

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

Research to answer **why there is no significant progress on reunification, although the two Koreas had their commitments in 2000**, is conducted by sticking to Alexander Wendt's constructivism and social identity theory. Through the collected data and considering the analysis that has been done in Chapter II and Chapter III, this thesis finds that the **significance of commitments between North Korea and South Korea is hindered as there is a negative social process within the two Koreas**. Specifically, there are two points found in this research. First, commitments to reunification are merely an empty promise as there is no significant progress. Second, an insignificant process happens as the two Koreas differ in identity, ideas, and interest, thus affecting the social process between the two countries.

The first finding found that there are five inter-Korean summits conducted throughout 2000-2019. Four of the summits resulted in a declaration, marking North Korea and South Korea agreement and effort to improve inter-Korean relations. The declarations mainly discuss establishing a peace regime, nuclear disarmament, cooperation, exchanges, and humanitarian issues in the Korean peninsula. This thesis also found that South Korea also implemented its foreign policy to North Korea aside from the inter-Korean summits and how Pyongyang responded to it. The fact that the Korean peninsula remains separated until today

shows that the commitments were not enough, and thus the two Koreas should rethink their promise and pledge to it.

The second finding is that inter-Korean relations were constructed by the actors involved in it, North Korea and South Korea. It is a construction since the connections were built based on identity, ideas, and interest, as stated by Alexander Wendt. Both countries also agreed on the commitments to strive for reunification. In the case of inter-Korean relations, identity can be interpreted as a double-edged knife, with one side based on shared history, culture and language, and on the other side referring to ideology. North Korea, with its socialism, did not match well with South Korean liberalism. Although the Koreans have shared history and culture, differences in ideology are too sharp for reunification. It is incisive for the social process as well. Identity becomes influential as it determines the ideas and interests of North Korea and South Korea. In this sense, North Korea and South Korea have to work hand-in-hand to materialize it to achieve peaceful reunification.

Based on this research, it can be concluded that encouragement for reunification develops through ambition to pursue peace in the Korean peninsula. The commitments were drawn in the inter-Korean summit, even though it has little progress, barely stuck with no improvement. Analysis based on constructivism suggests that North Korea and South Korea have different ideologies that affect the perception and interests of the two Koreas and the social process among them. It is time to put an end to meaningless promises and commitments. For significant reunification progress, the two Koreas should be willing to exchange positive attitudes regarding reunification, which will boost the likelihood of a united Korea.

Realizing how long has the initiatives exist, to accomplish the goal of reunification North Korea and South Korea should work comprehensively in a constructive and forward-looking environment.

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