

An Analysis of USA and North Korea Relations from 1945 till Date

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Abstract: - The paper examines the USA and North Korea Relations from 1945 till date. It discusses the Korean peninsula under the control of Japan and China. It analyzes San Francisco Treaty and USA intervention. The relationship between USA and North Korea in the 20th and 21st Centuries came to focus. The study relied on primary sources like oral interview and secondary sources such as books, newspapers, journal articles, speeches, theses, dissertations. It was found that her geographical position placed her in a precarious situation hence Japan, China and Russia exploited before USA intervention. It was also found that the involvement of USA in Korean civil war against North Korea strained the relationship between the two countries. It was found that over 3 millions North Koreans died in that war because of USA involvement. Again, the dismissal of General Douglas by Harry Truman, who was planning to use nuclear weapons on North Korea came to focus. In conclusion, the constant test of rockets by North Korea in Korean peninsula and USA imposition of sanctions on her, demanding full denuclearization before the lifting of sanctions strained the relationship between the two countries.

Key Words: USA, Korea, Summit, Nuclear Weapons, Denuclearization.

I. INTRODUCTION

No country is an Island unto itself. Nation needs other nations for exchange of ideas, for the promotion of trade and for diplomatic purposes (Ediagbonya, 2015). S.E. Orobator sees international relationship as constituting the sum total of the relationship between two or more sovereign nations at both governmental levels (Orobator, 2002: 109-110).

Again the promotion of national interest is very important in relations between countries of the world. National interest is the compass, the operational guide which state consider in their interaction with one another for much expected gains. This played out very well in the North Korea and US relations during the period under focus.

The North Korea and USA relations started after the Second World War in 1945. By the terms of the San Francisco Treaty, Japan recognized the independence of Korea and renounced all claims to Formosa and the Pescadores to South Sakhalin and the Kuriles and to the former mandated Islands in the Pacific. American control for the time being of the Ryukyu and Bonin Islands was accepted.

USA active participation in the Korea peninsula actually commenced with the defeat of Japan in the second war II when Korea was occupied on each side of the 38th parallel, the northern part by Soviet troops and the southern by the United States. Again, the USA supported South Korea against North Korea during the period of their civil war between 1950 -1953. According to US military accounts, North Korea suffered horribly because of the aids which South Korea enjoyed from USA (The Nation, 2017). The bombing was long, leisurely and merciless even by assessment of Americans own leaders. Over a period of three years or so, we killed off what 20 percent of the population (Curtis LeMay Address to the office of Air Force History, 1984). Again, it was said that US bombed everything that moved in North Korea, every brick standing on top of another (Dean Rusk, US Secretary of State, 1953). At least three million North Koreans died in the war.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea government never forget the lesson of North Korea's vulnerability to American air attack and for a half a century after the armistice, continued to strengthen anti-air craft defenses, build underground installations and eventually develop nuclear weapons to ensure that North Korea would not find itself, in such a position again (Truthout, 2017). It was therefore not a surprise that the relation between North Korea and USA in the 20th and 21st centuries was such a provocative, complex, and challenging type.

Before USA intervention in the affairs of Korean peninsula, Korea was under the control of Japan and China one time and the other. The 1904-1905 war between Japan and Russia was as result of the interest of both countries to control Korea.

The Korean peninsula lies between China and Japan and this position has shaped the nation's history. The territory has frequently been the arena of struggles and cut-throat competition between the armies from China, Mongolia, Japan and Russia. The peninsula was first inhabited by tribes of the Tungu language which emigrated to Siberia (The World Wide, 2002). Between the 10th and 8th centuries BC, several tribal states were established of which the most complex was the one known as old Choson. In 1918, Wang Kong founded Songak (today's Kaesong, in North Korea) and in 936 he united the peninsula once more (Ibid). Wang Kong was the

founder of the Koryo dynasty from which the Western name Korea derives.

