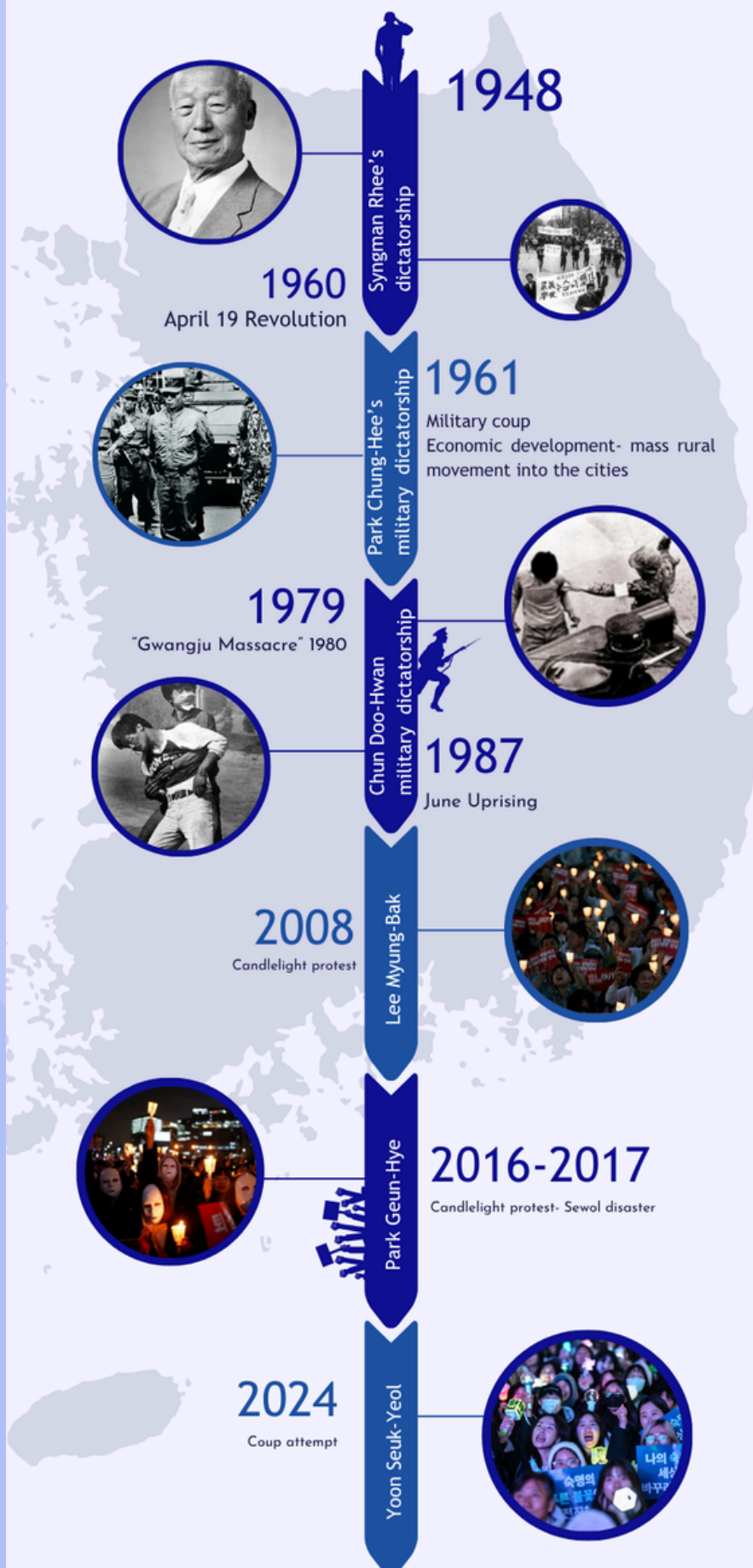


DEMOCRATIC STRUGGLE AND RESILIENCE IN SOUTH KOREA

(1948-2026)

Democratic uprisings build on the people's will to change, the **citizens' fighting spirit** against state oppression, violence, and corruption. The Republic of Korea's (commonly known as South Korea) fighting spirit reflects a broader human ideal for democracy; it is an example of **constant down to top accountability**. There is no doubt that it prompted a solid movement against authoritarianism and corruption that still holds a robust stance against political mischief.

