

FILM REVIEWS

tional training or what happens to those who fail to stay on South Korea's fast-moving educational treadmill, or those who can't afford to pay the tuition or the extra tutoring deemed necessary to succeed in Korea's competitive educational environment.

Another segment shows a glimpse of an exam day and how the entire country mobilizes to provide favorable conditions for exam-taking students and their families, including providing police escorts for students late to their exams and banning airplanes from flying over exam locations. Seeing parents smear taffy to the wall of the university of their children's choice, in the hope that their children would "stick" and get into the school, and also seeing parents in prayer outside exam locations are fascinating social commentaries.

The video touches only upon the educational challenges facing South Korea today. One South Korean education official talks about how education in Korea emphasizes rote memorization and does not teach children creativity or independent thinking skills, but very little else is said. For example, what are the implications of growing demands for higher education? Today, one in three high school graduates goes on to college or a university. Are there enough higher education institutions in Korea to satisfy the demand if and when it increases? What about the financial implications of that for individual families and for the Korean government?

Still, despite its shortcomings, the video is worth seeing and using in the classroom—high school and beyond—for a variety of

purposes. For example, to introduce the history and culture of Korea since 1945, teachers could use the video to help students identify traditional values of Korean culture; to identify the changes the culture has experienced since World War II; and/or to identify the changes the culture faces as it continues to develop its system of education. Most especially, the video is recommended viewing for our elected officials and other congressional committee members in charge of education budgets. As the narrator and the video jacket claim, perhaps we can learn something from South Korea: Economic growth isn't possible without a highly educated work force, and to have both, we must invest in the education of our young. ■

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For information on the seminar and application, please visit our website: www.umt.edu/Mansfield, or e-mail Karen Thomas, karenet@selwxy.umt.edu (phone: 406 243-2988)

Tune in Korea *Geography and Society* Teacher Resource and Video

PRODUCED AND DISTRIBUTED BY THE ASIA SOCIETY, EDUCATION DIVISION
725 PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK, NY 10021

PHONE: 212-327-9227, FAX: 888-FAX-ASIA (888-329-2742)

WWW.ASIASOCIETY.ORG

1999. 29 MINUTES. VHS. COLOR.

The rich history and culture of Korea, as well as its critical ties to our own nation, provide compelling reasons for including Korea in educational frameworks. *Tune in Korea: Geography and Society* is a solid resource for grades 6–9, laying the foundation for exploration of this culture, its history, and its place in contemporary society.

Produced by the Asia Society with support from the Korea Foundation, the book



targets grades 6–9. The video is complimented by a teacher’s guide that includes background essays, supplementary readings, and lesson plans. Both resources are broken into thematic units: geography, language, history, education, belief systems, population and resources, and family life. The topics are well aligned with geography and history frameworks, offering thoughtful and appropriately thorough coverage for these grade levels. The lessons and materials are easily adapted to use with or without the video.

The video introduces American students collaborating on a media project using visuals culled from actual Korean news sources. Each segment begins with an introduction by the students and follows with media footage and narrated explanations that are clear, concise, and informative. As the segment ends, a section recap is offered. This clearly-defined format makes each segment an independently usable teaching tool.

There are a few challenges to the resource. As with any video, time itself is the greatest threat to contemporary content. In addition, the lack of access to media clips from North Korea narrows the scope of the information largely to South Korea. Finally, the black and white pictures in the teacher’s guide are poor quality reproductions. This is easily remedied by use of images available on the internet, as noted in the extensive reference list in the guide.

Tune in Korea is an excellent choice as an introductory or closing video for a unit on Korea. In the classroom with limited time available to the subject, it would serve well as the centerpiece for sharing information. Certainly, the use of readings and activities offers a rich compliment to a unit on East Asia. The real value of this resource is in the potential for project work that leaps out from every topic segment: generating hyperstudio, power point, travel brochures or infomercials; conducting debates or Socratic circle discussions on issues of gender, social programs for a graying population, or reunification; poster presentations for common economic ties between our nation and South Korea; graphic representations on the costs of reunification vs. maintaining separate governments; reflecting Confucian influence through short skits of family life; or jigsaw presentations by small groups on in-depth study of each thematic topic presented in the video.

Tune in Korea packs an enormous amount of information into a one hour video. Every segment offers critical information that both ties Korea to its geographical and cultural region of East Asia, and sets it apart as a unique nation; each segment invites further research into deeper understanding of the complex issues, concepts, and values that are introduced. ■

JOAN BARNATT is a World History Teacher at the Cape Cod Lighthouse Charter School in Orlean, MA. She is a National Consortium for Teaching about Asia (NCTA) facilitator through the Five College Center for East Asia Studies and curriculum consultant on East Asian Studies. She recently traveled to South Korea with The Korea Society Summer Study Program.

War and Peace

DIRECTED BY ANAND PATWARDHAN

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Recent world events have made Anand Patwardhan’s new film *War and Peace* more attractive for classroom use than it might otherwise have been. A thoughtful critic of Indian society and politics, this prominent documentary filmmaker offers an insider’s view of the historical trajectory leading from the independence and partition of Pakistan and India in 1947 to nuclear competition between the two states today. Patwardhan’s iconoclastic approach offers a noteworthy alternative to the dominant Indian voices heard through the news media.

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