

Contemporary China-North Korea relations

Can China give up on North Korea?

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The speculation over China's fundamental policy shift on North Korea has been particularly feverish since 2013's Korean crisis owing to the fact that there are new leaders in Beijing and Pyongyang. Many reports suggest the two former Cold War allies did not get along particularly well. The world has lately been wondering whether China has finally lost patience with North Korea, as the rift between the duo has deepened since North Korea conducted its 3rd nuclear test, despite China's repeated counsel against the move. Even President Obama said publicly that China was "recalculating" its stance on North Korea. However, a fundamental adjustment of the Chinese policy on North Korea is not happening currently. The prospect for such a shift in the future, Dr. Lee argues, is also very slim. This points out to the limits of cooperation between China and the U.S. in East Asia, and ultimately implies their irreconcilable differences of worldviews.

Professor Lee is Assistant Professor at the Center for Asia-Pacific Future Studies, Kyushu University. A Korean national, he received his PhD from Qinghua University 清華大學 School of Communication in China, MTS from Harvard University and BA from Grinnell College in the United States. He worked for ten years as a journalist for Dow Jones Newswire and Korean publications, including diplomatic correspondent for *The Korea Times*.

Lecture in English / No prior registration necessary

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