

# Research Report

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The Security Council

The situation in Democratic People's Republic  
of Korea (DPRK)



# MUNISH



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<b>Forum</b>	Security Council
<b>Issue:</b>	The situation in Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)
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## Introduction

The question of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) is a highly sensitive one, due to the volatile nature of relations between the DPRK, the United States of America (USA), the Republic of Korea (ROK), and several other nations. The fact that the DPRK has a nuclear weapons program, chemical and biological weapons programs, which gives further cause for concern, as the DPRK refuses access to various international bodies such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the United Nations (UN). The DPRK also refuses to sign, ratify and comply with many important international treaties and agreements, resulting in other member states being highly skeptical and criticizing of the DPRK.

Delegates must be aware that in such a situation, communication and de-escalation of military tension is key. Delegates should also try and think of original ideas regarding relations and communication between the DPRK and other countries, be it in new forums, or simply encouraging renewed talks.

## Definition of Key Terms

### Sunshine Policy

The Sunshine policy was a policy that South Korea held from 1998 until 2008, when Kim Dae-Jung was elected as President of South Korea in 1998 and Roh Moo-hyun in 2003. The goal was to soften North Korean attitudes towards South Korea through encouraged interaction and economic aid, and made it clear to the North of their three key national security policies principles, namely that no armed provocation by the North would be tolerated, that the South would not attempt to absorb the North in any way, and that the



South actively sought co-operation with the North. The South wanted peaceful co-existence, not regime change. The Sunshine Policy had noticeable positive effects, despite some tensions re-arising in 2002 following an attack on South Korean fishermen by the North over disputed fishing territories. However, following the election of Lee Myung-bak in 2008, South Korea took a harsher stance towards the North, stating that further aid from them would only occur after North Korea had solved its international standoff over its nuclear weapons. In 2009, following nuclear tests by the North, relations between Pyongyang and Seoul became strained again, and led to the South signing the Proliferation Security Initiative to prevent nuclear materials being shipped to the North. The Sunshine policy was officially declared a failure by the South Korean Unification Ministry in November 2010, and was formally brought to an end.

### Six-party Talks

The Six-party Talks aimed to find a peaceful solution to the concerns over North Korea's nuclear weapons program, with the ROK, DPRK, USA, Peoples Republic of China (PRC), Japan and the Russian Federation. They began as a response to North Korea withdrawing from the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) in 2003. From 2003-2007, there was little net progress, until North Korea agreed to shut down nuclear facilities in exchange for fuel aid and to take steps to normalizing relations with the USA and Japan. However, after the United Nations Security Council's Presidential Statement on April 13 2009 that condemned the North Korean failed satellite launch, the North Koreans declared that they were pulling out of the Six-party talks and would resume its nuclear enrichment program to boost its nuclear deterrent, along with expelling all nuclear inspectors from the country. Resumption of the Six-party Talks has been proposed several times following 2009, but seemingly antagonistic behavior by the North Koreans has prevented this.

### General Overview

The issue of the DPRK is an issue that has always involved the United Nations in a deeply intimate nature. The creation of the DPRK and the ROK came about after Korea was split in two occupied zones at the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel, having been liberated from Japanese rule after WWII. The USSR was in charge of North Korea, and the USA of the south. Both zones set up governments, and both governments were supported by their respective superpower. The socialist government headed by Kim Il Sung in the North was given extensive support by the USSR, and built up a formidable army numbering 200,000 men with formidable armored



divisions and a sophisticated air force. The capitalist government led by Syngman Rhee set up in the South, in stark contrast, was given the bare minimum of support from the USA, who at the time was far more focused on developments in Europe than in Asia. Consequently, the ROK army was around 1/2 the size of the DPRK's, with only 98,000 men, no modern armor or anti-armor capabilities and a threadbare air force consisting of only 22 planes, around a 1/10th of the size of the North Korean Air Force. The North was determined to reunify the country by force, and launched its invasion of the ROK on the 25th of June 1950, with the support in the Soviet Union and the Communist Chinese under Chairman Mao. The United Nations became involved, and the Security Council ruled that the DPRK's invasion "constituted a breach of the peace" and called for the immediate cessation of hostilities and the withdrawal of troops back across the 38th parallel through United Nations Security Council Resolution 83, passed on June 27th 1950. The UN Security Council also sanctioned UN intervention to support the ROK, be it military or otherwise, through UN Security Council Resolution 84. It was passed with 7 for, 3 Abstentions and None against. The USSR did not veto the resolution in this instance despite its support for North Korea, due to their boycotting UN proceeding in protest of the Republic of China (now Taiwan) having the seat of the Peoples Republic of China, which it saw as illegitimate. After 3 years of war, UN forces withdrew from the Korean Peninsula following a ceasefire agreement between the DPRK and the ROK. However, no peace treaty has ever been signed, leaving the two countries formally still at war. With tensions high between the two countries, the UN has had to step in numerous times to deflate situations between North Korea and other nations, and has put in place several international sanctions against the DPRK in early 2013.

