

UNIFICATION AND NORTH KOREA POLICY OF THE KOREAN ADMINISTRATION AND UNIFICATION PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

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Abstract. Central Asia is a key region of the Korean administration's vision of building a global hub and building an overseas Korean community. Until now, the South Korean government has laid the foundation for northern diplomacy in Central Asia. It has developed strategies and visions for Central Asia through the Eurasian Initiative policy, Northeast Asia peace policy initiative, and the promotion of the New Northern Policy. As such, Central Asia, such as Uzbekistan, is a key country with high geopolitical and geographical strategic value, and has served as a cooperative base for previous governments to enter the Eurasian market. The fact that research on cooperation between Korea and Central Asia can look at institutional reforms being pursued by Central Asian countries after the transition to the socialist system has many implications. In other words, it is very meaningful in terms of the Korean government's construction of a global central country, the construction of an overseas Korean community, the establishment of a foundation for overseas unification, and the study of a unification model.

Key words: New Northern Policy, Central Asia, South Korea, North Korea, Korean Peninsula, unification, economy and model.

In particular, the five Central Asian countries have different economic development speeds and are specific, so it is significant as a new model that can follow after North Korea's reform and opening. East Asian models such as China and Vietnam and Eastern European models have been studied as unification models on the Korean Peninsula, but 159

models of countries that transition to the Central Asian system have recently attracted attention. Research in Central Asia, such as Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, is very meaningful in that Central Asian countries have special diplomatic relations with Korea and are a priority area for diaspora unification public diplomacy, where large numbers of overseas Koreans reside. The Korean government's vision and practice efforts to build an overseas Korean community are very important in forming a community and national unity in the face of the blurred identity of Koreans in Central Asia and the widening gap in perception between Koreans and Koreans in Central Asia. In particular, the South Korean administration's Audacious Initiative has great implications in that the issue of unification on the Korean Peninsula can be achieved with the support of the international community, including overseas Koreans. In other words, the promotion of diplomatic relations such as economic cooperation in Central Asia, such as Uzbekistan, which has a high distribution of Korean people abroad, promotes the unification of the Korean Peninsula and the drive for North Korea policy.

Correlation and Implications of Central Asia and South Korea's Unification and North Korea Policy Promotion

Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan in Central Asia experienced system changes after independence from the Soviet Union in the early 1990s. In addition, the national operating system has been formed differently on the basis of similar political and social and economic initial conditions. At the same time as independence, these countries formed "power from above" centered on power groups during the Soviet republic period rather than "power from below."^[1] Accordingly, the power group dominated the economic and social sectors, forming a structure that is difficult to expect the maturity of Western civil democracy. However, the changes in the system of these countries have been characterized by political authoritarianism and economic market economy. In this respect, it is distinguished from China and Vietnam, which politically introduced markets

based on Communist Party rule. North Korea has celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2021 since the North Korea regime was launched in 2012. From the beginning, the North Korea regime has made clear its commitment to economic improvement and implemented it. Immediately after taking power in 2012, Chairman Kim stressed, "Burn capitalism on socialist trains," ordering North Korea to burn the market economy of capitalism on trains called North Korea. However, in 2013, he began to pledge to put an end to the infinite arms race through nuclear possession and to focus more on "economic construction" that serves to improve people's lives with its technology and resources. At a plenary session of the Labor Party's Central Committee in March 2013, he stressed, "The true superiority of the new parallel line is that it can focus on economic construction and improving people's lives by critically increasing the effectiveness of war deterrence and defense without further increasing defense costs." The new economic management improvement measures under the so-called "6.28 policy" "About establishing a new Korean-style economic management system" have entered the full-fledged implementation stage after a pilot stage. In addition, North Korea believes that economic management needs to be improved to improve people's lives, and is implementing the "socialist corporate responsibility management system (manager responsibility management system)," a specific implementation tool of the "Korean-style economic management method." In the 2014 "5.30 Work (or Discussion)," North Korean leader points out that not only economic workers but also all workers should deeply reflect on the reality that the country's economy and people's lives have not been solved from the mid-1990s to today and emphasizes getting out of the old framework and formality. Meanwhile, the North Korea regime accelerated the designated development of special economic zones or economic development zones, which can be called open policies, along with measures to improve economic management, which can be called reform measures. Although there is no visible inflow of foreign

