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Fighting Another Cold War

The US-Soviet Competition and North Korea's Nuclear Arsenal

Youjung Lee · Geunwook Lee

After the summit meeting between the U.S. and North Korea, the negotiations between the international society and North Korea will begin in the near future, however North Korean nuclear forces have not yet been perceived or estimated accurately. Consequently, it is assumed that North Korean nuclear weapons will play a 'Game-Changer' role in the ongoing negotiations process. In the Cold War era, the Soviet Union threatened the U.S. by developing mobile ICBM and SLBM, but the U.S. improved military intelligence capabilities and succeeded in detecting the Soviet nuclear weapons and decreasing their survivability. We can share the American Cold War experience and their military intelligence capabilities. Moreover, if we develop our own military capabilities and support Cold War research, we will be able to deter North Korean nuclear threat and minimize its influence on the negotiation table.

Keywords: North Korean Nuclear, Cold War, Soviet Union, U.S., Military Intelligence

Has the China-North Korea Alliance Changed?

Focusing on the Causes Behind the Formation and Maintenance of Alliance

Baekju Kim

This article examines whether the China-North Korea alliance has changed throughout its long history. Many scholars view the role of China in the process of dismantling the cold war structure in the Korean peninsula as inherently controversial. Its contentious nature arises from the fact that it is inextricably linked with how one appraises the effectiveness of the sanctions against North Korea. In approaching this issue, this article aims to identify the causes that led to the formation of China-North Korea alliance by examining the 1961 alliance treaty between the two countries. Then, it will go on to explore three historical cases relevant to the crises in the Korean peninsula: 1) the crisis in 1975; 2) the first nuclear crisis in the Korean Peninsula during the early 1990s; and 3) the second nuclear crisis during the early 2000s. By analyzing these case studies, this article will identify the causes that led to the maintenance of China-North Korea alliance.

The argument of this paper is that, from a Chinese perspective, the motivation behind the formation of the China-North Korea alliance corresponds to that behind its maintenance. In other words, China has prepared an institutional device to control North Korea's foreign policy behavior, and it still serves as an incentive in the management of its neighboring ally. This study also shows that China has employed a non-engagement policy toward the Korean Peninsula since the mid-1970s, paradoxical as it may seem, to prevent North Korea from leaving the alliance. This analysis outlined above sheds light on South Korean diplomacy by providing a framework for understanding China's behavior in the process of establishing a peace system in the Korean peninsula.

Keywords: China-North Korea Alliance, China's North Korea Policy, Alliance Formation, Alliance Management, Non-engagement Policy

An Analysis on the Site Conditions of Special Economic Zones in North Korea

Cheon Woon Choi · Tae Yong Jung · Donghun Kim

Since Korea was independent from Japan, the peninsula has been divided into two different governments. Although in this year of 2018, 70 years has been passed since the division of the peninsula, reunification of Korean the peninsula is still not expected. Fortunately, the third inter-Korean summit was held on April 27, 2018. Since the Panmunjom declaration, ‘The goal of the Korean Peninsula without nuclear weapons through complete denuclearization’, and the resumption of inter-Korean exchanges have been discussing.

In particular, the U.S.-North Korea summit on June 12, 2018 is expected to increase the possibility of softening the existing U.N. sanctions on North Korea, and the North Korean economic policy of opening up is expected to gain momentum.

The objective of this study is to analyze the site conditions of 27 special economic zones designated throughout North Korea to figure out the enabling conditions for the special economic zones to develop.

The analysis indicates that among the total 27 special economic zones, the locations and site conditions of the central economic zone are relatively competitive. And there are some cases that the special economic zones that are not located along the H plan of South Korea have relatively higher index scores than those of other special economic zones within the H plan.

In conclusion, when resuming inter-Korean economic cooperation in the future, it is necessary to combine the special economic zones of North Korea with the H plan of South Korea. In addition, special economic zones located along the borders with China and Russia should be also developed.

Keywords: North Korea Economic Development, Special Economic Zone, Free Economic Zone, a New Economic Community in the Korean Peninsula

Sino-US Power Transition and Evolving US Maritime Strategy Analyzing Grey-Zone Conflict in the Asia-Pacific

Kuyoun Chung

This research investigates the trend of grey-zone conflicts in the Asia-Pacific and how it contributes to regional power transition as well as the newly declared Indo-Pacific Strategy of the United States. As the Chinese military rise continues, various types of conflicts that reflect security dilemma between the US and China are expected to increase. Particularly grey-zone conflicts, which do not exceed the threshold of undertaking conventional warfare, are likely to occur more often. Such grey-zone conflicts allow China to strengthen her anti-access/area-denial capability as well as to gradually secure and legitimize sovereign control over the Asia-Pacific region. In response, the US maritime strategy is retreating from projecting power inland from the littoral operation to sea control, preparing for a ‘decisive battle’ on the Pacific ocean. Whether such change in maritime strategy can prevent power transition in the Asia-Pacific would depend on the extent to the US defense budget and the sustainability of the US alliance and partnership in the region.

Keywords: Power Transition, Maritime Strategy, Grey-Zone Conflict, Seapower, Mahan, Corbett