

The DPRK and The USA – An Intriguing Relationship

Nick Geruntino
Washington HS
Washington CH, OH

Grade Level/Course: 9-12 High School AP US Government and Politics

Objective: The existence of North Korea and the regime of the Kim family has been a hot topic in US foreign policy circles predating the existence of the formal DPRK up through present day. Unfortunately, historically, the citizenry of the US has had an oversimplified view of our interactions with the DPRK. The goal of this lesson is to allow students to engage in the complexities and important events regarding the US and DPRK relations, and have them brainstorm resolutions to this conflict, or at least ways to mitigate negative issues.

Standard:

College Board - AP US Govt & Politics Topic V: Public Policy

-Public policy is the result of interactions and dynamics among actors, interests, institutions, and processes. The formation of policy agendas, the enactment of public policies by Congress and the president, and the implementation and interpretation of policies by the bureaucracy and the courts are all stages in the policy process with which students should be familiar. Students should also investigate policy networks and issue networks in the domestic and foreign policy areas. The study of these will give students a clear understanding of the impact of federalism, interest groups, parties, and elections on policy processes and policymaking in the federal context. Students should be familiar with major public policies.

Materials/Resources Needed:

- Sufficient copies of the handout attached
- Internet access for students
- Physical copies of print sources
 - Lankov, Andrei Nikolaevich. *The Real North Korea: Life and Politics in the Failed Stalinist Utopia*. New York: Oxford U Press, 2015. Print.
 - Referred to on Worksheet as “RNK”
 - Robinson, Michael Edson. *Korea's Twentieth-Century Odyssey: A Short History*. Honolulu: U of Hawaii Press, 2007. Print.
 - Referred to on Worksheet as “K20C”
- Blackboard/Chalkboard/Etc. to draw bracket on

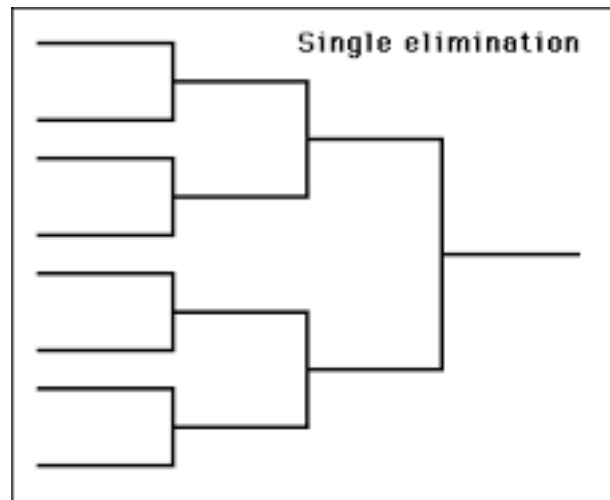
Time Required for Lesson:

- 1 or 3, 45 Minute Periods depending on variation:
 - 3, 45 minute periods if worksheet distributed in class
 - 1, 45 minute period if worksheet given as homework 1-2 days before class

Procedure Overview:

- 1) Students will complete the worksheet about important events in North Korean history and the role the US played in it by using the print resources provided, the Internet, and any other materials as thought pertinent by the instructor.
- 2) Students will then individually or in small groups, use the Internet to research the US response to these events and the short and long-term results of these events.

3) Students will then (in an instructor-moderated debate) debate in a bracket which event head-to-head was more significant in US-DPRK relations over our shared history using a secret vote to determine the winner of each round. The instructor can choose events randomly or may pair up events to their liking to facilitate discussion; either is acceptable.



4) Following the conclusion of the bracket, the students will split into small groups and decide, based on the “most significant” issue, as voted on by the class, how the US can best engage with the DPRK towards an amicable resolution. If the instructor so wishes, you may have the students read RNK Pg 285-288 prior to or after this section to facilitate thought or interject additional info into their discussion.

Worksheet – Have students use the worksheet to familiarize themselves with these important events between the US and the DPRK, the issues surrounding the event, how the US handled/was involved in it, and what the immediate and long-term results were.

Post-WWII events

- Initial Partition of Korea
- Rise of Kim Il-Sung
- The Korean War

Post-Cold War Events

- Collapse of USSR Support
- The Death of Kim Il Sung/The Rise of Kim Jong Il
- Famine

Post-9/11 Events- US focus on anti-terrorism

- Nuclear Weapons
- The Death of Kim Jong Il/The Rise of Kim Jong Un

Enrichment opportunities: If students engaged well with this activity and you would like to push them more; think about using the same framework to analyze and discuss the US’s interactions and relationship with Iran (both pre- and post-1979 Revolution)



The DPRK and the USA – An Intriguing Relationship



Event:	What Happened:	How the US Handled/Was Involved In It:	Short & Long Term Results:
Post WWII Event: Initial Partition of Korea -K20C Pg104-114			
Post WWII Event: Rise of Kim Il Sung -K20C Pg 153-158 -RNK- Pg 3-11			
Post WWII Event: The Korean War -K20C Pg 114-120 -RNK- Pg 11-13			

The DPRK and the USA – An Intriguing Relationship

Post Cold War Event: Collapse of USSR Support -RNK- Pg 77-80			
Post Cold War Event: Death of Kim Il Sung/Rise of Kim Jong Il -K20C Pg 163-164 -RNK- Pg 78			
Post Cold War Event: Famine -K20C Pg 164-165 -RNK- Pg 80-82			

The DPRK and the USA – An
Intriguing Relationship

Post 9/11 Event: Nuclear Weapons -K20C Pg 146-148 & 186-187 -RNK- Pg 179-191			
Post 9/11 Event: Death of Kim Jong Il/Rise of Kim Jong Un -RNK- Pg 137-155			
WHAT WHAT	<i>DID <u>DO</u></i>	WE WE	DO? DO?