

Research Report

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Forum	General Assembly 4
Issue:	The question of fostering democratic progress in the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea
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Introduction

Democracy has changed a lot since it first spread in ancient civilizations such as Greece. It is now most commonly known as a government system in which the people rule the state. Democratic countries often share the view that promoting democracy is a positive addition to the world. Regardless of one's opinion on that view it is important to understand that promoting democracy, which is often the nice way of saying to regime change, often goes hand in hand with violence. Although many humanitarian and military aspects will not be discussed in this report it will focus on the political aspects of the spread of democracy, and the methods realistic enough to do so.

Definition of Key Terms

Democracy

A state in which, by law all citizens are equal, and therefore have an equal say in the governing of their country. There is no universal definition of democracy, but it is important to note that democracy is often identified with freedom.

Socialist State

A state runs a collective government that is in between, capitalism and communism. Again there is no universal definition.

Nuclear Weaponry

An explosive device that gathers its power from a fission (nuclear) reaction.

Propaganda

Information that is aimed to change someone's mind on an issue or idea.

General Overview

To start out, democracy in the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea is, unlike the name of the country suggests, unheard of. There is no democracy in the DPRK and there will not be any democracy or any form of government that would grant civilians the right to speech. It is absolutely crucial for delegates to understand, and respect the fact that democracy in the DPRK would, without a doubt, mean a change of regime.

The DPRK has been the subject for debate in the United Nations on other topics before. The Human Rights Council has condemned the situation regarding human rights issues. Also, the Security Council has put in place severe economic and military sanctions. These sanctions are based around the IAEA who stated that there have been nuclear weapons programs. This issue, of nuclear weaponry is something completely outside of the premise of the discussions that will be held in the fourth general assembly. It is however extremely relevant to understand the solutions proposed in the resolutions submitted by the Security Council. The resolution, apart from enacting sanctions and condemning the development of weaponry, also promotes the six party talks. The six party talks are meetings that take place between, Republic of China, Japan, The Republic Of Korea, The Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea, The Russian Federation, and The United States of America. These meetings are held for one reason, peace and security on the Korean peninsula. The meetings have not been held since 2007 due to the DPRK not wanting to participate after a statement by the president of the Security Council condemning a satellite launch.

Therefore three influential parties in the situation are: the USA, Russian Federation, and China because all three hold a seat in both the UN Security Council and in the Six Nation Talks. We have to understand therefore that as these three crucial players have invested interest in keeping the Korean peninsula calm. Will these nations be willing to stir up the calm for a democracy?

Major Parties Involved and Their Views

United States of America

The United States of America are in favor of the spread of democracy. They are also in favor of the Security Council resolutions that prevent the development of nuclear weapons. The United States of America will however not want to take aggressive or invasive action as they are greatly invested in having calm Korean partners.

Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea

The DPRK is strongly a socialist state. They feel they have a “people-centered social system.” They do not want foreign intervention in their affairs, and want to state that everyone is equal and has everything they want. The problems in the DPRK are foreign media propaganda and are not based on one fact, or so they would say.

Republic of Korea

The Republic of Korea is the only nation that has actively done anything to spread democracy in the DPRK. They have been sending western propaganda, such as documentaries on the Arab Spring, and negative information about Kim Jong Il. These methods are ineffective but do prove the Republic of Korea's investment in spreading democracy to the DPRK.

China

Is very intent on keeping the Korean peninsula calm as to keep order in China itself. However they are strongly against the spread of nuclear weaponry and therefore voted in favor of a resolution further preventing DPRK's nuclear program.

UN involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

Sanctions in the Security Council Resolution 1718

- 2006- <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N06/572/07/PDF/N0657207.pdf?OpenElement>

Presidential press release Security Council causing DPRK to boycott six party talks.

- 2009- <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2009/sc9634.doc.htm>

Third General Assembly resolution addressing human rights in the DPRK

- 2011- <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/LTD/N11/570/81/PDF/N1157081.pdf?OpenElement>

Possible Solutions

For this issue it is hard change the regime rapidly as negotiations are always slow. In order to solve the issue faster we can pass on the issue to the Security Council although we should only use this option as a very last resort if every single attempt has failed as attacking North Korea will also create many other problems. This leaves us with the only option but to work with North Korea and not against (this is up to the security council and not GA4) for the present time. Thanks to the fact that many previous attempts have failed we know that we need to tackle the problem from a different angle.

Finding themselves working together with the current government, delegates should focus on bettering living conditions for people in the DPRK. Trade with the DPRK could do this and nations could hope that an increase in welfare will lead to democracy.

The problem is however that SC resolution 1718 prohibits trade of luxury goods. The GA4 could then try to advise the Security Council to break the sanctions, but that would be a waste of ink unless the DPRK would give up in its nuclear weapons programs and rejoin the six party talks. In the extremely unlikely event of this taking place, the circle has made a full rotation, as the six party talks are per definition

detrimental to the spread of democracy. This method would take very long and is unlikely to succeed. Although the resolution only prevents the trade of luxury goods which are at the moment not a priority to rebuild North Korea. The trade of capital goods on the other hand are much more important. Due to embargos by many of the worlds nations North Korea is unable to provide goods for its people and consequently fuel a stable development. Although such action would need to be supported by many nations who imposed an embargo. Moreover, it should be supervised as to be sure that the goods are not used for military purpose).

Although, it is possible than many nations will be against this policy and are more likely to implement greater sanctions and propaganda on North Korea. Although, it must be made clear that this is not likely to turn the people of North Korea against their government as they are too weak already and it would just result in even more suffering. This is why we must first help North Korea to develop and make its peoples stronger and more aware of the world around them.

For delegates to truly solve the underlying issue at hand here, and truly foster democracy, the stalemate has to be broken. This can only be done by new initiative: resolutions.

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