



## 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics as Peace Instrument of South and North Korea

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### Abstract

*There are various ways for countries to fulfill their national interests, one of which is through diplomacy, especially in the field of sports. That's what happened at the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics. This sporting event was used as a way to find peace between South Korea and North Korea. This research seeks to explain how sport can act as an instrument to achieve peace. This research also aims to provide a specific picture of how sport can have a positive impact on countries in conflict, in this context South Korea and North Korea. Sports support for development and peace can be achieved because sport provides a catalyst for non-military diplomacy. Therefore, sport is seen and considered as an important social link in bilateral and multilateral relations. This research is qualitative research with a case study method that uses data collection and analysis through literature study. Data was collected and analyzed using a liberalism perspective with a functionalism approach and the concept of sports diplomacy. The result is that the success of the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics has resulted in increased positive interaction between South Korea and North Korea, especially in sports partnerships.*

**Keywords:** 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics, Peace Instrument, Diplomacy, South Korea, North Korea.

### INTRODUCTION

Sports is a movement activity that has been known by the international community to strengthen and nourish the body. The international world consisting of various countries certainly has a variety of sports as well. Types of sports that still exist today, such as, football, badminton, volleyball, basketball, swimming, running, and throwing. In the context of sustainable development, sports are used as tools for the development of basic human rights, social development, and economic development. Sports as a peace builder means that exercise not only makes our bodies healthy, but also acts as a medium of friendship.

Sports can be considered not only make our bodies healthy but this activity can be an agent that can create international peace. Peace and this sports activity arises and the creation of good characters for the players, such as honesty, responsibility, cooperation, fairness, and a sense of brotherly character. The relationship between nationalism and sports can be seen during the matches in the international sports championships, where the national anthem and flag of each country are shown at the championship.

For example, the international sports champion, the 2018 Asian Games, is considered to have good potential as an alternative medium in creating peace. Through globalization, sports activities are slowly evolving into a new agenda in international politics. The performance of athletes is considered as a symbol of the strength of a country, therefore countries today prioritize the development of sports in their countries. In international politics, conflict and peace are considered to be the most important topics. This sport was used by politicians as a new diplomatic method.

There are four ways that make this sport as a tool to support international peace, namely international sports events can help host organizers to create a friendly image for other countries, sports events also allow countries to participate to build trust with each other, sports themselves can provide a place of peaceful cultural exchange to other countries, and international sporting events enable participating countries to

promote international peace through reconciliation, integration, and anti-racism (Nygård & Gates, 2013). Based on this explanation, our study will analyze "How can the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics be a peace agent to resolve the conflict between South and North Korea?"

The 2018 Pyeong Chang Winter Olympics held in South Korea were much further than just sporting events. They served as a vital moment in the tense relationship between North and South Korea, offering a lamp of a stopgap for peace on the war-torn Korean Peninsula. This essay will explore the colorful sweats accepted during the Games, their impact on inter-Korean relations, and the lasting heritage they left before. Deliquescing the Ice Politic Pushes and Emblematic Gestures.

The political root for the "Peace Olympics" began months before the opening form. South Korean President Moon Jae-in laboriously pursued engagement with the North, leading to accommodations that resulted in a major agreement. North Korea agreed to shoot athletes, officers, and indeed an art troop to the Games, marking their first participation in the Winter Olympics in decades. This decision was significant, signifying an amenability to step onto the world stage and engage with the transnational community.

One of the most important symbols of peace was the combined march of North and South Korean athletes under a unified Korean flag at the opening form. This act, however simple, transcended the realm of sports and reverberated encyclopedically. It represented a participated identity, a sense of concinnity amidst literal division, and the possibility of a future where the two Koreas could attend peacefully. Beyond the illustrations, the Games fostered openings for direct communication between North and South. High-position delegations from both sides met, marking the first functionary addresses in over two times. While these conversations didn't resolve longstanding political issues, they established a pivotal line of communication and fostered a sense of goodwill.

