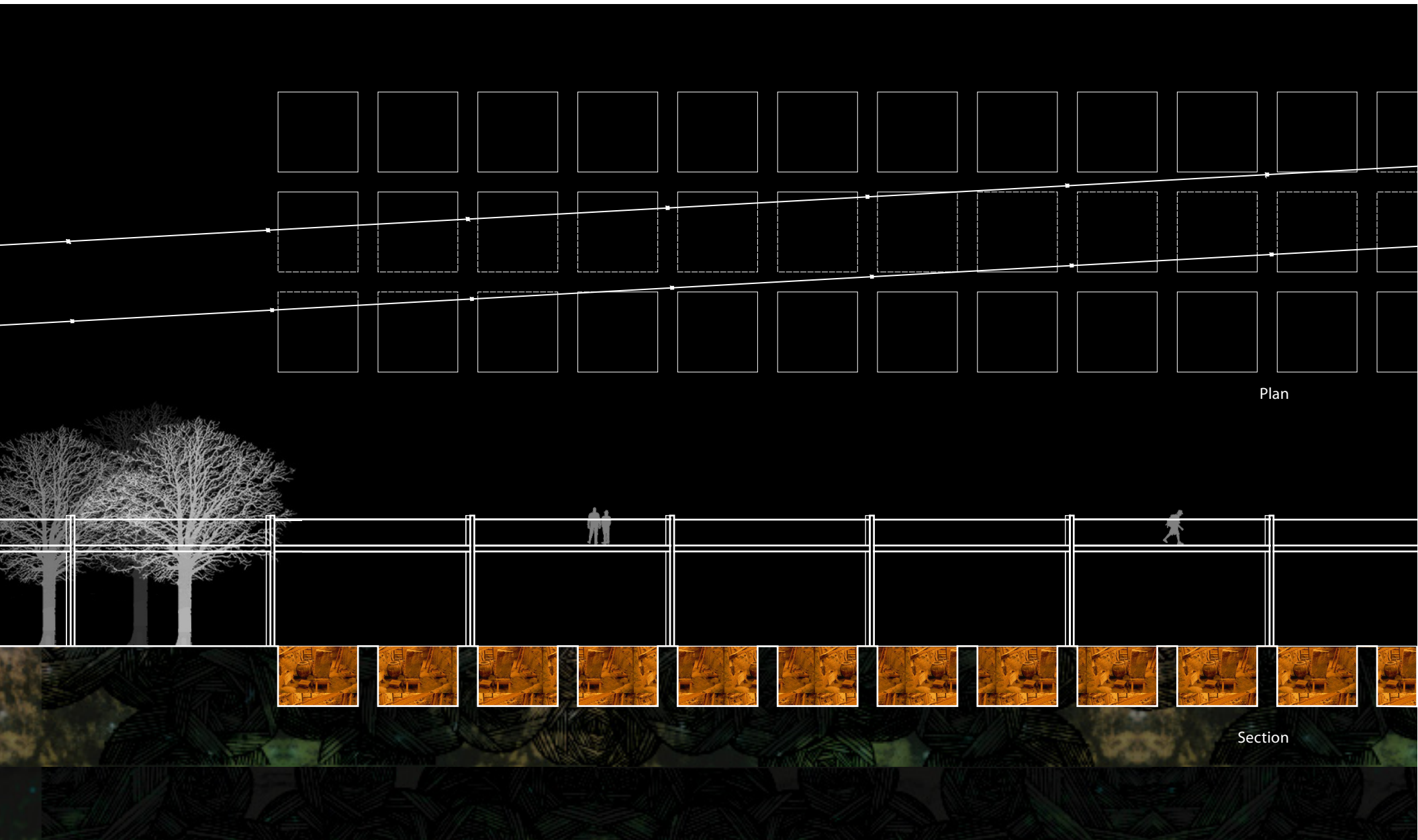


Fig. 5.6.01



Plan

Section

Fig. 5.6.02

The path takes me deeper into the site. I finally realize what was here before as I discover the archeological dig. As the digging site opens up, the path slightly rises. The higher it rises, more the digs unravel under my feet. The first of the digging sites is determined by the available open area along the estimated location of the ancient inner city wall. While the outer city walls of Goong-yae's Palace are estimated to be 12 km and the inner city walls to be 6 km in length, an archaeological grid system has been employed: a five by five meter grid with one-meter baulks left between excavation triangles. In this way levels are uncovered one at a time, with the baulks left until a new level is reached.

