Online Appendix to: The Perception of the Integration of North and South Korea

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Historical Social Research

This is the Online Appendix of:

The Perception of the Integration
of North and South Korea

Woo-Young Lee & Hayeon Lee [*]

Abstract: *»Die Wahrnehmung/ Sichtweisen auf den Zusammenschluss von Nord- und Südkorea«.* This study describes South Koreans' general perceptions of the integration of North and South Korea through a survey of 500 adults living in South Korea. The following multiple-choice questions were asked: one's general ideas about the integration of North and South Korea; the type of Korean reunification which is mostly supported/opposed; the type of Korean reunification which is most probable; and the pros and cons of reunification as well as necessary factors for reunification. Furthermore, we examined the differences in the perception of Korean reunification among the subgroup based on participants' demographic information (i.e., gender, age, political orientation). The main results are as follows. First, the most representative thought on integration was "geographical integration of the Korean Peninsula," followed by "establishment of economic partnerships or communities" and "restoration of common identity." Meanwhile, there were differences among participants with regard to the detailed representation of Korean reunification. It suggests that when the attitudes toward integration of North and South Korea society are discussed, differences in the perception among people should be considered.

Keywords: Social integration, Korean reunification, integration of Korean minds.

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The Table of Results of Entire Questions (Divided into Age, Gender, Political Orientation)

Table 2:   The General Perception of Korean Reunification (Age)

		Age group								Average
		20s		30s		40s		50s		
		Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	
General perception of reunification	Geographical integration on the Korean Peninsula	56	56.0%	84	56.0%	89	59.3%	47	58.8%	57.5%
	Establishment of a single political system	46	46.0%	52	34.7%	48	32.0%	30	37.5%	37.5%
	Establishment of economic communities	40	40.0%	67	44.7%	75	50.0%	43	53.8%	47.1%
	Expansion of social and cultural exchanges	46	46.0%	70	46.7%	61	40.7%	34	42.5%	44.0%
	Restoration of common ethnic identity	39	39.0%	76	50.7%	79	52.7%	41	51.3%	48.4%
	Psychological harmony between North and South Koreans	31	31.0%	52	34.7%	61	40.7%	17	21.3%	31.9%
	South Korea's absorption of North Korea	35	35.0%	42	28.0%	32	21.3%	22	27.5%	28.0%
	North Korea's absorption of South Korea	6	6.0%	4	2.7%	4	2.7%	6	7.5%	4.7%

Table 2.1: The General Perception of Korean Reunification (Gender)

		Gender				Average
		Male		Female		
		Count	%	Count	%	
General perception of reunification	Geographical integration on the Korean Peninsula	148	59.2%	142	56.8%	58.0%
	Establishment of a single political system	95	38.0%	84	33.6%	35.8%
	Establishment of economic communities	124	49.6%	115	46.0%	47.8%
	Expansion of social and cultural exchanges	97	38.8%	124	49.6%	44.2%
	Restoration of common ethnic identity	117	46.8%	127	50.8%	48.8%
	Psychological harmony between North and South Koreans	79	31.6%	85	34.0%	32.8%
	South Korea's absorption of North Korea	81	32.4%	56	22.4%	27.4%
	North Korea's absorption of South Korea	7	2.8%	14	5.6%	4.2%

Table 2.2: The General Perception of Korean Reunification (Political Orientation)

		Political orientation						Average
		Liberal		Moderate		Conservative		
		Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	
General perception of reunification	Geographical integration on the Korean Peninsula	115	53.7%	101	60.1%	74	62.7%	58.9%
	Establishment of a single political system	79	36.9%	60	35.7%	40	33.9%	35.5%
	Establishment of economic communities	104	48.6%	79	47.0%	56	47.5%	47.7%
	Expansion of social and cultural exchanges	99	46.3%	79	47.0%	43	36.4%	43.2%
	Restoration of common ethnic identity	102	47.7%	81	48.2%	61	51.7%	49.2%
	Psychological harmony between North and South Koreans	80	37.4%	60	35.7%	24	20.3%	31.1%
	South Korea's absorption of North Korea	57	26.6%	38	22.6%	42	35.6%	28.3%
	North Korea's absorption of South Korea	6	2.8%	4	2.4%	11	9.3%	4.8%