The PyeongChang Olympics transcended the realm of geopolitics and stressed the unifying power of sports. Athletes from North and South Korea contended alongside each other in colorful events, fostering a sense of fellowship and respect. The sight of athletes celebrating each other's palms, anyhow of the nation, served as an important memorial that participated passion can bridge divides and foster understanding. Beyond the competition itself, the Games handed openings for artistic exchange. The common North and South Korean women's ice hockey platoon, a symbol of the junction, captured the world's attention and demonstrated the eventuality of collaboration indeed in the face of political disagreement. also, the artistic performances and cultural exchanges showcased the artistic heritage of the Korean Peninsula, pressing the common ground that was beneath the face of political pressure.

The PyeongChang Olympics achieved a significant advance in inter-Korean relations. still, it's pivotal to admit that this peace trouble was, unfortunately, not an endless result. The positive instigation established during the Games soon faded, with pressures rising formerly again in the ensuing months. nonetheless, the 2018 Olympics serve as a precious memorial of the eventuality of dialogue and cooperation between North and South Korea.

The Games left behind a heritage of stopgap and a design for unborn engagement. It demonstrated that indeed amidst profound political differences, channels of communication and collaboration can be established. The Olympic spirit, at its core, promotes peace and understanding, and the PyeongChang Olympics stressed the eventuality for sports to act as a catalyst for positive change in the complex geopolitical geography of the Korean Peninsula.

The path toward genuine and continuing peace on the Korean Peninsula remains long and grueling. Deep-confirmed political and ideological divides, as well as the ever-present trouble of nuclear proliferation, continue to pose significant obstacles. Moving forward, sustained politic sweats, coupled with continued artistic and societal exchanges, are pivotal to erecting trust and confidence between the two Koreas.

The PyeongChang Olympics, despite falling short of achieving lasting peace, provided a window into the possibilities of a united Korea. The world witnessed the power of sports to transcend political boundaries and foster mortal connection. It's imperative to learn from this experience and continue to endorse peaceful dialogue and cooperation, ensuring that the fragile stopgap burned at the PyeongChang Olympics isn't extinguished entirely.

In order to further explore this case, several library reviews from similar previous studies are a necessity that must be done. Based on the research journal Cevy & Noorzaman (2020) entitled "The Role of Sports as a Tool of Diplomacy to Resolve Conflicts On the Korean Peninsula In 2018" analyzed that the role of sports as a tool of diplomacy in the conflict on the Korean peninsula in 2018, can reduce the intensity of

cold war tensions between the two countries because the current condition of the Korean peninsula has not fully led to the ideals of reunification of the two countries.

The theory of public diplomacy can determine the factors that support the reduced intensity of the Cold War on the Korean peninsula. One factor is the role of sport as a tool of public diplomacy that has driven opportunities in resolving conflicts to reach a peace agreement between the two sides and lead to reunification. Then, Winarno's research analyzed that Korea's desire to host this Winter Olympics is to promote and promote Korean culture internationally (Winarno, 2020). As a result, Korean culture is widely known as a country that has the potential to attract tourists to the tourism sector and potentially attract foreign investment, supporting the economy. Pyeongchang and South Korea. Then, with the flow of the Korean Peninsula flag to state representatives and foreign tourists attending the opening ceremony of the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics, Korean and North Korean athletes walked together and established good relations with North Korea. The opening ceremony of the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics and the Winter Olympics will build the image of the world and attract foreign tourists.

