Princeton Model United Nations Conference 2017

United Nations Security Council
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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the United Nations Security Council! My name is Rahul Mehta, and I am excited to be your chair at PMUNC 2017. As the single most powerful body within the United Nations system, the Security Council debates all matters regarding the preservation and maintenance of international peace and security. With that in mind, I cannot think of a more pressing matter for the council to address than the situation in the Korean Peninsula. The region has teetered on the brink of conflict for the better part of the last century, and as recent events have clearly shown, tensions are at an all-time high since the 1953 armistice agreement which ended the Korean War.

As delegates on the Security Council, you will be representing the ambassadors from your respective states to the United Nations. Accordingly, I will expect serious and thoughtful debate from all individuals on the committee. The Security Council will also run as a crisis committee, albeit in a slightly different format than other cabinets. Rather than responding to a series of crises, I will seek to balance formal debate & resolution writing with crisis elements, more accurately mirroring the nature of the Security Council’s day-to-day operations. Although you do not have the power to act unilaterally on behalf of your nation, you do have the ear of your nations’ respective cabinets & heads-of-state – the most successful delegates are able to skilfully leverage public resolutions as well as under-the-table deals with allies to craft the best outcome for their respective nation – more on the exact mechanics of this later.

To set the stage, this meeting of the Security Council will begin on September 4, 2017. Convened at the request of Secretary General António Gutierrez, the Council will meet to discuss the situation in the Korean Peninsula, and in particular, the ballistic missile test conducted by the DPRK on August 29th and the hydrogen bomb test on September 3rd. Charting a course over the Japanese island of Hokkaido before crashing in the Pacific Ocean, the test comes as the latest among recent inflammatory actions by the regime with respect to their nuclear program. In tandem with escalating rhetoric from both sides, the Security Council must work towards diffusing the situation before it reaches a breaking point; millions of lives lie in the balance, and, as American President Donald Trump has repeatedly underscored, “all options are on the table.”

Sincerely,
Rahul Mehta

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2 Ibid.
The Security Council is one of the six major organs of the United Nations, along with the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the International Court of Justice, the Secretariat, and the (now defunct) Trusteeship Council.

Established by Chapter V of the United Nations Charter, the Security Council held its first meeting in January 1946, with five veto-power holding permanent members (China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States) and six non-permanent members. The 1965 ratification of General Assembly resolution 1990 expanded membership to its current composition, with 5 permanent and 10 non-permanent members. Each non-permanent member serves a two–year term with representation from Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America/Caribbean, Western Europe/Other, and Eastern Europe. The non-permanent members that will be represented are Bolivia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, South Korea, Sweden, Ukraine, and Uruguay.

The majority of the Security Council’s authority and power is derived from Chapters VI and VII of the United Nations Charter. Chapter VI addresses the “pacific settlement of disputes” among member states. Any situation which “[endangers] the maintenance of international peace and security” may be referred to the Security Council. In such situations, the Security Council can issue a binding resolution specifying measures to resolve the dispute with consequences for non-compliance (such as sanctions). Additionally, Chapter VII of the Charter specifies measures the Council can take with respect to “breaches of the peace and acts of aggression” in order to “maintain or restore international peace and security.” These measures may include more stringent

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sanctions and the use of military observers or peacekeepers to establish and maintain ceasefires or some other cessation of hostilities.

With the end of the Cold War, the Security Council has become a much livelier forum for debate and a committee which is able to take more decisive action; this included addressing conflicts in the Former Yugoslavia, the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and North Africa. Additionally, the Security Council has dealt with several unique challenges in the 21st century, including the myriad of uprisings in the 2010 Arab Spring, the rogue states of Iran and the DPRK with nuclear aspirations, and separatism and foreign aggression in Eastern Ukraine. Though the Council’s efficacy can be limited at times by the threat of a veto, delegates at this conference should attempt to circumvent deadlock by coming up with creative solutions and maintaining a willingness to compromise.

A Note on Committee Structure

The UN Security Council will run as a hybrid crisis committee. While the majority of early debate will take place in a more structured format, delegates will also respond to events threatening the peace of the Korean Peninsula. In the interest of pre-empting any confusion, the majority of substantive debate should be geared towards the passage of a comprehensive resolution detailing mid/long-term measures to ensure stability in the region. As and when crises arise, delegates may author, discuss, and vote on short-form directives, which are essentially “mini-resolutions” for the sole purpose of dealing with the immediate situation. That being said, longer-term measures taken in response to a crisis can be incorporated into the final resolution (and I certainly hope that they are).