capital as intensive international sanctions are maintained, the North Korean authorities are preparing for the opening themselves. In particular, attention is being paid to the phenomenon that it is speeding up the creation of special tourist zones such as the Wonsan-Galma Coastal Tourism Zone, Mt. Baekdu Samjiyeon, and Yangdeok Hot Spring Culture and Tourism Zone. The North Korean authorities are well aware that it is not easy due to international sanctions, but they continue to make efforts to attract foreign capital. In particular, it is considering attracting investment from abroad and economic cooperation. However, since it is not easy for North Korea to attract capital from countries other than China, it is paying attention to Chinese companies as potential investors. As such, North Korea's state-led reform and opening is a common factor found in the early stages of countries that have experienced system changes. In this respect, the initial conditions of countries that have experienced system changes are an important factor in assessing the path-dependent nature. In the case of Central Asian countries, as previously reviewed, the structure has remained the same as the ruling group of the power elite, and cohesion based on economic benefits or profit sharing of the power elite is strongly active. As a result, regime change remains only a change of power, but no change of power has occurred.

The North Korean system still forms a power system centered on the Labor Party, and all sources of power are based on the rules and decisions of the Workers' Party of Korea. Therefore, if North Korea's system change goes beyond the initial (system improvement) stage and enters the mid-term (rapid reform), it will inevitably involve reform of the political structure. Whether North Korea chooses the Central Asian model or the Chinese and Vietnamese models will be determined by strategic choices for political reform in the medium term. However, since the establishment of the government, North Korea has continued to dominate, and if interests are properly shared within the elite group, the change from a power structure centered on the Workers' Party of Korea to an authoritarian political structure

will be open. Therefore, in the current marketization of North Korea, the distribution of socioeconomic goods within the power elite is an important clue to understanding the direction of North Korea's system change. In conclusion, North Korea's regime change is underway. However, if North Korea decides that socioeconomic goods will be distributed based on the continuity and cohesion of the power elite like Central Asian countries, it is highly likely to accept the Central Asian model. In this case, it is expected that the acceptance of the same model as Turkmenistan in the beginning, and then the Uzbek model or the Kazakh model will be selected. Therefore, the Central Asian model as a system implementation path that North Korea can choose in the process of system transformation in the future has considerable meaning. In the South Korean administration's North Korea policy promotion, studying Central Asian countries and developing friendly relations means preparing for the unification of the Korean Peninsula and solidifying the foundation for unification.

The Korean Government's Unification and North Korea Policy Initiative: The Characteristics and Contents of the Audacious Initiative

1. Characteristics of the Audacious Initiative

The Korean administration has established a vision for the Korean Peninsula of denuclearization, peace, and prosperity, as well as three goals, three principles, and five tasks to realize it. On Liberation Day, a comprehensive plan for resolving the North Korean nuclear issue was presented, and measures for simultaneous resolution and phased implementation of North Korea's denuclearization measures and economic, political, and military corresponding measures were prepared. Based on consistent principles, the South Korean administration is striving to redefine inter-Korean relations and is making full-fledged efforts to promote North Korean human rights. The Korean administration's unification and North Korea policy initiative has the following characteristics. First, the bold initiative

is the unification and North Korea policy initiative of the Korean administration. The bold initiative presents strong security as a prerequisite for realizing the Korean Peninsula of peace and prosperity through denuclearization. It aims to promote an effective resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue through a bold initiative, and pursues principled and practical inter-Korean relations. Above all, the main focus is on preparing the foundation for peaceful unification of liberal democracy. Second, the bold initiative is a measure that improves the lesson of North Korea's "partial denuclearization-compensation-return to the point," and includes specific measures to be taken between each other in the bold initiative, so it is different from the demand for denuclearization. Third, Audacious initiative is an open initiative. Therefore, it suggests that the government will also discuss North Korea's requirements if North Korea presents its specific requirements, not criticism of the South as it is now, because it is a "mutually consulting on issues that North Korea is concerned about." [2] Specifically, the bold initiative has a plan to actively seek economic support measures from the initial negotiation process if North Korea comes to the negotiating table with sincerity. One of them is the resource-food exchange program on the Korean Peninsula, and the other is a pilot project to improve people's livelihood. This pilot project for improving people's livelihood includes health, medical care, drinking water, hygiene, and forests.

2. The main contents of the Audacious initiative

■ Unification · NK policy of YSY Admin



The South Korean administration's unification and North Korea policy presupposes a vision to realize a Korean Peninsula of denuclearization, peace, and prosperity. It also sets the goal of normalizing inter-Korean relations and creating a Korean Peninsula of peace. To this end, first, we are setting guidelines to solve the North Korean nuclear issue through bold initiatives. Second, it suggests the direction of promoting principled and practical inter-Korean relations. Third, it is declared that it will create a foundation for peaceful unification with the people and the international community and strengthen the will and capabilities of national unification.

