

**China's Rise and Prospect of
Reunification
-----Harvard Project for Asian &
International Relations-----**

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2014 turning point? (1)

- Xi switched course from DPRK to ROK.
- Evidence 1: Xi-Park met already five times; no plan to meet Kim.
- 2: On June 27 2013 in Park's visit to China they apparently had bilateral talks: Park said she wanted unification and Xi agreed; what kind of unification? US not further North than 38; Not much need for US troops after unification
- 3: On December 5 2013 in Biden's visit To Beijing, Biden apparently requested Xi to stop exporting oil because no use to keep Kim's regime; (Xi apparently did not know about Chang's fall)

2014 turning point? (2)

- 4: From January 2014 China reportedly stopped exporting 500,000 tons of crude oil (per year); quality product 200,000, another product purchase 200,000, Reserve 1,500,000. By autumn depletion?; NK military officials started to commute by bicycle; no motorbikes in Pyongyang
- 5: In July 3-4 2014 in his visit to Seoul in public speech Xi acknowledged that SK resistance moves in Shanghai righteously fought the Japanese; gave unification legitimacy to ROK.

What kind of unification (1.Japan)?

- Kim+ Military and old guards; difficult to show flexibility
- Japan: Immediate recourse: Kim Jong-Un has no other place to go. Break through talk started after spring 2014. Kim may be willing to give up everything on abduction
- But US does not allow Japan to pay substantial economic return; so breakthrough is hard to foresee.
- Minor deal on perished soldiers' body continues.

What kind of unification (2.China)?

- Hard landing (abrupt dissolution of power); (I) a coup with Kim first stage and then, (II) fall of Kim's power, (III) eventual unification?
- China Will hold predominant power and influence ; no nuclear weapons allowed
- US: So long as no nuclear, US allows China to have primary influence over the peninsula.
- Russia: Railroad connection: Rason-Pyongyang-SK
- US, Russia, Japan has no room to play for reunification.

What kind of unification (3.US)?

- The only way of soft-landing (gradual change to democracy and market-economy)
- Give up nuclear weapons (I) and ask for US assistance and recognition (II)
- US influence after soft-landing re-unification (III) would be the greatest among powers.
- But will domestic power structure within DPRK allows it?

Conclusion: Geopolitics and history

- History is repeating; 19th century it was China, Russia and Japan; now it is (Japan), China, and US
- Role of South Korea; South Korea is sharply siding with China cutting off Japan; primary reason why Kim Jong-Un is isolated
- In the very long-run: Korean unwillingness to total subjugation will put China-Korea relations tense

Notes

- Xi Jinping 習近平
- Park Geun-Hye 朴槿惠 パククネ
- Kim Jong-Un 金正恩
- Kim Jong-Il 金正日
- Kim Il-Sung 金日成
- Chang Song-Tak 張成沢 2013年12月12日 処刑