In addition, this committee will also operate under slightly different parliamentary procedure rules than the rest of the conference. Given the nature of the Security Council’s actions, which often authorize military action or sanctions against a particular state or entity, all substantive documents (i.e. resolutions, directives, press-releases, etc.) require at least 9/15 affirmative votes to pass. In addition,
the five permanent members of the Council (also known as the P5 nations) are able to *veto* any substantive vote. That is, any “no” vote cast by one of these nations automatically causes the document to fail, regardless of the total number of votes in favor. Of course, an abstention by one of these nations does not trigger a veto.

Finally, this committee will allow two new types of structured (moderated) debate that are not otherwise part of PMUNC’s Rules of Procedure, which are outlined below;

- **Informal Consultation** – a delegate may motion for an informal consultation with a set duration to enable more free-form structured debate within the committee. If passed, the delegate who motioned for the informal consultation may begin speaking for an unspecified amount of time, after which he/she may select the next speaker. This will continue until the informal consultation has elapsed, after which delegates may motion to extend the consultation, at the chair’s discretion.

  Example: “Motion for an informal consultation for ___ minutes for the purpose of ____.”

- **Round Robin** – a delegate may motion for a round robin with a set speaking time in order to allow the entire committee to voice their opinions on a particular matter. If passed, the delegate who proposed the motion may elect to speak either first or last, after which delegates will speak for the allotted amount of time. A delegate may also pass, but cannot yield his/her time.

  Example: “Motion for a round robin with a speaking time of ___ for the purpose of ____.”
History of the Korean Peninsula

Historically, the Korean Peninsula has experienced intervention and occupation by a host of foreign powers. After nearly twelve centuries of political, social, and cultural unity through dynastic rule, the “opening” of Korea and the advent of Western imperialism began an irreversible series of events that forever changed the face of the Peninsula. Against the backdrop of British, French, and Russian efforts to curry favor and gain control of large “spheres of influence” in East Asia, the incursion of the Western world became a far greater threat in the eyes of the Korean people.⁶

Indeed, to truly understand the current situation in the Korean Peninsula, one must internalize the fear of the Korean dynastic leaders that increasing Western influence would undermine the cultural and political values that had enabled the Peninsula to exist in relative peace and harmony for hundreds of years. This is further underscored by the General Sherman incident of 1866, where a heavily-armed US merchant ship carrying an American, British, and Malay crew made an attempt to open trade along the Taedong River.⁷ After entering Korean waters without permission and eventually landing in modern-day Pyongyang, the local governor ordered that the ship be destroyed, and the crew of 25 executed.⁸ This incident marked the first hostile actions taken by the Korean government at the time against Western influence and to this day is celebrated in North Korea as “the beginning of the Korean peoples’ resistance to American imperialism.”⁹

At the same time, Korea attempted to rebuff the rapidly-modernizing Meiji government of Japan’s repeated attempts to open trade.¹⁰ Amidst the new Meiji government’s rapid expansion

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⁷ Ibid.
⁹ Seth, History of Modern Korea.
¹⁰ Ibid.
within the region, the Japanese gunboat Unyō landed on Ganghwa Island and destroyed a Korean fort in May 1875.\(^{11}\) The incident and subsequent pressure from Meiji officials resulted in the 1876 Japan-Korea Treaty, declaring the Korean state as independent, challenging its status as a tributary state of the Qing Dynasty and opening the ports of Busan, Incheon, and Wonsan for use by Japan and other foreign powers.\(^{12}\)

Following the conclusion of the Sino-Japanese war in 1895 (with the Japanese enjoying a major victory over Chinese forces in Pyongyang at in September 1895), China’s influence in Korea ceased to exist and Korea officially became an independent state.\(^{13}\) The next year saw sweeping reforms under intense military pressure and scrutiny from the Japanese, which were intended to modernize the Korean government and social system. The growing Japanese influence in the short-lived Korean Empire culminated in the 1910 annexation of the Korean Peninsula by the Meiji government.\(^{14}\)

**Colonial Period & WWII (1910-1945)**

The next 35 years marked a period of Korean history that was almost entirely colored by its colonial occupiers; the Meiji government of Japan. The colonial administration, known as the Government-General (*Chōsen Sōtokufu*), implemented a number of policies intended to repress the Korean language and historical cultural practices in favor of assimilation.\(^{15}\) In turn, the Korean response to the colonial regime accelerated the development of the ideological divisions that were critical in determining the Korean Peninsula’s course after the conclusion of WWII in 1945.

