

# GOD'S HEART FOR INJUSTICE

Human Rights Group  
(Shik, Seth, Jason, David, Handsome)

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ME829

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## I. Introduction

- a. Injustice in history
- b. Injustice today
  - i. In the U.S.
  - ii. In the World (the examples of two categories)
    1. Children & women's rights
      - a. Children's abuse –Children workers, Children soldiers, abuse in orphanages, Child sex tour, trafficking, no education
      - b. Women's abuse -Rape, beating, trafficking, minority, legislated inequality, discriminatory family
      - c. Children and women are vulnerable
    2. Social, economic & cultural rights
      - a. Poverty
      - b. Discrimination
- c. God's heart for injustice
  - i. Violence
  - ii. Discrimination
  - iii. Oppression
- d. Questions for Christians
  - i. Are we responsible?
  - ii. Are we responding?
  - iii. What should be our responses?
  - iv. Excursion- Definition of Trafficking  
The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs. (US annual report trafficking 47255, 2005)

## II. Historical Track Record of Human Rights and the Church

### Life after Pentecost...

*There was not a needy person among them... (Acts 4)*

### The Love Ethic – Rodney Stark

•Stark, Rodney. *The Rise of Christianity: A Sociologist Reconsiders History*. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1996.

•The rapid expanse of Christianity within a few centuries due to a grass-roots, volunteeristic love ethic

Stark...

Christianity served as a revitalization movement that arose in response to the misery, chaos, fear, and brutality of life in the urban Greco-Roman world...Christianity revitalized life in Greco-Roman cities by providing new norms and new kinds of social relationships able to cope with many urgent urban problems. To cities filled with the homeless and impoverished, Christianity offered charity as well as hope. To cities filled with newcomers and strangers, Christianity offered an immediate basis for attachments. To cities filled with orphans and widows, Christianity provided a new and expanded sense of family. To cities torn by violent ethnic strife, Christianity offered a new basis for social solidarity. And to cities faced with epidemics, fires, and earthquakes, Christianity offered effective nursing services...(p.161) I am by no means suggesting that the misery of the ancient world caused the advent of Christianity. What I am going to argue is that once Christianity did appear, its superior capacity for meeting these chronic problems soon became evident and played a major role in its ultimate triumph. (p.162)

### Turning point...

•313 A.D. – Christianity legal

•383 A.D. – Christianity official religion under Constantine  
Church and state now tied together

### Monasticism

•Cenobitic monasticism

–Community based monasticism

–Pachomius and Basil the Great

–Integrated monastic communities with the church...more outward looking

•Medieval monasticism

–Community good, integrated into societies

–Monastic decline, by 1200 passed its peak of popularity

### **Reformation time period...**

- After the reformation there was still a magisterial church
- Anabaptists shine!
  - Citing with peasants and needs
  - Separation of church and state
  - Grass-roots movement

### **Unum Sanctum...**

- Pope Boniface VIII's 1493 Bull *Unum Sanctum* powerfully asserted Rome's rule over the "spiritual" realm of all Catholic citizens
- Age of the conquistadors
  - Spanish nominalists
  - Systemically annihilating people groups
    - View of the 'heathen'

### **Slavery**

- Embedded in the culture of early America
- Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation
- William Wilberforce
  - Eighteenth-century British parliamentarian who stood against the prevailing culture and economic interests in his campaign to abolish the slave trade.

### **Snapshot of last couple centuries...**

- 18<sup>th</sup> century – 'evangelicalism', focus on the poor and needy
- 19<sup>th</sup> century – 2<sup>nd</sup> Great Awakening, volunteer organizations, reform society
- Turn of 20<sup>th</sup> century – Darwinianism and Higher Criticism takes its toll

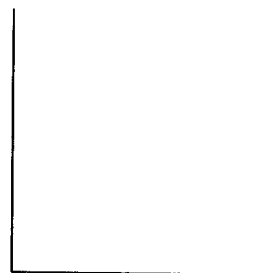
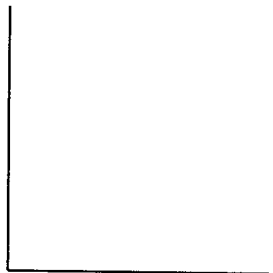
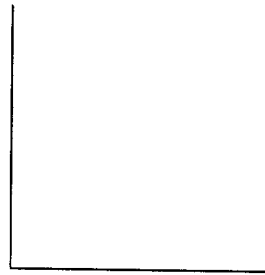
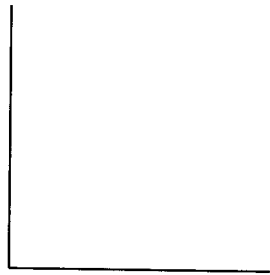
### **The split...**

...those evangelicals who once were widely esteemed for working toward social reform through the gospel were now held suspect by other evangelicals for their theological liberalism. As a result of this, evangelicalism began to take a more defensive stance against the influence of liberalism and thus backed away from the previous generations' social action. (Andy Tooley, *The Graduate Scrawl*)

### **Today...**

Recovering from the 'split', seeking to recapture and embrace the social and philosophical aspects of the gospel, back to a grass-roots, volunteeristic movement of the church in social action

### III. Theology: God's heart for justice

## IV. Understanding Human Rights – Justice

Two Essential Questions:

- 1) What are the issues that comprise human rights/justice category?
- 2) What is being done now?

