

Report on North Korea

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April 2016



A core tenet of our faith is that the Lord has returned to Korea, where both True Parents were born. Exposition of the Divine Principle describes Korea's special role in unequivocal terms, explaining that Christ would not return to a Jewish nation but to a nation in the East, specifically to Korea. The text reads, "God divided the Korean nation, just as Abraham's sacrifices were supposed to be divided," symbolically separating good from evil. It also states, "Because he had given Adam the blessing of dominion, God had to give Satan free rein to create through Adam's descendants an unprincipled world."

It is astonishing what "Adam's descendants" have done in that "unprincipled world" using that "free rein." Increasingly, we are learning about the governing principles of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), where orchestrating human rights abuses against its own citizens constitutes its domestic policy and threats of "exporting" nuclear annihilation constitute its major foreign policy emphasis.

Assessing the nuclear threat

Among the distinguished writers featured in the Special Report is Jenny Town, who is highly educated and has years of experience working with prestigious organizations. Among them, she is the managing editor and producer of "38 North," a web site (38north.org) that features "informed analysis of events in and around the DPRK." 38 North provides high-grade information to the public that one would expect to see only in declassified government reports. Her article, "Nuke-Tally Could Double by 2020," draws from a lengthy study done by the U.S.-Korea Institute at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, of which she is the assistant director. The article displays a thorough analysis of the topic matter. She gives a range of estimates based on good to bad conditions under which North Korea might manufacture nuclear weapons. One of the best aspects of short articles of this quality is that they provide enough initial knowledge to do further investigation. 38 North is a great site at which to do that.

Global responses

"Congress United on North Korea Sanctions," expressed the views of Edward Royce, the US Congressman who represents District 39 in California (the residents of which come from 95 different ethnic groups). Congressman Royce and another US congressional representative authored the "North Korea Sanctions and Policy Enhancement Act of 2016 (H.R. 757)" which President Obama signed into law on February 18. This paper is the text of a speech he gave in Congress after the bill became law.

We sometimes hear about sanctions levied against rogue countries. This article provides insight into the process necessary to levy sanctions against North Korea. In order to punish a nation so severely, as sanctions do, justification must be given. This bill explains that justification. Much additional information can come from searching (using the full name given above) and reading H.R. 757.

DPRK's leadership and thought

Alexandre Mansourov has earned degrees in the US, in Russia, and in North Korea, from Kim Il Sung National University (an advanced degree in Korean Studies). Having lived cheek-by-jowl with North Koreans and studied about Korea under DPRK professors, one tends to take seriously his argument in defiance of Western experts' opinions that North Korea will not invade South Korea. He believes they might.

He explains that North Korea's isolation, victim-mentality and sense of being of a target of the United States have intensified as voices from outside of North Korea protesting Pyongyang's domestic human rights abuses and belligerence toward its neighbors have grown louder. All of this closely follows common opinion, but Mansourov knows many more facts and therefore is convincing. Yet, what the writer does best, what is most frightening, is his description of how Kim Jong-un's behavior and violent responses to stressful circumstances have grown worse as voices grow louder within Kim's own head. In ways subtle and direct, the writer creates an image of a lunatic at the helm.



Human rights abuses

Greg Scarlatou, executive director of the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea, based in Washington DC, contributed an article on North Koreans working in foreign countries whose wages are sent back to the DPRK. Even in free societies, the lives of the poor and downtrodden and the injustices they suffer are little known beyond their own neighborhoods.

This short article is a means to gain empathy for what North Korean workers suffer in daily life as citizens of a nation whose leaders treat them as disposable.

The Kim regime chooses only those who are loyal. Only those who are poor would be willing to do the difficult labor, fourteen to sixteen hours a day. If you have read about human trafficking as it is practiced in our own countries, parts of this article will seem familiar to you. These workers have no freedom of movement. They do not receive the payment given by their local employers. They live in poor conditions and face severe punishment on returning to North Korea if they do anything to embarrass the Kim regime.

Solutions, peace on the peninsula

Bruce Klingner is a senior research fellow with the Heritage Foundation. In "Allied coordination needed to counter North Korea," he calls the DPRK "a very real and growing threat to the United States and its allies." He takes as likely that North Korea already has nuclear missiles and states that top US military figures believe that the DPRK is capable of a nuclear strike against the US. Mr. Klingner writes admiringly about South Korea's President Park and Japan's Prime Minister Abe; she for "standing up against Chinese pressure and economic blackmail" by moving forward "on U.S. deployment of the THAAD missile defense system" and ending "the failed inter-Korean economic venture at Kaesong" and he, for imposing unilateral sanctions against North Korea.

Klingner outlines how North Korea may feel increasingly ostracized by sanctions from various nations, but if South Korea, Japan and the US manage to achieve unity, North Korea would change its behavior. It could no longer exploit discord in the region among the nations it is bullying. Hope emerges from recent efforts by South Korea and Japan to finally put historical disputes behind them and focus on the great current danger in their neighborhood.