## Major Parties Involved and Their Views

### The Republic of Korea

South Korea has had difficult relations with North Korea since the end of the Korean War. The unwillingness of both North and South to fully co-operate has made it difficult to properly deal with issues between the two nations. South Korea is also one of the worlds most rapidly expanding economies, and is on of the "Four Tigers" of rising Asian economies, along with Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore.



## The People's Republic of Korea

North Korea is the main subject of this research report, and it is important for delegates to have at least a basic knowledge of North Korea's history and the reasons behind its decisions.

North Korea is a *Juche* (Self-reliant) state, and abandoned Marxist-Leninism in 1972 in against of this. It is incorrect to think of North Korea as a communist state nowadays, because of its change in ideology and the state and party officially rejecting its communist founding. However, it does hold many socialist concepts, with most services being funded by the state, however poorly, and means of production are owned and run by the state. The Kim family dominates the ruling elite of North Korea, starting with Kim Il-sung, then Kim Jong-Il and the current ruler of North Korea, Kim Jong-un, with an elaborate cult of personality built around the family. The DPRK has been described as a hereditary dictatorship, that is heavily totalitarian and Stalinist.

Because of the way the country is run, and its *Juche* ideology, North Korea is isolationist, and has only recently begun opening its borders to international trade, commerce and investment. However, it still vehemently rejects many international organizations, such as the IAEA, UN, OPCW, and others from entering North Korea, claiming that such organizations simply wish to spy and defame North Korea. They further refuse to dismantle their nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, and ignore international treaties and resolutions by conducting nuclear and ballistic missile tests.

The DPRK holds one of the poorest human rights record in the world, with Amnesty International reporting severe restrictions on basic fundamental rights. The DPRK reportedly holds 200,000 political prisoners and their families in prison camps, existing in "the most inhuman conditions imaginable."

The DPRK economy is an industrialized, highly centralized command economy, which prioritizes self-sufficiency and independence. It is one of only two states in the world, the other being Cuba, with an almost entirely government-planned, state-owned economy. Its isolation policy means that foreign trade and investment is highly restricted, but following the passage of a law in 1984, that allowed foreign investment through joint ventures, investment from overseas has picked up slightly, with principally Russian and Chinese business's investing.

North Korea seeks to reunification with South Korea, and signed the June 15<sup>th</sup> North-South Joint Declaration, stating that both sides would actively seek reunification peacefully.



## The United States of America

The USA has been an ally of South Korea since the Korean War, although recently USA-ROK relations have been seen to chill somewhat. Despite this, the USA still vehemently opposes the DPRK's nuclear weapons program. The DPRK in turn accuses the USA of antagonizing them, especially over the joint military exercises that the USA and the ROK take part in. North Korea and the USA have no formal diplomatic relations, and thus use Sweden as a protecting power of the United States in North Korea for consular matters.

## People's Republic of China

China has long been a protector of the DPRK, and usually ensures that the Security Council does not impose too harsh penalties on the DPRK. However recently, with increasing violations of Security Council resolutions and nuclear and missile tests, China's view of North Korea has hardened, and have been more eager to allow stricter sanctions and harsher language to be used against the North Koreans.

## Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
1945	After the defeat of Japan, Korea is partitioned on the 38th parallel.
1948	United Nations-supervised election leads to two separate Korean governments in the two occupation zones being formed.
25th June 1950	North Korea invades South Korea. The Korean War begins.
27th June 1953	The Korean War ends with a ceasefire agreement between the parties, but no peace treaty between the DPRK and the ROK was ever signed, leaving the two countries still formally at war.
October 1966-1969	The Korean DeMilitarized Zone (DMZ) conflict occurs. It consists of low-intensity clashes between North Korean troops and South Korean and American troops.
1972	The North Koreans reject Marxist-Leninism and their communist roots in favour of Kim Il-Sung's <i>Juche</i> ideology.
July 4th 1972	North-South Joint Statement released, announcing the Three Principles of Reunification.
1984	North Korea's Red Cross provides support for South Korean flooding.
1991	A unified Korean team takes part in the World Table Tennis Competition and the World Youth football competition.
1994	After a death of Kim Il-Sung, Kim Jong-il takes his place as General Secretary.



1998	South Korea begins its Sunshine policy towards North Korea.
15th June 1999	The First Battle of Yeonpyeong, a campaign to redraw maritime boundary lines. Kim Dae-jung, President of South Korea, meets Kim Jong-Il at a summit meeting, the first conference between the two states after the Korean War, along with the first Korean Family Reunion.
2000	The Second Battle of Yeonpyeong, a total of 19 killed and 43 wounded between the two sides. The reason for the skirmish comes down to the North Koreans attempting to enforce their perceived maritime border.
29th June 2002	North Korea and the U.S.A accuse each other of breaching the Agreed Framework, which aimed to limit North Korea's nuclear weapons capability.
2003	North Korea conducts nuclear and missile tests, leading to South Korea suspending aid shipments and placing its military on high alert on October the 9th
October 2006	The new President of South Korea, Lee Myung-bak and his party begin taking a harsher stance towards North Korea.
March 2008	The North Koreans conduct an underground nuclear test, which is universally condemned by the international community. North-South relations is a chill. A South Korean navy ship sank in the Yellow Sea, foul play is suspected. In May of the same year, the South Koreans published findings proving that a torpedo launched from a North Korean submarine was the cause of the sinking, which the North Koreans denied.
25th May 2009	The South Koreans officially end the Sunshine policy.
26th March 2010	North Korean artillery bombards Yeonpyeong island in the Yellow Sea, causing South Korea to return fire.
November 2010	It is revealed that North Korea abducted 4 high-ranking South Korean military officers in 1999.
23rd November 2010	The North Koreans launched a scientific and technological satellite, which reached orbit. American warships are moved into the region.
2011	North Korea announces its intention to target the United States with its missile and nuclear weapons programs.
2012	North Korea conducts further underground nuclear tests.
24th January 2013	North Korean government announces it is withdrawing from all non-aggression pacts with South Korea in response to UN Resolution 2094.
February 2013	Cyber-attack against South Korea takes place. It is later confirmed that North Korea was behind the attacks.
8th March 2013	North Korea moves its intermediate range missile to its east coast, which is
20th March 2013	
4th April 2013	