During the second half of the 17th century and throughout the 18th Century Korean society underwent great changes..... Rice cultivation became widespread, irrigation system were improved, agricultural production was increased and the peasants standard of living improved (Ibid). Tobacco and ginseng crops encouraged domestic and foreign trade, thus intensifying contacts with European traders. The Koreans were more homogenous than either the Chinese or Japanese and have assimilated practically all minority groups (The New Encyclopedia Britannica, 1768).

II. JAPAN AND CHINA INTERVENTION IN KOREAN PENINSULA

At one time or the other Korea was under the control of Japan and China. In the middle of the fourth century, an empress named Jingo took command of a military expedition to Korea and this was probably the culmination of a series of raids on Korea by the Japanese (Richard, 1968). This expedition resulted in the establishment of a Japanese colony on the tip of the Korean peninsula. This marked the beginning of over two hundred years of Japanese involvement in the internal politics of Southern Korea. By the middle of the sixth century, there were more than 100,000 Koreans and the Chinese from Manchuria living in Japan.

Again in the early nineteenth century, Japan exerted considerable pressure on Korea and forced the country to sign a treaty giving Japan special privileges. On the other hand, China claimed suzerainty over the peninsula as she had done for centuries. In the summer of 1894, a revolt in Korea was followed by the entry of Chinese troops to assist the Korean King. This gave Japan an ample opportunity for an armed intervention in Korean peninsula. According to Storry, on 25 July, 1894, the Japanese navy sank a Chinese troopship and captured one of the three iron clads escorting it (Storry, 1968:126-128) this resulted to the declaration of war six days later. Japan defeated China in this war of 1894-95 and maintained control over Korea. It was such a humiliating defeat at the hands of its former tributary state. In addition, the Island of Taiwan was over-run.

As a result of this defeat, Japanese expelled the Chinese army from Korea, defeated a Chinese fleet off the Mouth of the Yalu river, captured port Arthur and the Liaotung peninsula in South Manchuria, and seized the port of wei-hai-wei on the coast of Shantung (Ibid)

The Treaty of Shimoneseki signed on 17th April, 1895 by Ito Hirobumi and Li Huna-Chang gave Japan some valuable prizes, namely Formosa and Pescadores, Port Arthur and Liaotung peninsula, the promise of a very large indemnity to meet the cost of the war and Chinese recognition of the complete independence and autonomy of Korea (Ibid).

However this victory of Japan over China was short-lived as a result of the intervention of Russia, Germany and

France called "Triple Intervention. Through their ministers in Tokyo, Japan was strongly advised to surrender their claim to the Liaotung peninsula including the harbour and fortress of Port Arthur. It was considered by them that Japan possession of this territory would be a serious threat to Peking and so disturb the peace of the far East. With the Russians possession of their fleet at Vladivostock, they seemed to have the means to enforce their will without hinderance.

III. THE RUSSIANS INTEREST IN KOREAN PENINSULA

In Russia, it was highly debated whether to be involved in the affairs of Korean peninsula. While some argued that the intervention of Russia in the internal politics of Korea was unnecessary politically and commercially others argued that Russian expansion in Korea was both necessary and desirable. However they were all unanimous that Japan should not be allowed to build a fortification on the South coast of Korean. This was seen from the point that such action will serve as a serious challenge to Russian Sea communication between Vladivostock and Port Arthur.

This idea or decision of Russian was seen as insult and affront by the Japanese who for so many years have been enjoying hegemony in the peninsula. Against this background, the Japanese saw that war was inevitable hence preparation for war started from both sides. To the Japanese, the Russians must be driven out of Korea and the Liaotung peninsula. Part of the preparation for the war was Japan and Great Britain alliance in 1902.

