

Can We Stop North Korea's Nuclear Mushroom from Spreading?

Tuesday, July 20 ♦ 2 – 3 PM EDT

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Few analysts believe that North Korea is willing to fully denuclearize. And its stockpile continues to grow. A recent joint report by the RAND Corporation and the Asan Institute for Policy Studies concluded that North Korea could have 200 nuclear weapons in five years at the current rate of production. What are the implications of this scenario for the future?

What would be the impact of North Korea as a full nuclear power on the U.S. and ROK's Mutual Defense Treaty? Would the policy of extended nuclear deterrence be feasible for Washington and believable by Seoul? Would a move down this path cause South Korea, Japan, and other regional powers to develop a countervailing arsenal? What are the prospects of negotiating limits on North Korean bomb-making capabilities, such as reviving Kim Jong-un's proposal to close the Yongbyon facilities?

What should the U.S., South Korea (and Japan) be doing now?



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Dr. Michael Jenkins
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