

# The Future of North Korea

This book examines the current situation on the Korean Peninsula and discusses its future prospects. Noted experts from Korea, the United States, and the United Kingdom analyze the possible future scenarios for North Korea. These include the possibility of neutrality, and the national interest and perspectives of the great powers – the United States, Japan, China, Russia, and the European Union – regarding the future direction of North Korea and North–South Korea relations.

The authors agree that all the regional powers, including North and South Korea, have an interest in avoiding violent conflict on the peninsula. Most contributors agree that among all the possible futures the most desirable – the least costly in human and material terms – will be a scenario in which North Korea evolves slowly into a more open and more internationally engaged society. This book also argues, however, that such a scenario is far from assured and that peaceful coexistence will invite self-interested engagement by the peripheral powers and international humanitarian and economic assistance to the North.

This book will be invaluable to students of Asian politics and international relations.

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