Hayashitadasu, the Japanese minister said:

"My country considers as its first and last wish the protection of its interests in Korea and the prevention of interference by any other country" (Hayashitadasu' letter to the foreign Secretary in London)"

The Japanese saw it as an aberration that the recognition of Russia Hegemony in South Manchuria in return for Russians acceptance of Japan's dominant position in Korea. Majority of the Japanese saw this idea as a mark of weakness. Despite the efforts of Kortsura government to negotiate with Russia to the extent of reaching an understanding with Russians through the second half of 1903, Russians were adamant in their own exclusive economic control of the resources of South Manchuria and they demanded the establishment of a neutral zone in Korea north of the thirty-ninth parallel. (Storry, 1968:142)

Since both sides could not agree, the Japanese brace off the negotiation on 6th February, 1904, hence the war started. This war ended in favour of Japan. The Treaty of Ports Mouth which concluded the war was signed on 5th September, 1905. Russians agreed to recognize Japan's paramount political, military and economic interests in Korea and to transfer to Japan the lease of the Liaotung peninsula and the rail way connecting Port Arthur and Mukden as far north as Ghangchun, beyond Mukdin (Ibid,144) This war could

have been avoided if Russia have accepted the issues raised at the level of negotiations in 1903. The Japanese tightened their grip on Korea. A special mission headed by Ito sent to Korea in November 1905, persuaded the King of Korea to sign an agreement giving control of Korean foreign affairs to a Japanese Resident General. Infact, Korea was now virtually a colony of Japan.

IV. USA INTERVENTION IN THE AFFAIRS OF KOREAN PENINSULA

Japan was defeated in the second world war which ended in 1945, with this defeat the US and the Soviet Union which were the super powers simply divided the Korean peninsula into two with the US taking Seoul and the Soviet Union taking over Pyongyang. Hence it was said that by 1948 two separate states were created in the territory of the Korea Peninsula. The Republic of South Korea under US dominion and the Democratic Peoples Republic under the control of the communist bloc (Nation, 2017).

By the terms of San Francisco Treaty, Japan recognized the independence of Korea and the American control for the time being of the Ryukyu and Bonin Islands was accepted (Storry, 1968). It would be recalled that in 1895 there was military conflict between Japan and China. Japan pressed Korea to open its foreign trade and China increased its interference in the peninsula to counter-balance the Japanese influence. The war started as a result of the refusal of china to accept a joint reform in Korea. Japan was victorious and emboldened by this victory Japan occupied Korea in 1905 and in 1910, the country was formally annexed putting an end to the Yi dynasty. Under the Japanese, Korea was exploited as a supplier of food stuffs and a source of Cheap Labour...Japanese Land Lords and factory owners settled in Korea, with a developed infrastructure merely to extract the wealth of the country, (The World Guide, 2002). For three and a half decades, the Korean people had suffered under and fought fiercely against Japanese colonial rule (Nation, 2017). From servitude to the Japanese, the Korean people now faced domination by two military powers and became a frontline theatre of the Post World War II between the two super powers.

In the South, under the supervision of a United Nations Temporary Commission, elections were held in May, 1948 and Syngman Rhee was elected first president of the Republic of Korea whose capital was established in Seoul. The Soviet Union maintained its influence and did not allow general elections in the North of the Peninsula. However later the Supreme Assembly of the People of North Korea wrote a new constitution which came into effect in August 1948... Kim Il, Sung was appointed Prime Minister (Ibid).

In December, 1948, the General Assembly of the United Nations recognized the exclusive sovereignty of the Southern Republic of Korea and most foreign troops left both countries in 1949 but US troops remained in the South under the Un-flag, then dominated by the United States (Ibid.) On

October 12, 1948, the Soviet Union recognized the People's Republic of Korea as the only Legitimate government of Korea.

V. THE CIVIL WAR IN NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA, 1950-1953 AND USA INTERVENTION

In June 1950 North Korea launched a carefully planned offensive against South Korea and The United Nations convened its members to put a stop to the invasion. As a revenge to the North Korea invasion of the South Korea, President Harry Truman called on its army to assist South Korea without however asking congress to declare war. Also President Truman sent the US fleet to the strait of Formosa to protect one of the USA Army's Flanks which created fears in Peking of a nationalist invasion of continental China.

