



Rising China and Evolving

ROK-China Relations

Heungkyu Kim

Professor
Ajou University, South Korea



The Republic of Korea (ROK) finds itself caught between two competing great powers; the US and China. It also faces an existential threat from North Korea's growing nuclear weapon capabilities. Because of this, the evolution of the US-China relations will be the most critical factor affecting South Korea and its policy towards China. Furthermore, changing US-ROK and ROK-China relations and policies are considered. Primarily, the challenging question to South Korea is how to preserve China's cooperation under the US-China rivalry, which is growing more and more serious. Proactive dialogue with Chinese experts should also be pursued beyond official communication. The best course of action is preemptive diplomacy. US and South Korean coordination is undeniably crucial during this process. Otherwise, this may lead to irremediable distrust between the two, making all previous agreements void and creating even further rifts between nations.

Dr. Heung-Kyu KIM is currently a visiting researcher at Georgetown University, USA. He is both founder and director of the China Policy Institute, as well as a Professor of political science at Ajou University, ROK. He currently holds positions on the National Security Council in the Blue House, Presidential Commission on Policy-Planning, Presidential Unification Advisory Council, National Defense Reform Commission in the Ministry of National Defense, and the Reform Commission of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, among many others. Dr. Kim has written more than 300 articles, books, and policy papers regarding Chinese politics, foreign policy, and security issues in Northeast Asia.

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