

Goals and Options for North Korea

President Bush has asked you to draft a memorandum outlining the consequences for the national security of the United States in Asia of North Korea acquiring nuclear capability. You are to address the question: how is the U.S. to deal with the threat?

Research and Analysis

You should, at minimum, address the following questions in your memo:

- What are the immediate and long-term goals and preferences of the various players: North Korea, South Korea, China, Japan, and United States?
- What have the various players demanded and claimed? How could you screen out claims made under false pretenses and deal with asymmetric information?
- What are some means that the U.S. could use to obtain its objectives? What are the possible counter-moves by the other players? How could we deal with those?
- How does your thinking reflect the strategy pursued by the Bush administration? How does that strategy reflect the goals of the National Security Strategy of the United States of America as published in September 2002. You may want to consult the State Department summary of the document available from <http://usinfo.state.gov/topical/pol/02092040.htm>. The full text of this document is available from the course website.

Your memo should begin with an introduction summarizing the few major points of your analysis that you want your busy readers to take away (Executive Summary). Next, in the background section (Background of the Problem) frame the problem from your client's perspective (e.g. national security of the United States) by tracing its history. This section should be as concise as possible. Next, present your assumptions about the preferences of the players involved. Next, enumerate the options available to your client and predict their consequences (Options and Analysis). This section is the longest and most important: you should list options that you will not be recommending, and you should carefully evaluate possible consequences (good and bad) of each alternative, including an assessment of their relative probabilities. You must make full use of the strategic tactics we have discussed in class, feel free to consult the online notes. Finally, weigh the alternatives from your client's perspective, and recommend a course of action (Conclusions).

You can consult various sources, here is a list of some that might be useful:

- For background on current U.S. policy, check recent newspapers. *Washington Post* (<http://www.washingtonpost.com>) is especially good.

A useful summary of the history is at <http://www.worldpress.org/Asia/1768.cfm>.

For an overview of North Korean nuclear capabilities, and events time-line, see <http://www.atomicarchive.com/Reports/Northkorea/index.shtml>.

You should search Lexis-Nexis on Roger (UCSD's web library catalogue):

- Go to Roger: <http://roger.ucsd.edu>
 - Select "Title/Journal Title"
 - In the text box, type "Academic Universe" and click 'Search'
 - Click on 'Connect to LexisNexis Academic'
 - Select 'World News' from the news category menu
 - Select 'Asia/Pacific News Sources' from the news source list
 - Enter terms like "North Korea," "nuclear program," etc.
 - Select date ranges and click on "Search"
- Official statements by the White House, State Department. You can generally do a search for 'North Korea' or simply 'Korea' on these web sites. Here are several links to get you started:
 - <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2001/03/20010307-2.html>
 - <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2001/03/20010307-6.html>
 - <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2001/06/20010611-4.html>
 - <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/10/20021026-1.html>
 - <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/11/20021115-8.html>
 - <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/06/20030625-17.html>
 - <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/10/20031019-9.html>
 - <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/10/20031020-2.html>
 - <http://usinfo.state.gov/regional/ea/easec/>
 - <http://usinfo.state.gov/regional/ea/easec/kimpwll.htm>
 - <http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2002/14773.htm>
 - <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2002/14432.htm>

Mechanics

Such memos are produced by analysts upon governmental request and are used by clients to decide on the course of action. They should contain background information, goals and preferences, a list of options (strategies) available, and possible consequences (positive and negative) of these options, and a suggestion for the optimal choice.

The memo should be typed, and at least 6 (but not more than 8) double-spaced pages. You must endnote major sources of information and provide a bibliography. These do not count toward the page limit. Make your essay readable—use font size of least 11 pt, and set margins to 1" all around. Submit a cleanly printed copy. **The essay is due on March 18, at the beginning of the final examination.** It will be graded using the criteria on the course website.

The essay is worth 25% of your final grade. Do not take it lightly. Good luck!