Furthermore, Karina & Yuniasih analyzed that after President Moon Jae-in invited North Korea to the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics, South and North Korean sports diplomacy gained international attention. The summit, held after the 2018 Winter Olympics, marks a breakthrough in bilateral relations between South and North Korea, which suffered setbacks during President Park Geun-hye's tenure (Karina G & Yuniasih T, 2020). She successfully established cooperation in areas such as economy, security and sports, as well as connecting North Korea and the United States in negotiations on the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. The realization of cooperation will take a long time, but it will be a forum for the North and South to continue to build good bilateral relations for peace on the Korean Peninsula. The 2018 Winter Olympics proved that sports diplomacy is a key element in the reconciliation process of two or more countries. Economic and security cooperation between the two countries proved to be a testament to the North-South commitment. Talks between North Korea and the United States have been a bright place for both sides to achieve peace. This is a political approach that gives optimism to the North-South reconciliation process that was hampered by U.S. sanctions. This process will take a long time because the two countries have not created an effective and comprehensive denuclearization framework.

Then, Herdinata said that the 23rd Winter Olympics are considered the Peace Olympics because the Games are able to encourage reconciliation on the Korean Peninsula. The 23rd Winter Olympics are not just a sporting event but an instrument of peace to encourage reconciliation on the Korean Peninsula (Herdinata, 2015). The Olympics are both an opening door and a bridge for the two Koreas to create better relations. The Games could create a historic moment where delegates from South Korea and North Korea walked and marched together under the Flag of Unification of Korea. The 23rd Winter Olympics did not have a direct impact on peace between the two Koreas but became a driving instrument of reconciliation and gave hope for the creation of peace for Korea.

Further, Wulandari suggested that South Korea successfully utilized the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics as a useful opportunity to improve relations with North Korea and restore inter-Korean dialogue (Wulandari, 2022). So the problems on the Korean peninsula can be resolved again through diplomacy and South Korea also managed to build an image as an initiator country for the improvement of inter-Korean relations through Sport Diplomacy used at the 2018 Winter Olympics.

At the time of the Olympics, the two countries also had a dialogue between the South Korean president and the North Korean delegation at the presidential palace, the South Korean Prime Minister's meeting with the North Korean delegation and a closed-door dialogue between South Korea and the North Korean delegation for the closing ceremony of the 2018 Winter Olympics. After some literature review that we obtained, it was found that there was not much to discuss this case from the perspective of the peace agent. Mostly, this case is viewed through the point of view of motivation and results obtained from South Korea in pursuing various types of diplomacy in maximizing intra-Korean bilateral relations peacefully and cooperatively.

## **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

This study used liberalism theory that believes that conflicts can be resolved through means other than aggression of force and dimensions of violence. Not much different from realism, as a perspective, Dugis explained that liberalism has some basic assumptions that liberalism views more that humans have a good nature. People always have a good way, not by violence or war. People still have the conscience to achieve peace. Basically the state is formed from a group of people who have similarities, if the human being has a good nature then a country must also have good properties as well (Dugis et al., 2016).

Liberalism prioritizes peace through more fruitful cooperation and avoiding war. Such as the implementation of free trade or free trade to foster mutual cooperation and mutual benefit from each other as an embodiment that to achieve a peace does not have to go through war (Burchill et al., 2001). Then liberalism does not only focus on one actor, namely a state actor or state, who can run international relations. But non-state actors can also have a role to play in carrying out international relations.

Even in liberalism non-state actors are considered to have more of a role than the state actors themselves. From this it was established an international organization called the United Nations (UN) or also commonly called the United Nations. The liberalism perspective holds that international relations are cooperative. Liberalism strongly upholds its individual freedom and progress. The individual will form a group or organization that can give happiness to each other. So, the perspective of liberalism is a perspective that considers that humans basically have a good nature, humans still have the conscience to create a peace.

The perspective of liberalism does not always mean that the state is the actor who has the highest role in international relations, but that international organizations or other non-state actors can carry out an international relationship. The perspective of liberalism believes that to achieve peace it does not always have to be through war first. Although it is undeniable that it is a little impossible. Indeed, sometimes there must be a big debate first to achieve harmony. The perspective of liberalism focuses on world peace and security. Liberalism perspective, is very suitable to be used in this study, because if we look back that in resolving the conflict between South Korea and North Korea that has been going on for a long time, namely by involving the role of non-state actors.

