# *Research Report*

Leiden Model United Nations 2017
*~ fresh ideas, new solutions ~*

**Forum:** *Security Council*
**Issue:** *Non-proliferation / Democratic People's Republic of Korea*

**Position:** *President*

## Introduction

In 1910 Japan annexed The Empire of Korean, consisting of roughly the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and The Republic of Korea (ROK). After World War II the Soviet Union declared war on Japan, with the aim of gaining control over the whole Korean Peninsula. The United States of America supported the South, now known as The ROK. The war lasted 3 years and resulted in Korea being split up in two parts, North Korea (officially known as the DPRK) and South Korea (officially known as The ROK), first with the 38th parallel as the official border, but in our current time with the Korean Demilitarised Zone, which still crosses the 38th parallel, but is not the exact line of the 38th parallel. Nevertheless the term 38th parallel is still metonymically used for the border.

There have been historic tensions between the communist north and the capitalist south on the peninsula since the divide between the two countries. The DPRK is considered a dictatorship and the ROK is seen as a democracy. The DPRK has been ruled by the Kim dynasty since the communist revolution in 1948.

One of the main issues these days in the geopolitical situation is the situation in the DPRK concerning nuclear weapons. The first reports of Nuclear tests in the DPRK came in on October 2006. While the international community has condemned these acts ever since, North Korea has steadily increased the amount of nuclear ballistic missiles in its arsenal and has not yet showed any steps of towards decreasing its activities soon. This has been a great concern in the international community ever since.

## Definition of Key Terms

**Non-proliferation**
Decreasing/stopping something, in this case nuclear or chemical weapons. The DPRK has built a large nuclear programme over the years, which the international community is determined to contain, and ultimately shut down completely. This can not be done without the support of the DPRK itself.

**Soviet Union**
One of the biggest communist countries, along with the People's Republic of China, during the cold war. It's successor, Russia, still supports North-Korea. This support has been growing smaller and smaller since the growth of the nuclear threat North-Korea posseses.

**Inter Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM)**
A missile that can travel over 5.500 miles. There could be a nuclear bomb attached to this missile.

**Domino theory**
A theory which states that if one nation is turned communist, the surrounding territories or nations are at risk of turning communist too. The United States of America interfered in the Korean War due to this belief. It wanted to prevent the Soviet Union from spreading its communist beliefs to the south of Korea as it had already done in the north.

## General Overview

**The nuclear program of North-Korea**
For decades, North Korea has put a lot of its recourses into developing a functional yet powerful nuclear arsenal. Such ambition for a world-class nuclear program began soon after the end of World War II under the rule of former Supreme Leader Kim II Sung, who was convinced that the country needed to protect itself from the United States. In the early 1960s, North Korea began constructing the Yongbyon Nuclear Research Center with the financial and logistic help of the Soviet Union. By the early 1970s, North Korea had obtained access to plutonium reprocessing technology through the Soviet Union. In recent trends, it appears that the proliferation of nuclear weapons in North Korea has gotten bigger and stronger. The regime's recent efforts led to the groundbreaking development of an ICBM. However, the regime also needs to produce a miniature nuclear bomb that is capable of fitting onto such a missile in order to produce a weapon. An underground test on September 3, which was the regime's sixth test since the testing begun in 2006, suggested that the goal was within reach. The test triggered an earthquake that was 6.3 in magnetite and was estimated by many to be more powerful than the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki during the World War II by the United States.

The DPRK split from the Republic of Korea during the Korean War (1950-53 (technically the conflict is still going on, but there have been few military incidents since the ceasefire of 1953). The main reason for separation were the difference in political ideologies and the consequently difference in alliances. The DRPK had an alliance with the communist nations, mainly the Soviet-Union and the People's Republic of China, the ROK with the United States and other North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) member states. The north of the 38th parallel was to be occupied by the Soviet Union and the south by the United States.A communist government was established in the DPRK and a right-wing government in the ROK. The newly founded Democratic People's Republic of Korea was very hostile towards the Republic of Korea and planned to invade. The Soviet Union gave its blessing to planned invasion, hoping that the United States would not intervene. In June 1950 the armed forces of the DPRK attacked and quickly defeated the South Korean army and resistance groups. The US did intervene surprisingly due to its stern belief in the domino theory. The United States of America believed that if it did not interfere in the ongoing conflict, all asian nations would turn communist. The United Nations Security Council believed that the

DPRK had broken the peace between the two Koreas, hereby granting the US its permission intervene in the conflict, supporting the ROK. Due to the armed interference of the US troops, the DPRK was pushed back behind the 38th parallel. They were pushed back deep into the Korean Peninsula, even almost close to the Chinese border. However Chinese troops gave their aid to the troops of the DPRK. The 38th parallel became the stabilised battlefront. A ceasefire was declared in 1953.