\(^{11}\) Ibid.
\(^{13}\) Seth, *History of Modern Korea*.
\(^{14}\) Ibid.
\(^{15}\) Ibid.
In particular, the colonial-era reforms were marked by a consolidation of power within the Korean peninsula at all levels of national and local government. Starting at the top, the Governor-General held absolute power within the nation and was directly accountable to the Prime Minister in Tokyo. Combined with the creation of a highly-centralized police system, the appointment of virtually all local officials, and supreme legislative and executive power, the Korean people had never witnessed such a consolidation of power.\(^\text{16}\)

In addition, Imperial Japanese rule also brought with it stark changes to the demographic composition of Korea. Within just his administration, the Governor-General initially appointed 10,000 Japanese civil servants. This grew to nearly 88,000 by 1937, with ethnic Koreans making up only 35% of that figure.\(^\text{17}\) Including the number of state-controlled and semi-autonomous institutions including state and local governments, banks, and other corporations, there were a total of 246,000 Japanese compared to 63,000 ethnic Koreans.\(^\text{18}\) By 1940, nearly 3.2% of the total population of the Korean Peninsula consisted of Japanese expatriates. Further, the Meiji government also instituted land reforms, which stripped many Korean peasants of lands they had historically farmed, instead placing it under the control of either the Governor-General or into the hands of the old landed \textit{yangban} class of ethnic Koreans.\(^\text{19}\) Moreover, the Japanese colonial authority sought to suppress Korean cultural practices; many of these measures included the destruction of much of the historical Gyeongbokgung Palace in order to build the Government-General building, as well as forbidding the teaching of the Korean language.\(^\text{20}\)

\(^{16}\) Ibid.
\(^{18}\) Ibid.
\(^{19}\) Ibid.
\(^{20}\) Ibid.
The actions taken by the Meiji government were viewed as humiliating by the Korean people, and they attempted to resist in a number of ways. The first major uprising is known today as the March 1st Movement; on March 1st, 1919, large anti-Japanese rallies took place across the nation and a declaration of independence was read in Seoul. The protests were met with violent suppression, and nearly 50,000 were arrested, 8,000 killed, and almost 16,000 wounded.  

Separately, the Korean Provisional Government (KPG) coordinated resistance efforts as the *de jure* government-in-exile based in Shanghai, and later Chongqing. Although not formally recognized by many members of the international community, the legitimacy of this government was enshrined in the first constitution of the Republic of Korea in 1948. Notably, the KPG’s armed resistance to Meiji rule reached a peak during the 1920 Battle of Qingshanli in eastern Manchuria, and the assault on the Japanese military leadership in Shanghai in April 1932.

At the outbreak of WWII, the Korean Peninsula was largely under the control of the Japanese Empire. Accordingly, the central government issued a wartime labor draft order that brought nearly 700,000 ethnic Koreans to mainland Japan and conscripted nearly 5.5 million in total. During the same time, the KPG formed the Korean Liberation Army (KLA) in 1940 in order to resist the Axis powers, and participated in allied war efforts throughout China and Southeast Asia. Syngman Rhee, the former president of the KPG, later became the first President of South Korea.

