

Prospect of North Korea Collapsing and the Future for Korea

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1. North Korea's Rogue Regime

Since 1995 when North Korea suffered from massive starvation, its industry and social system collapsed. The North Korean economy could not sustain itself but needed outside support and naked violence to survive. North Korea relies on international crimes such as drug trafficking, counterfeiting foreign currency, threats to turn South Korea into a "sea of fire," looting and support from the outside world.

Thus North Korea was and is under the control of a "rogue regime" and does not function as a normal country. For example, North Korea received assistance worth a total of 8.5 billion dollars mostly from the South Korean government from 1995 to 2006, but more than 3 million North Korean residents were dying from hunger. If the regime had spent about 200 million dollars buying food, it could have stopped such starvation. This rogue regime, however, preferred to leave 3 million people to starve to death by pouring the money into building up its military power and developing nuclear weapons.

No one should be surprised by the news that the Kim Jong-il regime succumbed to internal revolt, but some argue that the regime will continue to exist for another 20 to 30 years.

2. Three Prospects for the Korean Peninsula

The Korean Peninsula may be the only one in East Asia to see its borders changing in near future. The chances are three; the Korean Peninsula that is divided into North and South Korea will become one free democracy country, or be communized through the step of confederation between Stalinist North and democratic South, or remain as it used to be. The landscape of the East Asia region will greatly change depending on the future of the Korean Peninsula.

A. Maintenance of the Kim Jong-il regime → Subordination to China

First, North Korea, which has already collapsed economically, will be gradually subordinated to China since it cannot exist without supplies from China. Even if North Korea receives massive economic assistance, it will reject fundamental reform, which makes it impossible to expect its economic revival as long as the Stalinist system does not collapse. The life of slavery for North Koreans under the rule of Kim Il-sung and Kim Jong-il has lasted for 60 years. South Koreans under this scenario will continue to develop antipathy toward the U.S. and a favorable attitude toward the Chinese so the South's economic power will weaken and its national fortune will head toward decline under the influence of

those who follow the Kim Jong-il regime and the delusion of socialism. As a result, China will gain the upper hand in East Asia and U.S. influence will shrink. But democratization will slow down in China, and the risk of instability within the Chinese system will grow during the dictatorship of the Communist party.

B. North–South Korean 'Peace System' → Communization of South Korea

Second, the concept of a "Korea confederation" will be implemented after the "North-South peace system" between Stalinist North and democratic South is built through 'peace summit'. Then South Korea can be communized soon after the withdrawal of all U.S. troops stationed in South Korea. As a result, the Korean Peninsula will become a land of mayhem and decline. South Korea will become a brutal 'killing field', and industry in South Korea will grind to a halt. No one will laugh on the streets or at home, and all churches will be destroyed. Consequently, the Korean peninsula will collapse while the northeast Asian region will be a darker land than in the past – and even the safety of Japan will be at risk.

C. Ending North Korean tyranny → Unified Free Korea

Third, if the Korean peninsula emerges as a unified free democracy, northeastern Asia will flourish as a new world never seen before. The life of slavery of North Koreans under the Kim Jong-il regime and atheistic idolatry of Kim, the father, and Kim, the son, will come to an end while commerce and industry will revive. The deception and demagoguery of the campaign for overthrowing South Korea will cease and the real inter-Korean reconciliation and unitedness will take hold.

As overcoming the disorder and hardship in the process of unification, people will realize their ultimate limits as humans as their devotion gains strength. As South Korea is already the world's tenth largest economy, the high level of intellect, passion, persistence, and devotion of all Koreans will catapult the unified Korean Peninsula into the position of the world's leading economy soon.

As a result, China's northeast, districts, near and bordering Korea, will see its economy grow in prosperity. The vibrant economy free democracy of all the Korean Peninsula will have a positive impact on China, contributing to China's economic power as well as progress toward democratization. Thus China will enter a new age of true international cooperation beyond the Sinocentrism that often seems to guide Chinese policy.

3. Decision of Choice

When will South Korea and the world begin to care about our enslaved North Korean people? When will South Korea stop cooperating with the violent regime of Kim Jong-il –and cease to seek confederating our democracy with his dictatorship?

South Koreans sometimes ask which country will want to see the unification of the Korean Peninsula. But, what do South Koreans want to do? Do they want to promote unification – or an endless delay of unification? If Koreans think that

China will not tolerate the free unification of North Korea and gives up the efforts at free unification, then do they want North Korea to be subordinate to China or a foreign nation forever?

