

LAMP Study: North Korea and the Nukes

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Introduction

The Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea or North Korea is located on the northern Korean Peninsula in Southeast Asia. North Korea is bordered by China to the North and South Korea to the South. Russia shares a small border in the Northeast corner. Less than 1100 kilometers across the East Sea or Sea of Japan is the country of Japan. With so many nations surrounding the country, North Korea has been influenced by many different factors from ancient history to more modern times. Today North Korea's actions are still influenced by these same countries, with added influence from the United States. Sitting in the middle of all the super powers has made the country a strategically important country in the region.

North Korea is currently considered the greatest threat to the sustained peace in the region. On October 16, 2006 when North Korea conducted an underground nuclear test (Aftergood, Kristensen 2006), it reinforced this claim. This advancement by North Korea in their pursuit of nuclear arms has once again put them on the top of many countries watch list, including China, its only remaining supporter. The total yield of the test was less than one kiloton (Aftergood, Kristensen 2006). The second test conducted recently had a greater yield. The scary fact is that they were able to make preparations for both tests without being discovered, while being closely watched.

North Korea's nuclear program can be dated back to the 1960's. Under an agreement with the USSR, the USSR agreed to assist North Korea in establishing nuclear power capabilities and facilities (Aftergood, Kristensen 2006). The USSR assembled a small reactor, and provided training to specialists in the USSR, as well as provided fuel for the reactor. During the 1970's, North Korean specialists increased the output of the first reactor to eight megawatts and began construction of a second reactor capable of five megawatts electrical. During this time North Korea entered into an agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), allowing for inspections of the previously built reactors.

North Korea Nuclear Weapons ambitions can be dated back to the 1980's (Crail, Kimball 2009). Since that time, the world and especially the United States have made numerous attempts to keep North Korea from achieving their ambitions. Several talks have taken place between North Korea, South Korea, United States, Japan, China and even Russia. The focuses of these talks has mainly been on the subject of keeping North Korea from attaining nuclear arms.

Many of these nations made agreements with North Korea to trade fuel and food aid in exchange for stopping North Korea's nuclear programs. Regardless of all the aid that was provided, North Korea has on several occasions dismissed previously

established agreements claiming the agreements void. North Korea opted out of these agreements for a variety of reasons, including their belief that the other countries were not upholding their side of the agreements (Chanlett-Avery, Manyin, Machart 2005). The actions of the other countries were instigated by North Korea's slow pace in complying with established agreements.

A nuclear armed North Korea is a great danger to the world. All the countries in Southeast Asia region has to fear a nuclear armed North Korea due to the close proximity to the North Korea. Other nations that are seeking nuclear arms are interested because North Korea has been known to sell weapons technology to other countries (Crail, Kimball 2009). With this history, there is no reason to doubt that North Korea will not sell technology to anyone willing to pay, even terrorist organizations.

Many nations are affected by this situation. All the actors are gathered, and are now waiting to see what the others will do. All actors in the region will be affected by the out come, but of all the actors involved, only three have the most influence is the situation; the United State, China and North Korea. What actions are available to these three actors? What are the implications and possible repercussions of the available actions and what effect will these actions have on the situation?

Finally, what are the likely courses of actions each actor would take to increase their advantage in the situation?

Literature Review

The issue of North Korea and nuclear proliferation is a hot topic. Multiple articles are written on the subject everyday, and the situation is closely watched by the world. North Korea acquiring nuclear weapons does not just affect Southeast Asia. This issue has world wide implications. The literature available on this subject is vast, and comes in multiple forms. The literature covers many angles of the situation and is informative in nature, but none appear predictive in nature. The following is review of a few select sources.

There are a total of six resources that focus on the background of North Korea. Three of the background articles covered over all background information. The other three were specific to a particular aspect of North Korea. Two of the three general backgrounds were from government sources; *the CIA Fact Book*, and the *Background Note from bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs*. The third general background information is from the New York Times. The three specific background information being used are the *2008 Human Rights Report: Democratic People's Republic of Korea* from the state department, *the North Korea Military Capability, Readiness, Training, and*

Recent Trends from Country-data.com and *North Korea: Nuclear Weapons Program* from Fas.org. By using this many resources about the background information of North Korea from varying sources give a wide understanding of North Korea. All six resources are from credible sources and the information provided unbiased reports that rarely made assumptions.