Each dig grid may be small in size, but the continuous repetition of the geometry informs me of what a vast amount of uncovering still needs to be accomplished. According to the information, this is only a section of the inner city wall. What if they have mislocated the starting point? Would they start again at a new point? I am nervous that another friction between the two governments will occur and interfere with the execution of this project again. One of these digs must be able locate at least an artifact, a wall, or a trace back to the old nation, or it would such a waste. I cannot see anything but holes at the moment, but I hope they find something before my next visit.

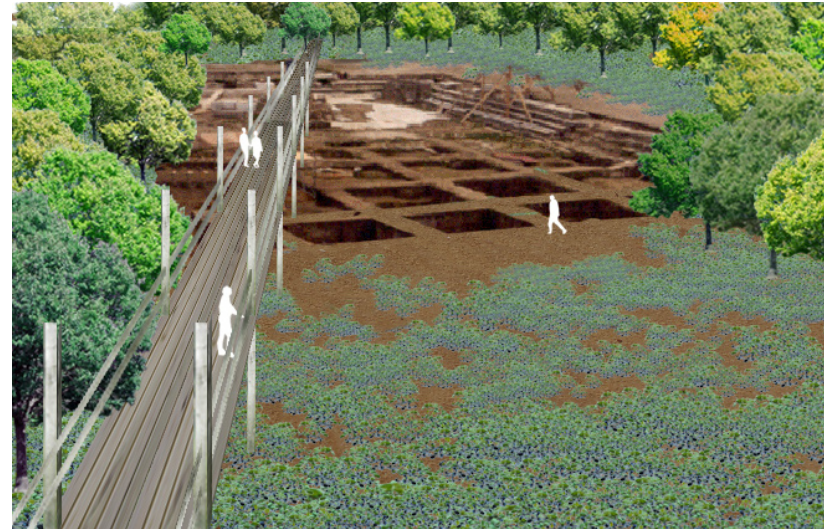
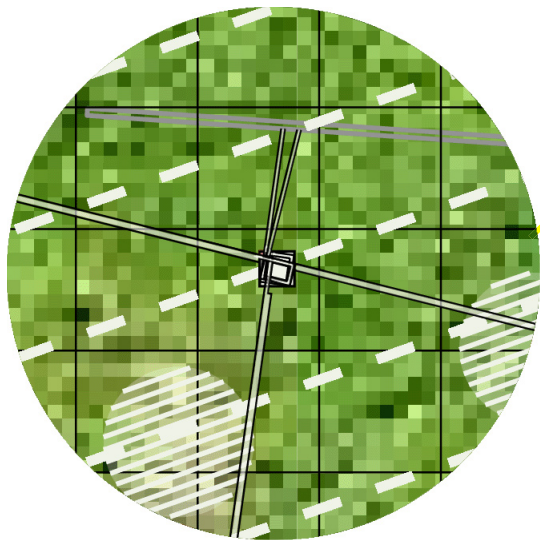