At the same time in the North, the father of North Korea Kim Il-sung raised and led a guerilla movement with close ties to the Soviet Red Army under the banner of the Korean Volunteer Army. Following a victory against the Imperial Japanese Army and their entrance into Manchuria, the KVA

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22 Ibid.
23 Ibid.
24 Schmid, *Korea between Empires.*
25 Ibid.
began recruiting ethnic Koreans to form the basis of what would become the Korean People’s Army of the DPRK.\textsuperscript{26}

**The Division of Korea & Rising Tensions (1945-1950)**

Following the Japanese Empire’s unconditional surrender to the Allies on September 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 1945, the Allied powers established a trusteeship over the peninsula. Starting September 8\textsuperscript{th}, 1945, the Korean Peninsula was split into two zones of occupation, with the territory south of the 38\textsuperscript{th} parallel under control of the United States and the northern part under the Soviet Union.\textsuperscript{27}

The defining event that spurred divisions within the Korean Peninsula was the Moscow Conference in December 1945, where Allied powers established the trusteeship with the understanding that Korea would become a fully-independent state in no more than 5 years.\textsuperscript{28}

Following the conference, the tense relationship between the United States and the Soviet Union was exacerbated by the administration of the trusteeship. The Joint Soviet-US Commission tasked with developing a unified administration for the peninsula failed to make tangible progress due to increasing antagonism between the Soviet Union and the Western world. Moreover, divisions grew between the Communists, who supported the trusteeship, and the remainder of the Korean population who desired to be independent immediately after the surrender. Under the democratic influences from the US, Syngman Rhee, the former leader of the KPG was elected president of the newly-formed Republic of Korea on July 20\textsuperscript{th}, 1948.\textsuperscript{29}

In the north, however, the situation was seemingly a world apart. In 1946 the Soviet Union formed the Provisional People’s Committee, with former KLA leader Kim Il-sung at the helm. The provisional government initiated large-scale reforms, beginning in March 1946 with a sweeping land

\begin{thebibliography}{9}

\bibitem{27} Ibid.
\bibitem{28} Ibid.
\bibitem{29} Ibid.
\end{thebibliography}
reform program that redistributed land from Japanese landowners taken during the colonial period to poor peasants. The Soviet-backed authority also nationalized major industries and conscripted workers into developing an agricultural industry in the North. Following the joint withdrawal of American and Soviet forces in September 1948, the communist Democratic People's Republic of Korea was formed on September 9th.

A discussion about the formation of the two Koreas and the buildup to Kim Il-sung’s invasion of South Korea in 1950 would be incomplete without mentioning the Chinese Civil War. Following the Japanese Empire’s surrender to the Allies, the civil war in China between the Nationalists and Communists resumed. Given their prior involvement in Manchuria during WWII, Kim Il-sung and the DPRK materially supported the Peoples’ Liberation Army’s struggle against the Kuomintang. They provided almost 2,000 railway cars worth of materiel, while thousands of North Korean citizens served in the PLA. Between 50,000-70,000 North Korean soldiers were repatriated to Korea following the PLA’s 1949 victory and the creation of the Peoples’ Republic of China, and were returned to Korea with their weaponry and military training. At the same time, leading up to the outbreak of war, DPRK-backed guerillas sought to disrupt South Korean military and security efforts; this coupled with a number of left-wing demonstrations that the ardent anti-communist President Rhee violently suppressed created a situation where the seeds of insurrection had already been sown.


The period building up to the Korean War can be characterized by the efforts of the ROK government to suppress left-wing guerillas near the 38th parallel in the South and Kim Il-sung’s simultaneous efforts to coerce Russia into enabling him to re-unify the Korean Peninsula under the

30 Seth, *History of Modern Korea.*
31 Ibid.
Communist DPRK. In March 1949, Kim traveled to Moscow to try and convince Joseph Stalin to provide materiel and training to enable the Korean People’s Army to cross the 38th parallel and invade the South. Although initially skeptical, several developments in late 1949-early 1950 changed Stalin’s opinion; in particular, the Soviet’s first successful detonation of a nuclear device, as well as the Maoist victory and the conclusion of the Chinese Civil War. In light of these developments, Stalin sought a closer relationship between Moscow and the burgeoning Communist states in Asia, culminating in the signing of the Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Alliance, and Mutual Assistance. These developments allowed Stalin to endorse Kim’s mission to unify the Korean Peninsula under the banner of the DPRK, with the stipulation that Mao’s People’s Liberation Army come to the aid of the North Korean forces if necessary.