Three timelines were used for the study. The timelines were used in the study to help locate patterns in the actions of the actors involved. Patterns are very useful in analysis because patterns can be turned into indicators used to predict events. Timelines can be used to find out how the actors reacted to certain events in the past.

The first timeline used was the *North Korea: Time Line* from BBC news. This timeline was a general timeline, including all interactions between North Korea and other state actors. This timeline spanned from the founding of North Korea to recent events. The second timeline was created by the Congressional Research Service titled *North Korea: A Chronology of Events, October 2002 - December 2004*. As the title explains this timeline covers only two years of interaction, the resource provided very detailed interactions between North Korea and other state actors. The final timeline, *Chronology of U.S.-North Korean Nuclear and Missile Diplomacy* from Armscontrol.org is very relevant to this study. This timeline which spans from 1985

to present days provides interactions between North Korea and the United States as well as some mentions of other actors. The entries on this timeline all deal with North Korea and their nuclear weapons pursuit.

The final group of resources is some news articles from various news sources. Having news articles covering current events on the situation is very important to a study that covers a current event. These news articles provide updated information about the actors involved, and some insight as to what direction the situation maybe headed. News articles are the best places to look for already established indicators as well as possible new indicators. There is the risk of news article being false or biased but a thorough review of the news article, the source of the article and a comparison of the facts against other trusted sources can help minimize these weaknesses.

The articles chosen for this report were chosen because the articles pertinence to the situation being presented. *North Korean Deception* from James Hirszen and *North Korea's Dangerous Deception* by Notra Trulock, both written in 2002 discussed how North Korea is using a continuing cycle of deception in order to get aid from other countries. Both articles covered the same subject, but provide two different views. These articles are important because these show that North Korea may be involved in deception that has been going on for some time. The article

North Korea, 2002 All Over Again by Mike Nizza written in 2007 helps to support the fact that North Korea is playing an ongoing game.

Two recent articles used are *Kim Jong-Il meets with Chinese Officials* from CBC news and *N. Korea Says It's Open to Dialogue* Cho Sang-Hun. Both are articles were written in 2009. These articles show what North Korea is currently doing. These actions indicate that North Korea may be willing to abandon their nuclear program. However when checked against other resources these moves may just be a ploy to either by time, or get aid.

These resources were all chosen because they provide general and specific information on the many aspects of the situation. Many of the resources were on the subject of North Korea's present and possible future nuclear capabilities. Others focused on providing general knowledge that can be used to get a better understanding of the situation. A very important aspect that is covered by the resources provides knowledge and insight as to who are the actors in the region and more specifically, which actors carry the most influence and what the actors' perceptions are.

National Actors and Perceptions

As many nations as there that can be affected, only three countries can really take any actions at this point. These

countries are the United States of America, China and North Korea. Japan and South Korea could be considered as actors that can take actions. However, neither one of these two countries can really take any action without first consulting with both countries major ally, the United States of America. On top of this Japan has no standing army to take offensive actions, and South Korea's army is not a match numerically to North Korea's army. The actions of these two countries will be very closely aligned with the actions of the United States. Both Japan and South Korea have other issue with North Korea, but these issues have very little to do with Nuclear Arms. Russia can also be considered as a major actor, however during recent years, Russia's might, economy and influence has waned. Russia still holds some weight in the international community, but China is now North Korea's major supporter.

The United States is listed as an actor because the United States' involvement with North Korea in the past and the continuing efforts the United States has made with regards to stopping North Korea from obtaining nuclear weapons. There have been many agreements and direct talks between North Korea and the United States since North Korea's founding. The fact that the United States has a large build up of troops in the region, plus the United States commitments to both South Korea and Japan

gives the United States plenty of reason to stay involved in the situation.

