

*A SELECTIVE, ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY ON  
THE NORTH KOREAN MILITARY*

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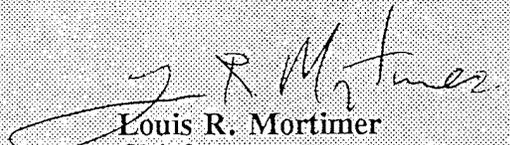
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## PREFACE

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

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| CPLA  | Chinese People's Liberation Army                    |
| CFC   | Combined Forces Command (US and ROK)                |
| DPRK  | Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) |
| NKA   | North Korean Army                                   |
| NKAF  | North Korean Air Force                              |
| NKN   | North Korean Navy                                   |
| KPA   | Korean People's Army (Comprises NKA, NKAF, and NKN) |
| KWP   | Korean Workers' Party                               |
| ROK   | Republic of Korea (South Korea)                     |
| ROKA  | Republic of Korea Army                              |
| ROKAF | Republic of Korea Air Force                         |
| ROKN  | Republic of Korea Navy                              |

1. MODERNIZATION OF THE NORTH KOREAN MILITARY

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Bermudez, Joseph. "New North Korean Weapon Systems." Jane's Defence Weekly (London), Vol. 8, No. 18, November 1987, pp. 1059-61. UF530.J35

The article focuses on two new weapon systems which are indigenously produced and are now in service in the NKA. The first is the M-1985 light tank. It is believed this tank combines elements of the Soviet PT-76 and the Chinese Type 63 light tanks. It includes an anti-tank guided missile rail mounted in front of the turret and utilizes a flat track suspension system. The other weapon system highlighted is the BM-11 multiple rocket launcher. It is a 122-mm launcher based on the Soviet BM-21. It is distinguished from Soviet and Chinese multiple rocket launchers by its two-bank 30 round launching apparatus. The BM-21 is truck-mounted. Both of these systems are tailored to the needs of the NKA and the rugged Korean terrain. In a future conflict, it is envisioned they would be used to provide fire support for motorized and armored divisions.

Clough, Ralph. Balancing Act: The Republic of Korea Approaches 1988. School of Advanced International Studies, Foreign Policy Institute Policy Brief Series. Washington DC: Johns Hopkins University, 1987. 23 pp.

This report discusses the most salient political problems facing North and South Korea. The author believes that Kim Il-song's speech before North Korea's Supreme People's Assembly on 30 December 1986 clearly indicates that his country will not follow China's model of using economic openness and political moderation to promote closer relations with the West. Clough suggests the Soviet Union will continue to support Kim's government, and reluctantly, Kim's plan to have his son Chong-il succeed him, but it will not take actions that will upset the military balance on the Korean Peninsula. Clough argues that the successful establishment of a democratic political system in the South will benefit the ROK and is unlikely to produce dramatic changes in the state of inter-Korean relations over the next few years. Clough does not speculate on the likelihood of a North Korean invasion of South Korea. He favors a continued US presence in Korea to deter North Korean aggression.

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However, he also advises the US to reduce the scope of ROK-US joint military exercises and to take other actions that he views as necessary to promote American interests in the ROK and to encourage the development of a dialogue between North and South Korea that will reduce tension on the Korean Peninsula. The author is a professor of international relations at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in Washington DC.

"Flying Into the Future." Far Eastern Economic Review (Hong Kong), Vol. 137, No 37, 10 September 1987, pp. 36-7.  
HC411.F18

Although the primary focus of this article is Japan's production of a new type of fighter aircraft, it includes an illustration entitled "The Balance of Power" which shows the military strength of various nations in Asia and the Pacific. The NKA is said to have 750,000 personnel compared to the ROKA's 520,000. The number of divisions in the two armies is placed at 33 and 21, respectively. The NKN is believed to have 510 naval vessels and the NKAF about 700 aircraft. The primary source for this information is a recent edition of the white paper entitled Defense of Japan, which is published annually by the Japan Defense Agency.

Leifer, Michael. The Balance of Power in East Asia. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1986. 157 pp. UA830.B35

Chapter nine of this book discusses North Korea's military modernization program. The author points out that the NKA now has 1,500 armored personnel carriers and the same number of self-propelled artillery pieces. Almost all of these systems have been produced in-country over the last ten years. However, Leifer argues that the production of military equipment does not indicate that Pyongyang plans to attack South Korea, and he lists several reasons North Korean leaders might consider during their decisionmaking. For example, he suggests that the North's agriculture is in good shape, that the regime enjoys a measure of popular support, and that it is preoccupied with the succession

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question. Leifer believes that these factors, and the growing economic and military strength of South Korea, will influence North Korean leaders to keep the peace in future years.