Through the 2018 PyeongChang Olympics, it is imperative to lay the foundation for peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula step by step while engaging in talks with North Korea and cooperating with the international community. In addition, in this study we used a functional approach, which refers to 'how is it done?'.

The Functionalism approach is a series of extensions to functional structural approaches and has a general meaning as the study of the functions made in an international organization and see which structures are performed functions and under what conditions. So, what is specified here is a function that is carried out in an international environment. This analysis should take into account how the requests of various constituencies of international organizations are executed, what the final results of the function process are, how the feedback is supervised by the international organization to determine how well the organization meets its objectives and the extent to which the fulfillments of the interests of member states is maintained and prioritized.

The functional approach as described by Imber not only focuses in the form of Inter-Governmental Organization or IGO, but allows the presence of certain agents in the form of international institutions or foundations (Imber, 2022). Functionalists consider the citizens of the world to be in a functional unity so as to create a world community that is interconnected between groups and communities. The strategy of functionalism is based on the assumption that the state is not a unitary actor, but rather an organization of departments and individuals of varying interests. Through the use of functionalist approaches in this study, it is easy to see how the role of international organizations in helping the Pyongchang Winter Olympics in 2018. As well as seeing how the Olympics can be utilized as an agent or instrument of peace between the two countries as well as the catalyst for the diplomatic talks.

On the other hand, to answer the problem formulation comprehensively, this article uses the concept of sports diplomacy. In an article entitled Sport as Public Diplomacy written by Barry Sanders, he said that sport is a strong instrument in a mission carried out by the state to create a good image/reputation in the international political constellation (Sanders, 2011). Meanwhile, sport is also often considered a platform that is widely used by countries to fulfill their national interests. This is because it is quite effective in creating a positive message behind the implementation of a sports competition.

Not only that, sport is also often used as a strategy for well-planned diplomacy to provide significant opportunities and results to achieve national interests through the instrument of sport. If examined further, sports diplomacy can be categorized as part of public diplomacy practice. Sports diplomacy can also be used as a reflection of international instruments which are closely related to the concept of soft power. Sports diplomacy is considered effective in fulfilling a country's national interests because it uses massive, peaceful, sportsmanlike methods, and so on (Ambarwati & Hartati, 2021).

Sports diplomacy is also defined as a tool that is able to connect and open doors of opportunity in public diplomacy. Apart from that, he is also able to promote and create dialogue and negotiations between

countries by using sports diplomacy to resolve matters disputes and differences. For example, differences in the linguistic and socio-cultural fields by utilizing the universal spirit of competition in overcoming and unifying these differences (ÖZSARI, 2018).

Sports diplomacy is also defined as representative and diplomatic activities carried out by sports actors through sporting events facilitated by the state to attract attention, provide information and form a good image to achieve a country's foreign policy goals (Stuart, 2016b). Sports diplomacy is an activity consisting of representative and diplomatic activities carried out by sportsmen on behalf of and together with the government. The practice of sports diplomacy uses sports people as well as supporting events to engage, inform, and create a favorable image among foreign societies to shape their perceptions in a way that is (more) conducive to the foreign policy objectives of the sending country's government (Stuart, 2016a).

Sports diplomacy is carried out through the participation of sports actors and the government as open access, where international sports events are usually organized by the government of a country through a bidding process. In international sports competitions, athletes who compete also bring a good image to their country and become representatives of that country at sporting events. When an athlete wins the competition and becomes an idol, sending that athlete is a successful diplomatic mission. These athletes also become an affirmation to the international world for the existence of their country and gain a positive image in the international world (Ambarwati & Hartati, 2021).

Murray also said that sports diplomacy shares and spreads good narratives because sports diplomacy uses activities such as delegations or representatives as well as diplomatic roles carried out by actors in the sports field or even sports fans (Stuart, 2016a).