The United States perceives the issue as an important issue to resolve. Judging from previous negotiations with North Korea, the United States is willing to take what actions it can to stop North Korea gaining nuclear weapons. The United States have given supplies to North Korea in the form of heavy fuels. The United States had at one point agreed to build proliferation proof light water reactors to solve North Korea energy crisis (Chanlett-Avery, Manyin, Machart 2005). The United States has also placed sanctions on North Korea, and frozen the assets of North Korea as well as other entities that the United States feels is helping North Korea in their nuclear efforts. Of the option taken thus far, the United States has not taken the ultra aggressive route of disarming, however this option is not entirely out of the question if North Korea is successfully able to build a nuclear armed ICBM.

China has been the major backer of North Korea since Russia waning support. Over the years China has given both humanitarian and military support, as well as support in the international community. Although China seems to be siding with the rest of the world on the subject North Korea nuclear armament, there has been no indications that this will always be the case. China's perception on the subject is unclear. From recent years, China

has taken actions that improve their position in the international community and actions that are favorable to China. If support of North Korea as a nuclear power is within the best interest of China, it can easily be assumed that China will change its position and support a Nuclear North Korea.

North Korea is a major actor mainly because this is the nation at the center of the situation. This is the country that the United States is trying to keep from gaining nuclear arms. North Korea has made many public declarations of having nuclear arms (Chanlett-Avery, Manyin, Machart 2005), as well as successfully conducting at least one underground test.

North Korea has been and still is the main threat to stability in the region. North Korea's claimed reason for pursuing nuclear arms is protection against the United States and its ally South Korea. North Korea feels that the United States wants to topple the current government, and feels that have nuclear arms will protect against any attempts. Past international interactions make it appear as if North Korea is using this issue to gain aid for North Korean citizen. This bargaining chip has thus far given North Korea large amounts of aid and attention.

Step Four: Specify all possible actions for each actor

The United States of America

Passive action: Continue to use diplomacy and the promise of aid or uses international pressure and sanctions to get North Korea to stop its nuclear programs.

Aggressive action: Issue warnings of military actions, such as air strikes against nuclear facilities. Increase military presence in Region and South Korea.

China

Passive action: Continue to work with rest of the world in trying to get North Korea to halt nuclear testing by holding talks with North Korean leadership.

Aggressive action: Change its position and support or takes no actions to stop North Korea in its pursuit of nuclear weapons.

North Korea

Passive action: Halt North Korea's nuclear programs in exchange for assistance, such as food and energy.

Aggressive action: continue its nuclear programs in spite of international pressure.

Step Five: Determine Major Scenarios within which to compare the alternate Futures

1. North Korea moves forward with its ambition of nuclear arms and continue to test long range missiles and underground nuclear test, improving its nuclear technology. The United

States has exhausted all diplomatic options to get North Korea to dismantle its nuclear program. The United States has issued multiple warnings to North Korea that military actions will be taken if North Korea insists on working towards nuclear arms. North Korea continues, and against international disapproval, the United States contemplates using force.

2. In this scenario, North Korea abandons the pursuit of nuclear arms, in exchange for economic aid, humanitarian aid, and energy aid in forms of heavy fuels. North Korea's existing conditions cannot support any continuing efforts for nuclear arms and is forced to shut down all programs dealing with nuclear power and arms. North Korea must also curb its long range missile test until there is a slight improvement in their economic conditions.

Step Six: Calculate the Number of possible alternate futures.

The LAMP method uses a simple formula to calculate the number of possible alternate futures. The formula is $X^Y=Z$. X is the number of possible actions. Y is the number of major actors. Z is the number of possible alternate futures. Using this calculation with the above number of actions and actors, there are a possible eight alternate futures. For X, the actions are either of a passive in nature, or an aggressive in nature. For Y, there are the three actors; United States of America, China and

North Korea. From this calculation there are a total of eight possible combinations. With two major scenarios there are a total of sixteen possible futures.

Step Seven: Perform a pairwise comparison of all alternate futures.

