

# SOUTH KOREA

Presidential

Democracy

# Background

- In the early 1900s, the Republic of Korea was a military dictatorship.
- The country has come a long way and is now a presidential democracy that supports individual rights and freedoms.

# South Korea's National Assembly Building



# Legislature

- South Korea's unicameral legislature is called the National Assembly.
- About one-sixth of the legislature is chosen to represent national interests without going through an election.
- The rest of the members are elected by South Koreans ages 19 and up.

# South Korea's National Assembly



# Presidential

# Democracy

- South Korea has a presidential democracy.
- Citizens directly elect the president.
- The executive branch works independently of the legislative branch.

# Leadership

- South Koreans directly elect a president to serve as head of state.
- The president then appoints a prime minister (subject to confirmation by the National Assembly) to be the chief executive of government.

# Moon Jae-in



South Korea's President



Lee Nak-yeon



South Korea's Prime Minister

# Role of Citizens

- Citizens age 19 and older are free to vote or run for office.
- South Koreans have a lot more influence over the government today than they did a couple decades ago.
- South Korea's constitution guarantees basic freedoms of speech, religion, the press, assembly, etc.

# Struggles

- Unfortunately, freedoms for South Korea's citizens are not absolute.
- The government considers it a crime to express sympathy with North Korea.
- The government also censors songs, books, and plays that are written in Japanese.
- Also, workers from other Asian countries face discrimination in South Korea.

# AUTOOCRACIES:

North Korea and China

# Autocracy

- Autocratic governments rule in North Korea and China.
- Government officials make decisions without any input from citizens.
- The people do not have the option of changing the government through elections.
- Citizens' rights, such as free speech and right to assemble, are restricted by the government.

**NORTH KOREA**

**Autocracy**

# Background

- North Korea has a centralized government that is under the control of the communist Korean Workers' Party.
- All government officials belong to the KWP.
- Since the country's creation in 1948, it has been ruled by the Kim dynasty.
- The exact structure of power is somewhat unclear, but the military supreme commander holds the most influence.