Against this background, China warned that the presence of the US in North Korea would force her to enter the war which US military commander, Mac Arthur ignored and went ahead to launched his Home by Christmas offensive. In respond to this China sent 180,000 troops to Korea and December 15th 1950, it had driven US troops back South of the 38th parallel. Again on December 15th, 1951 China launched a second offensive against South Korea subsequently taking up positions along the former borders (Ibid, 324-32).

The military campaign on Korean peninsula was turning into a disaster for the South Koreans and US troops who were in a hurry and poorly equipped. Also President Harry Truman did not seek UN permission before sending the US fleet to the strait of Formosa. Another weakness was that Truman called his army to assist South Korea without asking congress to declare war.

General Douglas Mac narrowly avoided defeat who landed some 160km South of the 38th parallel. He managed to divide and defeat North Korean troops. After differences of opinion on military strategy, Mac Arthur was relieved of his command by Truman and it was later revealed that MacArthur had outlined plans to use nuclear weapons against Chinese cities advocating full-scale war with China. (Ibid, 324). It was part of his plan also to use the nuclear weapon on North Korea.

At the end of the war in June 1953, an armistice was declared in July 1953 and Korea was officially separated by the 38th parallel. On August 8, 1990, the UN Security Council unanimously approved the admission of both Koreas. At least three Million North Koreans died in the war. According to Ayobolu Segun if General Douglas Macthur had his way, many more would have perished as he had proposed dropping:

"between 30 and 50 bombs, over North Korea under cover of darkness could end the war in ten days" (The Nation, 2017)

"The long term psychological effect of the war on the whole of North Korean society cannot be forgotten in a hurry.

The North Koreans are said to be deeply nationalistic and fiercely believe in their country's right to independence and self determination. They have strongly entrenched memories on how much they suffered under the Americans in the Korean war. Hence an aggressive, unfriendly and provocative relations developed between US and North Korea for a long time especially in the 21st century.

With the war behind it and armistice signed in Panmunjon, North Korea devoted all its efforts to the reconstruction of the country, which had been devastated by the war. The development of industry started which expanded rapidly after 1958 which was assisted by the presence of rich mineral deposits in the country. The Yalu River Hydro-electric plant was built in conjunction with China and between 1954 and 1961, North Korea signed military assistance treaties with China and the USSR (World Guide, 2002).

VI. US AND NORTH KOREA RELATIONS IN THE 20TH CENTURY AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR

Kim Jong II was named the head of Government in 1980. According to the new government of North Korea, any possibility of reunification between the North and South Korea will be preceded by a formal peace treaty with the USA and removal of their troops from Korean Soil. In order to promote cordial relationship with USA, North Korea in 1990 submitted a proposal for denuclearization to the International Agency for Atomic Energy subject to guarantees from the US that it would not use the 1,000 nuclear bombs it has in South Korea against them. (Ibid, 325).

In September, 1991, US President George Bush made the decision to withdraw tactical nuclear weapons from South Korea and in November, this was accomplished (Tachegeen-Min, 2002). This was sequel to the demand of North Korea as a necessary condition to allow for inspection of their territory. Again in 1992, the Government issued a report on the country's nuclear installation including its Yongbyon plant to the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The relationship between US and North Korea came to a half when in 1993 refused to allow the International Atomic Energy Agency to inspect its nuclear installations. Especially when South Korea condemned the possession of nuclear weapons by North Korea and saw it as insecurity risk to the Korean Peninsula.

In 1995 North Korea witnessed economic hardship as a result of poor harvest occasioned by widespread, floods which affected some five million people. Report shows that these losses were calculated at 1.9 million tons of crops, which led the North Korean Government to make an uncommon appeal for foreign aid (Ibid). The USA Lift the trade embargo on her and a delegation of US investors visited the country. At the same time, Pyongyang reported that, it no longer opposed the presence of US troops in South Korea.

