North Korea as a Nuclear Danger

NUCLEAR DANGERS
FROM HIROSHIMA TO FUKISHIMA

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THE LIU INSTITUTE, SIMONS FOUNDATION,
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LIU INSTITUTE, UBC
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Two Questions

- Why does North Korean want nuclear weapons?
- The North Korea nuclear threat – to whom?
  - Regional states: Japan, South Korea, China
  - North America: U.S., Canada
North Korea: “threatened kingdom”
North Korea – a nuclear state

- North Korea’s unrelenting advancement
  - North Korea – “a nuclear state”

- The Goal: 2\textsuperscript{nd} strike nuclear capacity
  - Despite an attack, deliver a nuclear weapon intercontinentally
    - 3-stage long-range rocket delivery
    - Miniaturized nuclear warhead
    - Hydrogen bomb

- Satellite control
- Mobile missiles
- Submarine launched missiles
Recent “sprint” of developments

- Dec 2015 – SLBM failed? H-bomb?
- Jan 2016 – 4th nuke test
- Feb 2016 -- long range missile
- Mar 2016 – miniature war head test
- April 2016 - mobile missile, SLBM?
- May 2016 ???

- Why?
  - Reaction against UN 2270
  - May 6, 7th KWP convention
  - US presidential election
North Korean Missile Threat Ranges

North Korean missile ranges
Maximum estimated/calculated

1. Nodong: 1,000km
2. Taepodong-1: 2,200km
3. Musudan: 4,000km
4. Taepodong-2: 6,000km

Source: Council for Foreign Relations
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>South Korea</th>
<th>Japan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conventional threat</td>
<td>Missile threat since 1990s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- hostile actions</td>
<td>- History – abductees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charged rhetoric</td>
<td>- Abe – hard line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>North Korea threatens South Korea with attack on presidential palace</strong></td>
<td>- Japan -&gt; US missile defence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park regime – hard line</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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China’s dilemma ....

- No longer “teeth and lips”
- Regime stability? Reform?
- Strategic buffer
- Blowback from NK nuclear steps = < US presence
United States

- US - NK ... stalled
- Increased concern over development pace
- “strategic patience”
- Bolster regional presence
North Korea ... the future?

- Use would be suicidal ... but ??
- Additional dangers
  - Proliferation
  - CBRN programs
- But .. Sanctions ??
Diplomacy ...

2000

2002

Axis of Evil
Diplomacy ...

2007

Korean Summit

2016

US – China on sanctions
Canadian policy

- Canada – NK engagement – NGOs, Track 2

- Harper gov’t
  - “toughest sanctions in the world”
  - No diplomatic relations

- Trudeau gov’t
  - Condemn & support sanctions
  - “Canada will remain engaged with the international community in response to North Korea’s actions. We support efforts to forge multilateral solutions to enhance security in the Asia-Pacific region.”
North Korea as a Nuclear Threat ... to Whom?