

## South Korea wants 2020 Olympics Rising Sun flag ban

8th September, 2019



Amid escalating tensions between South Korea and Japan, the South Korean government has called on Japan to ban any displaying of the Rising Sun flag at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. This

follows a statement by Japan's Olympics organising committee that it sees no problem with the flag. The committee said: "The rising sun flag is widely used in Japan and it is not considered to be a political statement, so it is not viewed as a prohibited item." A South Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman said: "The Japanese know full well that their neighbours regard the Rising Sun flag as a symbol of Japan's militaristic and imperial past. Japan needs to be more humble about owning up to its historical legacy."

Relations between the two east-Asian nations have taken a downturn in the past few months. They are currently embroiled in a bitter trade war that has seen people in Korea burning Japanese products. Many South Koreans are shunning Japan as a tourist destination, leading to Japanese carriers slashing the number of flights to South Korea. Last month, Japan removed South Korea from its "white list" of trusted trade partners. This led to delays in the exports of items like car parts and household electronics to South Korea. In retaliation, Koreans have been boycotting Japanese beer, clothing brands and other products. The spat poses a threat to the global supply chain of semi-conductors.

Sources: [insidethegames.biz](http://insidethegames.biz) / [hani.co.kr](http://hani.co.kr) / [koreatimes.co.kr](http://koreatimes.co.kr)

### Writing

Only national flags should be displayed at the Olympics. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

tensions / ban / statement / committee / political / prohibited / imperial / legacy / relations / downturn / trade war / tourist / destination / trade / electronics / spat

### True / False

- a) The article said tensions between Japan and South Korea are escalating. T / F
- b) Japan's Olympic committee said there is no problem with the flag. T / F
- c) Japan's Olympic committee said the flag is rarely used in Japan. T / F
- d) South Korea said Japan should show more humility regarding its past. T / F
- e) There is little danger of a trade war between the two nations. T / F
- f) Japanese people are burning South Korean products. T / F
- g) South Korea is no longer a trusted trade partner of Japan. T / F
- h) The trade dispute has not affected the semi-conductor trade. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. <b>escalating</b> | a. entangled      |
| 2. <b>ban</b>        | b. heritage       |
| 3. <b>considered</b> | c. representation |
| 4. <b>symbol</b>     | d. hold ups       |
| 5. <b>legacy</b>     | e. prohibit       |
| 6. <b>embroiled</b>  | f. cutting        |
| 7. <b>shunning</b>   | g. presents       |
| 8. <b>slashing</b>   | h. increasing     |
| 9. <b>delays</b>     | i. avoiding       |
| 10. <b>poses</b>     | j. thought        |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of Japan's Rising Sun flag?
- b) What do you know about relations between Japan and South Korea?
- c) What do you know about relations between Japan and North Korea?
- d) What flags should be displayed at the Olympics?
- e) Should Japan listen to South Korea?
- f) Should only national flags be allowed at the Olympics?
- g) What do you know about Japan's 'militaristic and imperial past'?
- h) How successful do you think the 2020 Olympics will be?

## Phrase Match

- |   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. Amid escalating                      | a. partners                 |
| 2. it is not considered to be a         | b. well                     |
| 3. The Japanese know full               | c. humble                   |
| 4. a symbol of Japan's militaristic and | d. delays in the exports    |
| 5. be more                              | e. political statement      |
| 6. Japan as a tourist                   | f. chain of semi-conductors |
| 7. trusted trade                        | g. tensions                 |
| 8. This led to                          | h. retaliation              |
| 9. In                                   | i. destination              |
| 10. the global supply                   | j. imperial past            |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What are your country's relations with its neighbours like?
- Why do countries get involved in trade wars?
- Who wins trade wars?
- What do you think of Japan as a tourist destination?
- How do you think this story will end?
- How important are semi-conductors to the world?
- What questions would you like to ask the Tokyo Olympics boss?

## Spelling

- Amid gnitesclaa tensions
- This follows a tnaemstet
- Japan's Olympics organising immteecto
- it is not viewed as a diohtrepib item
- Japan's militaristic and eipmlari past
- owning up to its historical lageyc
- currently eedlbirmo in a bitter trade war
- Japan as a tourist dnsoaeniitt
- This led to dalyes in the exports
- In inaoitaltre
- noctybtgoi Japanese beer
- the global supply chain of semi-dscunocort

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. i	2. e	3. j	4. c	5. b
6. a	7. i	8. f	9. d	10. g

## Role Play

### Role A – Trade

You think trade causes most tensions between countries. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things don't raise as many tensions. Also, tell the others which is the least likely of these to increase tensions (and why): religion, water rights or disputed borders.

### Role B – Religion

You think religion causes most tensions between countries. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things don't raise as many tensions. Also, tell the others which is the least likely of these to increase tensions (and why): trade, water rights or disputed borders.

### Role C – Water Rights

You think water rights causes most tensions between countries. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things don't raise as many tensions. Also, tell the others which is the least likely of these to increase tensions (and why): religion, trade or disputed borders.

### Role D – Disputed Borders

You think disputed borders causes most tensions between countries. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things don't raise as many tensions. Also, tell the others which is the least likely of these to increase tensions (and why): religion, water rights or trade.

## Speaking – Tensions

Rank these with your partner. Put the things that can cause most tensions between countries at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings

- |                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| • language       | • trade            |
| • water rights   | • religion         |
| • fishing rights | • disputed borders |
| • drugs          | • previous wars    |

### Answers – True False

a	T	b	T	c	F	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.