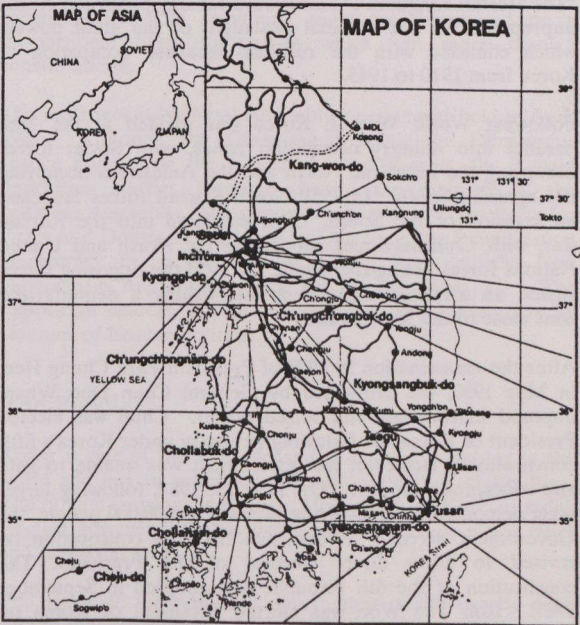


# I. THE COUNTRY

The Republic of Korea occupies 98,955 km<sup>2</sup> (38,206 square miles) on the southern half of the Korean peninsula. The land mass is approximately twice the size of Nova Scotia. The topography is extremely rugged and varied, ranging from steeply rising mountains on the east coast, to wide alluvial plains on the west coast. The country is drained by several river systems, the most important being the Han in the west and the Nakdong in the southeast. Approximately 70 percent of the land is mountainous.



## History

Throughout its 5,000-year history Korea has been the victim of countless occupations and invasions by armies of Chinese and Japanese, Mongols and Manchus, and Soviets and Americans. Yet through adversity the Korean people have managed to maintain a distinct cultural and political identity.