Organizing international sporting events is also a form of sports diplomacy. When a country hosts, it is an opportunity for a country to show a positive image of that country. In other words, through sports diplomacy a country gets the opportunity to improve its image, status and economy at the international level, as well as as a tool to spread a political message to the international world (Stuart, 2016b).

On the other hand, international sporting events continue to mediate the estrangement between society and government by encouraging intercultural understanding and cooperation. View the Olympics as a diplomatic tool to improve a country's image abroad or to improve relations between countries. Sports events are very beneficial because both the audience (the people) and the government (elite politicians) can be reached through their love of sports. As a result, international sporting events can improve relations both bilaterally and multilaterally (Graig Esherick, 2017).

## METHOD

In this study we use a type of qualitative research, with case study methods, as well as analysis carried out through the point of view that has been mentioned in the theoretical framework. Creswell explained that qualitative approach is a process of research and assessment of data that is carried out without going through calculation or quantitative processes (Creswell, 1994). Then, data will be obtained literature based and then analyzed according to research needs. Neuman also explained that the qualitative approach will emphasize the meaning and meaning of the data that has been obtained (Neuman, 2014). Meanwhile, Gagnon revealed that case studies are part of qualitative research methods that use in-depth explanations in a case to be used as an explanation of the research analysis that is being conducted (Gagnon, 2010).

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Sport is considered a useful bridge to unite culture, religion, ethnicity, and country. U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon told the International Forum on Sport, Peace and Development at the United Nations Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, that sport is a universal language, a common equation that breaks down all walls and barriers, and a powerful tool for bringing about change and development. Sports is a global industry and has a widespread impact. The Olympics is also one of the great sporting events that can create world peace (Ki-Moon, 2013).

Sports support for development and peace stems from the recognition that sport has unique traits that allow it to bring certain values to the development and peace process. Sports, which are seen and rated as social links, may be one of the strongest traits of sport in the context of development. The use of sports to promote healthy living and prevent disease, strengthen children's endurance, development and education of young people, foster social openness, including inviting people who experience limitations to exercise, open jobs

and economic development, and of course as a tool to prevent conflict and build peace has been increasingly done around the world.

As explained by the Korea Sports and Olympic Committee (2022), on July 15, 1946, South Korea established the National Olympic Committee to prepare for participation in the 14th London Olympics. The Korean Sports and Olympic Committee (KSOC) was approved at the 40th International Olympic Committee (IOC) congress held in Stockholm on June 20, 1947. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) or Olympics explained that in 1957, North Korea created a new National Olympic Committee (NOC) and registered with Geneva for recognition (Olympics, 2022). However, the decision of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in recognizing South and North Korea makes sports one aspect of diplomacy for bilateral communication and towards the ideals of peace from the cold war on the Korean Peninsula.

Noorzaman (2020) then explained on June 24, 2017, President Moon Jae-in first urged North Korea to participate in the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympics during his speech to the 2017 Muju Taekwondo World Championships. South Korea constantly conveys the message of aspiration to achieve peace permanent on the Korean Peninsula, through various speeches. South Korea will host the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympics in February (Cevy & Noorzaman, 2020). In addition, South Korean President Moon Jae-in invited North Korea to participate in the Games to heighten anticipation as South Korea awaits Kim's response. Thomas Bach, president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), has reached out to North Korea and promised to cover the costs of its athletes if they join the event.

Aleem explained that North and South Korea agreed and appeared in a row at the opening of the 2018 Winter Olympics, according to the Korean Unification Ministry (Aleem, 2018). The 2018 Winter Olympics were held in Pyeongchang, South Korea. After considerable negotiations between the two countries, on January 20, 2018, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) officially declared the Winter Olympics taking place in Pyeongchang. Thanks to the IOC's decision and the working-level talks between the two Koreas, the two neighboring countries finally formed a joint team for the first time in 27 years, and continued together in the Opening Ceremony for the first time in 11 years at the Pyeongchang Winter Games.