The purpose of the pairwise comparison is to find the best combination of actions that would create the given scenario. The process of pairwising consists of each possible future compared to other possible futures in pairs. The possible future that is more likely to create the given scenario is given a vote. Upon completion of the pairwise process, the possible future with the most votes would create the ideal situation for the given scenario to occur. The two scenario tables are listed below with each actor's action. The futures are listed from ideal situation to less than ideal.

Step Eight: Rank each possible future.

Table 1: Scenario one - Continues towards Nuclear Armament				
Pos. Futures	US	China	N.K.	Vote
3	Passive	Aggressive	Aggressive	7
8	Aggressive	Aggressive	Aggressive	6
7	Aggressive	Aggressive	Passive	5
5	Aggressive	Passive	Aggressive	4
2	Passive	Passive	Aggressive	3
4	Passive	Aggressive	Passive	2
1	Passive	Passive	Passive	1
6	Aggressive	Passive	Passive	0

Table 2: Scenario two - North Korea Dismantles Nuclear Program				
Pos. Futures	US	China	N.K.	Vote
6	Aggressive	Passive	Passive	7
7	Aggressive	Aggressive	Passive	5
1	Passive	Passive	Passive	4
4	Passive	Aggressive	Passive	4
2	Passive	Passive	Aggressive	4
5	Aggressive	Passive	Aggressive	3
8	Aggressive	Aggressive	Aggressive	1
3	Passive	Aggressive	Aggressive	0

**Step Nine: Analyze each alternate future in terms of its
consequences for the issue in question**

**Scenario one, North Korea continues on its path to nuclear
armament.**

Possible Future #3

North Korea actions indicate a forward direction toward nuclear armament. America continues to apply pressure on North Korea to dismantle its nuclear weapons program via diplomatic means. China changes its stance and makes no attempts to halt North Korea.

North Korea, despite international outcries over their second nuclear test, openly makes preparations for further tests. The United States is pressured to stay within diplomatic methods of persuading North Korea to stop its nuclear programs. Handcuffed by international opinions, the United States can only ask for tighter sanctions from other countries, and continue to attempt negotiations with North Korea by offering aid in exchange for stopping North Korean nuclear programs. China, acting in its best interests changes position and gives it backing to North Korea. China makes no attempt of giving away nuclear weapons technology. Instead, China denies United States' request for sanctions against North Korea and continues to give aid to North Korea in the form of conventional weapons, and food.

Depending on how each actor continues past this future, the danger of a major conflict looms. This future would also upset the United States' allies, South Korea and Japan. If pushed beyond this future and the United States continues with just diplomacy, one of these allies may take aggressive actions themselves. South Korea is strategically and militarily capable of strikes.

Possible Future # 8

North Korea's actions indicate a forward direction toward nuclear armament. America resorts to warning of possible airstrikes against known North Korean nuclear facilities. China changes its stance and makes no attempts to halt North Korea.

This future, all three actors act in an aggressive manner, deteriorating the situation. North Korea actively continues pursuit of nuclear arms. The United States is unhappy with North Korea's defiance and promises more aggressive actions to stop North Korea. The world disapproves of the United States' claims, but the United States has grown weary of diplomacy. China has refused the United States' requests for tighter sanctions against North Korea, doing what China deems is best for China's interests.

Without sanctions from China, the United States has no way to make sure North Korea does not acquire necessary technology and material. Knowing that China will continue to provide aid,

North Korea has the confidence to continue towards nuclear arms. The United States must now decide whether go through with its claims of airstrikes. Indications show that China will not make any moves against United States actions, if the United States decides to strike. The world has already voiced its disapproval of any United States airstrikes, believing that diplomacy is still the way to go.

Possible Future #7

China changes its stance and makes no attempts to halt North Korea. America resorts to warning of possible airstrikes against known nuclear facilities. North Korea decides to return to the negotiation table.

China's changes its stance and turns down any sanctions request from the United States. America begins to feel that there are may not be any more diplomatic means to get North Korea to scrap its nuclear weapons program. The United States warns of possible airstrikes, if North Korea should decide to continue nuclear testing, or any testing associated with nuclear weapons. North Korea is unsure how far the United States will go, and decides to halt testing and return to the negotiating table.