In 1997 there was improved relationship between North Korea and USA when Kim Jong II proposed a tripartite

negotiations between Pyongyang, Seoul and Washington for a peace agreement on the peninsula. From the foregoing, it may be said there was a certain degree of good relationship between North Korea and USA in the 20th Century. This was not the same in the 21st century. There was strained relationship in the 21st century between the two because of the presence of Donald Trump, as the President of USA on one side and Kim Jong-un, the absolutist leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on the other side.

VII. USA AND NORTH KOREA RELATIONS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Presidents Clinton, Bush and Obama contemplated pre-emptive strikes against North Korea but headed to the useful counsel that the cost would be too high. It was agreed by the former Presidents of USA that such crisis would threaten North and South Koreans. Also it could also engulf the US, Japan, China and Russia in a nuclear war which could be counter-productive. Hence, they were very diplomatic in the US relations with North Korea during the period under consideration.

Unfortunately, the situation is not the same during this period of Donald Trump, the current President of USA and Kim Jong-un, the absolute leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea). There can be no doubt that nuclear weapons in the hand of a brutal capricious dictator like Kim Jong-un who rules without any form of checks and balances is undesirable and portends grave danger for the world (The Nation, September 9, 2017).

Trump is daily proving Hillary Clinton right when during the campaign, she warned "That a man who resorts to tweeting at the slightest provocation could not be entrusted with the custody of the country's nuclear button (Hillary Linton's Comments during USA Presidential Campaign 2016).

According to Segun Ayobalu, he is pugnacious, abrasive, temperamental and unpredictable despite the restraining influence on him of America's deeply entrenched democratic institutions that guarantee effective checks and balances among the various arms of government, Trump still poses a serious threat to International order and harmony and stability (Nation's Correspondent, September 9, 2017).

Obviously echoing President Truman's grim warning to Japan before the nuclear obliteration of Hiroshima and Nagasaki during the Second World War Trump has casually warned Pyongyang that North Korea best not make any more threats to the United States. They will be met with fire and fury like the world has never seen, adding that the US Military is locked and loaded. (Ibid)

The diminutive North Korean dictator and his people have however remained unruffled and obstinate, the Pyongyang regime has continued to carry out nuclear tests to the consternation of the international community with its latest claim of capability to deploy hydrogen bombs against

targets in South Korea, Japan and even the US mainland's (Ibid)

As a result of this, US has intensified joint military exercises with South Korea while mobilizing the deadly warship USS Michigan, a Trident Submarine and some of its most Lethal nuclear weapons in the peninsula. The support Kim Jong-un enjoyed from the North Koreans is not based on whether they like him or his government or not. Instead, they have sad memories of how much they suffered under the Americans in the Koreans War.

A suggestion by China and Russia of a "Freeze for -Freeze" strategy was seen by Donald Trump as an insult. The strategy was for North Korea freezing its nuclear and missile testing while the US and South Korea would end the annual joint military exercise.

It got to the extent that China on August 25, 2018 called Donald Trump irresponsible after the US president cancelled his top diplomatic trip to North Korea and suggested that Beijing was stalling efforts to disarm Pyongyang (Chinese Ministry Website, 2018).

This, turnaround event occurred when some US officials told the Washington Post that North Korea appeared to be building new intercontinental ballistic missiles (Washington Post, August 29, 2018).

The UN'S nuclear agency (IAEA) has also said North Korea is continuing with its nuclear programme. This was contrary to the earlier statement credited to Donald Trump in their summit at Singapore when he posited that: North Korea was no longer a nuclear threat. It would be recalled that on the 12th of June 2018, the American President Donald Trump met with the leader of North Korea at the Capella Hotel, Sentosa, Singapore. The major objective of this submit was the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. At the end of the summit, it was agreed by President Donald Trump that North Korea was no longer a nuclear threat (Donald Trump's comments at the end of the Singapore summit June 12th, 2018).