SOUTH KOREA'S DEMOCRATIC STRUGGLE: EVENTS



HISTORICALLY SUBJECTED TO FOREIGN POWERS

Korea is familiar with **political power dynamics**, both within and outside the continent.

- Within the region, the **Chinese and Japanese**, who were militarily superior.
- Outside the continent, Korea has been deeply influenced by the **U.S. and Russia**
 - determined the political directions of the country for the second part of the 20th century.

AUTHORITARIAN GOVERNMENTS



The democratization movement in South Korea emerged in opposition to the anticommunist dictator **Syngman Rhee (1948-1960)**.

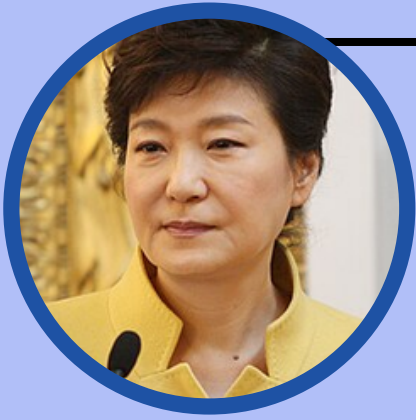
The rigging of the elections triggered a protest in Masan in March 1960. The police confronted the crowd, shooting at them. This built the foundation for the national movement that would be known as the **April 19th Revolution**.

Park Chung-Hee's regime (1961-1979) rested on the military's monopoly on coercive power.

The **Busan and Masan (Bu-Ma) Uprisings in 1979** triggered internal conflicts within the regime and resulted in Park's assassination the same year, ending his 18-year dictatorship



Chun Do-Hwan (1979-1987) staged a military coup after Park's assassination, and was met with protests in the city of Gwangju. State forces massacred protestors.

