

## **Northeast Asia Peace and Denuclearization Process**

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Objectives:

1. To share the current situation and assessment on issues relating to Northeast Asia peace and denuclearization
2. To share challenges and difficulties in building peace in Northeast Asia
3. To discuss the role of civil society, and how to strengthen this

1. To share the current situation and assessment on issues relating to Northeast Asia peace and denuclearization

The current situation in Northeast Asia has always been the development or the extension of what had happened between the US and China's competition throughout the years. Let me review the development first so that we can see what we have today. The idea of containing China started in the Obama era when his administration wanted to leave the Middle East and to come back to Asia Pacific. This long-term goal became more specific in Trump's effort in forming the Quad within which the us will ally with India, Japan, and Australia to contain the rise of China in the Asia Pacific.

China took the Quad extremely seriously from the beginning and focused its foreign affair effort in dealing with the Quad's development. If we contextualize the Northeast Asia situation within this context, we can easily see that China won this round in breaking the Quad for its own political and economic development.

For India, China developed good relationship with all of the other countries in the area and surrounded India in all directions to make it incapable of containing China. For Australia, China first fight with its economic power by not purchasing products from the country which added the economic burden to Australia in addition to the damage caused by Covid-19 and the global economic recession. For the newly

formed AUKUS that intends to use the nuclear-powered submarine to guard the area and targeting China, China also took the opportunity to tightened its relationship with France and be prepared for the submarine force from the south. After all of these, we can now look at what happened in Northeast Asia and what happened that the Sino-us competition caused.

In Northeast Asia, the US relied on the first island chain to contain China in the near past. Then it added the Quad to intensify its relationship with Japan. In addition to that the US also started to violate its agreement with China on the issue of one-China principle by sending in military officers, supporting the independent movement, and selling more weapons to Taiwan. China is extremely cautious about all of these moves and reacted accordingly. All of these set up the basic tone of the region and now let's see what is going on at the moment.

The competition between the US and China escalated since 2014, after China launched its Belt Road Initiatives and the US intensified its effort in the surrounding areas to contain China. In Hong Kong, there was the "occupy central" social movement in 2014. Later, during the Sino-US trade war, there was the 2019 social movement. In 2020, the Covid-19 started. In the middle of all of the crisis, China managed to change its foreign policies and be more flexible and successfully changed its relationship with Russia, Mongolia, and DPRK, and empowered itself in dealing with all of the challenges. In addition, because of the extremely effective methods in dealing with the covid-19, China also became the only country that can maintain the positive increase in its GDP and at the same time still developed new projects in its Northeastern area to link China with Russia, Mongolia, and supported DPRK more.

When the global-wide inflation came, China managed to keep its economy healthy and forced the US return to the table to talk. This is the time when the US realized that in order to keep the competition on going, it has to maintain its own economic power and develop its own high technology instead of just containing China.

By this step, according to my observation, the US started to engage in self-destructing moves. In the global manufacturing chain, the US heavily relies on Samsun and Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., Ltd. for the smart phone chips. Now the US is sending the 45-day deadline to ask Samsun and TSMC to transfer such manufacturing secrets and technologies to the US. This move will destroy the US alliance within the Northeast Asia. South Korea, Japan, and Taiwan's

attitude towards such requirement will let the US see what exactly the three countries/area's attitude toward the US. Because this business is the economic backbone of these countries/area, giving up to the US may revitalize the American economy, but the three countries/area's economy will collapse. If they resisted, the US economy will suffer and finally plunge to the bottom. Either way, the US and its allies will lose in this game.

So, the next question is what will happen next? Which country/area will give in first? Taiwan is now working with Japan to build factories there. But China and Russia are watching any move in this direction. Korea also has few choices, either giving in its technology or resisting by working more towards the peninsula peace building process, i.e., stopping the war and working with the north with the unification as a goal. Whatever happens next will change the region's social economic condition.

## 2. To share challenges and difficulties in building peace in Northeast Asia

The challenges and difficulties in today's Northeast Asia came from the American allies. Because of the global recession, in order to rescue themselves from the economic difficulties, they have to fight with each other. No matter who is going to win the fights among them, the American and its allies in the Northeast Asia lost. This can actually speed up the integration of the region because China is forming its own friends circle and keep on developing economy regardless the American side's fighting. In this case, there are also possibilities that Japan and South Korea turn to the China side because they do not want to lose their economy in this round. As for Taiwan, it is too weak to say no to the US and too stubborn to be friendly with China. In the end, Taiwan will face hard time to survive. As what Putin recently reminded the mainland Chinese government, China does not even need to use military force to win its battle with Taiwan.

## 3. To discuss the role of civil society, and how to strengthen this

The civil society can contribute tremendously in this scenario. In the forthcoming chaotic scenario how to sustain the stable daily life when facing the global recession, economic competition, international crisis created by the US forcing the removal of the high technology to the US. The civil societies in each country and region involved will play the critical role in crisis management to keep the society together and the community together.