# Supreme People's Assembly

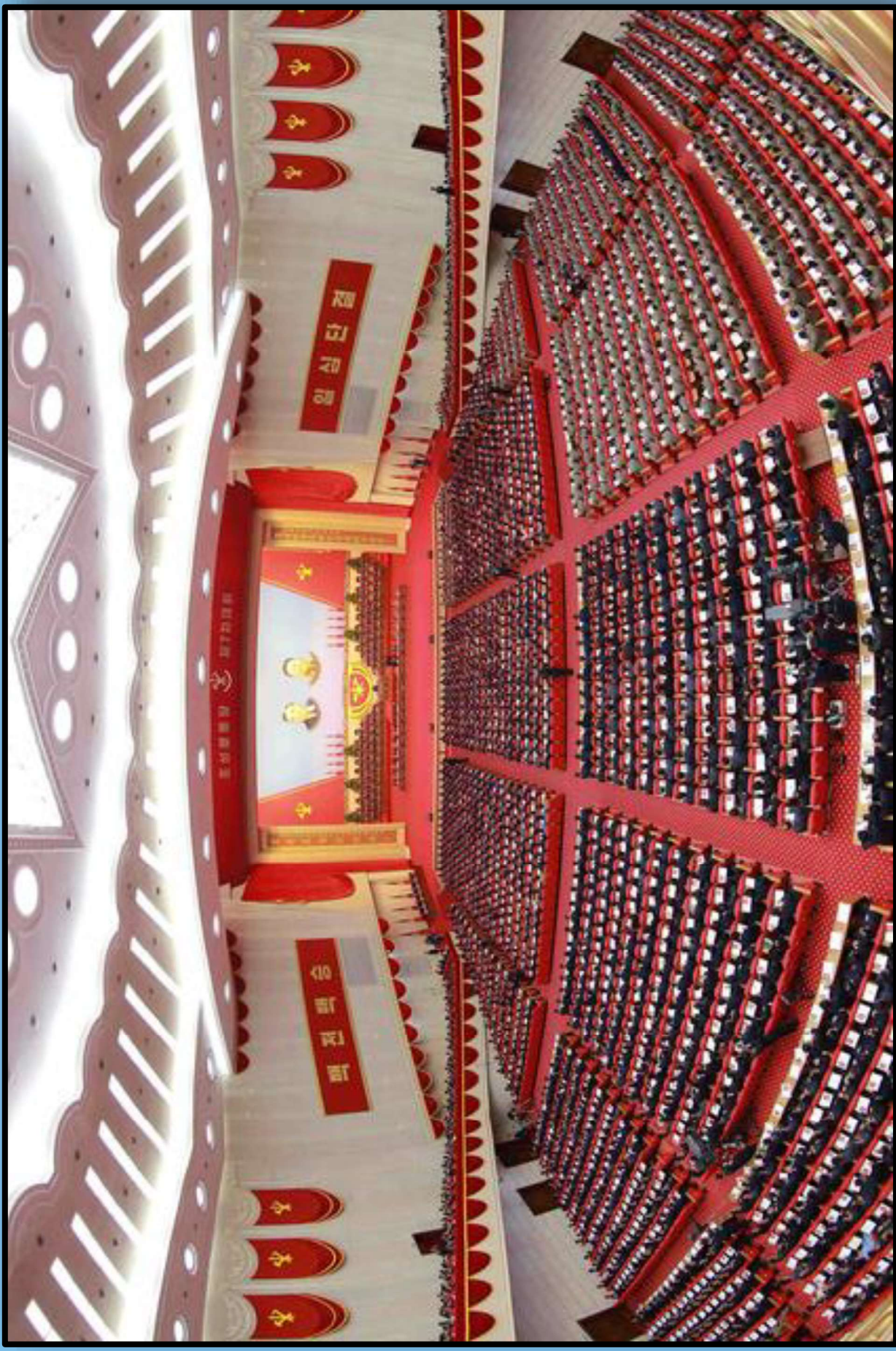




# Legislature

- Citizens vote for a Supreme People's Assembly, which serves as the legislature.
- The Supreme People's Assembly usually only meets twice a year and it mostly ratifies decisions already made by the KWP.