Future negotiations within this possible future tend to favor North Korea, because China will not place any sanctions, or place any pressure on North Korea. North Korea promises to

return to negotiations, however is slow to due so, testing how China, and the United States will react to each other.

Possible Future #5

North Korea actions indicate a forward direction toward nuclear armament. China continues talks with North Korea to dismantle their nuclear weapons program. The United States makes warnings of airstrikes if North Korea does not change its course.

North Korea, fresh off its successful underground nuclear test, makes preparations for further underground tests and also makes plans for more long range missiles tests. The United States apply pressure to the world and especially China to place severe sanctions on North Korea. China, agrees to hold talks with North Korea to convince North Korea to stop nuclear proliferation. China is successful in getting North Korea to join in talks, but progress seems slow or non effective.

The United States is unconvinced that China is making any progress with North Korea during the talks. Taking action the United States issues warning of airstrikes if North Korea does not halt its nuclear programs and return to talks. China and the world disapprove to the United States aggressive acts, but make no indications of backing North Korea. North Korea must now decide if moving forward with its nuclear weapons program without China's support is favorable.

Possible Future #2

North Korean actions indicate a forward direction toward nuclear armament. China continues talks with North Korea to dismantle their nuclear weapons program. The United States continues its efforts to reach a diplomatic solution.

North Korea decides that the best way to counter the danger of the United States attempting to overthrow the current government is to pursue nuclear arms. The United States, although unhappy with North Korea's moves continues to take actions through diplomatic channels. Sanctions begin to be placed on North Korea. China, who has openly supported a nuclear free Korean Peninsula, convinces North Korea to enter into talks between the two Nations. The United States, deciding to take a passive approach must wait to see if China will be able to make any progress. North Korea must decide if the government can survive without China's full support. North Korea must also consider the effects of extreme sanctions from America and the rest of the world.

Possible futures # 4, #1, #6

Possible futures four, one and six will not be examined because the actions taken by the three nations will almost always lead to the direct opposite of the described scenario. With China taking passive actions, applying pressure to North Korea, North Korea will be without a supporter. Added to this,

if North Korea takes passive actions, the likely outcome is that North Korea will dismantle their nuclear weapons program. In possible future four, China does not make any effort against North Korea; neither will China provide any assistance to North Korea in its pursuit.

Scenario Two: North Korea agrees to dismantle their nuclear weapon program.

Possible Future #6

The United States has made aggressive threats to North Korea. China chooses to side with the rest of the world and talks to North Korea. North Korea agrees to return to talks.

The United States has grown tired of North Korea's recent actions of a second nuclear test and missile tests. The United States is now demanding North Korea scraps its nuclear weapon program and has threatened airstrikes, if North Korea does not comply. This threat does not go well with the rest of the world, but the aim for the United States is to disarm North Korea. China has chosen to stay with the rest of the world, and applies pressure to North Korea.

Chinese officials holds meeting with North Korean Officials, trying to convince North Korea to at least return to the negotiation table. North Korea is now feeling pressure from China and the rest of the world. The threat from the United States angers North Korean leaders, but having a show of no

support from China convinces North Korea that continuing a nuclear program may not be wise.

Possible Future #7

The United States has made aggressive threats to North Korea. China has refused the United States request to talk to North Korea. North Korea takes this as a sign of slight support, but still agrees to return to talks.

The United States has tried multiple attempts at diplomacy to get North Korea to at least talk. Sanctions and freezing of assets have had little effect on North Korea, or so it appears. The United States has once again asked China to talk to North Korea on this matter. However this time China refuses the request, stating that China has bigger problems to contend with at the moment.

The last failed attempt has left the United States with no other choice than to threaten North Korea with airstrikes against its confirmed nuclear facilities. Although the sanctions did not appear to stop North Korea from continuing testing, it has taken its toll on the country. China's refusal of the United States request, may appear to be support, North Korea's economy has grown too weak to continue any further testing and agrees to talks with the United States.