Such sad endings are not right. Koreans should wish for free unification. If the song, "Our wish is unification," being sung widely among the Korean people, is not realized at all, we are deceiving ourselves. And if we say, "Our wish is communized unification," then it is disaster for the whole nation.

Tyrant Kim Jong-il has no way to survive. Now the North Korean regime barely exists with the sympathy of China and the submission of those who follow Kim Jong-il's regime in South Korea. It is not easy to survive from extortion and begging. North Korea's tactic of dragging out six-party talks has reached its limits. The termination of the Kim Jong-il regime is crucial to the stability of East Asia and world peace as well as the survival and well-being of all Koreans.

4. Terminating Tyranny

A. Steps to bring down the regime

When it comes to North Korean policy, the Roh Moo-hyun government pursues coalition with the Kim Jong-il regime, and the opposition Grand National Party makes coexistence with Kim Jong-il regime its precondition. But coexistence with the Kim Jong-il regime that oppresses its residents goes against human justice and conscience. With the Korean Peninsula divided for more than 60 years, we should save our brethren by freeing North Korea from the tyranny of Kim Jong-il and dedicate ourselves to the destruction of his regime.

Some fear the subsequent confusion from the collapse of Kim Jong-il regime, but we should be willing to accept some sacrifices and side effects from saving about 20 million captives of this tyranny.

The scenario of the Kim Jong-il regime collapsing will begin with attack and sanctions from outside, uprising by the North Korean people and revolt within the regime. In the end we will witness a regime heading toward self-destruction. There should be international sanctions, a blockade, an immediate halt to all forms of various economic assistance, a blackout on North Korean broadcasts and other propaganda – and, finally, internal resistance in order to save North Korea and its persecuted people.

B. Reducing famine, maintaining public security and building industry.

If Kim Jong-il regime collapses, the top priority should be on maintaining North Korean public security in the country and supplying the necessities of life. This is not so difficult to do, given the capacity of international society and of Korea. For example, when North Koreans can be allowed to freely engage in farming, and Korea, the U.S., and Japan each provide 500,000 tons of foodstuffs over the next couple of years, hunger can easily be reduced. In this case, there will be no massive flight of North Koreans across their borders.

Next, industry should be built and jobs should be created. Again, this goal is not so difficult considering the record of entrepreneurship of the Korean

people.

5. Free Unification

A. North Korea joining Republic of Korea through free election

Finally, we should hold a free election and determine the national polity of North Korea. Some fear North Korea's subordination to China, and some are in favor of promoting a form of democratization in North Korea that differs from that in South Korea. Most North Korean residents, however, do not admire China under the communist party's dictatorship. Rather, they aspire to same level of freedom and prosperity as in South Korea. Therefore, they ultimately yearn for free unification, joining the South Korean system. A program for enlightening North Korean residents on freedom and democracy in South Korea will clearly be necessary at this stage.

B. Overcoming Chinese opposition

We should overcome Chinese opposition to free unification, and we will need assistance from Asian and European nations as well as close cooperation with the U.S., Japan and eventually China in order to do so. Proper timing will be essential.

The best timing will be in the run-up to the 2008 Beijing Olympics, an event on which China is counting to show off its great accomplishments. China in the period before such a significant occasion cannot afford to disregard international opinion and dispatch troops to North Korea to deter the free unification of the Korean Peninsula.

6. A Vision of Unified Korea's Contribution to World Peace and Prosperity

A free and unified Korea can be a global superpower. More than 70 million Koreans live on the Korean peninsula and another 7 million live abroad. They display a high passion for education, leading the world in such industries as shipbuilding, semiconductors, petrochemicals, iron and steel, motor vehicles, machinery, IT and BT.

Given such high accomplishments, no one can prevent Republic of Korea from developing into one of the world's leading countries after the collapse of North Korean dictatorship, the source of the trouble on the Korean Peninsula.

If unified Republic of Korea try to assist and encourage underdeveloped nations across the world with patience and humility learned through hardship, Republic of Korea will stand as a symbol of true hope and solace for the world. Korea can make an epoch contribution to global welfare by transforming itself into one of the world's advanced countries without invading or plundering a foreign country. As the people of Korea has a long history of hardship, Koreans can appreciate the problems of oppressed people everywhere and support them as showed in Vietnam war, now showing in Iraq by Korean troops' civil service projects. And as 'the Korean Wave' sweeps Asia, Korean music and

culture can also play a vital in building the Pacific Asian Community together with Korean industry, commerce – and the example of Korean democracy.