### 1) What are the issues of Human Rights / Justice?

*What is Just?*

*What is equality?*

*The relativity of different cultures/societies/norms/mores  
Civil Rights are defined by cultural norms... The topics  
converge...*

#### A. Issues of Power (and how people relate with one another...)

- 1) Standard of Living
  - 2) Sanctity of life and Bio-Ethics
  - 3) Race and Ethnicity
  - 4) War and Conflict
  - 5) Gender Issues
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##### 1. Standard of Living

- a. Poverty: (what ought to be normative living standards?)
- b. Oppression: *What are the extents of ones authority over another?*
- c. Slavery:
  1. Bonded servants
  2. Sex Slavery / forced prostitution

##### 2. Sanctity of Life and Bio-Ethics

- a. Abortion/Infanticide: *The Moral state of a fetus? Rights of a mother?*
- b. Euthanasia/Assisted Suicide: *Who decides on end of life issues?*
- c. Legal / Correctional Issues: *The rights of a criminal?*  
Prison / Punishment / Death Penalty  
Citizens rights (legal)

##### 3. Race and Ethnicity

- a. Racialized Societies / Cultures
  1. Racism / Hate Crime

- b. Ethnocentricity and Nationalism
  - 1. Ethnic Favoritism / Prejudice
  - 2. Ethnic-Cleansing
  - 3. Apartheid / Segregation
  - 4. Sterilization
- c. Societal Systems of Class (Caste systems)

#### 4. War and conflict

- a. Rules of War - Geneva Convention: *What is a just war?*
  - 1. Chemical warfare
  - 2. Torture
  - 3. Detainment / POWs

#### 5. Gender Issues

- a. Gender Discrimination
  - 1. Rights of Women in Religious Societies
    - a. FGM
  - 2. Gender-Neutral Standards
- b. Marriage
  - 1. Gay/Lesbian rights
  - 2. polygamy

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## #2 What is being done for Human Rights now?

### Government and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs)

#### A. Government-Based Organizations

#### B. NGOs (Mostly from “religious” roots)

\*\*\* Other various divisions (i.e. Faith-Based / Secular, Non/For Profit)

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#### 5-Types of Justice and Human Rights Organizations

- 1) Development: (Community, Micro/Macro-Economic, Health/medical, Agricultural, Holistic/specialized)
- 2) Relief: (Natural Disaster, famine, refugee, Post-war, etc...)
- 3) Legal/Public Policy: (Legislative Lobbyists, Political Special-Interest Groups, Legal-Defense)
- 4) Grass-Roots / Independent: Many church organizations, chapter-based groups,
- 5) Multi-faceted / Holistic: Amnesty International, World Relief, U.N.

### 1) **Development:** (Community, Micro/Macro-Economic, Health/medical, Agricultural, Holistic/specialized)

- Long-Term Commitment
- Goals: Self-Sustained Healthy Communities

**Examples:** Food for the Hungry, Peace Corp, World Vision, etc

## **2) Relief:** (Natural Disaster, famine, refugee, Post-war, etc...)

- Natural Disaster, famine, Refugee/ Post-War, etc...
  - Often Incorporates:
    - Health Care
    - Rebuilder
    - Basic provisions: Shelter / Refuge, medical relief, Food/water
- Macro-Systems (fresh water systems, waste control, Government, Counseling, Orphaned children, etc...)

**Examples:** Red Cross, Salvation army, U.N., Peace Corp, World Vision, Compassion, etc..

## **3) Legal / Public Policy / Education:**

Often Incorporates: Legislative Lobbyists, Political / Special Interest Groups, Legal-defense,

The Focus is on “Behind the Scenes” initiatives such as:

Informative Measures, Journalism, Education, Fund-Raising, legal defense, “Pro-Bono” legal work, Political Lobbying, Campaigns and demonstrations, etc...

**Examples:** Center for Bio-Ethics and Human Dignity, Amnesty International, Alliance Defense Fund, International Justice Mission, ICBL (International Campaign to Ban Landmines), N.O.W.

## **4) Grass-Roots / Independent:**

- Often Most Effective!
- Lack Resources for macro Change
- Great relational Element
- Individual attention
- Partnership / Networking with Government and Large Organizations is important

### **Examples:**

- Chapter based Groups
- Pacific Garden Mission
- Homeless Shelters / Food-Pantries /
- Local Church Ministries

## **5) Multi-faceted / Holistic:**

- These Incorporates Nearly all of the groups and initiatives fore-mentioned...

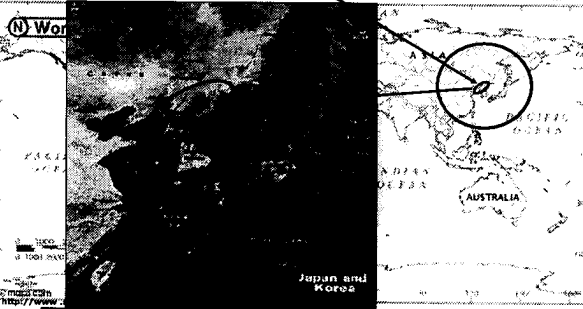
**Examples:** Amnesty International, World Relief, U.N.