Fig. 5.6.03

5.7 THE FOURTH THRESHOLD: THE INTERSECTION



The fourth threshold

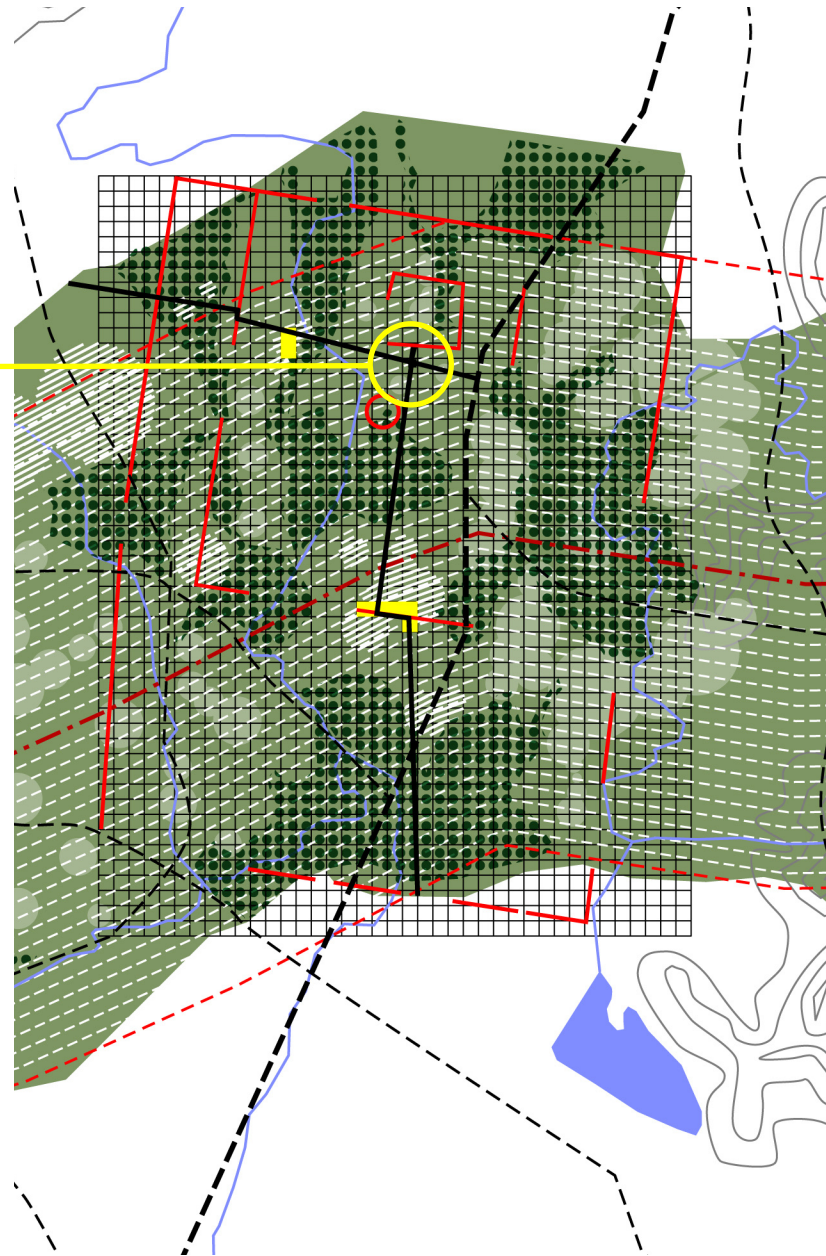
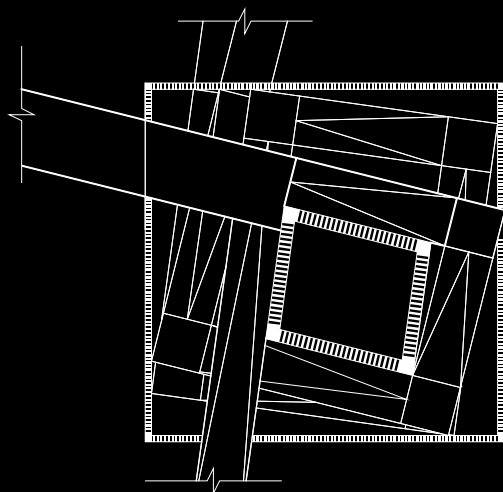
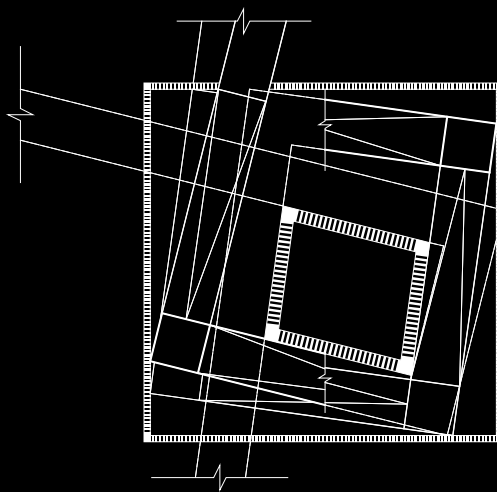


