

<b>Forum:</b>	Security Council
<b>Issue:</b>	The Question of North Korea
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## Introduction

The Korean Peninsula might seem like a single country, but it's actually important to know that Korea refers to the area but not a single country. The last unified and independent Korean state was the Korean Empire that was annexed (taken under the control) by Japan in 1910 ("Korean Empire"). This is important to keep in mind to understand the roots of the instability going across the peninsula, which points out a continuous political instability and mutual conflict for more than the last 100 years. First of all there are two Koreas: Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), which is usually referred as North Korea; other one is the Republic of Korea, which is usually referred as South Korea. The second fact is about history: These two countries weren't founded in a peaceful way, the division originates from the Korean War that broke out between 1950-1953, where North Korea was supported by China and Soviet Union and South Korea was supported by United Nations (UN) Command and the United States (History.com Staff). Neither side won the war and the status quo was preserved. In that status quo two Koreas survived to the 21<sup>st</sup> century in the everchanging global political atmosphere.

## Definition of Key Terms

North Korea: a country in East Asia: formed in 1948 after the division of the former country of Korea at 38°. Its capital is Pyongyang ("North Korea - Dictionary Definition").

South Korea: a country in East Asia: formed in 1948 after the division of the former country of Korea at 38° N. Its capital is Seoul ("South Korea - Dictionary Definition").

Nuclear Weapon: an explosive device whose destructive potential derives from the release of energy that accompanies the splitting or combining of atomic nuclei ("Nuclear Weapon - Dictionary Definition").

Juche: The Juche Idea, sometimes spelled Chuch'e, is a political thesis formed by Kim Il-sung that states that the Korean masses are the masters of the country's development. From the 1950s to the 1970s, Kim and other party theorists such as Hwang Jang-yop elaborated the Juche Idea into a set of principles that the North Korea government uses to justify its policy decisions. Among these are a strong military posture and reliance on Korean national resources. The name comes from juche, the Korean translation for the philosophical and Marxist term "subject", also meaning "main body" or "mainstream", and is sometimes translated in North Korean sources as "independent stand" or "spirit of self-reliance". It has also been interpreted as "always putting Korean things first". According to Kim Il-sung, the Juche Idea is based on the belief that "man is the master of everything and decides everything"("Translations for Juche").

Militarization: Act of assembling and putting into readiness for war or other emergency: "mobilization of the troops"("Militarization - Dictionary Definition").

DMZ: Before the Korean War, 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel was the border between North and South. Following the war the border was nearly the same place as it used be (38<sup>th</sup> Parallel). With the Armistice signed in 27 July 1953, both sides moved back 2 km; creating a buffer zone of 4 km width. This zone is completely demilitarized; however, the border of the zone is one of the most heavily armed borders in the world. The zone also serves as a meeting point between the leaders of North and South.

Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD): Type of weapon that can cause large scale damage to the people around. Examples are hydrogen bombs, atomic bombs and biological weapons.

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty: A treaty signed by nearly every UN member state, which prevents most of the countries to possess nuclear weapons; by regulating the nuclear energy programmes of the Member States.

## General Overview

The Korean War started in 1950, following the World War II, as a part of the Cold War. North Korea was extensively supported by China and Soviet Union, while United States was protecting the South part of the peninsula. Both sides claimed the full control over the peninsula, which eventually led to the war. War lasted for years, Korea was devastated, and neither side came victorious. The Korean War ended by an armistice, however the conflict remained alive. The two Koreas reached the 21<sup>st</sup> century, witnessing the intense atmosphere of the Cold War, collapse of Soviet Union and Eastern Bloc. The change in global power distribution changed significantly, with the NATO members surpassed the Eastern Bloc economically and politically which led to the regime changes in Communist countries (Collapse of the Communist Bloc). However, despite being economically heavily affected by that, North Korea continued its existence and its own unique Communist regime ("North Korea Profile- Timeline").

Currently, North Korea still stands against USA and NATO members with the support of China and the Russian Federation; while South Korea still has the support of USA economically and politically. South Korea has an absolute supremacy in terms of population and GDP: South Korea's population is two times of the North Korea's. Moreover, the South's GDP is nearly 50 times of the North's. In this political environment, North Korea spent a significant effort producing their own nuclear weapon, and keeping the military forces huge in size (Stilwell). This triggers the conflict and prevents the two Koreas from coming to a peace. North Korea protects itself by not competing with South Korea in terms of economy, but rather pushing hard to create globally threatening weapons that can cause massive civilian casualties. The leader Kim Jong Un is a leader that praises North Korea's military innovations and its incentive to produce nuclear weapons.