# The Human Rights of North Korea

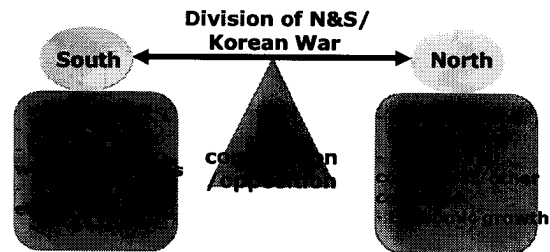
A Case Study about the Approaches for the Human Rights

# Introduction about North Korea

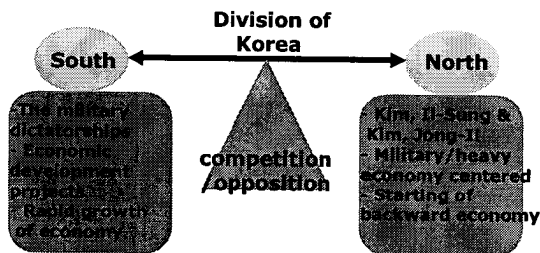
## Where is North Korea?



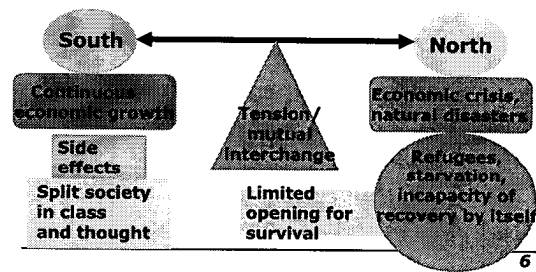
## History of Korea (1950~1970)



## History of Korea (1970~1990)



## History of Korea (1990~ )





# The Human Rights Situation Of North Korea

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## HR Situation of NK

### Starvation and Disease



Many groups that are working in North Korea borders and inland have reported that over 3.5 million people have died of starvation and disease from 1995 to 2000.

There were continuous flood, drought and crop failure. As the result, the most NK people have been suffered and died because of starvation and disease.

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## HR Situation of NK

### Refugees

About 100,000~300,000 NK refugees are at the NK-China border area and nearby countries seeking food.

Execution has been particularly commonly referred to as the punishment for those who return from China having had contact with Christians or South Koreans. Others are subject to interrogation and punishment.



A 30-year-old NK woman

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## HR Situation of NK

### Absolute Kim Il-Sungism



=> Night ceremony of 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Kim Il-Sung's death.

Absolute Kim Il-Sungism controls NK people in every aspect of life.

The ethical and nationalist values of responsibility and obedience were united in "Kim Il Sungism" that elevated Kim to the level of deity in North Korea.

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## HR Situation of NK

### Political Control & Oppression



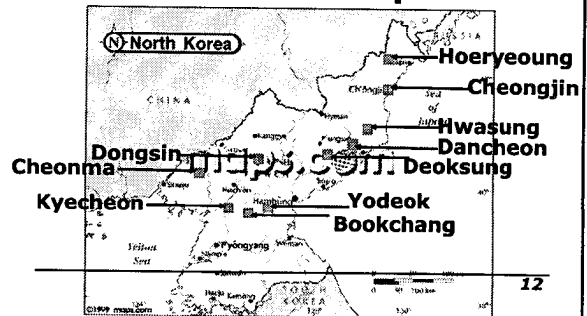
The regime strictly curtails freedoms of speech, press, religion, assembly and movement.

NK government maintains an inhuman system of prison camps that house an estimated 200,000 political inmates.

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## HR Situation of NK

### Concentration camps



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## HR Situation of NK

### Persecution of Christianity



Palm-sized Bibles

**Religious freedom is harshly repressed in North Korea.**

Open Doors Internationals reported North Korea heads the ranking as the worst violator of religious rights. It is believed that tens of thousands of Christians are currently suffering in North Korean prison camps, where they are faced with cruel abuses. North Korea is suspected to detain more political and religious prisoners than any other country in the world.

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## Approaches to the Human Rights of North Korea

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## A. Human rights movement

### Protest & Political Pressure



Some NGOs and Korean-American Churches joined to protest and pressure to the government of North Korea. They think NK government the reason of all inhuman situation.

Thus, they do research on the situation of NK, publicity, protest in public, political pressure and rescue some.

Ex) Human Rights Watch, Link (Liberation in North Korea), Human Rights Without Frontiers International, Chosun Journal, etc.

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## B. Wholistic missions

### Gradual changes by development



Some NGOs & mission organizations are working to change the human rights of North Korea by helping community development projects for North Korea.

They recognize the problem of NK government but consider the urgency of helping people and the importance of the wholistic missions with the community.

Ex) Christian Friends of Korea (providing humanitarian assistance), PUST (education), etc.

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