

Post Cold War in North Asia

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Summary

China, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Taiwan
Before 9/11
After 9/11

Before September 11, 2001

China/Taiwan/Hong Kong

The opportunity to focus more on economic growth, economic reform and openness.

Tiananmen square protests (1989-1993)

Taiwan Strait Crisis (1995-1996)

Hong Kong Handover (1997)

Tiananmen Square Protests

The protests demanding for democratic reform began with a march by students in memory of former party leader Hu Yaobang (a pro-market, pro-democracy, and anti-corruption official) in Tiananmen square.

Tanks moved into the square from several directions, randomly firing on unarmed protesters. Several hundred civilians have been shot dead by the Chinese army during a bloody military operation to crush a democratic protest.

Taiwan Strait Crisis

The Third Taiwan Strait Crisis (the 1996 Taiwan Strait Crisis) was the effect of a series of missile tests conducted by China in the waters surrounding Taiwan including the Taiwan Strait from July 21, 1995 to March 23, 1996.



1997 Hong Kong Handover



Britain has controlled Hong Kong island since 1842 - apart from a brief period during World War II when the Japanese took over. The sovereignty of Hong Kong was transferred from the United Kingdom to the People's Republic of China, on 1 July 1997. The event marked the end of British rule, and the transfer of sovereignty of Hong Kong back to Chinese rule.

Japan

The end of the Cold War changed Japan's international environment and contributed to a partial transformation of Japanese politics, but did not lead to a transformation of Japan's position in the world.

1. Japan remained constrained from pursuing a truly independent role by the long standing inhibitions arising from its past history and by the pacifist constitution.
2. The security alliance with the US remained the cornerstone of Japan's foreign and security policies.
3. In the 1990s, Japan began to take active diplomatic roles: Japan contributed to the UN's peacekeeping operation (PKO) in Cambodia after the end of the Cambodian conflict. This was an unprecedented contribution, but Japan's Self Defence Force was not involved in armed conflict.

Korea

The Korean peninsula remains one of the last vestiges of the Cold War. It is essentially up to the 70 million Korean people in the South and the North to wash away the undesirable legacies of the old regimes to institute a solid structure of peace and stability on their land and to lay the foundation for unification.

After September 11, 2001

Globalisation of informal violence by non-state networks motivated by issues outside the traditional spheres of state-centric international political behaviour – Keohane, 2002

Re-configuration of domestic laws to tighten legal and security apparatus to better protect themselves from Terrorist attack.

Shift in US foreign policy

Bush Doctrine (State of the Union Address January 2002)

- Pre-emptive strike

- Tough line on 'Axis of Evil' countries (Iraq, Iran and North Korea)

- US to play a dominant long-term role in 'War on Terrorism'

In North Asia North Korea was further isolated by the Bush Doctrine and belligerent approach to conflict resolution.

Japan 1

Closest ally for US in the North Asia region. Koizumi and Bush have established a close relationship. The armed forces and secret services are closely co-ordinated.

The fight against terrorism and defence policies:

- Diplomatic efforts against terrorism and international cooperation to combat terrorism via the freezing of assets.
- Japan passed an Anti-Terrorism Special Measures Law in October 2001, which provided for the dispatch of the Self Defence Force to the Indian Ocean of ships and aircraft.
- Japan is a major donor and hosts conferences designed to assist in the reconstruction of Afghanistan and Iraq.
- Revised domestic laws to improve level of co-ordination in the event of a terrorist attack. Central command is located in the office of Prime Minister.

Japan2 (Japan/North Korea)

1. North Korea remains a principle problem for Japan.
2. Japan has attempted to normalise relations with North Korea since the earlier 1990s.
3. 100 NoDong missiles are pointed at Japan. As well as US bases, there are 25 nuclear power plants.
4. North Korean agents abducted Japanese citizens in the late 1970s and early 1980s and this have affected normalization talks.
5. The Japanese government has adopted a strong policy of no negotiations until the 5 remaining abductees are returned. However, the North Korean government claimed that the abduction issue has been closed.

Japanese Prime Minister Koizumi



China 1

The 'War on Terror' has offered new opportunities for easing tensions between Beijing and Washington based on shared concerns in central Asia. In broad terms China supports the US led initiative as it also suits the Chinese objective of crushing a separatist movement.

