

Fall 2018
Joint Crisis Committee

Negotiating Peace in North Korea



INTRODUCTION

North Korea has been on a long and winding road to the current state of its nuclear arsenal. In 1985, at the height of the Cold War, the nation ratified the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), confirming that they would actively work to contain the spread of nuclear weapons.¹ Since then, North Korea has made consistent progress towards becoming a nuclear power, intermitted by confirmations of their commitment to disarmament. With or without weapons of mass destruction, however, the nation has long drawn the ire of the American government.

In his 2002 State of the Union address, President Bush admonished the nation for its human rights abuses.² Later in 2005, the US froze \$25 million of North Korean assets in a Macau-based bank, identifying them as a threat to American security.³ This, however, did not stop the development of North Korean nuclear technology, as the military performed its first nuclear tests in 2006, prompting sanctions by members of the UN Security Council.⁴

Regime changes in North Korea, South Korea, and the United States have produced a range of diplomatic strategies, ranging from the easy-going diplomacy of American Presidents Carter and Obama to the hard-line attempts to put pressure on the North Korean government by South Korean President Lee Myung-bak. By nature, North Korean regimes and diplomatic strategies are slower to change. For decades now, the ongoing policy of the government has been to accept peace talks and treaties with open arms and to unabashedly continue nuclear progress soon after. As of yet, the policy has proved successful, but recent developments have signalled a change in policy from Pyongyang. Perhaps the shifting tides are a result of a fully functional, or nearly complete, nuclear arsenal.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

September 10, 2018: The Supreme Leader of North Korea cancels a joint summit between the two nations, the day before it is set to begin.

September 17, 2018: The President of the United States (POTUS) replies to the cancellation with a public letter, personally insulting the Supreme Leader and condemning the governance of his country.

¹ <https://www.cfr.org/timeline/north-korean-nuclear-negotiations>

² <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/onpolitics/transcripts/sou012902.htm>

³ <https://www.cfr.org/timeline/north-korean-nuclear-negotiations>

⁴ Ibid.

September 24, 2018: North Korea unleashes their largest missile test ever over the Hokkaido island of Japan, and into the Pacific Ocean.

October 2018: POTUS begins consistently incorporating insults against the Supreme Leader into his stump speeches at campaign-style rallies across the country.

November 10, 2018: Residents of South Korea living near the North Korean border report that the state-controlled North Korean radio station has begun to make repeated claims that the American territory of Guam rightfully belongs to North Korea.

November 20, 2018: POTUS announces that all those who have lived in or visited North Korea will be subject to arrest, seizure of property, and imprisonment without warning or due process.

November 23, 2018: North Korea demands that the United States turn over possession of the island of Guam, or suffer a nuclear attack on American soil.

November 24, 2018: Relevant leaders from both sides of the dispute are meeting on opposite sides of the world to discuss the steps that must follow in this series of increasingly-provocative actions.

EXHIBITS

Exhibit A. *Map of North Korea*



Exhibit B. Number of North Korean missile launches throughout history

NORTH KOREAN MISSILE LAUNCHES