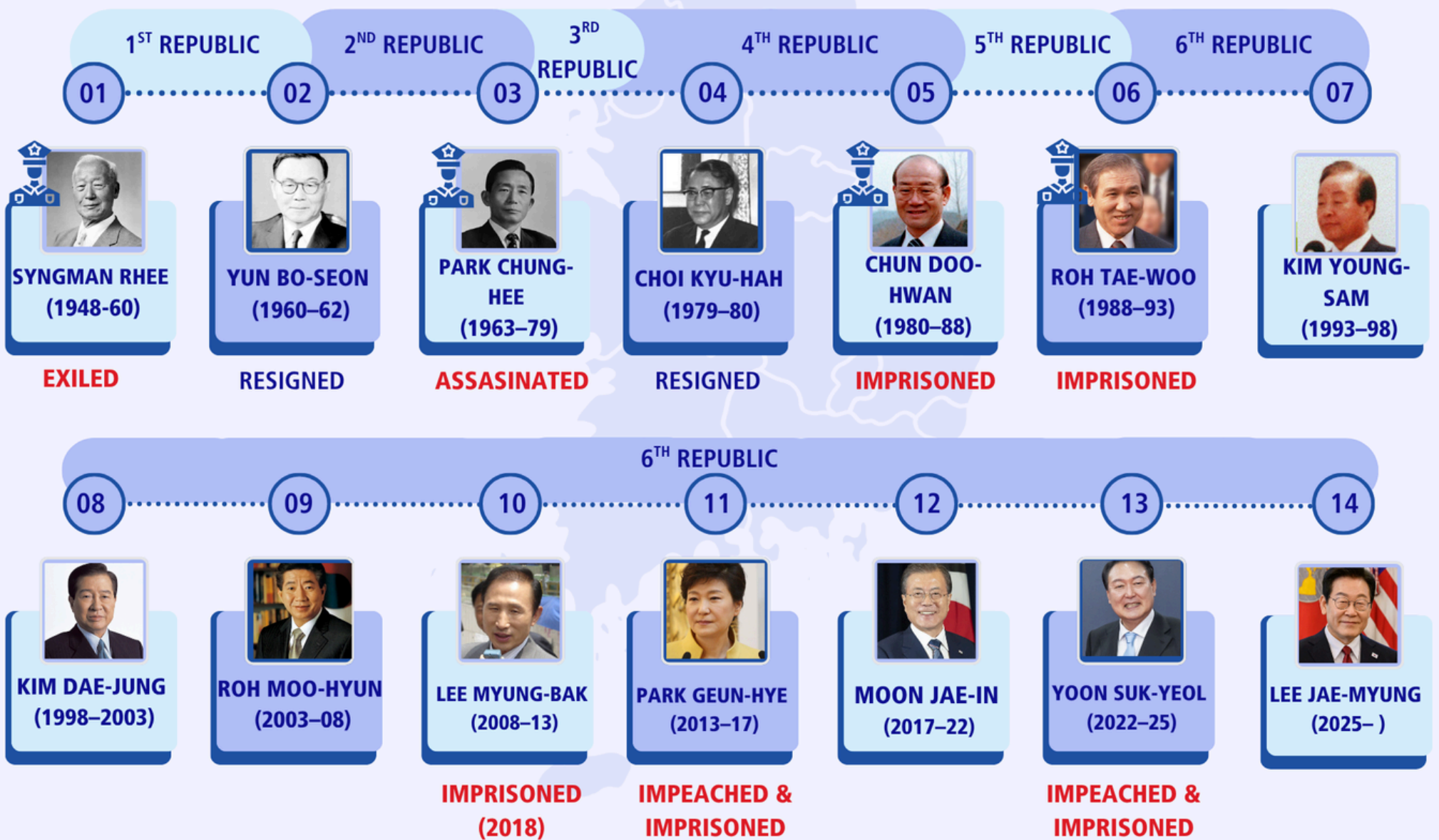


FIRST SITTING PRESIDENT TO BE ARRESTED IN THE COUNTRY

Park Geun Hye's (2013-2017) government was not only characterized by its lack of accountability during the Sewol Ferry disaster in 2014, but she was also the daughter of the previous South Korean dictator Park Chung-Hee, whose image was heavily protected by the government. The perception of a corrupted democratic structure mobilized South Koreans every Saturday at Gwanghwamun Square from **October 2016 until March 2017**. This series of protests are known as the **"Candlelight Revolution."**



SOUTH KOREAN PRESIDENTS (1948-2026)





YOON SUK-YEOL (2022-2025): MARTIAL LAW DECLARATION

Yoon, who took office in May 2022, won the presidency by appealing to young male voters through anti-feminist platforms. Corruption scandals around his wife and attempts to halt the investigation positioned Yoon under an untrustworthy light, as the opposition won the parliamentary majority.

On December 3rd, 2024, he declared martial law. He outlawed all political activity and ordered the military to censor all media. Roughly before midnight, thousands of citizens had rallied around the National Assembly: 190 lawmakers fought their way in, against the armed forces that had been called by the President to prevent any opposition

2026

SOUTH KOREAN CITIZENS HAVE BEEN RECOMMENDED AS CANDIDATES FOR THE 2026 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR PEACEFUL COLLECTIVE RESISTANCE TO THE DECLARATION OF MARTIAL LAW

YOON SUK-YEOL

INSURRECTION AND IMPEACHMENT TIMELINE



20
24

December 3rd, 2024

22:00-22:30 Martial Law Declaration
22:45 DP convenes emergency parliamentary session
Thousands of citizens rally around the National Assembly

December 4th, 2024

- The assembly's main chamber is sealed from the inside to prevent the parliament from assembling
- 00:40 Armed forces penetrate the assembly's main building
- 04:30 formally lifts the martial law declaration

December 15th, 2024

The National Assembly pass motion to impeach Yoon

20
25

January 15th, 2025

Yoon becomes first arrested sitting President

April 4th, 2025

The Constitutional court upholds Yoon's impeachment unanimously

April 15th, 2025

Yoon's first trial on insurrection charges

June 3rd, 2025

Snap elections: Lee Jae-Myung is elected president

20
26

January 13th, 2026

Special Counsel seeks death penalty for Yoon on insurrection charges

February 19th, 2025

Court sentences Yoon to life imprisonment

February 24th, 2025

Yoon appeals Court decision