



# Peace and security in North East Asia and the denuclearization process on the Korean Peninsula

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## The Denuclearization of North Korea

- possible, but not through sanctions and coercion (alone)
- political and military reasons for nuclear pursuit
- substantial change of the political environment in Northeast Asia needed for denuclearization/disarmament:
  - Formal termination of the Korean War: from armistice to a peace regime
  - Normalization of relations, peaceful co-existence

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## Defaults in US-North Korean Relations

- confrontation and formal state of war; nonrecognition and hostile policies as normality
- relics from the Cold War, geopolitical block-building
- mutual belief in the effectiveness of confrontation and coercion, tit-for-tat behavior ending up in spirals of escalation; limited interest in compromise and cooperation

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## Dilemmas in Inter-Korean Relations

- continued state of war, refusal to sign armistice in 1953
- UN membership since 1991, Basic Agreement and later summit meetings, but no actual mutual recognition
- continued mutual threat perceptions and deterrence postures
- continued claim to solely represent Korean people, contrasting views of and strategies for reunification
- fragile state of communication, inter-Korean relations also dependent on US-North Korea relations

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## Looking Forward

- “creative measures“ to revive diplomacy
- acknowledgement that negotiated solution requires comprehensive transformation of polities, relations, ...
- political pragmatism needed instead of ideology and outdated/unrealistic convictions
- common interest of risk reduction (risks of war) and stability