Table 3: Most Preferred Type of Reunification (Age)

				Age group			Total
			20s	30s	40s	50s	
Most preferred type of reunification	Establishment of a single political system based on South Korea	Count	71	82	81	37	271
		%	71.7%	55.4%	54.4%	46.3%	56.9%
	Establishment of a single political system based on North Korea	Count	0	10	7	4	21
		%	0.0%	6.8%	4.7%	5.0%	4.4%
	Establishment of a single state through a federation between North and South Korea	Count	18	38	41	25	122
		%	18.2%	25.7%	27.5%	31.3%	25.6%
	A union of the nation between North and South Korea	Count	10	18	20	14	62
		%	10.1%	12.2%	13.4%	17.5%	13.0%
Total		Count	99	148	149	80	476
		%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 3.1: Most Preferred Type of Reunification (Gender)

			Gender		Total
			Male	Female	
Most preferred type of reunification	Establishment of a single political system based on South Korea	Count	138	144	282
		%	55.6%	58.1%	56.9%
	Establishment of a single political system based on North Korea	Count	12	9	21
		%	4.8%	3.6%	4.2%
	Establishment of a single state through a federation between North and South Korea	Count	68	61	129
		%	27.4%	24.6%	26.0%
	A union of the nation between North and South Korea	Count	30	34	64
		%	12,1%	13.7%	12.9%
Total		Count	248	248	496
		%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 3.2: Most Preferred Type of Reunification (Political Orientation)

			Political orientation			Total
			Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	
Most preferred type of reunification	Establishment of a single political system based on South Korea	Count	120	99	63	282
		%	56.6%	59.3%	53.8%	56.9%
	Establishment of a single political system based on North Korea	Count	7	6	8	21
		%	3.3%	3.6%	6.8%	4.2%
	Establishment of a single state through a federation between North and South Korea	Count	56	44	29	129
		%	26.4%	26.3%	24.8%	26.0%
	A union of the nation be-tween North and South Korea	Count	29	18	17	64
		%	13.7%	10.8%	14.5%	12.9%
Total		Count	212	167	117	496
		%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 4: Most Opposed Type of Reunification (Age)

			Age group				Total
			20s	30s	40s	50s	
Most opposed type of reunification	Establishment of a single political system based on South Korea	Count	6	17	8	7	38
		%	6.0%	11.3%	5.3%	8.9%	7.9%
	Establishment of a single political system based on North Korea	Count	83	111	115	57	366
		%	83.0%	74.0%	76.7%	72.2%	76.4%
	Establishment of a single state through a federation be-tween North and South Korea	Count	5	7	9	8	29
		%	5.0%	4.7%	6.0%	10.1%	6.1%
	A union of the nation between North and South Korea	Count	6	15	18	7	46
		%	6.0%	10.0%	12.0%	8.9%	9.6%
Total		Count	100	150	150	79	479
		%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 4.1: Most Opposed Type of Reunification (Gender)

			Gender		Total
			Male	Female	
Most opposed type of reunification	Establishment of a single political system based on South Korea	Count	22	17	39
		%	8.8%	6.8%	7.8%
	Establishment of a single political system based on North Korea	Count	179	204	383
		%	71.6%	81.9%	76.8%
	Establishment of a single state through a federation between North and South Korea	Count	20	11	31
		%	8.0%	4.4%	6.2%
	A union of the nation between North and South Korea	Count	29	17	46
		%	11.6%	6.8%	9.2%
Total		Count	250	249	499
		%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 4.2: Most Opposed Type of Reunification (Political Orientation)

