

## INTRODUCTION

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This inaugural edition of the SAIS U.S.-Korea Yearbook covers major developments in the United States' relations with both North and South Korea during calendar year 2006. As it turned out, it was one of the most eventful years in the modern history of U.S.-Korean relations. In October, North Korea conducted its first test ever of a nuclear weapon. Just three months earlier, it had test-launched the Taepo-dong II, a new version of its long-range ballistic missile. The UN Security Council, led by the U.S., responded by passing resolutions imposing major sanctions against North Korea. Meanwhile, the United States and South Korea continued negotiations begun years earlier for the most significant changes in their alliance structures in over a generation. The U.S. and South Korea also began negotiations for a major bilateral Free Trade Agreement.

This yearbook covers all these and many more developments of consequence to U.S.-Korean relations in 2006. Each chapter was written by one of the SAIS students in the course "The Two Koreas: Contemporary Research and Record" in the fall of 2006. Their insights are based not only on extensive reading and study but also on numerous interviews conducted with government officials and other experts in both Washington and Seoul. Most of the SAIS student-authors had already engaged in intensive academic studies about Korea and Northeast Asia, and many had had professional experience in U.S. and Korean affairs, including as government and military officials themselves.

The yearbook is divided into three parts. The first covers U.S. relations with the Republic of Korea:

**Manhee Lee**, a South Korean diplomat, provides an overview of the U.S.-ROK relationship in 2006, including sources of disagreement and cooperation.

**Nina Sawyer**, formerly a U.S. Air Force officer who served in Korea, reports on the ongoing reduction of U.S. forces in Korea by one-third and the relocation of U.S. forces from the Demilitarized Zone and their longtime headquarters in downtown Seoul.

**Kate Ousley**, who has worked for the U.S. Senate and studied in Asia, discusses the complex and important issue of the transfer to the ROK of wartime operational control over its own military forces.

**South Korean diplomat Junghwa Lynn Pyo** explains the complex policy and political issues surrounding the U.S.-ROK Status of Force Agreement (SOFA), which establishes the legal status of U.S. forces in Korea.

**Junko Saito**, an official of the Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry, writes about U.S.-ROK economic and trade relations in 2006, especially the negotiations for a bilateral Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

**Eun-Ha Kim**, a Georgetown University graduate with experience working at major foreign policy think tanks in both Seoul and Washington, analyzes the historical, regional, and generational sources of South Korean domestic politics and their implications for external relations, including with the U.S.

**PRC diplomat Zhang Lu** rounds out the section with a look at cultural and social developments in a dynamic South Korea, including the increasing popularity of South Korean cultural products in East Asia and the prospects that South Korean tourists will eventually be allowed to visit the U.S. without a visa.

In the second part of the yearbook, U.S. relations with North Korea are examined:

**Viktoriya Kim**, formerly an official of the Uzbek Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations, Investments, and Trade, provides an overview of North Korean nuclear developments and the Six-Party Talks in 2006, focusing on the confrontation between the U.S. and North Korea.

**Seoung Mo Kang**, who served in the South Korean military, reviews the motivations of "the other four" parties in the Six-Party Talks, i.e. China, Japan, Russia, and South Korea. He explains why the Six-Party Talks, despite their complexity, are so important.

**Kaitlin Bonenberger**, who had experience working in Seoul for a South Korean organization promoting human rights and democracy in the North, writes about the North Korean human rights situation.

**Melanie Mickelson Graham**, who interned at both the U.S. Senate and Department of Defense, reports on North Korea's illicit activities, including counterfeiting and drug smuggling, and on U.S. and other international sanctions against North Korea.

The third and final part of the yearbook illuminates the regional context of U.S. relations with North and South Korea:

**Doo Shik Shin**, a South Korean citizen who has lived in Japan for over 20 years and who worked for the Japanese conglomerate Itochu Corporation in Tokyo for over seven years, analyzes the difficult relationship between two U.S. allies: Japan and South Korea.

**Limin Liang**, who has worked in the U.S., China, and Japan, writes about the rapidly developing and changing relationship between China and the Korean Peninsula, as China grows economically and as North Korea presents dilemmas for both China and South Korea, as well as the U.S.

As the faculty leader of the first "Two Koreas" course, I hope that the SAIS U.S.-Korea Yearbook will continue to develop in future years and come to be recognized as a significant contribution to U.S.-Korean scholarship and mutual understanding. For allowing me the privilege of being part of the inaugural effort and for their unstinting support, I am deeply grateful to U.S.-Korea Institute Chairman Don Oberdorfer, Deputy Chairman Yong Shik Choo, and Program Manager Kate Surber. Most of all, I thank the students of "The Two Koreas" class, whose brilliance was coupled with exuberance; we can expect to hear much more from all of them.