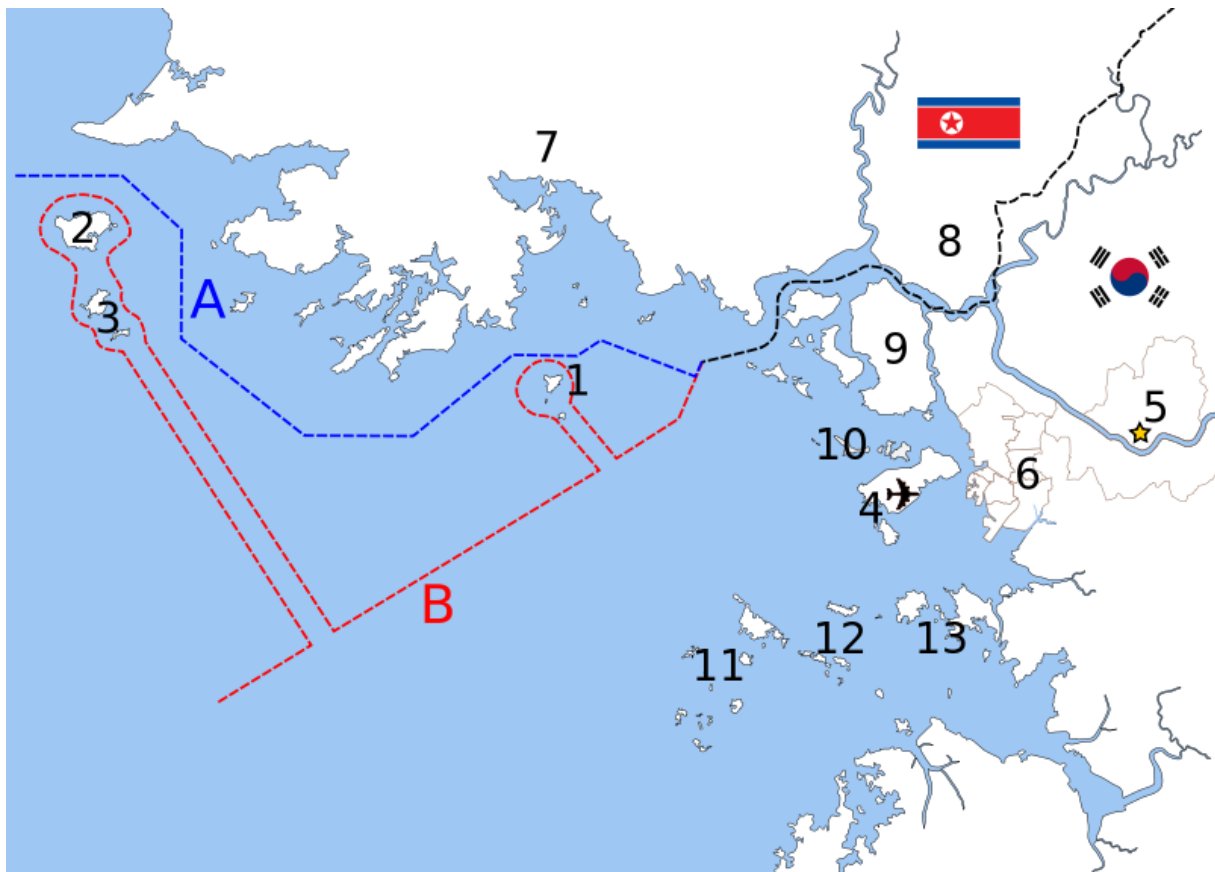


viewed by many member states as a continuation for North Korea to provoke a confrontation.

9th April 2013

North Korea warns foreigners in South Korea to take steps to secure shelter or to evacuate in the event of a conflict on the Korean Peninsula

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Red line indicates the North Koreans perceived maritime border.

Blue line indicates the maritime border as perceived by the South Koreans.

## UN involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

The UN resolutions regarding North Korea are numerous and widely varied. For simplicities sake, the most relevant resolutions shall be included in this document, but delegates are encouraged to research others to further their understanding of the issue.

- UN Security Council Resolution 2087 condemned the December 12<sup>th</sup> 2012 rocket launch by the DPRK





- UN Security Council Resolution 2094 was unanimously adopted on March 7 2013, and condemned the DPRK's third nuclear test, as well as increasing the power of other member states to enforce sanctions against the DPRK.
- UN Security Council Resolution 1718 was unanimously adopted on October 14 2006, and imposed a series of economic and commercial sanctions on the DPRK following a nuclear test carried out by the DPRK. The sanctions stopped military goods, as well as luxury products from being delivered to North Korea.
- UN Security Council Resolution 1874, passed unanimously on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2009, imposed further economic and commercial sanctions, most importantly stopping states from providing financial assistance to the DPRK, apart for humanitarian and developmental reasons. They also imposed stricter arms embargos on North Korea, stopping export of weapons from North Korea and making it harder for them to purchase small arms.

## Evaluation of Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

Previous attempts to solve the issue of the DPRK have almost always ended in failure, antagonistic behavior from one of the parties being the usual reason. It is true that some attempts, such as South Korea's Sunshine Policy, have had positive outcomes for a number of years, but obviously continued refusal of the North Koreans to destroy their Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) stockpiles and allow humanitarian organizations in the country.

## Possible Solutions

The simplest way that this issue will be resolved is through open and frank communication between the parties. Force has been shown to not work against North Korea, and it is likely that if the Security Council attempted to force the North Koreans into something they would not want to do, the representative of China would take offense, despite their recent trend of supporting the Security Council in imposing sanctions on the DPRK. Therefore, there is no short-term solution that the Security Council can implement. Instead, it is recommended that delegates attempt to construct a solid base for future negotiations and communication to take place, perhaps by setting up a dedicated forum for states to raise concerns and talk, or re-introducing old forums, such as the Six-party talks.



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