			Political orientation			Total
			Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	
Most opposed type of reunification	Establishment of a single political system based on South Korea	Count	8	20	11	39
		%	3.7%	11.9%	9.4%	7.8%
	Establishment of a single political system based on North Korea	Count	175	124	84	383
		%	81.8%	73.8%	71.8%	76.8%
	Establishment of a single state through a federation between North and South Korea	Count	10	12	9	31
		%	4.7%	7.1%	7.7%	6.2%
	A union of the nation between North and South Korea	Count	21	12	13	46
		%	9.8%	7.1%	11.1%	9.2%
Total		Count	214	168	117	499
		%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 5:   Types of Reunification That Have Most Feasibility (Age)

			Age group				Total
			20s	30s	40s	50s	
The type of reunification thought to be most feasible	Establishment of a single political system based on South Korea	Count	40	40	45	18	143
		%	42.6%	27.6%	30.2%	23.1%	30.7%
	Establishment of a single political system based on North Korea	Count	6	6	4	6	22
		%	6.4%	4.1%	2.7%	7.7%	4.7%
	Establishment of a single state through a federation between North and South Korea	Count	26	54	48	29	157
		%	27.7%	37.2%	32.2%	37.2%	33.7%
	A union of the nation between North and South Korea	Count	22	45	52	25	144
		%	23.4%	31.0%	34.9%	32.1%	30.9%
Total		Count	94	145	149	78	466
		%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 5.1: Types of Reunification That Have Most Feasibility (Gender)

			Gender		Total
			Male	Female	
The type of reunification thought to be most feasible	Establishment of a single political system based on South Korea	Count	81	68	149
		%	33.2%	28.2%	30.7%
	Establishment of a single political system based on North Korea	Count	13	11	24
		%	5.3%	4.6%	4.9%
	Establishment of a single state through a federation between North and South Korea	Count	76	83	159
		%	31.1%	34.4%	32.8%
	A union of the nation between North and South Korea	Count	74	79	153
		%	30.3%	32.8%	31.5%
Total		Count	244	241	485
		%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 5.2: Types of Reunification That Have Most Feasibility (Political Orientation)

			Political orientation			Total
			Liberal	Moderate	Conserva-tive	
The type of reunification thought to be most feasible	Establishment of a single political system based on South Korea	Count	61	55	33	149
		%	29.5%	33.7%	28.7%	30.7%
	Establishment of a single political system based on North Korea	Count	8	5	11	24
		%	3.9%	3.1%	9.6%	4.9%
	Establishment of a single state through a federation between North and South Korea	Count	68	56	35	159
		%	32.9%	34.4%	30.4%	32.8%
	A union of the nation between North and South Korea	Count	70	47	36	153
		%	33.8%	28.8%	31.3%	31.5%
Total		Count	207	163	115	485
		%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 6: Reasons for Supporting Reunification (Age)

	Age group									Average
	20s		30s		40s		50s			
Reasons for supporting reunification	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%		
Because we are one group as 'Han-ethnicity'	40	40.0%	86	57.3%	88	58.7%	45	56.3%		53.1%
To eliminate the threat of war	81	81.0%	110	73.3%	122	81.3%	63	78.8%		78.6%
To make Korea a stronger country	50	50.0%	84	56.0%	74	49.3%	44	55.0%		52.6%
To resolve the problems of separated families	43	43.0%	65	43.3%	56	37.3%	32	40.0%		40.9%
To improve the life of North Koreans	27	27.0%	39	26.0%	45	30.0%	24	30.0%		28.3%
To contribute to world peace	35	35.0%	36	24.0%	41	27.3%	24	30.0%		29.1%
Because the majority of Koreans wants reunification	10	10.0%	17	11.3%	19	12.7%	4	5.0%		9.8%
For no particular reason	8	8.0%	7	4.7%	4	2.7%	2	2.5%		4.5%

Table 6.1: Reasons for Supporting Reunification (Gender)