China fears a spill over of Central Asian and Middle East terrorism in Xinjiang province. The US has classified a Uygur separatist group as terrorists. Led to restoration of senior level defence and security exchanges (including intelligence sharing on Islamic groups in Central Asia)

China 2 (Uygur)

The July 2009 Uygur riots

The violence was part of ongoing ethnic tensions between the Han (the largest ethnic group in China) and the Uyghurs (minority ethnic group in China, predominantly Muslim).

The specific riots were sparked by Uyghur dissatisfaction with the Chinese central government's handling of the deaths of two Uyghur workers, as part of an ethnic brawl .

China 3 (Taiwan)

Taiwan: Independence from China?

In 2009, as Taiwan prepared for its next presidential election tension over the independence issue flared again. This time, three candidates were running: Chen Shui-bian (the Democratic Progressive Party) James Soong Chu-yu (independent) and Lien Chan (Nationalist Vice President). Chen's party was calling for independence.

Chen won the election but has softened his party's call for a sovereign "Republic of Taiwan" .

He said he will not declare independence unless Taiwan comes under military attack by China.

China 4 (Sino-US)

Serious Problems in Sino-US relations still remain. Chinese leadership was very critical of US policy to launch a military attack on Iraq in March 2003. The principal concern was that North Korea would be next after a quick victory in Baghdad. China is already home to over 100, 000 North Korean refugees.

The US has repeatedly assured the Taiwan leader Chen that they will not cut a deal with China at the expense of Taiwan. The US continues to sell arms to Taipei and have re-affirmed the US-Taiwan security agreement.

Chronology of North Korea's missile program

- Aug. 31, 1998: North Korea fires suspected missile (**Taepodong-1 missile**) over Japan and into the Pacific Ocean, calling it a satellite.
- Sept. 13, 1999: North Korea pledges to freeze long-range missile tests.
- March 10, 2003: North Korea fires a land-to-ship missile off east coast into waters between the Korean peninsula and Japan.
- October 2003: North Korea fires two land-to-ship missiles.
- May 2005: North Korea fires a short-range missile into waters between the Korean peninsula and Japan.
- July 5, 2006: North Korea launches seven missiles into waters between the Korean peninsula and Japan, including **a long-range Taepodong-2**.
- July 15, 2006: U.N. Security Council adopts Resolution 1695 demanding North Korea halt missile program.
- Oct. 9, 2006: North Korea conducts **underground nuclear test blast** after citing "extreme threat of a nuclear war" from U.S.
- Oct. 15, 2006: U.N. Security Council adopts Resolution 1718 condemning test, imposing sanctions and banning North Korea from activities related to its nuclear weapons program, including "their means of delivery."

- July 14, 2007: North Korea shuts down its main Yongbyon reactor, later starts disabling it.
- Sept. 19, 2008: North Korea says it is restoring a key atomic reactor.
- Oct. 11, 2008: U.S. removes North Korea from a list of states that sponsor terrorism.
- April 5, 2009: North Korea launches long-range rocket (**a Taepodong-2 missile that has a range of 4,000 to 6,500 kilometers**).
- April 13: The U.N. Security Council adopts a presidential statement condemning North Korea's rocket launch.
- April 14: North Korea quits six-party nuclear talks and vows to restart its nuclear facilities in protest against the U.N. statement.
- May 25: North Korea conducts its **second nuclear test**.
- June 12: **The U.N. Security Council adopts Resolution 1874 sanctioning North Korea for its nuclear test.**
- July 2: North Korea test-fires four short-range missiles.
- July 4: North Korea fires several missiles, believed to be banned ballistic missiles

Sources: South Korean defense and foreign ministries and presidential office, AP

Why???

- Is the DPRK trying to undermine the six-party talks in order to force the US to deal with DPRK directly?
- Is the DPRK trying to send a signal for the acceptance of North Korea as nuclear- weapons state like India?
- Kim Jong Il is visibly ailing. Does he want to clear the way through his own military for his youngest son to succeed or to bolster his own reputation before his death?

No one really knows North Korean motives



Concluding comments

1. Although the framework in North Asia has not been altered by the post-cold war environment, the region has not remained static and has responded to the substantial shifts in global politics.
2. The Cold War still remains in North Asia.

End of Lecture