Possible Future #1

The United States continues to use diplomacy. China has talks with North Korea about disarming. North Korea, only wishing to show what North Korea maybe capable of, starts to show sign of wanting to return to negotiations.

Angered by North Korea's nuclear and missiles tests, the United States decides to step up its pressure on North Korea by applying heavier sanctions and freezing of North Korean overseas assets. The United States asks China to also apply pressure to North Korea. China, feeling that agreeing to side with the United States is best for its economic futures agrees and begins talks with North Korea. With its economy depleted from multiple tests, North Korea is left with no choice but to negotiate.

Possible Future #4

The United States continues to use diplomacy. China backs down from any negotiation with North Korea. North Korea, feeling the strain from multiple nuclear and missile tests has agreed to talk.

The United States, not wanting to draw scrutiny from the international community stays within diplomatic options to get North Korea to stop their nuclear programs. The United States asks other nations to apply more sanctions. Most nations agree to the United States request, but China becomes reluctant to grant the United States request. Chinese leadership does not

feel the need to apply additional pressure to North Korea, because so many other nations have already applied sanctions. The sanctions are starting to take its toll on North Korean already weakened economy. The sanctions, plus the costs of the nuclear and missile tests has forced North Korea back to negotiations.

Possible Future #2

The United States attempts to lure North Korea to negotiation in exchange for aid. North Korea feels that continuing towards nuclear arms is the best course. China attempts to get North Korea to negotiate.

North Korea stays defiant and announces future nuclear and missile tests. Even with its economy depleted from previous tests, North Korea stays defiant. The United States makes threats of further sanction. Undeterred, North Korea stays on its current course. The United States calls for further sanctions from its allies, including China. China thinking that a conflict in the region will hurt China's economic growth begins talks with North Korea. China tells North Korea that support will no longer be given, if North Korea decides that nuclear armament is the best option.

Possible Future #5

The United States threatens North Korea with airstrikes if North Korea does not halt its nuclear programs. North Korea does

not take this threat lightly. China holds talks with North Korea in order to defuse the situation.

Even with current sanctions in place, North Korea stays defiant and announces future plans for more nuclear and missile tests. North Korea announced that this is the only steps available in order to secure the current regime. The United States becomes frustrated with North Korea's actions and statement. The United States in turn, makes its own statement that airstrikes against known North Korean nuclear facilities are the only options left, if North Korea does not stop. This statement does not go well with North Korean leadership.

China, fearing a war would greatly harm the economic success China currently enjoys steps in to defuse the situation. China makes the statement to North Korea that China will not back North Korea in a war with the United States. As a show of China's resolve, aid to North Korea is temporarily halted. North Korea must now decide if the country would be able to go against the United States.

Possible Futures #8 and #3

These two futures will not be discussed because the actions taken by all the actors will result in the scenario becoming implausible. With North Korea continuing an aggressive stance, and China not taking any actions to get North Korea to negotiate, the likely outcome is that North Korea will move forward towards

nuclear armament. Whether the United States takes an aggressive stance or passive stance in these two cases will have little effect on North Korea, because North Korea feels no pressure from China. China is a key element in getting North Korea to negotiate.

Step Ten and Eleven: Determine Focal Events for Alternate Future.

Develop indicators for each focal event

Scenario one, North Korea continues on its path to nuclear armament.

Possible Future #3

Focal Point and indicators:

China becomes reluctant with attempts of talks with North Korea; North Korea remains aggressive with the international community.

- China becomes defensive of North Korea
- North Korea maintains aggressive actions
- North Korea shows sign of build up at DMZ.
- United States maintains current military posture in region.
- United States pushes for talks with North Korea.

Possible Future # 8

Focal Point and Indicators:

Diplomacy between all three actors becomes begins to fail.

- North Korea's international actions remain aggressive.
- North Korea shows sign of build up at DMZ.

- United States increase military presence in region.
- United States announces knowledge of known nuclear facilities.
- China becomes defensive of North Korea.

