

CHAPTER V CONCLUSION

The main topic from this research is the sports diplomacy between South Korea and North Korea. This research tries to prove that the two Koreas have a continuity good intention leading to a great and everlasting peace through various tournaments, friendly matches, and other sports exchanges.

Tensions between South Korea and North Korea began with the separation of the two Koreas post World War II. Afterward, the tension between the two countries on the Korean Peninsula continued into an Open War which started in 1950. In 1953, the war ended through a ceasefire and the establishment of a demilitarized zone in the border of the two countries, but neither state reconciled nor declared peace. Relations between the two Koreas had improved in 2000 after the first High-Level Conference between Kim Jong-il as North Korea's Leader and Kim Dae Jung as the President of South Korea at that time. Even so, after Kim Jong-il died, relations between the two countries worsened when North Korea came under Kim Jong Un's rule. North Korea began to accelerate the nuclear program and tested nuclear weapons on the Korean Peninsula. On the other side, South Korea has a border guarding and arming on the DMZ (demilitarization zone).

A number of diplomatic processes in resolving the Korean Peninsula conflict began in 1972, where both parties agreed that reunification would create peace without outside intervention. The models of conflict resolution that have been carried out by South Korea and North Korea to achieve peace such as through High-Level Talk, the Inter-Korean Summit, and Six Party Talks which took place gradually from 2003 to 2007. However, after all the meeting rounds of the Six-Party Talks ended, there was no significant progress encountered. The participating countries have not been able to make a joint statement that contains guidelines for denuclearization or North Korea's nuclear program termination. Furthermore,

conflict resolution efforts to achieve peace between South Korea and North Korea have not produced significant results because the tension of the conflict between the two countries had increased due to the lacks of mutual trust, the persistence of hostility, weak cooperation, and ideological differences. Furthermore, the peaceful efforts on the Korean Peninsula seemed to find enlightenment on the 2018 Winter Olympic. The 2018 Winter Olympics that was held in Pyeongchang, South Korea 2018 became the first step in a special diplomatic exchange between South Korea and North Korea.

This research has shown that sports diplomacy has become a tool of diplomacy that accepted by South Korea and North Korea to ease tension, promote stability, tolerance, and reconciliation between countries. Through sports diplomacy, the two countries are fearless to show good intentions towards another party and the world. Two Korea countries also leave weapons and hard power behind and prefer sports as a means of diplomacy. They make the Olympics and various matches a catalyst for dialogue between countries. Sports diplomacy has also become a tool for conflict resolution for the two countries, where a ceasefire between two Korean countries since 1953 finally ended with North Korea's desire to join the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang. Therefore, this research has shown that the biggest impact of sports diplomacy between the two Korean countries is real efforts in cooperation to realize reconciliation and promote peace. Moreover, regarding the issue of reunification, the situation on the Korean Peninsula is not only influenced by the dynamics of inter-Korean relations. In fact, Korea is seen from the perspective of historical, theoretical and other positions of large countries such as the United States and China that are able to influence the Korean Peninsula. Then the formulation of reunification policies and scenarios or strategies for resolving the Korean conflict must not only be acceptable to the two Koreas but also other major countries that have interests on the Korean Peninsula to avoid negative implications for the East Asian region and globally.

In the study of International Relations, this research issue is relevant to do because it cannot be denied that sport

will always be alongside with politics in the international relation context. The relation between sports and politics can be understood as a symbiosis that has evolved to the present where in some aspects it can be used as one of the strategies in International Relations. In this case, sports diplomacy acts as soft instrument diplomacy. Sports diplomacy has proved to be able to reduce conflict or melt the tensions between countries in conflict. For both countries, the aim of sports diplomacy is to encourage and promote peace on the Korean Peninsula and build inter-Korean relations. South Korea and North Korea must be able to find ways to start changing relations fundamentally and through sports diplomacy, it can change the views of the Korean Peninsula to some extent. Thus, sports itself may seem powerless, but when capably integrated, it can make prominent contributions and promote a wider foreign policy tool in the Korean Peninsula.

Although sports diplomacy gave valuable impacts on the progress of inter-Korean relations, there are possible limits to sports diplomacy to bring relations between Koreans to the reunification stage. The North has shown some good will but the fundamental issues are still unresolved and most importantly the underlying geopolitical situation has not changed. Korea remains divided and there is no agreement over the future asset of the Peninsula. The differences in political aspects that exist in each country also have spread to economic aspects which eventually led to gaps related to economic growth in both countries.

Furthermore, at this moment, Korean reunification is harder because there are two other powerful states involved. The monumental steps that have been taken in the reunification or peace process of South Korea and North Korea clearly have been great strides towards peaceful coexistence. The two Koreas must pursue peace through any kind of diplomacy whenever possible. The United States and China have an obligation duty to with North Korea and South Korea to form a clear strategy toward the denuclearization of the Korea Peninsula. But the progress will continue to go on since South and North Korea have been continuously doing

some good efforts and cooperation throughout 2018 after the Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang. The improvement will be made that the nuclear issue will be solved that the countries in the Korean Peninsula will eventually reunite. Therefore, in short term or in the near future, no breakthrough is likely to happen in the Korean Peninsula.

Nevertheless, with some findings, this study still has several disadvantages. First, regarding data that explains the efforts of conflict resolution and its impact on the two countries on the Korean Peninsula. It is difficult to find books or journals that explain and analyze specifically about this issue because inter-Korean reconciliation began in early 2018. The data used is limited to secondary data found from several official websites, electronic news, and journals that are less specific in explaining the detail of conflict resolution efforts. Second, regarding the time limitations that also affect the results of this study. This is because the researcher could only analyze the relations between the two Koreas in the short term and the issue of sports diplomacy between the two countries is still ongoing until this research was written.

From all the academic findings that have been explained, two research conclusions can be drawn. First, it refers to Joseph Samuel Nye's perspective on the theory of soft power. Sports diplomacy as part of public diplomacy is a soft power tool that is irreplaceable in which South Korea and North Korea use sports diplomacy as a diplomatic instrument to promote peace to the Korean Peninsula. Second, referring to John Wear Burton's perspective on the concept of conflict resolution. According to Burton, conflict resolution cannot be resolved through armed forces and a series of negotiations. Conflict resolution between the two Korean countries is a process to create a new structure in which the two countries use sports exchanges and various sports matches as conflict resolution tools.