While Kim Il-sung enjoyed a great deal of support from Moscow, the situation was quite different for Rhee in the South. Following the same policy that was implemented in Japan, the United States’ transitional authority wished to prevent the formation of a fully-equipped military in the South; this was a slightly more moderate version of the policy for Japan, which only permitted a minimally-equipped self-defense force after an interim period. The ROK was immediately permitted to establish a self-defense force, but his repeated requests for heavier armaments, artillery and mechanized capabilities were denied by the United States, citing their wish to avoid the militarization of the peninsula. Amidst his negotiations with the United States, some in the South felt that war was imminent, citing rising clashes in the cities of Kaesong and Ongjin; yet somehow, the majority of South Korean leadership felt that the seemingly ill-equipped north would merely provide “target practice” for the ROK’s soldiers.

32 Ibid.
33 Ibid.
34 Cummings, *The Korean War*.
35 Ibid.
At the break of dawn on June 25\textsuperscript{th}, 1950, the Korean People’s Army began their invasion of South Korea and crossed the 38\textsuperscript{th} parallel, with fighting first commencing in the western Ongjin Peninsula.\textsuperscript{36} Soon after, the DPRK launched a fully-mechanized assault supported with tanks and heavy artillery along the entire 38\textsuperscript{th} parallel. Two days later, President Rhee along with members of the cabinet evacuated Seoul. Taking desperate measures to prevent the North Korean army from advancing towards Seoul, Rhee ordered that the Hangang Bridge be detonated while 4,000 refugees were already crossing.\textsuperscript{37} Despite the dire actions taken by the South Korean government, Seoul was captured within 24 hours.

The asymmetry of the conflict on the Korean Peninsula coupled with the speed at which the North captured Seoul drove the United Nations to act swiftly. On June 25\textsuperscript{th}, the UNSC unanimously condemned the North Korean invasion, and on June 27\textsuperscript{th} authorized military assistance for the ROK in Security Council Resolution 83.\textsuperscript{38} The resolution is of particular note because it was approved without the presence of the Soviet Union, who had been boycotting the Security Council over the disputed Chinese representation at the UN. Not authorizing a full peacekeeping mission, the UN instead approved a “police action” that enabled member states to contribute individually to South Korea’s aid.\textsuperscript{39} About a month later, the United States deployed a 40,000-man force called the X-Corps, comprised of the 1\textsuperscript{st} Marine Division, the 7\textsuperscript{th} Infantry Division, and 8,600 ROK infantrymen.\textsuperscript{40}

The initial invasion was fraught with challenges; an ill-equipped 8\textsuperscript{th} Army division and a bedraggled and under-supplied ROK army steadily was forced to retreat to Busan. Kim’s early gains
made it seem as if he would conquer the entirety of the Korean Peninsula by late August, just week after the United Nations intervention. However, the tides turned at the 1950 Battle of Incheon, where a decisive coalition victory culminated in a march to retake Seoul on September 25th. With the tables turned, General MacArthur’s troops pushed north and past the partition line at the 38th parallel.

The situation had not gone unnoticed by the People’s Republic of China, which felt that the security and stability of the Korean Peninsula hinged on their ability to curtail the fighting. On October 1st, when UN forces crossed the 38th parallel, the Soviet Union contacted Mao and Premier Zhou Enlai and requested they deploy several divisions of the People’s Liberation Army into Korea to come to the aid of Kim Il-sung. Chinese forces intervened on October 19th, secretly crossing the Yalu River and ambushing the American forces. This, coupled with a surprise second offensive that reached its critical point November 25th, when the PVA overran the ROK II Corps and the 2nd Infantry Division.41 In under a week, the PVA had enabled the North Koreans to expel the American infantry forces from northwest Korea, and pushed them past the 38th parallel by mid December. The North, taking advantage of this change of fortunes, re-captured Seoul on January 4th, 1951. By the end of May, the UN had retaken Seoul and established a line a little north of the 38th parallel.42

The now-stalemate lasted for an additional two years, finally concluding with the signing of a UN-brokered Armistice Agreement on July 27th, 1953. The agreement officially ended the Korean War, with the border being drawn along the 38th parallel, quite close to the pre-war lines. Although the treaty did not recognize the full legitimacy of the North Korean state and they only gained UN

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41 Seth, History of Modern Korea.
42 Ibid.
representation in 1971, the status-quo had been maintained and Kim’s communist state in the North was born.

