

GEMUN 2018

Security Council (SC) Topic: The Issue of North Korea Research Report by Umberto Costa Boccardi

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I. DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

DPRK: Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, or North Korea, is a country located in East Asia constituting the northern part of the Korean peninsula.

Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ): is a strip of land, 250 kilometres (160 miles) long, and about 4 kilometres (2.5 miles) wide, that follows the 38th parallel. Established with the Korean armistice agreement, it serves as buffer zone between DPRK and South Korea.

Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (Non-Proliferation Treaty, NPT): it is a treaty, that entered into force in 1970, aiming to stop the proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The DPRK withdrew effectively from it in April 2003, after having tried in 1993.

Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM): a guided ballistic missile capable of traveling at least 5’500 kilometres (3’400 miles). The DPRK tested its first ICBM, named Hwasong-14, on 4 July 2017.

UN Security Council Sanctions Committee on North Korea: is a subsidiary body established in 2006 after SC’s resolution 1718 in response to the first nuclear test conducted by North Korea, has to monitor and strengthen sanctions against the DPRK.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA): is an Independent International Organization that seeks and promote a peaceful use of Nuclear Energy that reports to UNSC and GA.



The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (in red)
<http://clashofworl.blogspot.it/2016/03/north-korea-nuclear-proliferation-and.html>

II. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

North Korea was occupied by Japanese in 1910 after the Russo-Japanese war and was controlled by them until 1945, when Japan surrendered to the USA.

The United States and the Soviets decided to divide the peninsula in two using as border the 38th parallel, the USSR controlled the Northern half and the US the Southern.

The DPRK was formed in 1948 as a self-reliant socialist state, under the control of the Kim dynasty. Kim Il-sung, the first supreme leader, declared war to South Korea in 1950; the war lasted three years and killed 2.5 million people. An Armistice was signed in 1953 and the war is considered ended even though no peace treaty was ever signed.

Under Kim Il-sung leadership the nation knew relatively high living standards, better than South Korea. When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, the DPRK suffered an economic crisis, due to the absence of aids; a famine happened in 1994 and killed between 250'000 and 3'000'000 people.

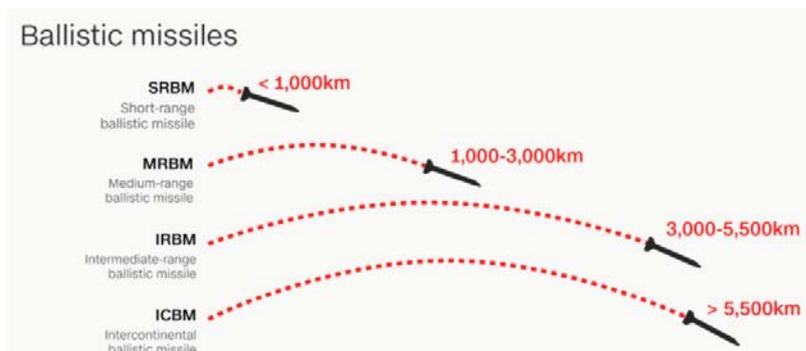
When Kim Jong-il came to power after the death of his father, he started a military first policy, called *Songun*, and intensified the DPRK's nuclear programme, that can be tracked back in 1956.

On January 2006, North Korea withdrew from the NPT, after having tried in 1993.

On October 2006, the North Korean government announced its first successful nuclear test.

Since then 5 more nuclear tests have been conducted, with the latest taking place the 3rd September 2017.

Moreover, the DPRK is also developing many different BMs (Ballistic Missile) of short, medium, intermediate and intercontinental range (SRBM, MRBM, IRBM and ICBM), and it has been esteemed that those missiles are capable of reaching US mainland.



All different kinds of Ballistic Missiles

III. MAJOR COUNTRIES INVOLVED

This issue regards not only North and South Korea but also the US, China and Japan.

South Korea is the first and easiest target for DPRK's missiles; the capital city Seoul is less than 30 kilometres far from the nearest border with North Korea.

The United States are historically the most important enemies of North Korea and also the main ally of South Korea; the US army, under the name of USFK (United States Forces Korea), is vastly deployed in South Korea, with its main headquarter in Seoul. This military presence is seen by the DPRK as threatening, also because US and SK's armed forces exercise together at a growing rate.

China's involvement is due to the historic alliance with the DPRK, deriving from the Korean war, these nations signed the Sino-North Korean Mutual Aid and Cooperation treaty in 1961 and prolonged until 2021. Despite this alliance, relations between the two countries have declined over the past few years, primarily because of North Korea's nuclear tests.

Japan is one of the easiest target for North Korea and, on 15th September 2017, the DPRK launched an ICBM over the Japanese island of Hokkaido.

IV. UN INVOLVEMENT

The UNSC approved its first resolution concerning North Korea in 1993 (S/RES/825) when the DPRK tried to withdraw from the NPT.

Several more resolutions were approved between the 2006 missiles launch test and are today imposing sanctions, in order to stop North Korea from making other nuclear or ballistic missiles tests.

V. USEFUL LINKS

List of UNSC Resolutions concerning North Korea

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_United_Nations_Security_Council_resolutions_concerning_North_Korea

UNSC Resolutions documents

<http://www.un.org/en/sc/documents/resolutions/>

Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

<https://www.iaea.org/sites/default/files/publications/documents/infcircs/1970/infcirc140.pdf>

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

<https://www.iaea.org>

North Korea's missiles tests

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_North_Korean_missile_tests

North Korea's nuclear tests

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_nuclear_weapons_tests_of_North_Korea