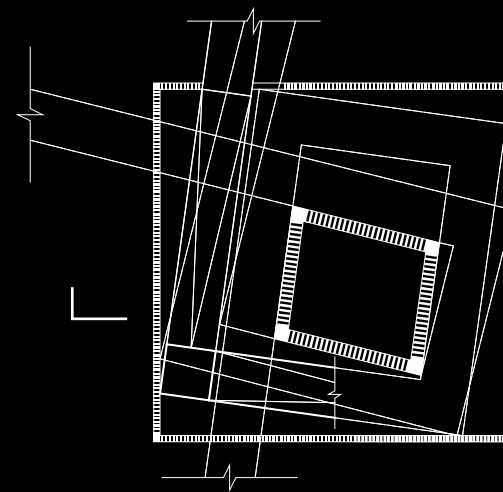
Fig. 5.6.01



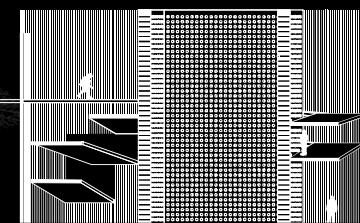
Plan: Entrance Level 0



Plan: Level -1



Plan: Level -2



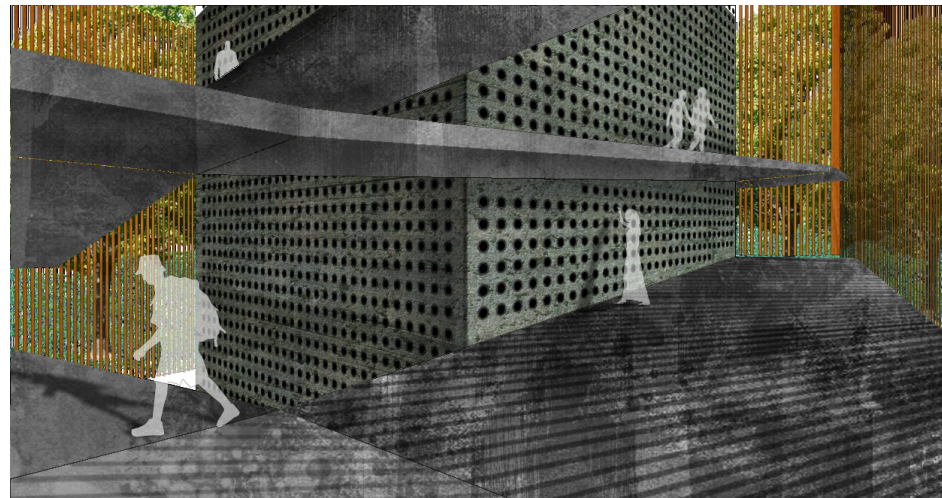
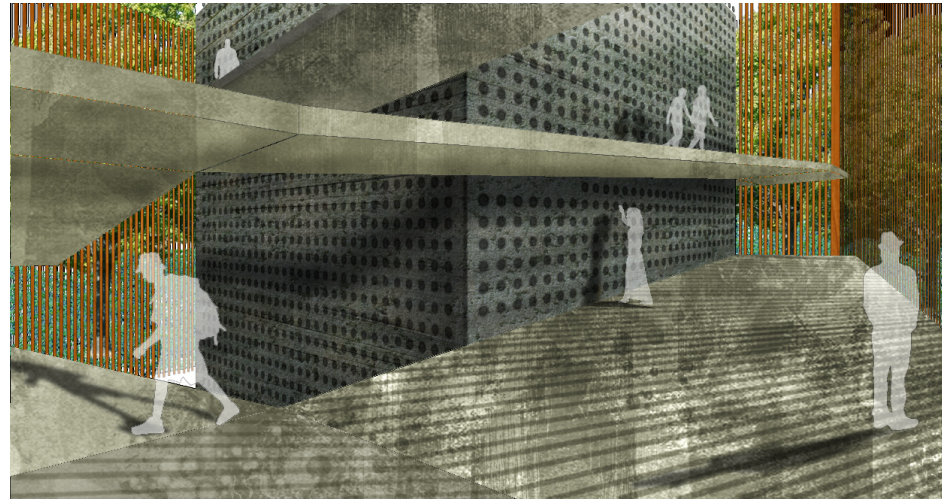
Section

Fig. 5.6.02

My walk continues for quite awhile. The path by this time has risen from the ground, reaching the top of the tree canopy. The ground almost disappears as the path is surrounded with tree branches. I become accustomed to being alone during the walk. The path starts to rise again and I catch a glimpse of the fourth threshold: a building sized box. As I approach the box, I detect the existence of another path in the forest. It also leads into the box but beyond where my path is leading.

When I finally enter the box, I see the two paths intermingle and there are others who have already entered. Although the two paths never cross each other as they spiral around the inner box, they share the same space. I glance at the other, curious, excited of their presence, and am also relieved that I don't have to engage in a direct conversation yet.

As the two paths ramp down towards the ground forming a double helix, they give shape to an inner box where hundreds of windows have been discovered by previous visitors. The paths wrap around the windows each filled with traces of letters and candles. I can see that people can access the inner box from the ground below. I wonder if it is beautiful inside the box as I could imagine the view of all these accumulated lights within the single volume. It might also be very dark and frightening. I am anxious and curious to see that view. I follow the path but it never quite touches the ground even as I am about to leave the box.