**Current Situation**

Following the Armistice, much of the North’s infrastructure had been decimated by American artillery and bombing campaigns. Almost all of the railways, and nearly all manufacturing infrastructure had been leveled, with few immediate plans for reconstruction in the future. Accordingly, the DPRK has been far slower to recover from the conflict than the South. Today, some re-constructed industry as well as a predominantly agrarian economy in rural areas dominates much of the DPRK’s economy, with a GDP of $28 billion annually. The DPRK’s history since the conclusion of the Korean War has been fraught with food shortages, a struggling economy, and an isolation from a large part of the international community. In addition, the state’s recent nuclear ambitions and escalating anti-American dialogue have squarely placed it in the crosshairs of the Western world. However, in order to address the recent North Korean nuclear threat, it is important to understand the ideological foundations of the DPRK and the philosophy that drives this rogue state.

**The Leadership of the DPRK**

Kim Il-sung is considered to be the father of the North Korean state. His totalitarian “Hermit Kingdom” is underpinned by a near-godlike status afforded to Kim Il-sung and his descendants. Ruling from 1948 until his death in 1994, the cult of personality surrounding Kim’s rise to power was reflected by his people’s worship of him by calling him the “Great Leader.”

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Kim designated his son, Kim Jong-il as his successor in 1980, and increasingly delegated responsibilities to him until his death in 1994. Kim Jong-il’s reign was marred by a prolonged famine in the late 1990’s and a poor human rights record that brutally suppressed all dissidents. His rule also brought with it renewed nuclear ambitions, and consequently the ire of the international community. He instituted the Songun “military-first” policies and invested in strengthening the army, yet also seemed amicable to relaxing relations with the West, even opening a joint industrial zone in Kaesong in 2003.\(^{45}\) Following his death in 2011, his son Kim Jong-un was announced as his father’s successor.

Communism & Ideological Foundations

The DPRK’s ideological foundation can be traced back to Kim Il-sung’s juche idea, augmented by Kim Jong-il’s Songun philosophy. Juche is the “guiding ideology of North Korea and its party; it is also the foundation for developing principles, guidelines, and policies for North Korea’s socialist revolution.”\(^{46}\) Kim Il-sung first proposed the complete Juche Idea in a speech entitled “North Korea’s Revolutionary Road Ahead,” in which he outlined three fundamental pillars for the North Korean state; political independence, economic self-sustenance, and defense self-reliance.\(^{47}\) These ideas provide the foundation for all of North Korea’s policies and ideology; in particular, the defense self-reliance pillar was taken a step further by Kim Jong-il’s introduction of the Songun, or military-first policy which placed military spending and nuclear development as the first priority of the nation.

Kim Il-sung’s legacy is celebrated and his cult of personality continues to this day. A notable example of this is the Airang Festival, an annual spring gymnastics and dance festival held in the

\(^{45}\) Ibid.  
\(^{46}\) Ibid.  
\(^{47}\) Ibid.
May Day Stadium. The near-godlike status afforded to Kim Il-sung has led foreign scholars to compare it to a national religious event.

**Nuclear Ambitions**

North Korea’s nuclear ambitions can be traced back to 1986, when they constructed their first nuclear power plant with Soviet help at Yongbyon. However, in 1993, the first of many North Korean nuclear crises began with their announcement that they would quit the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) that they acceded to in 1985 ahead of their publically-announced nuclear power program. Although the short-lived crisis ended in 1994 with UN inspectors verifying the conversion of the Yongbyong reactor to a light-water reactor for power generation.

However, after repeated refusals to permit inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in the period between 1994-2002, U.S. President George Bush labeled the DPRK, along with Iran and Iraq as an “axis of evil” in his State of the Union address. This was followed by the DPRK’s 2003 full withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, prompting the creation of the Six Nation Talks in Beijing, with China, Japan, Russia, South Korea, and the United States participating along with North Korea.

On February 10th, 2005, the DPRK announced to the world that they had successfully developed a nuclear weapon and had nuclear weapons capabilities. In the mean time, the United Nations Security Council along with individual states and regional organizations imposed strict sanctions on the DPRK. Not deterred, Kim Jong-il’s government successfully completed a second

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48 Seth, *History of Modern Korea.*
50 Ibid.
51 Ibid.
52 Ibid.
underground nuclear test on October 9th, 2006. With Kim Jong-il’s death in 2011, Kim Jong-un swiftly took control of the nation and accelerated the timeline for achieving a full, internationally-deployable nuclear capability. On December 12th, 2012, the DPRK successfully conducted a long-range rocket test, which was condemned by the Security Council as a thinly-veiled ballistic missile test.

