

Korean War Records and Research Trends in Turkey*

Nan A Lee

Since the end of the Korean War, relevant research has been ongoing both in Korea and in participating nations such as the U.S., Russia, and China. In the case of Turkey, official records, books, academic papers, theses, and other materials on the Korean War are stored in the State Archive, the Archive of the Ministry of National Defense, and major public and university libraries. Turkish academia has published many books and research papers on the topic. So far, research on the Korean War in Turkey has been carried out mostly by academics from military research institutions, and the resulting papers mostly highlight the courage and bravery of Turkish soldiers during the Korean War. Up until now, only individual researchers have proposed more critical perspectives. A diversification of the research environment and output can be anticipated in the near future.

Keywords: Korean War, Turkey, NATO, State Archive, Turkish scholars

Introduction

The Korean War, which began with the North Korean invasion of South Korea in 1950 and continued for three years, has exerted a great influence upon the politics, economy, society, and culture of the two Koreas. It fomented division and confrontation between the two, creating hostility that remains to this day. Furthermore, despite the active efforts of South Korea for peaceful

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Nan A Lee (nanaistanbul@hotmail.com) is a Dr. lecturer in the Department of Turkish-Azerbaijani Studies, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies

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