Delegates of both countries wave South and North Korean Unification flags flying during the opening national parade of the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea. The 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympics and the sending of a special envoy raise the possibility of talks between the United States and North Korea and an agreement to hold an inter-Korean summit. Beyond its success as a peace Olympiad, the PyeongChang Winter Olympics have made great strides toward denuclearization and peace settlement on the Korean Peninsula.

Harris explained that President Moon Jae-in first urged North Korea to participate in the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympics for table tennis for the World Team Championship in Sweden in May 2018 and won a bronze medal (Harris, 2018). South and North Korea also agreed through a meeting involving representatives of olympic bodies from both countries and the Asian Games organizing committee to send a joint team to the 2018 Asian Games to be held in Indonesia. The two countries will compete as one team in five-on-five basketball, dragon boat race, and lightweight. In addition, they will also parade together at the opening ceremony under the banner of unification. Through the momentum of the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympics, the South Korean government is using sports as the basis for normalizing inter-Korean relations and building peace with North Korea.

Further, the North Korea's participation and the success of the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympics have had an impact that can help achieve Moon Jae-in's vision towards the Korean unification. As an agent or instrument of peace, the games is based on the what President actually want to achieve from the unified olympic teams, which is to improve North Korean relations, promote inter-Korean dialogue according to the areas of exchange and cooperation at the private and local levels, resolve separate family issues, prisoners of war, abductees, and so on, promote the progress of inter-Korean relations and the North Korean nuclear issue, it is a place for exchange and cooperation through the international community, as well as providing assistance to North Koreans.

The success of the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics had a positive impact on partnerships in the sports sector between the two countries. After successful sporting events and summits, South Korea and North Korea agreed to jointly bid to host the 2032 Olympics. South Korea's Deputy Minister of Sports, Roh Tae-Kang, said that the plan is to hold a friendly competition to mark the meaningful anniversary. for both parties. The commemoration is like the first anniversary of the 2018 PyeongChang Inter-Korean Summit and Winter Olympics (SportsPro, 2018).

South and North Korean sports and government officials met with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in Laussane encouraged by the role of the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympics in de-escalating conflict between the two countries. During the meeting, the two parties together with the IOC discussed a joint bid for the 2032 Olympics where the two countries would be joint hosts and several integrated teams for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics (Reuters, 2019).

South Korea, North Korea and the IOC agreed on principles that would guide Korean teams through sporting disciplines. It was decided that participation in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics would be based on qualifications in sports disciplines in which both NOCs compete as a unified Korean team. The unified Korean team will take part in qualifying for the following events: women's basketball, women's hockey, judo combined team, women's and men's rowing. These discussions will be based on an agreement that any unified Korean team will follow the qualification system that has been established for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics (Olympics, 2019).

Referring to the history of South Korea and North Korea's sports diplomacy along with the success of the 2018 Winter Olympics, this helps both countries increase commitment in this field. This can have a positive impact on relations between the two countries through international sporting events. Sports diplomacy is a peaceful forum for South Korea and North Korea to carry out negotiations, so the sustainability of sports diplomacy is very important for both parties. The agreement formed after the 2018 Winter Olympics is an important moment for South Korea and North Korea. South Korea and North Korea's plans to co-host the 2032 Olympics indicate that North Korea is slowly ready to abandon its nuclear program in order to build domestic infrastructure for the Olympics (Karina G & Yuniasih T, 2020).

## CONCLUSION

Sports, which is an activity that is useful for physical training, has another important role, which can be used as a useful bridge to unite cultures, ethnicities, religions, countries and cultures that can be instrument to create world peace. One of them is the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics that made a big step that is considered to be an agent or instrument of peace to help ease the conflict between South and North Korea, where South and North Korea in the 2018 Pyeongchang Olympics united and formed a joint team in order to achieve President Moon's vision of North-South relation of Korean Peninsula.

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