Possible Future #7

Focal Point and indicators:

Chinese and United States relations become tense, but economic strains on North Korea become incredibly obvious.

-United States and China show opposing views on many subjects.

-United States announces knowledge of known nuclear facilities.

-United States increase military presence in region.

-China becomes defensive of North Korea

-North Korean actions strong, but not aggressive

Possible Future #5

Focal Point and Indicators:

North Korea remains aggressive with the international Community, but China steps up talk with North Korea.

-North Korea's international actions remain aggressive.

-North Korea shows sign of build up at DMZ.

-Chinese actions support international views.

-China limits aid to North Korea

-United States increase military presence in region.

-United States announces knowledge of nuclear facilities.

Possible Future #2

Focal Point and Indicators:

United States and Chinese relationship improves, but North Korea continues to be aggressive.

-North Korea's international actions remain aggressive.

-North Korea shows sign of build up at DMZ.

-Chinese actions support international views.

-China limits aid to North Korea.

-United States maintains current military posture in region.

-United States pushes for talks with North Korea.

Scenario Two: North Korea agrees to dismantle their nuclear weapon program.

Possible Future #6

Focal Point and Indicator:

North Korea is not aggressive, but still defiant. The United States and Chinese relationship becomes stronger.

-United States announces knowledge of known nuclear facilities.

-United States increase military presence in region.

-Chinese actions consistent with the rest of the world.

-Chinese lowers aid to North Korea.

-North Korean actions strong, but not aggressive.

-North Korea increase talks with South Korea.

Possible Future #7

Focal Point and Indicator:

The United States see North Korean internal turmoil worsen and becomes more aggressive with its approach to North Korea.

- China becomes more defensive of North Korea.
- North Korean stance strong, but not aggressive.
- North Korea increase talks with South Korea.
- The United States increase military presence in region.
- United States announces knowledge of nuclear facilities.

Possible Future #1

Focal Point and Indicators:

All three actors show signs of willingness to negotiate.

- North Korean stance strong, but not aggressive.
- North Korean increase talks with South Korea.
- Chinese actions shows support of international community.
- China limits aid to North Korea
- United States maintains current military posture in region.
- United States pushes for talks with North Korea.

Possible Future #4

Focal Point and Indicator:

The United States still gives diplomacy a chance, and North Korea seems responsive.

- United States maintains current military posture in region.
- United States pushes for talks with North Korea.

- China becomes more defensive of North Korea.
- North Korean stance strong, but not aggressive.
- North Korean increase talks with South Korea.

Possible Future #2

Focal Point and Indicators:

North Korea continues to be difficult, but United States and Chinese relationship strengthens.

- North Korea's international actions remain aggressive.
- North Korea shows sign of build up at DMZ.
- United States maintains current military posture in region.
- United States pushes for talks with North Korea.
- Chinese actions consistent with the rest of the world.
- Chinese lowers aid to North Korea.

Possible Future #5

Focal Point and Indicators:

North Korean actions remain aggressive, and so does the United States. China remains diplomatic.

- The United States increase military presence in region.
- United States announces knowledge of nuclear facilities.
- North Korea's international actions remain aggressive.
- North Korea shows sign of build up at DMZ.
- Chinese actions consistent with the rest of the world.
- Chinese lowers aid to North Korea.

Step Twelve: Assess Potential for Transposition.

The objective of the study was to break the situation down into simple actions. Interactions between international actors always involve many little actions. All these actions can be grouped into actions that appear aggressive or appear passive. By breaking down action into two categories, you are left with actions that are very influential to the situation on hand. There are limits to what a simplified study of a situation will uncover, but having too much information can complicate the situation, which can also limit what information becomes evident. The difference is that having too much information takes more time.

With the simplistic approach that this study has taken, the possibility of transposition is very high. Any change in the actors' actions will change the possible future into a different possible future. The advantage of having a greater possibility of transposition in a simplistic approach is that the indicators list is easier to follow, therefore making reactions to changing situations smoother and more effective. This approach is very susceptible to surprise actions, but surprise actions are very difficult to plan for.