		Gender				Average
		Male		Female		
		Count	%	Count	%	
Reasons for supporting reunification	Because we are one group as 'Han-ethnicity'	133	53.2%	140	56.0%	54.6%
	To eliminate the threat of war	189	75.6%	204	81.6%	78.6%
	To make Korea a stronger country	140	56.0%	124	49.6%	52.8%
	To resolve the problems of separated families	90	36.0%	112	44.8%	40.4%
	To improve the life of North Koreans	77	30.8%	64	25.6%	28.2%
	To contribute to world peace	74	29.6%	65	26.0%	27.8%
	Because the majority of Koreans wants reunification	29	11.6%	23	9.2%	10.4%
	For no particular reason	16	6.4%	5	2.0%	4.2%

Table 6.2: Reasons for Supporting Reunification (Political Orientation)

		Political orientation						Average
		Liberal		Moderate		Conservative		
		Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	
Reasons for supporting reunification	Because we are one group as 'Han-ethnicity'	119	55.6%	94	56.0%	60	50.8%	54.1%
	To eliminate the threat of war	167	78.0%	145	86.3%	81	68.6%	77.7%
	To make Korea a stronger country	106	49.5%	87	51.8%	71	60.2%	53.8%
	To resolve the problems of separated families	93	43.5%	67	39.9%	42	35.6%	39.6%
	To improve the life of North Koreans	57	26.6%	40	23.8%	44	37.3%	29.2%
	To contribute to world peace	55	25.7%	45	26.8%	39	33.1%	28.5%
	Because the majority of Koreans wants reunification	26	12.1%	15	8.9%	11	9.3%	10.1%
	For no particular reason	12	5.6%	7	4.2%	2	1.7%	3.8%

Table 7: Reasons for Opposing Reunification (Age)

Reasons for opposing reunification	Age group	20s		30s		40s		50s		Average
		Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	%
North and South Korea have had different histories for too long		60	60.0%	99	66.0%	108	72.0%	55	68.8%	66.7%
There is no possibility of war between North and South Korea		6	6.0%	20	13.3%	18	12.0%	9	11.3%	10.6%
Reunification interferes with South Korea becoming a stronger country		19	19.0%	29	19.3%	21	14.0%	16	20.0%	18.1%
Aversion to the North Korean regime		86	86.0%	121	80.7%	129	86.0%	71	88.8%	85.4%
The financial burden of the South Koreans for reunification		85	85.0%	123	82.0%	120	80.0%	62	77.5%	81.1%
The state of division is favorable to maintaining power–order of the world		14	14.0%	22	14.7%	15	10.0%	6	7.5%	11.5%
Many people do not want reunification		15	15.0%	19	12.7%	17	11.3%	14	17.5%	14.1%
No particular reason		10	10.0%	7	4.7%	18	12.0%	2	2.5%	7.3%

Table 7.1: Reasons for Opposing Reunification (Gender)

		Gender				Average
		Male		Female		
		Count	%	Count	%	
Reasons for opposing reunification	North and South Korea have had different histories for too long	170	68.0%	166	66.4%	67.2%
	There is no possibility of war between North and South Korea	34	13.6%	20	8.0%	10.8%
	Reunification interferes with South Korea becoming a stronger country	47	18.8%	41	16.4%	17.6%
	Aversion to the North Korean regime	205	82.0%	220	88.0%	85.0%
	The financial burden of the South Koreans for reunification	200	80.0%	208	83.2%	81.6%
	The state of division is favorable to maintaining power-order of the world	34	13.6%	25	10.0%	11.8%
	Many people do not want reunification	35	14.0%	34	13.6%	13.8%
	No particular reason	17	6.8%	20	8.0%	7.4%

Table 7.2: Reasons for Opposing Reunification (Political Orientation)

