



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS HAVE HISTORICALLY PLAYED A CRUCIAL ROLE IN THE LIFE OF ANY SOCIETY.

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The emergence of political communities, the formation of social institutions, and the development of material and spiritual culture are all closely linked to trade, cultural and diplomatic exchanges, international conflicts, wars, and invasions. Currently, the significance of international relations in human life is steadily increasing. Year by year, international connections are expanding.

For our country, which pursues an independent foreign policy on the international stage and cooperates with numerous developed and developing states, the effective use of the rich experiences accumulated by foreign countries in global politics remains an ongoing pressing issue. Therefore, the need to thoroughly study the history of international relations has both theoretical and practical significance today.

In order to develop and continue the spirit of the ancient Silk Road, the "One Belt, One Road" project has been initiated, requiring scientific research aimed at analyzing the system of international relations in the region and serving the aspirations for regional economic cooperation and collaboration among various civilizations. As noted by our esteemed President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, "The commonality of our historical and cultural heritage, as well as the similarities in our goals and objectives, and the shared aspirations give us the opportunity to look to the future with great confidence."

The rapid globalization process and the development of states in today's world community are directly linked to their historical paths and the political, economic, and military history they have experienced. From this perspective, before establishing and developing cooperative relations with any foreign country, it is deemed appropriate to closely familiarize oneself with the history of that country and conduct research in this direction.

The end of World War II marked a turning point in the development of the international system. The multipolar order that existed before the war was replaced by a bipolar world structured on the Yalta-Potsdam system, dominated by powerful states. The interactions among them drew in various regions, including South Korea.

The practical collapse of the Yalta-Potsdam system led to a further escalation of the international situation. The aforementioned dynamics significantly influenced the description of international relations in the Korean region. Countries in the region found themselves divided into various camps of international conflict. Despite the intensity of ideological disputes, the foundations of international relations in East Asia were also shaped by the geopolitical aspirations of both leading and regional states. Competition and local conflicts in the East Asian region became the focus of global attention and impacted the course of international relations in the second half of the 20th century.



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Although the states in the Korean region are now among those that are rapidly developing economically, politically, culturally, and militarily, the system of international relations in the region is in a unique situation. The leading political forces of the world are competing to establish and expand their spheres of influence in the region. In this regard, analyzing the system of international relations in the region and drawing certain conclusions is of significant importance in our country's foreign policy concept. This, in turn, enhances the relevance of the chosen topic.

The influence of the Russian mission during King Gojong's reign led to a weakening of Japan's mission in Korea. However, upon returning to the Japanese court, actions aimed at the conquest of Korea intensified. In 1898, Gojong declared that he would act without Russian assistance under the influence of pro-Japanese factions. As a result, Russian military instructors and financial advisors left Korea. This same year, a treaty was signed between Japan and Russia, under which Russia committed not to hinder Japanese-Korean economic relations. This, in turn, became a crucial factor in Japan's economic colonization of Korea. For example, in 1901, 87% of the foreign trading houses in Korea were Japanese-owned. Korea's financial and credit system was under the control of Japanese banks, and the presence of Japanese military contingents in the country also increased. In 1902, Japan signed a treaty with England, which reflected the special interests of both countries in Korea and China. The treaty emphasized that if either country faced aggression from a third country, they would jointly engage in military alliance.

Nonetheless, the Japanese made significant efforts to force Gojong to sign a treaty against Russia. Concerned about falling into a disputed situation with large nations, the Korean government in 1903 sent a proposal regarding Korea's neutrality to Japan and Russia and similar telegrams to Western countries and China. The agreements between Japan and Russia regarding Korea and Manchuria in 1903 entered a dead end. In the winter of 1904, the Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905) began. Taking advantage of Russia's defeat in the war, Japan imposed a number of conditions on Korea. For instance, a treaty on February 23, 1904, provided for Japan's military intervention in the event of external aggression or civil war in Korea. The agreement on August 24, 1904, stipulated that the Korean government would be advised by Japanese financial and foreign affairs consultants, and all foreign relations of Korea would be conducted through Japan. In April 1905, the postal, telegraph, and telephone systems came under Japanese control. On November 17, 1905, a "Protectorate Treaty" was signed under coercive circumstances (the treaty was signed by five members of the cabinet, without the emperor and prime minister's signatures), transferring control of Korea's foreign relations and financial system to Japan. In reality, all of Korea's administrative system fell under Japanese control. To implement the conquest, the Japanese established a main headquarters in Korea instead of an embassy, reduced the army, replaced Korean officials with Japanese, and subordinated the police to the Japanese gendarmerie. Thus, the colonization of Korea accelerated rapidly from 1906 to 1910. During these years, the number of Japanese in Korea increased from 81,700 to 171,500. The Japanese purchased land, organizations, buildings, and forests at very low prices and sometimes forcibly took them. With the participation of the Japanese government, societies like "Ilchinhwe" ("Unified Progressive Society") were established in support of Japan. In June 1907, without recognizing the "Protectorate Treaty," Emperor Gojong sent a delegation to the international conference in The Hague to inform about Japanese violence in Korea. In response to this unilateral action, on June 19, 1907, the Japanese



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government forced Gojong to abdicate and pass the throne to his son, Sunjong. On July 24 of the same year, Korea signed a new treaty, which granted the Japanese chief resident unlimited control over the activities of the Korean government, including the right to issue any decisions and appoint officials. Within a short period, 3,000 Japanese officials were appointed to various positions in the state apparatus. On August 1, 1907, the Korean army was disbanded.