In February 2012, Kim Jong-un agreed to suspend long-range missile tests, in order to receive food aid from the United States. However soon after the agreement, Kim Jong-un chose to carry out a "rocket-launched satellite" launch, which failed. Shortly after a new South Korea-US missile defence deal, a more successful satellite launch took place in December 2012. This suggested the development of nuclear weapons, able to hit the United States mainland. In February 2013 a third nuclear test was executed, resulting in further United Nations Security Council sanctions. Additional tests were performed in 2014, however the DPRK offered to restart peace talks, if UN sanctions were dropped. Nonetheless the Security Council has not shown willingness to drop the sanctions against The DPRK, on the contrary, the Republic of Korea continues to encourage the United Nations to toughen sanctions in response to the DPRK's nuclear programme. The DPRK further claims that it has so far conducted multiple successful nuclear tests up to date. The tested weapons are feared to be stronger every test. The United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has warned for the consequences of the actions of the DPRK in one of his last speeches.

**Relevant treaties and UN-Documents**

- Establishment of a Security Council Sanctions Committee, 14 October 2006 (S/RES/1718)
- Concerning weapons of massive destruction, 28 April 2004 (S/RES/1540)
- On measures against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in connection with its nuclear weapon tests, 12 June 2009 (S/RES/1874)
- Condemning the missile launch of 12 Dec. 2012 by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, 22 January 2013 (S/RES/2087)
- Strengthening sanctions against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and condemning the missile launch of 12 Feb. 2013, 7 March 2013 (S/RES/2094)
- Strengthening sanctions against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and condemning the nuclear test of 9 Sept. 2016, 30 November 2016 (S/RES/2321)
- On strengthening sanctions against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and condemning the ballistic missile launches of 3 and 28 July 2017, 5 August 2017 (S/RES/2371)
- Non-proliferation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea,11 September 2017 (S/RES/ 2375

## Major Parties Involved

**The United States of America**
The United States has been an active member in negotiations with the DPRK. It has offered food-aid in exchange for the end of the DPRK's nuclear programme multiple times, however without progress. It also has a variety of military bases in the Republic of Korea, especially near the border.

**China**
China has been the DPRK's main trading partner and only ally, which is why its reactions to the actions of the DPRK are often closely watched. Though it has been the DPRK's ally, it condemned the 2016 nuclear tests along with the rest of the international community. It has gradually distanced itself from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, due to the increasing frustration and embarrassment of Chinese leaders, because of the DPRK's inflexibility over its nuclear programme.

**Japan**
Japan is worried about the DPRK's missiles potentially reaching Japanese mainland and has invested approximately 12 billion US dollars to create its own ballistic missile programme meant for self-defence. In addition, Japan is concerned about the abduction of its citizens by the DPRK and views the Six-Party Talks as an outlet for expressing their concerns. However Japan has gradually lost its power of influencing the Korean Peninsula through the negotiations, thus having to bring out its interests through collaboration with the US and Republic of Korea.

**Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)**
The DPRK is continuously breaking international treaties, as well as laws, due to its passion for its nuclear programme. The DPRK's unwillingness to cooperate with the international community has lead to a number of sanctions placed by the United Nations. However it faces a variety of dilemmas, for instance, famine caused by natural disasters and ineffective agricultural policies. The DPRK refuses to import food, seeing the juche ideology of self-reliance.

**Russian Federation**
In the past the Russian Federation has had a fairly friendly relationship with the DPRK, however it is forced to choose between the DPRK, and its strategic partner, the United States. Like China, the Russian Federation has started to distance itself from the DPRK, due to the DPRK's continuous disputes with the international community.