Recently, the DPRK has claimed two large advances; in early 2016, they announced that their nuclear program had successfully developed a hydrogen bomb, although these reports were never fully confirmed. 2016 was also marked by a fifth underground nuclear test in September. However, in 2017, the DPRK claimed to have made large strides in both rocket and miniaturization technology, which included their August 29th rocket launch over Japan into the Pacific Ocean and the September 3rd hydrogen bomb test. Kim Jong-un has made his wishes clear to the international community; that he intends to develop a nuclear weapon capable of reaching the United States.

Involvement of the International Community

The international community has made repeated efforts to curtail North Korea’s nuclear ambitions. Starting with the 1950 UN intervention in the Korean War, the international community has been involved in the situation in the Korean Peninsula for quite some time and as a result has kept a close eye on developments. The United Nations Security council plays a critical role in

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54 Ibid.
55 Ibid.
monitoring the current situation in the DPRK as well as facilitating an international dialogue about measures to take against the North Korean government.

**Diplomatic Efforts**

The international community has attempted negotiations with North Korea on several occasions, to little to no avail. The first formal multilateral dialogue regarding the North Korean nuclear program, the Six Party Talks, were established in 2003 with the goal of halting the progress of the North Korean nuclear program. The Council on Foreign Relations writes that “The disjointed process has been hindered over the years by North Korea’s repeated missile tests and other provocations. Progress reached a stalemate when Pyongyang walked out of negotiations in 2009 and, a year later, revealed a vast new uranium enrichment facility to visiting U.S. scientists.”

Under the new administration following Kim Jong-un’s succession, Kim initially announced that the isolated nation would suspend nuclear tests and permit international inspectors to access their major nuclear sites. However, with the 2012 long-range missile tests and the recent developments in late 2016-2017, Russia has attempted to prod the North Koreans back to the negotiating table.

The Six Party Framework consists of participation from major international powers, including China, Japan, Russia, South Korea, and the United States participating along with North Korea. Despite repeated overtures from US Presidents Bush and Obama, the 2009 tests halted the talks and led to the participating nations to levy stronger sanctions on the rogue state. The talks are currently halted despite Beijing’s repeated efforts to re-engage North Korea and bring them back to the negotiating table; currently, the DPRK has demanded a resumption of the talks with no

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57 Ibid.
58 Ibid.
preconditions, which falls short of the American and South Korean demands that their nuclear enrichment and miniaturization activities are suspended ahead of any resumption of negotiations.\textsuperscript{60}

**UN & Multilateral Sanctions**

The United Nations Security Council has levied sanctions against and suspended food aid to North Korea on multiple occasions to force them to comply with international demands. The first sanctions against North Korea were brought by a unanimous vote in the Security Council in Resolution 1695, after their first nuclear test. This measure levied financial sanctions against government members and state institutions, and also imposed an arms embargo on the DPRK until they complied with IAEA inspectors’ demands.\textsuperscript{61}

This was followed by Resolutions 1874 in 2009, 2087 and 2094 in 2013, and 2371 in 2017, which all imposed stricter sanctions on the regime following repeated nuclear tests.\textsuperscript{62} The 2006 sanctions resolution also established the UN Security Council Sanctions Committee on North Korea, which administers the master sanctions list and coordinates with relevant financial monitoring organizations to ensure that member states are complying with the sanctions.\textsuperscript{63} A group of experts was also impaneled to assist in the verification and inspection process, and supports the committee in its day-to-day administration of the sanctions.

**Recent Developments**

**ROKS Chenoan & Yeonpyeong Island Incidents**

\textsuperscript{60} Ibid.

\textsuperscript{61} Ibid.


\textsuperscript{63} Ibid.
Tensions with the DPRK reached one of their highest points in recent memory in 2010, with two major incidents; the sinking of the ROKS Chenoan warship, and the bombardment of Yeonpyeong Island. The Chenoan was a warship with a crew of 104, 46 of whom perished in the incident. The official South Korean investigation uncovered that it sank due to a North Korean torpedo, a claim that the DPRK disputes to this day. However, this resulted in the resumption of South Korean psychological warfare efforts at and around the DMZ, which sparked skirmishes along the DMZ for the next months. The UN Security Council condemned the incident and urged stability in the Korean Peninsula on July 9th, 2010 in a presidential statement, but failed to direct blame at any particular attacker.