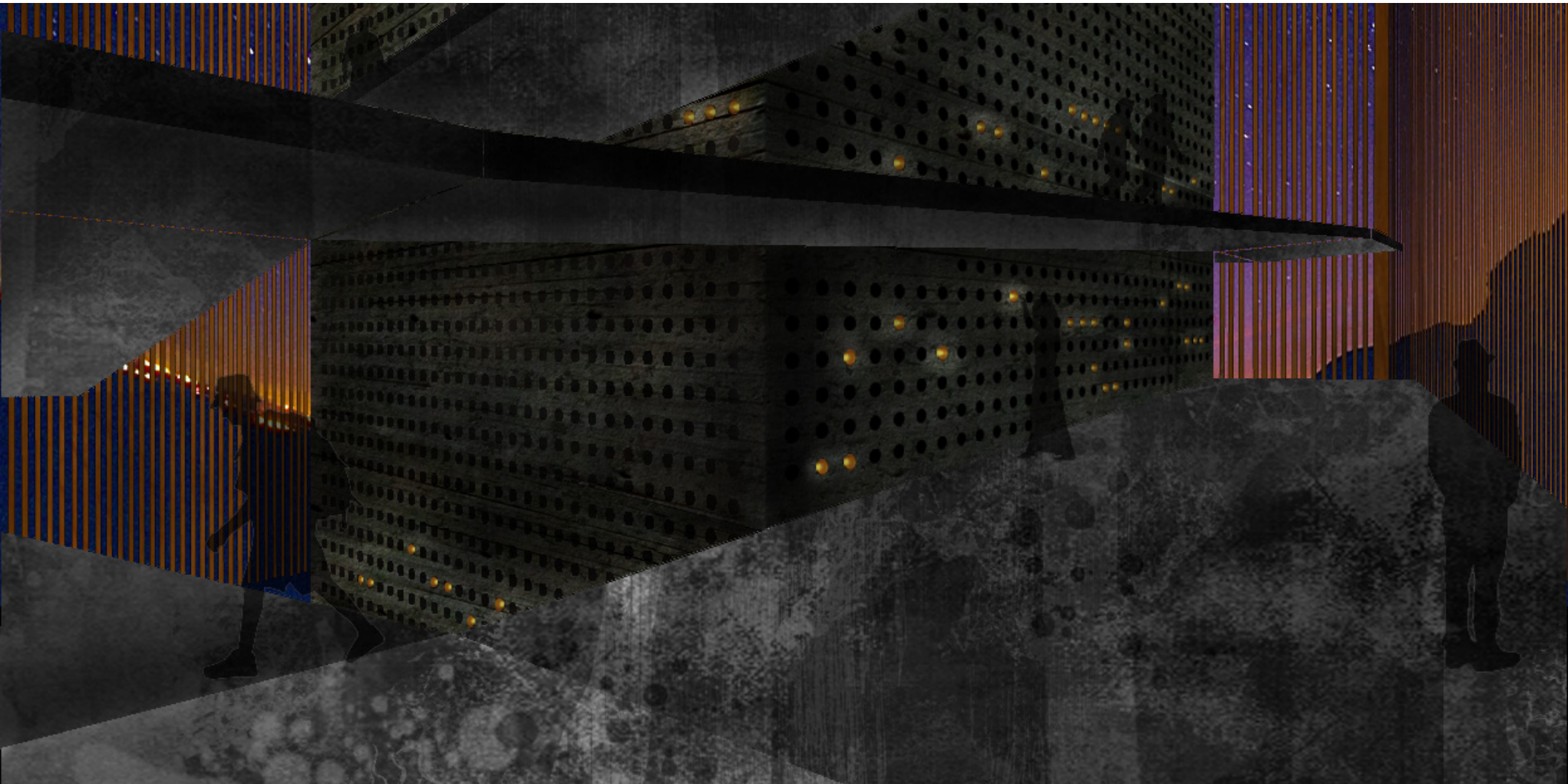


Fig. 5.6.03

DIALOGUE 1:

"What is your thesis about?"

"I just want to study the demilitarized zone to see what potential it holds."

"Wow, I wish I could work on that."

"Why is that?"

"Anything could be done...!! You can just imagine what the 'future' would be."

DIALOGUE 2:

"What is your thesis about?"

"I just want to study the demilitarized zone to see what potential it holds."

"You are crazy."

"Why is that?"

*"There is **nothing**
we can do. Absolutely
n o t h i n g ."*

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