

Korea

Check Korean Newspapers

Student Protest in Korea and the United States

Examine the student protest in the US from 1968 to 1972 with student protest in Korea centering around the Kwangju Massacre May 18, 1980.

Students: US History classes, post OGT Test when covering the 60s, 70s Vietnam and the student movements.

Procedure

Assign 3 groups of students to create Power Points

- One group of students creates a Power Point on Viet Nam War protest including Kent State shootings.
- Another group looks at Kwangju Massacre May 18, 1980; there is a tremendous amount available to the students.
- Another group must a power point on Tiananmen Square that occurs 9 years later and is a “poster child” to many in the United States.

Show a series of YouTube videos such as: lasting about 20 minutes

While people in the US look at the late 60s and early 70s as a very tense and seminal time in our history, it is barely a footnote compared to what happened in South Korea on 1980. We have tended to ignore Gwangju but never Tiananmen Square.

“In May 1980, shortly after then-General Chun imposed nationwide martial law, civilians in the southern city of Kwangju staged a series of protests. South Korean troops were sent to the city and they fired at the demonstrators, killing some 2,000 civilians. Some of the troop movements had to be approved by the American commander of the United Nations forces in South Korea, though the United States has argued that such approval is automatic and denies any responsibility in the killings.”
NY Times January 12, 1987

After the presentations the students will write an essay on how students in each country were attempting to practice freedom of speech, encourage democracy, and why adults were choosing not to.