Yeonpyeong Island under North Korean artillery fire.

The second incident occurred later that year on November 23rd, 2010. Following a routine South Korean artillery exercise off the coast of the Island, the DPRK fired 170 artillery shells and rockets at the island, decimating the majority of structures and killing 10 individuals on the island. In response, the South Korean military struck a North Korean missile base and artillery battery used to

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65 Ibid.
shell the island, and the USS George Washington carrier group departed for the Korean Peninsula for joint exercises with the ROK. Both incidents inflamed tensions and brought a new round of sanctions and condemnation from the international community.

**Miniaturization & Recent Hydrogen Bomb Tests**

The single most frightening development in the situation in the Korean Peninsula occurred in early September 2017, when the DPRK announced that they had successfully detonated a hydrogen bomb. This was the culmination of years of miniaturization (the process by which a nuclear payload is delivered by an ICBM) efforts by the DPRK’s nuclear scientists. This, coupled with the August 29th ICBM test that launched a missile over the Japanese island of Hokkaido presents an extremely worrying reality; that North Korea’s nuclear capabilities are reaching the point where they are able to achieve sufficient range with a payload. The international community has responded in kind, with American President Donald Trump promising to rain “fire and fury” down upon Kim Jong-un if he does not halt all nuclear efforts. Of course, it is the hope of the Security Council that cooler heads prevail and a de-escalation of the situation and a return to the Six Party Dialogue is on the horizon.

**Country & Bloc Positions**

Western Powers, ROK, and Japan

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South Korea, Japan, and the Western nations that comprised the coalition that came to South Korea’s aid in 1950 all share the same ambitions; that North Korea halt their nuclear program and immediately re-join the NPT. The majority of the Western nations on the Security Council are also part of the Six Party Talks, and hope to re-invigorate the diplomatic process. This group, as well as the United States and European Union individually, has levied the strongest sanctions against North Korea and has repeatedly pushed for more stringent measures in the Security Council. These nations will seek stricter measures against North Korea, including sanctions as well a possible cessation of Chinese food aid to the impoverished nation.

Russian Federation

Historically, the Soviet Union was one of the main backers of Kim Il-sung and the DPRK, providing materiel and training for the North’s 1950 invasion past the 38th parallel. However, since the fall of Communism and the emergence of the Russian Federation, relations between the two nations have loosened somewhat. North Korea counts Russia as an important trade partner, although the total amount of trade between the two countries has dwindled somewhat since the mid-1990’s. Within the Security Council, Russia has often supported sanctions, but is a regular opponent of extremely punitive rounds introduced by the United States. Thus, Russia will seek to balance sanctions with other economic and strategic incentives to diffuse the situation.

China

China is historically North Korea’s oldest and closest ally, from the Japanese colonial period through the Korean War and beyond. China is North Korea’s biggest trade partner and arguably has the most leverage on Kim’s regime. Beijing has appeared willing in the past to condemn North Korea’s nuclear ambitions, but in recent years it has approached the matter with a cautious eye on regional stability to their north. Following the collapse of the Six Party Talks, China provides nearly
75% of North Korea food and energy aid, which has drawn the ire from some of its Western counterparts. Beijing has “tried but failed” repeatedly to “wean Pyongyang off pure aid in favor of more commercially viable ties.” China will enjoy a large amount of influence over its rogue northern neighbor, and any solution involving a strategic reduction or halt of the nuclear program will undoubtedly need China’s endorsement.

Questions to Answer

- How can the Security Council prevent the further development of nuclear weapons in North Korea?
- How must the current sanctions regime be updated or modified to compel North Korea to comply with UN demands?
- How can the situation be de-escalated in the short term?
- What contingency options are on the table in the event a nuclear missile is launched in North Korea?
- What is the best option for negotiations moving forward? Should the Six Party Framework be resurrected, or is a new negotiating framework required?
- How can various non-punitive confidence building measures be leveraged to bring North Korea back to the negotiating table?

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