		Political orientation						Average
		Liberal		Moderate		Conservative		
		Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	
Reasons for opposing reunification	North and South Korea have had different histories for too long	151	70.6%	107	63.7%	78	66.1%	66.8%
	There is no possibility of war between North and South Korea	13	6.1%	25	14.9%	16	13.6%	11.5%
	Reunification interferes with South Korea becoming a stronger country	29	13.6%	31	18.5%	28	23.7%	18.6%
	Aversion to the North Korean regime	193	90.2%	141	83.9%	91	77.1%	83.7%
	The financial burden of the South Koreans for reunification	181	84.6%	138	82.1%	89	75.4%	80.7%
	The state of division is favorable to maintaining power-order of the world	23	10.7%	18	10.7%	18	15.3%	12.2%
	Many people do not want reunification	28	13.1%	22	13.1%	19	16.1%	14.1%
	No particular reason	13	6.1%	13	7.7%	11	9.3%	7.7%

Table 8: Necessary Factors for Reunification (Age)

		Age group								
		20s		30s		40s		50s		Average
		Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	%
Requirements for reunification	Improvement in North Korea's political/economic situation	78	78.0%	96	64.0%	97	64.7%	50	62.5%	67.3%
	Improvement in South Korea's political/economic situation	16	16.0%	34	22.7%	33	22.0%	18	22.5%	20.8%
	Improvement in South Koreans' perceptions of unification	22	22.0%	41	27.3%	32	21.3%	20	25.0%	23.9%
	Improvement in North Koreans' perceptions of unification	48	48.0%	53	35.3%	49	32.7%	23	28.8%	36.2%
	Establishment of peaceful relations between South and North Korea	41	41.0%	72	48.0%	74	49.3%	41	51.3%	47.4%
	International agreement by China, the United States, etc.	45	45.0%	37	24.7%	60	40.0%	27	33.8%	35.9%
	Expansion of political and economic exchanges between South and North Korea	28	28.0%	64	42.7%	61	40.7%	32	40.0%	37.8%
	Expansion of inter-Korean social/cultural/interpersonal exchanges	21	21.0%	49	32.7%	43	28.7%	29	36.3%	29.6%

Table 8.1: Necessary Factors for Reunification (Gender)

		Gender				Average
		Male		Female		
		Count	%	Count	%	
Requirements for reunification	Improvement in North Korea's political/economic situation	168	67.2%	166	66.4%	66.8%
	Improvement in South Korea's political/economic situation	63	25.2%	41	16.4%	20.8%
	Improvement in South Koreans' perceptions of unification	67	26.8%	52	20.8%	23.8%
	Improvement in North Koreans' perceptions of unification	97	38.8%	85	34.0%	36.4%
	Establishment of peaceful relations between South and North Korea	106	42.4%	139	55.6%	49.0%
	International agreement by China, the United States, etc.	99	39.6%	72	28.8%	34.2%
	Expansion of political and economic exchanges between South and North Korea	91	36.4%	102	40.8%	38.6%
	Expansion of inter-Korean social/cultural/interpersonal exchanges	56	22.4%	90	36.0%	29.2%

Table 8.2: Necessary Factors for Reunification (Political Orientation)

		Political orientation						Average
		Liberal		Moderate		Conservative		
		Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	
Requirements for reunification	Improvement in North Korea's political/economic situation	146	68.2%	107	63.7%	81	68.6%	66.9%
	Improvement in South Korea's political/economic situation	36	16.8%	40	23.8%	28	23.7%	21.5%
	Improvement in South Koreans' perceptions of unification	45	21.0%	47	28.0%	27	22.9%	24.0%
	Improvement in North Koreans' perceptions of unification	70	32.7%	64	38.1%	48	40.7%	37.2%
	Establishment of peaceful relations between South and North Korea	108	50.5%	81	48.2%	56	47.5%	48.7%
	International agreement by China, the United States, etc.	69	32.2%	52	31.0%	50	42.4%	35.2%
	Expansion of political and economic ex-changes between South and North Korea	93	43.5%	61	36.3%	39	33.1%	37.6%
	Expansion of inter-Korean social/cultural/ interpersonal exchanges	75	35.0%	49	29.2%	22	18.6%	27.6%