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   A Selective, Annotated Bibliography on the North Korean Military

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PREFACE

This bibliography provides selective annotations of open-source material and covers the following topics:

- modernization of the North Korean Army,
- North Korean Army strategy and tactics in the Korean War, and
- North Korean Army strategy and tactics since the Korean War.

The bibliography incorporates serials and monographs received in the previous month and is part of a continuing series on the above subjects.

Entries are arranged alphabetically by author or title. Library of Congress call numbers, where appropriate, are included to facilitate the recovery of works cited.
# Glossary

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CPLA</td>
<td>Chinese People's Liberation Army</td>
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<tr>
<td>CPC</td>
<td>Combined Forces Command (US and ROK)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DPRK</td>
<td>Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea)</td>
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<tr>
<td>NKA</td>
<td>North Korean Army</td>
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<td>NKAF</td>
<td>North Korean Air Force</td>
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<td>North Korean Navy</td>
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<tr>
<td>KPA</td>
<td>Korean People's Army (Comprises NKA, NKAF, and NKN)</td>
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<tr>
<td>KWP</td>
<td>Korean Workers' Party</td>
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<td>ROK</td>
<td>Republic of Korea (South Korea)</td>
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<td>ROKA</td>
<td>Republic of Korea Army</td>
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<td>ROKAF</td>
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<td>ROKN</td>
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1. MODERNIZATION OF THE NORTH KOREAN MILITARY

Tension on the Korean Peninsula is viewed as greater than at any point in the last 10 years. The growth of the NKA in recent years and the deployment of 500,000 troops just north of the DMZ are seen as indicators that North Korea is prepared to attack the South at any time. The NKN is said to have the capability of launching a major naval invasion of the South and Soviet technicians are known to be involved in naval construction at Wonsan. The author does not predict war is imminent in Korea, but she implies that there is a high probability of such an occurrence, even with the US military presence there.


The author presents the standard South Korean assessment that Pyongyang is ready and waiting to attack his country and argues that Seoul will not achieve military parity until 1992. The article describes the buildup of the NKA between 1953 and the present, focusing on developments in recent years. The fact that this buildup has given the North Koreans the capability to start a war and sustain military operations for 90 days without Chinese or Soviet aid is viewed as a serious matter because it increases Pyongyang's option to act without consulting the larger powers.


Kiyoshi Takase, a professor at Japan's Takasaki University of Economics, says that a high level of defense spending continues to be a major reason for North Korea's economic problems. Takase says that the 1987 budget, made public on 22 April by Minister of Finance Yun Ki-chong, appears to be based on Pyongyang's hope of attracting foreign technological investment. However, he points out that the
Soviet Union and China have their own economic problems and North Korea has not had much success in its dealings with capitalist countries. The article notes that 13.8 percent of the budget is devoted to defense spending, down slightly from 14.1 percent last year.


The NKA is reported to be implementing a reorganization of artillery units, however no information is available on the extent or types of changes. The NKN is said to have 25 submarines in its inventory and is expected to continue domestic production of submarines and a new type of fast attack craft which has not been identified. The number of Soviet-produced MiG-23/FLOGGER fighter aircraft operated by the NKAF is placed at 50. The annual publication includes tables of organization for the NKA, NKN, and NKAF.


The article notes that North Korea's continued military superiority over the South poses a potential threat to the change of government and the Seoul Olympics which are both scheduled to take place next year. It urges readers to remember that North Korea has the capability to begin hostilities at any time and calls for them to support government programs to promote a strong defense.


The article outlines how several Third World and newly industrialized countries, including Taiwan, India,
Pakistan, South Korea, and Brazil, have missile
development programs which could affect US interests. The
article also comments on how the Soviet Union's transfer
of missiles, such as the FROG-7 and SCUD-B, to North Korea
and other countries represents another aspect of the
missile proliferation problem. It is argued that the
United States must exercise restraint in exporting
missiles and missile-related technologies to allied
nations, if it hopes to promote effective diplomatic
solutions to stem the expansion of missile forces
worldwide.
2. NORTH KOREAN ARMY STRATEGY AND TACTICS IN THE KOREAN WAR

This book focuses on how the Korean War might have been prevented or shortened. The author, a British historian, is critical of US foreign policies in the late 1940s because he believes there was sufficient evidence indicating that the North Koreans would attack the South well before the actual invasion of 25 June 1950. Another subject of analysis is General MacArthur's determination to unite Korea following the September landing at Inchon and routing of the NKA. Lowe discusses how British intelligence assessments warned there was little chance of accomplishing this mission without involving the Chinese and/or the Soviets, and points out that South Korean President Syngman Rhee's unpopularity among Koreans represented another good reason for the UN Forces to hold back. Although there is little new information on Communist strategy and tactics, the book provides some new information and insights on the political aspects of the war.


Interviews with ROKA personnel involved in fighting against NKPA and CPLA forces provide some useful information on Communist tactics. This book, written at a time when support for the Korean War was declining in the West, examines how the Communists mistreated South Koreans while in control of parts of South Korea in 1950, and argues that Western nations must develop collective security arrangements to prevent future Soviet efforts to promote communism in democratic nations.
3. NORTH KOREAN ARMY STRATEGY AND TACTICS SINCE THE KOREAN WAR

The author believes that Pyongyang will not invade South Korea in the near future and suggests that it will continue its close alliance with the Soviet Union in order to keep its military options open while Kim Chong-il, the son and heir apparent to North Korean President Kim Il-song, solidifies his control over the political scene. The reasons the North Koreans seem reluctant to hold substantive talks with their counterparts in the South may be related to the perceived unpopularity of South Korean President Chun Doo Hwan. It is Cotton's opinion that North Korean leaders fear that their participation in inter-Korean talks will strengthen Chun's position and undermine opposition in South Korea to the present government and to the continued stationing of US military forces in the country.


This editorial supports the recent change in US policy which allows American diplomats to have contacts with their North Korean counterparts. It is argued that such contacts will help to counter recent Soviet advances in Asia and could encourage Pyongyang to refrain from taking military actions against Seoul. The article emphasizes, however, that Seoul and Washington need to carefully coordinate their actions in order to preserve the peace on the Korean Peninsula.


The simultaneous buildup of Soviet and North Korean military forces increases the possibility that Moscow and Pyongyang could coordinate attacks on Japan and South Korea, respectively. The article focuses on what the
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Soviet Union's political and military objectives would be in attacking Japan, but notes that the growing Soviet-North Korean defense relationship cannot be ignored. The author is a professor of international relations at Japan's National Defense Academy.


This article suggests that the primary reason North Korean President Kim Il-song visited Beijing in May 1987 was to solicit support for the improvement of his country's relations with the United States. In a speech at a 21 May banquet hosted by Chinese President Li Xiannian, Kim said that he is ready to hold high level political and military talks with South Korea. China supports this position. The article notes that while Beijing continues to support Pyongyang politically, the Chinese are unlikely to jeopardize their developing relations with several Western countries by providing new military aid to North Korea.


The joint communique issued at the end of the 19th annual US-ROK Security Consultative Meeting held in Washington from 6-7 May 1987, states that both nations share the assessment that the NKA is organized primarily for offensive operations and has a significant capability to launch a surprise attack on South Korea. Soviet military assistance to North Korea is mentioned as another concern. The communique lists a number of continuing and new cooperative measures which are intended to enhance the security of South Korea. Defense Minister Lee Ki-baek led the ROK delegation attending the talks.