The South Korean administration's unification and North Korea policy presents three principles for promotion. First, it does not use any armed provocation. In other words, North Korea's nuclear threat or armed provocation will not be tolerated as it does not want to change the status quo by force and has no hostile intention to North Korea. Second, efforts will be made to develop reciprocal inter-Korean relations. It emphasizes that all inter-Korean problems are resolved through dialogue, while establishing a reciprocal structure based on flexible reciprocity in inter-Korean relations. Third, it suggests that in order to establish a foundation for peaceful unification, it will faithfully fulfill its obligation to promote peaceful unification policies based on the basic liberal democratic order. With unification as the

ultimate goal, the government plans to gradually lay the foundation for peaceful unification of the Korean Peninsula by strengthening domestic and foreign communication and cooperation while striving to establish a foundation for peaceful unification of the Korean Peninsula step by step.[3] The Korean administration's unification and North Korea policy presupposes five major tasks to realize the Korean Peninsula of denuclearization, peace, and prosperity.

First, it is a virtuous cycle of denuclearization and the establishment of inter-Korean trust. As a party to the North Korean nuclear issue, the government will actively pursue a "Audacious initiative" as a key way to fully denuclearize North Korea and realize sustainable peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula. When a roadmap for denuclearization between the two Koreas is established, comprehensive economic, political, and military measures will be simultaneously and step by step in line with North Korea's progress in denuclearization. At the political and military level, the measure is aimed at easing military tensions on the Korean Peninsula and establishing substantial peace. Second, it is the normalization of inter-Korean relations based on mutual respect. In the process of promoting inter-Korean relations, practical approaches and flexibility will not be lost, but South and North Korea will make efforts to normalize inter-Korean relations in accordance with laws and principles and establish reciprocal inter-Korean relations.

Third, it is to promote the human rights of North Koreans and relieve the pain of division. Humanitarian cooperation will be carried out consistently without political and military considerations at the level of humanitarianism and brotherhood. The plan is to actively seek support measures for vulnerable groups such as infants and mothers, respond to quarantine crises, infectious diseases, and respond to serious disasters, and make efforts to substantially improve human rights in North Korea. In particular, we will actively solve humanitarian issues invited to the division, such as separated families, closely support North Korean defectors, and strengthen the safety

net for social adaptation.

Fourth, it is to restore the homogeneity of the Korean people through openness and communication. The plan is to promote exchanges and cooperation between the two Koreas as much as possible even before denuclearization, to gradually open up each other in broadcasting, media, and communication, and to establish a climate and environmental community on the Korean Peninsula through the inter-Korean green detente.

Fifth, it is the preparation for unification with the people and the international community. The plan is to form a unification consensus through the participation of people from all walks of life and expand the foundation for the international community's support for peaceful unification of the Korean Peninsula. In order to improve the unification awareness of future generations, it is widely accepting opinions at home and abroad by strengthening unification education for teenagers through various contents using new media and metaverse. In particular, it is worth noting that the Korean government's official unification plan, the National Community Unification Plan, created 30 years ago, is supplemented and developed in a way that meets the spirit of the times and can be sympathized with by the people.[4]

Promoting Unification Public Diplomacy to Establish the Foundation for Unification of the Korean Peninsula

Unification public diplomacy means creating public opinion that allows governments and civil society in question to implement policies that support peaceful unification of the Korean Peninsula based on consensus on peaceful unification. As mentioned earlier, the necessity and revitalization factors of promoting unification public diplomacy in Central Asia, such as Uzbekistan, stem from the diaspora of Goryeo people. This is closely related to the strengthening of the capacity of the global central state and the construction of overseas Korean communities, which the Korean government

is pushing for as a national task. The international community's support and cooperation in the unification of the Korean Peninsula can create a foundation for overseas unification through the promotion of unification public diplomacy, as mentioned in the preparation for unification with the people and the international community. Through this, integration in various subjects and fields can be achieved. Unification public diplomacy aims to form consensus among various actors in the international community, such as the meaning and effect of peaceful unification on the Korean Peninsula and the peace vision of East Asia. In other words, it is necessary to secure consensus and support for peaceful unification of the Korean Peninsula through close policy cooperation with the international community such as Central Asia based on the Korea-U.S. alliance. In addition, it is necessary to strengthen the foundation for unification public diplomacy activities to enhance understanding of the issue of peaceful unification of the Korean Peninsula, while supporting the activities of private and overseas Koreans.

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