

The Foreign Policy Association
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The Two Koreas

Scribed by Devon Malloy
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James F. Person, a widely recognized expert on the two Koreas, says the United States will be hard-pressed to convince North Korea to abandon nuclear weapons, at least not without making certain concessions that the U.S. has declined to make in the past.

These concessions include normalization of diplomatic relations, mutual security assurances, an economic trade agreement, and a final peace treaty officially ending the Korean War.

Person, professor of Korean studies at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, spoke at the May 17 meeting of the Foreign Policy Association. More than 120 FPA members and guests were in attendance.

(In June, President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un met in Singapore. Kim promised to "work toward the complete denuclearization of the Korean peninsula," but no specific agreement has been finalized.)

North Korea long has understood the power of nuclear weapons following the World War II-ending attacks on Japan, Person said. Moreover, the U.S. threatened North Korea with nuclear attack during the Korean War and deployed tactical nuclear weapons to South Korea in 1958.

Person said there was a time when North Korea's nuclear program was a bargaining chip able to be negotiated away in exchange for relations with the U.S. However, that changed with the toppling of Iraq's Saddam Hussein and Libya's Muammar Gaddafi.

In short, Kim is fearful that without a nuclear defense capability, the U.S. will seek the same kind of regime change in North Korea that it has brought about in other parts of the world. Some of the "fire and fury" rhetoric coming out of Washington lately has made the North Koreans even more edgy, Person said.

He noted that North Korea once relied on the Soviet Union for protection, but began to lose confidence in that alliance after the Soviets caved to the U.S. during the Cuban missile crisis in 1962. Then there was the collapse of the Soviet bloc of nations in 1991.

He said North Korean denuclearization is not likely to come about without the same conditions that they have insisted upon for the past 40 years.

2018-2019 Program Topics / Schedule All Events at the West Shore Country Club Except the International Fellows Reception

- Sept. 27** Globalism vs. Nationalism
- Oct. 25** Mexican - U.S. Relations
- Nov. 28** Terrorism, Counterterrorism, and the West
4th Annual President's Speakers Series
Philip Mudd, former CIA and FBI official
ADVANCED RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
- Dec. 13** International Fellows Reception
U.S. Army Heritage Center, Carlisle
ADVANCED RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
- Jan. 24** Fight for Middle East Leadership:
Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Turkey
- Feb. 27** Russia's War on Western Democracies
- March 28** Current State of Arms Control
- April 25** National Defense Strategy
- May 16** Japan and East Asia
- May ??** Embassy Trip, to be determined

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