Although there's been an Armistice between North and South Korea following the Korean War, a peace agreement has never existed. This simply means that two countries are officially in a state of war ("The Korean War Armistice"). It is believed that the North Korean regime possesses nuclear capabilities that can reach Japan and the western coasts of USA. Meanwhile, North Korea hopes to develop the weapon to come to a level where it can reach Washington DC (Lockie). This makes the situation harder and more complicated. Both sides hesitate before saying or doing anything while the conflict preserves its

intense severity. Recent reports often are covered by North Korea's successful missile tryouts, one is claimed to be the cause of an earthquake ("North Korea: When Is an Earthquake a Nuclear Test?").

The conflict has numerous motives that allow it to continue. An important one is the ideological differences between the two Koreas. North Korea believes in Juche, which is a socialist approach to economics that proposes centralization of every aspect of economy. South Korea, however, has a free market economy that is globally integrated. The globalization and industrialization of South Korea allowed it to develop significantly compared to North Korea. So, the economic burden of a possible reunification is unpredictable and very threatening for South Korea, making the support for a reunification rapidly decreasing.

Another motive is the dangerous and threatening endeavors of North Korea. Being involved in a nuclear program since 1956, North Korea has a significant nuclear power that is not very expectable comparing with the size of its economy. Because of the military threat of US, North Korea gave more importance to its nuclear program. During the 1990s the North Korean nuclear program got very successful, producing its own nuclear power reactors and nuclear warheads. The increasing nuclear armament of North Korea forced US to negotiate on what is called "Agreed Framework". The framework was a failure and eventually both sides didn't keep their promises. In 2006 North Korea conducted its first successful nuclear weapon test. The nuclear power of North Korea is massive and globally threatening and nobody knows the exact range of the missiles North Korea has. This makes it harder for US and other countries to intervene North Korea and solve the issue.

## **Major Parties Involved and Their Views**

USA: USA has always supported South Korea by trying to protect them with huge military support. USA also tries to defend itself from the WMDs of North Korea. So eventually they want to stop North Korea producing its own nuclear weapons (Smith). The current President of USA, Donald Trump, pushes for an aggressive policy rather than the pacifist one of the former President Obama. A possible military intervention is a part of the US agenda, which stirs North Korea to accelerate its nuclear program. There are currently 23468 active US army personnel located in South Korea, which is a major presence in the Korean Peninsula.

China: China is known for its support to North Korea since the Korean War. North Korea is economically and militarily dependent to China. Therefore it has a incredible power over North Korea, and they are very close allies. Therefore China is criticized by USA for ignoring North Korea's nuclear weapon production (Reiss).

South Korea: South Korea is economically developed, pursues unification and sees itself as the legal representative of the whole Korea despite recognizing North Korea as well. South Korea is very much afraid of a possible war with North Korea due to its rapidly improving economy and the domestically sustained peaceful environment (Smith).

North Korea: North Korea is economically far behind the South and isolated from the rest of the world. Due to its more limited resources, North Koreans give great importance to military. Kim Jong Un tries to continue its regime by channeling the resources of North Korea to the aim of producing nuclear weapons, which is a threatening factor over other countries. Meanwhile, the country is struggling with famines and economic crisis (Smith).

## Timeline of Events

<b>1871</b>	Korean Empire is founded by Joseon Dynasty under the leadership of King Gojong.
<b>1910</b>	Japanese occupation occurs following the Russo-Japanese war. Japanese settlement to Korea is in massive scale and Japanese culture is enforced in Korea. 400,000 civilians die in labor camps.
<b>1945</b>	After World War 2, Japanese occupation ends. Soviet troops occupy area north of the 38 <sup>th</sup> parallel, and US troops occupy the south.
<b>1948</b>	The Republic of Korea is founded.
<b>1950-1953</b>	The Korean War breaks out resulting in 2.5 million casualties, and the borders nearly remain the same. The North is supported by Soviets and China, and the South is supported by US.
<b>1991</b>	North and South Korea both join United Nations.
<b>1996</b>	South Korea becomes a member of Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. This marks the major gap between South and North, South becoming an economically powerful country in the region.
<b>1998</b>	North Korea's first long range missile is fired.
<b>2000</b>	South and North Korea meet in a summit in Pyongyang; which opens the border liaison offices and allows family reunions.
<b>2003</b>	North Korea withdraws from Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).
<b>2006</b>	North Korea conducts its first underground nuclear test.
<b>2011</b>	Kim Jong –Il dies, succeeded by his youngest son Kim Jong-un. Nuclear research speeds up in North Korea.
<b>2016 January</b>	North Korea conducts its first successful hydrogen bomb test with wide skepticism about its possibility.
<b>2017 July</b>	North Korea tests a long range missile into the Sea of Japan. The missile can possibly reach Alaska.