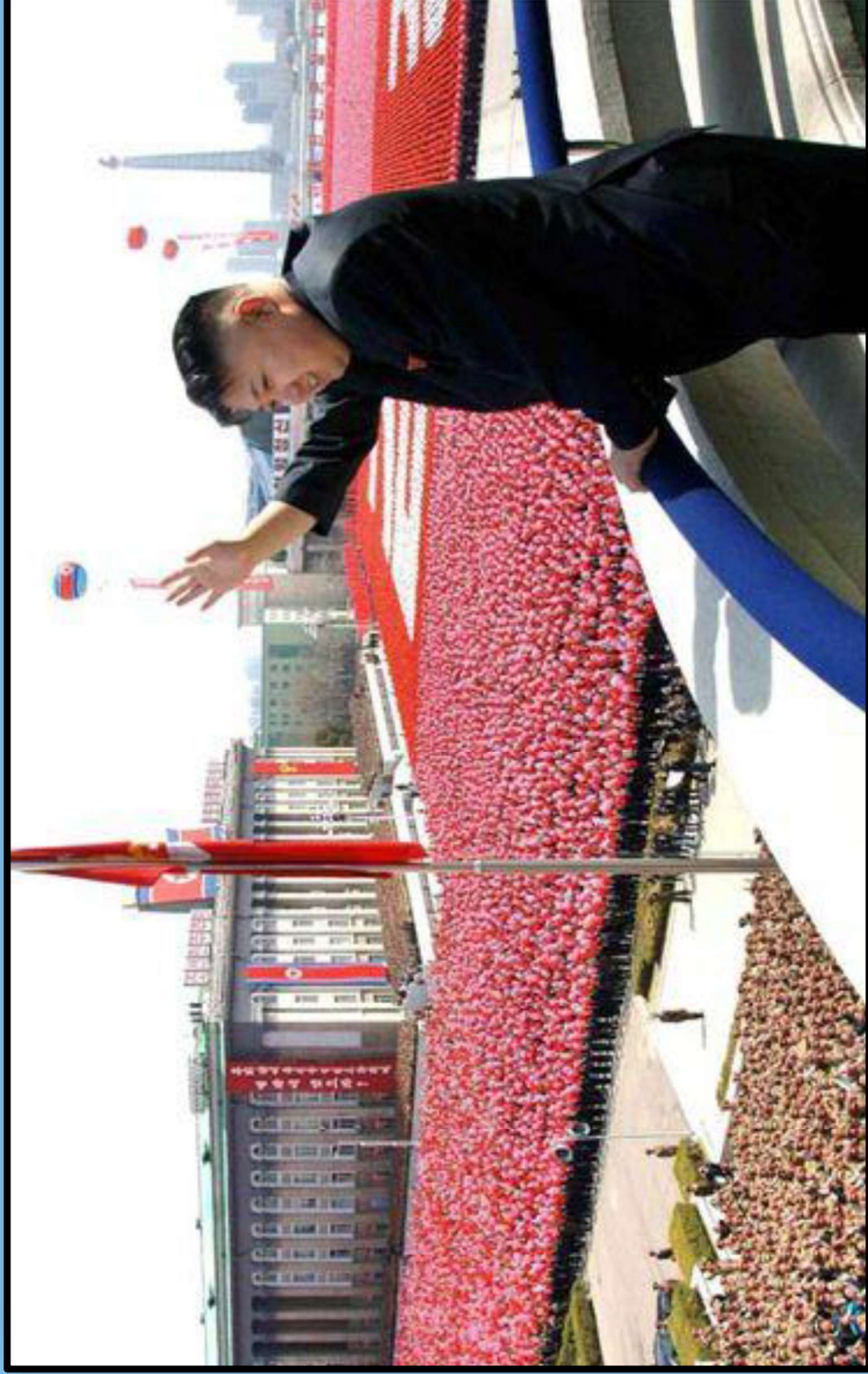
# Supreme People's Assembly



# Leadership

- The military supreme leader is the highest office of the state.
- North Korea also has a chief of state that serves as the head of state.
- There is also a premier that leads the government and oversees the cabinet.
- Both the premier and head of state must share power with the military supreme commander.

# Kim Jong-un



North Korean Leader

# How Leaders Are Chosen

- The military supreme commander appears to be a hereditary position that has been passed down through three generations.
- The Supreme People's Assembly elects the chief of state and the premier.

# Autocracy

- The Korean Workers' Party is the center of North Korea's government.
- High-ranking KWP officials make decisions without answering to the citizens.



# Role of Citizens

- North Korean citizens can vote starting at age 17.
- Only the Korean Workers' Party can select candidates in this autocracy, so citizens don't really have much influence on the government.



# Struggles


- Rights such as freedom of religion, press, assembly, etc., are heavily restricted by the government.
- North Korea has a serious lack of freedom of speech.
- There are only 3 TV channels (all government-owned), propaganda is announced from loudspeakers every morning, and there is no internet.



# Struggles

- There is an extreme gap between the rich and poor in North Korea.
- More than half of the population are malnourished and live in extreme poverty.
- In the 1990s, a huge famine struck and killed hundreds of thousands of people.





**CHINA**

Communist State

# Great Hall of the People in Beijing



# Leadership

- China has a **president**, who serves as the head of state. This is largely a ceremonial office that holds little political power.
- The **premier** is the chief executive and is the highest ranking administrative official in China's government.

# Xi Jinping



China's President



Li Keqiang



China's Premier

# How Leaders Are Chosen

- China's legislature elects the president.
- The president nominates someone to be the premier, and the legislature confirms him or her.

# Legislature

- The National People's Congress is the country's unicameral legislature.
- Citizens 18 and over can vote in elections; however, only members of the Chinese Communist Party can be candidates in this Communist state.
- Candidates are selected and approved by the government before the people can vote for them.

# Great Hall of the People (National People's Congress Resides Here)



# Legislature

- The National People's Congress only meets for two weeks a year and mostly just approves decisions already made by the Communist Party.

# Role of Citizens

- At this time, it is not possible for Chinese citizens to change their government through elections.
- Even though the constitution gives every person over 18 the right to vote, these rights are mostly meaningless because they are only allowed to vote for members of the Chinese Communist Party.
- The government chooses the candidates and then dictates what they do once they are “elected”.

## Voting in China\*



\*Chinese Communist Party is the only legal party, and officially sanctioned candidates run unopposed.

# Role of Citizens

- China's communist government has a history of violating the personal freedoms of Chinese citizens by denying them basic rights such as freedom of speech and religion.