Conclusion

North Korea, since its founding, has been the source of many events that shake the stability in the Southeast Asia region. The United States has been in the region trying to

contain the destabilizing source that is North Korea. China, once a strong supporter of North Korea, is now trying to get North Korea to abandon the current direction North Korea is taking. All three actors have major influence in the presented situation. Each actor has a choice to make as to what course of action is beneficial. Each action has a major affect on which direction the situation will go. The situation has somewhat quieted down for the moment. This maybe because each actor is waiting to see what the other actors are going to do. The situation has turned into a dangerous international staring game. Which actor will blink first?

China has pledged for a nuclear free Korean Peninsula. With this claim, it would appear that Chinese actions will lean towards helping disarm North Korea. From the two tables, this course of action would support China's claim. If China's true intention is to keep North Korea from the joining the nuclear club, then it is easy to figure out what actions China should take. China needs to continue talks with North Korea, to lead North Korea away from nuclear armament. China's actions greatly affect North Korea's action at this point.

The United States' goal is to keep North Korea from developing nuclear capabilities. To achieve this goal the United States has two actions available. They can either choose to stay passive and be diplomatic or they can be aggressive and

threatening towards North Korea. From the research above, an aggressive stance occupies the top two spots of table two which is the scenario that leads to North Korea's dissolution of its nuclear program. However these aggressive actions will only be success full, if North Korea are merely bluffing and will be passive in their actions. In table one, the scenario in which North Korea continues its nuclear program, aggressive actions occupy three of top four spots. Granted, two of these have North Korea taking aggressive actions as well. So from this information what should the United States do?

Any actions the United States does in this situation, the United States need support from the rest of the world, including China. The United States should take diplomatic steps at this time, in order to keep the world supportive of the United States. China claims to want to have a nuclear free Korean Peninsula, so keeping China committed to this claim in very ideal for the United States. This course of action will also put the pressure on the other two actors to act, so that the United States can react. Aggressive option has its time to be useful. However, with the United States in the current situation it is in, that time is when the other actors are aggressive and diplomatic options have been exhausted to point that the world has no choice but to support the United States in being aggressive.

North Korea is the country in control of the situation at the moment. In table one, North Korea's actions are mostly aggressive in the upper half of the table. In table two, North Korea's actions are all passive in the upper half of the table. This means that North Korea's actions have more bearing and dictate which scenario is likely to happen. The question is which scenario does North Korea want to happen?

It is difficult to read North Korean leaders' minds, or even predict what actions North Korea will take. What is easy is figuring out why North Korea took the actions it did. Looking at past articles and timelines North Korea's actions can be theorized as to why they were taken. From actions taken in the past, North Korea wants nuclear weapons as a way to preserve the current government. It may appear that North Korea takes aggressive actions to gain aid and attention, but North Korea's actions always seem to be moving toward nuclear armament.

The next step for this study would be to include more actors. The three nations mentioned above could be added to the list of actors. South Korea, excluded because of army size comparison, can also take aggressive actions and launch a surprise attack. The difficulty in taking this action is if America chooses not to support South Korea after the fact, South Korea would find itself fighting off North Korea's numerically superior army. However, this is an option available to South

Korea. Japan, without a standing army can still be aggressive. Japan does have a self defense force, but again this defense force is numerically inferior to North Korea's army. The actions that would be available to Japan is not providing aid to North Korea when aid is requested, or aid can be denied, which Japan has done in the past. Russia's influence has waned as described above, but this does not mean Russia is completely out of the picture. Russia has the same actions available as China does. Russia can either give support to the effort to keep a nuclear free North Korea, or Russia can provide support or at least do nothing to stop North Korea.

This situation is far away from being resolved. As each actor waits to see what the other actors will, it is important to know what futures may happen. These types of study are very helpful to those who watch this situation, such as analyst and policy makers. Knowing what futures may happen and what the indicators are for each future can help the analyst and policy makers stay ahead of the situation. Staying ahead is the only way to stop unwanted futures from happening.

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