

North Korean town gets World Heritage status
朝鲜开城被列入世界遗产

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朝鲜开城被联合国教科文组织列入世界文化保护遗产名录。开城建于公元十世纪，此次被列入名录的开城历史古迹共有十二处，包括一座宫殿，一所学校和一座古城墙等。以下是 BBC 记者 Charles Scanlon 发回的报道：

Kaesong is one of the few historical sites open to tourists that's not specifically linked to the Kim family that has ruled North Korea since independence. The city is **held up** in the North as a symbol of national **reunification** as it was the capital of the 10th Century Koryo **dynasty** that **united** the entire peninsula.

North Korean officials attending the UNESCO ceremony stood and clapped the decision to give the sites World Heritage status. The North has always used its **interpretation** of history to boost its case in the struggle for national sovereignty against South Korea.

The South maintains that an earlier southern-based dynasty was the first to unify the country. But even the legacy of Kaesong is a sensitive one for the North's historians. The dynasty marked **a high water mark** for Buddhism on the peninsula - a culture that was all but **eradicated** along with other religions after independence.

The city was initially in South Korea after the division of the peninsula in 1945 but was conquered by northern forces during the Korean War. It later came to be seen as **a symbol of reconciliation** - being near the site of a joint industrial zone established by the two sides after the year 2000. But the southern-owned factories currently **lie idle** - closed by the North Koreans during a recent **bout** of tension over its rocket and nuclear tests.

Questions

1. Which family or dynasty is Kaesong linked to?
2. True or false? South Korea believes the Koryo dynasty was the first to unify the country.
3. What event led to North Korea controlling the town of Kaesong?
4. What are the factories in the joint industrial zone making at the moment?

Vocabulary and definitions

held up	被仰视为
reunification	重新统一
dynasty	王朝
united	统一了
interpretation	理解, 解释
a high water mark	全胜时期
eradicated	铲除了, 根除了
a symbol of reconciliation	和解的象征
lie idle	闲置, 被搁着不用
bout	一阵, 一小段时间

Answers to the questions:

1. Which family or dynasty is Kaesong linked to?
ANSWER: The Koryo dynasty
2. True or false? South Korea believes the Koryo dynasty was the first to unify the country.
ANSWER: False. The South maintains that an earlier southern-based dynasty was the first to unify the country.
3. What event led to North Korea controlling the town of Kaesong?
ANSWER: The Korean War
4. What are the factories in the joint industrial zone making at the moment?
ANSWER: Nothing. They currently lie idle.