## Treaties and Events

**Korean Armistice Agreement:** The agreement is signed by North and South Korea. There's never been a peace treaty between the two sides, so this is the document that still is valid between two sides. It was a temporary solution and unable to solve the deep problems between the sides. Although the armistice agreement was written with the expectation of a further peace agreement, the peace agreement has never happened, making it the sole official agreement between North and South. The following link includes each protocol of the agreement: <http://www.bbc.com/news/10165796>.

**June 15<sup>th</sup> North-South Joint Declaration:** It's the first of its kind in terms of an agreement between North and South Korea. Both sides agreed on negotiating over the topic of unification and solving problems that are humanitarily concerning (such as broken apart families that can't reunite). The full text can be found here: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/791691.stm>

**Second Summit:** With the same purpose as the first summit, leaders met once again in 2007, signing a declaration to replace the armistice with a peace treaty. Both countries promised collaboration, unification and the protection of humanitarian rights. Further meetings were supposed to be held, however the first negotiations between North and South Korea since the second summit happened in 6 March 2018. The following link includes each protocol of the agreement: <http://edition.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/asiapcf/10/04/koreas.summit/>

**Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty:** This is a treaty signed by nearly every UN member state, which prevents most of the countries from possessing nuclear weapons by regulating the nuclear energy programmes of the Member States.

## Evaluation of Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

**The Korean Armistice Agreement:** It was efficient since it's been agreed and implemented by both sides. The problem with the agreement was that it wasn't a peace treaty but an armistice treaty. The solutions in this armistice were temporary. The two Koreas remained in war.

**The Agreed Framework of 1994:** North Korea suspended its withdrawal from the NPT and promised that it will suspend its indigenous nuclear power plant program. The eventual aim of the framework was to normalize the relationships between the United States and North Korea. The framework broke down in 2003.

**June 15<sup>th</sup> North- South Joint Declaration:** This declaration was the first real initiative between two sides in last 50 years with the hope of maintaining a peace. Some of the aims mentioned in the declaration (such as family reunification etc. ) were implemented. However the effectiveness of this agreement is a matter of question since it merely called two sides to work actively on the issues of collaboration and reunification. So, it technically didn't offer any solution to the ongoing problems, it just encouraged the countries to work on a solution.

**The Second Summit:** This one was a replica of the first one, calling countries to do something but actually offering nothing concrete. The efforts of unification is very little, which makes this summit and its declaration insufficient.

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty: Also known as the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty has an effective role on the countries' possession of nuclear weapons. Its main objective is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapon possession and technology, and promoting international cooperation on the peaceful usage of nuclear energy. The treaty became effective starting from 1970. Since then, most UN Member States have signed and ratified the treaty. Four countries (South Sudan, Israel, India and Pakistan) have never ratified the treaty, while North Korea has announced its withdrawal from the treaty in 2003. North Korea, Israel, India, and Pakistan are thought to be possessing and producing a significant amount of nuclear armament.

## Possible Solutions

First of all, North Korea is in an economic crisis; people lack fundamental goods. Considering thousands died in the last famine in North Korea, it wouldn't be wrong to say that some economic partnership and aid could make North Korea negotiate about the state of the nuclear weapons. The fact that US has 30000 troops in South Korea is an important factor to consider since this is very threatening for the North Korean government. Also, due to the ideology of Kim- Jong-Un, North Korea thinks that any type of collaboration and partnership with a western country can destroy the whole system. This means that North Korea should be persuaded that no matter what happens no country will intervene with the politics of North Korea. Such offers could convince Kim Jong-Un to negotiate over the issue and come to an agreement. Considering that he has a huge need for the natural resources that North Korea doesn't have, Kim Jong Un could be ready for negotiation. On the issue of reunification, the South is pretty open, but North Korea's primary principle is the protection of the regime and the system. Therefore the priority of North Korea would be a sustainable autonomy even if the two Koreas unify. One way to solve this issue would be to have a two sided federation, with different governments acting as one in international politics.

## Notes from the Chair

Although this is a detailed report of the current situation going on in Korea, it's quite a broad topic since it covers a timeline of conflict that traces its roots back to the cold war as well as a history of 70 years of disagreement and disengagement of political dialogue. However, this report should be a nice guideline to see which aspects are crucial to be addressed in the committee. Please be creative with your solutions, and be open to dialogue between different poles. No solution is possible for this problem without coming to a compromise as a whole committee.

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