"North Korean Troop Strength Exceeds ROK's by 209,000." Korea Herald (Seoul), 11 November 1987, p. 1.

The NKPA is reported to have a total strength of 838,000 compared to 629,000 in the ROK Armed Forces. The article says that the NKA has eight corps, up one from a year ago, and indicates the ground forces continue to add to their substantial arsenal of artillery. The NKAF is believed to have 260 helicopters. The primary source of information is the 1987-88 edition of Military Balance published by the London-based International Institute of Strategic Studies.

## 2. NORTH KOREAN ARMY STRATEGY AND TACTICS IN THE KOREAN WAR

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Lee, Suk Bok. The Impact of US Forces in Korea. Washington DC: National Defense University Press, 1987. 101 pp.  
UA26.K6L44

Chapter three of this book suggests that the North Korean invasion of South Korea on 25 June 1950 was coordinated by Pyongyang, Beijing, and Moscow in March 1949. The author suggests that Stalin approved of a secret military agreement between North Korea and China signed on 17 March 1949 because he believed Chinese involvement in a Korean War would enhance Soviet dominance of the region and produce greater enmity between China and the West. Lee credits the Soviet Ambassador to North Korea, General Shytkov, with being primarily responsible for building the NKPA into an effective fighting force. In chapter two, Lee criticizes Commander of US Forces in the Pacific General Douglas MacArthur and other American officials for failing to accurately assess Soviet and North Korean intentions. Lee believes the NKA invasion might have succeeded if the North Koreans had obtained more river crossing equipment from the Soviets before June 1950. The author is a ROKA Colonel who attended the National Defense University in Washington DC in 1986 as an international fellow.

Matray, James Irving. The Reluctant Crusade: American Foreign Policy in Korea, 1941-50. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1985. 351 pp. E183.8.K7M28

The author believes the following factors influenced North Korean leaders to order the invasion of South Korea in June 1950. First, the North Koreans apparently had given up on efforts to win control of South Korea by either subversion or diplomacy. Second, with Soviet assistance, Pyongyang did not consider the ROKA to have a chance of stopping its invasion. Third, Matray suggests that South Korea's improving economy may have influenced the timing because the North Koreans thought a continuation of the trend would end their chance to win the necessary support of the ROK people following the invasion.

### 3. NORTH KOREAN ARMY STRATEGY AND TACTICS SINCE THE KOREAN WAR

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CAUSA International. National Security in Northeast Asia. New York: Causa Publications, 1986. 110 pp. UA830.N37

This book is a collection of 11 papers presented at an April 1986 conference on security in Northeast Asia sponsored by CAUSA's International Security Council. North Korea was viewed by most of the speakers as a country still committed to the military reunification of the two Koreas. Factors supporting this assessment included the NKA's ongoing modernization drive, recent indications of Soviet support for North Korea's positions on reunification and its willingness to transfer MiG-23 fighter aircraft and SCUD missiles to Pyongyang, and the relatively obdurate political views of President Kim Il-song and other North Korean leaders. While the Soviet Union is generally regarded as the major threat to peace in the region, only one of the papers focused on the issue of Soviet-North Korean military cooperation. Edward N. Luttwak briefly discusses this topic in his paper which examines the military organization of Soviet forces stationed in the Far East.

Harrison, Selig S. "North Korea Floats a Revolutionary Ideology." New York Times, 22 November 1987, p. E3.

According to Hwang Chang Yop, a KWP Central Committee Secretary, North Korean leaders no longer consider it likely that many South Koreans would support a communist revolution in their country. In an interview with the author, Hwang said: "Such a thing (a communist revolution in the South) is quite impossible, completely out of the question. Nearly 40 years have passed since the Korean War and we recognize that many changes have occurred in South Korea." Harrison speculates that Pyongyang is eager to negotiate agreements with Seoul and Washington to reduce the size of military forces on the Korean Peninsula because it can no longer afford to devote 24 percent of its gross national product to defense. He says that Hwang did not restrict his comments to the "party line" during their conversation. According to North Korean Foreign Minister Li Gun Mo, who also met with the author during his recent ten-day stay in Pyongyang, North Korea would consider altering its security treaties with China and the Soviet Union, but he did not discuss specific conditions

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for such actions. Li also indicated that North Korea wants to promote "balanced relations with the major powers."

Lee, Suk Bok. The Impact of US Forces in Korea. Washington DC: National Defense University Press, 1987. 101 pp.  
UA26.K6L44

Chapter six of this book focuses on the future role of US Forces in South Korea. The author argues that the North Koreans can not be trusted to negotiate a military agreement in good faith until after South Korea achieves its goal of establishing parity between the ROKA and NKA sometime in the 1990s. Lee calls on the US and ROK Governments to begin negotiations now to establish the bilateral security arrangements to be implemented in the event US Forces withdraw from Korea. It is his assessment that a continued US presence in South Korea will be necessary for the foreseeable future, to force Pyongyang to negotiate political agreements with Seoul, and to bring about a reduction of tension on the Korean Peninsula. The author is a ROKA Colonel who was a 1986 international fellow at the National Defense University in Washington DC.

Niksich, Larry A. "Democracy and Security: Can the Two Co-Exist?" Pacific Defence Reporter (Kunyang, Australia), Vol. 14, No. 5, November 1987, pp. 28-31. Not in LC.

This article examines the forces associated with democratization in South Korea that could reduce US influence in the ROK, and suggests that Pyongyang is unlikely to cooperate with the new government to be inaugurated in Seoul in February 1988. The author points out that opposition to the US military presence in South Korea has been the cornerstone of North Korean President Kim Il-song's justification for the extreme regimentation imposed on the North Korean people. Pyongyang is unlikely to change its hostile stance until after Kim's death, and then only if the North Korean leader's son and heir apparent is forced to adopt more pragmatic policies.

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Niksich views Beijing as a stabilizing influence on Pyongyang, while Moscow's future role is uncertain. The Soviet Union will probably continue to provide military assistance to North Korea and support the status quo on the Korean Peninsula in order to undermine American influence in the region.

"North Korea Deploys 200 Fighters Near DMZ." Korea Herald (Seoul), 4 December 1987, p. 1.

North Korea has enhanced its capability to carry out air attacks on Seoul and other targets in South Korea by deploying 200 MiG-17, MiG-19 and MiG-21 fighter aircraft closer to the DMZ. These aircraft are now stationed at three airbases located within 80 kilometers of the North-South Korean border. In the event of a North Korean attack on South Korea, these aircraft could reach their targets in as little as 15 minutes. The primary source for this information is the Japanese daily Sankei Shimbun.

"North Korea to Crush Olympic Games." Choson Ilbo (Seoul), 8 November 1987. In Press Translations (US Embassy, Seoul), 9 November 1987, p. 1.

This article reports Choson Ilbo has learned from a Japanese source that there is growing apprehension in Tokyo and Washington over the possibility of Pyongyang conducting terrorism or invading South Korea in order to undermine the Seoul Olympics scheduled for the Fall of 1988. Nobuhiko Ochiai, a correspondent for an unnamed Japanese publication, is said to have contacts in various agencies of the US Government, including the Departments of State and Defense. The article implies that there is great concern in Washington regarding the capability of North Korea to carry out terrorism or other hostile actions designed to sabotage the Olympics.

Scalapino, Robert. "Asia's Future." Foreign Affairs (New York), Vol. 65, No. 1, Fall 1987, pp. 77-108. D410.F6

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In this article the author places most of the nations of Asia and the Pacific into one of three categories: Leninist states moving toward pluralistic authoritarianism (Soviet Union, China); pluralistic authoritarian states experimenting with democratization (South Korea, Indonesia); and democratic states (Japan, India, Philippines). Kim Il-song's current commitment to isolation and the continuation of totalitarian controls is viewed as perhaps the most pronounced exception to the current evolutionary trend underway in the region. Scalapino believes the North Korean President's son and heir apparent, Kim Chong-il, is more committed to modernization than his father, but he questions whether the younger Kim can hold together the fragile and closed political system that now exists in North Korea. However, Scalapino suggests that improving relations between the major powers should help to contain a future war on the Korean Peninsula or elsewhere in the region. He predicts that while violence will continue to persist in Asia, the danger of the United States becoming involved in a major war in the region is lower now than any time since the end of World War II. Scalapino is Director of the Institute for East Asian Studies of the University of California at Berkeley.

Sneider, Daniel. "South Korean Democracy: How Will the Unpredictable North Respond?" Christian Science Monitor (Boston), 19 November 1987, p. 11.

The article suggests that the following four factors will probably influence North Korea leaders to renounce their longstanding policy to reunite the two Koreas by force sometime in the next decade. First, Pyongyang is trying to solve serious economic problems. Second, Kim Il-song's plan to be succeeded by his son may be in trouble. Third, North Korea is said to be facing greater isolation in the future as a result of its failure to prevent the 1988 Summer Olympics from being staged in Seoul. Finally, South Korea's growing military strength is reducing the North's military superiority. The article says that up until now Pyongyang has only agreed to discuss peace with South Korea when pressured to do so by external forces.