The world expected a cordial relationship between Donald Trump and Kim Jong-un but that was not the case. Another attempt was made to promote peace between the two countries in another summit convened on February 27th, 28th, 2019 in Hanoi, Vietnam. Unfortunately, the meeting ended deadlocked, as it ended abruptly with a signing ceremony scrapped because the two leaders failed to reach an agreement on North Korea's nuclear programme in exchange for sanctions relief. (An Address by Donald Trump and Kim Jong-Un at the end of Vietnam summit, 28th February 28th, 2019). It was for this reason that many scholars saw the summit as a total failure.

It would be recalled that in March 2016, Kim Jong-Un ordered North Korea's nuclear arsenal to be ready for pre-emptive use at any time, in an expected escalation of military

rhetoric following the UN Security Council's adoption of touch new sanctions on Pyongyang (Vanguard March, 2016).

Kim Jong-Un warned that "The situation on the divided Korean peninsula had become so dangerous that the North needed to shift its military strategy to the one of pre-emptive attacks" (Ibid.)

On the other hand, Washington down played Kims' threat as posturing. "We have not seen North Korea test or demonstrate the ability to miniaturize a nuclear weapon and put it on an intercontinental ballistic missile" (Ibid).

In the wake of the gangster-like UN resolution pushed by the United States and its South Korean ally, North Koreans are now waiting for an order of combat to annihilate the enemy with their surging wrath.

In 2019 attempt was made US and South Korean troops to reduce joint military exercise replacing the countries major spring time war games. This was designed to aid the push for a diplomatic resolution with North Korea.

The Seoul's Defence Minister Jeong Kyeong Doo and US Representative Shanahan agreed on Saturday 2nd March, 2019 that the "Key Resolve" and "Foal Eagle" exercises would no longer take place (Leadership Newspaper, March 4, 2019). The decision was based on a joint idea to reduce tension and support diplomatic efforts to achieve complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a final push for peace.

Even US President Donald Trump criticised the exercises, describing them as very expensive and provocative to North Korea while Pyongyang slammed the maneuvers as being part of plans to invade it. (Trump's comments at the end of Vietnam, summit, Feb, 2019).

The relationship between the two countries became worst again following a nuclear threat from North Korea. The North Korea launched rocket which the US and its allies condemned it as covert ballistic missile test. In Feb., 2019, the allies decided formally start talks on the possibility of deploying the THAAD system to South Korea a part of steps to bolster the missile defence of the Korea-US alliance (An Interview with Yoo Jeh-Seung, the South Korea Deputy Defence Minister for Policy at Soeul on Feb. 2019). The Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system, one of the most advanced in the world.

"The Korea- US alliance had no choice but to take such a defence action because North Korea staged a strategic provocation and is refusing to have a genuine dialogue on denuclearization" (Joint Briefing By Yoo Jeh-Seung and Lieutenant General Thomas Vandal, Commander of the US Eight Army based in the South Korea Feb, 2019).

Even in 2020 the relationship between the two countries remains provocative, mistrust and suspicious. This is based on

the continuous insistence by the US for complete and total denuclearization of nuclear weapons by the government of North Korea as the only condition for the lifting of sanctions against her. According to Daily NK, Kim underwent a life saving heart surgery and the surgery gone wrong (Daily NK, a Seoul-based website, April, 22, 2020).

The publication reported that Kim had heart surgery on April 12 because of excessive smoking, obesity and overwork and is now receiving treatment in a villa in Hyangsan country following his procedure (Ibid). The sister of the Leader, Kim Yo Jong is thought to be his most likely successor in the event that he dies (An Interview with Dr. Dujile at Ekiti State University on 16th July, 2019). In spite of this critical condition of Kim Jong-un, the USA maintained that it would keep seeking North Korea's denuclearization no matter who is in-charge in Pyongyang. (Guardian 24, 2020). But asked in an interview, Mike Pompeo said he had met Kim's powerful sister, Kim Yo Jong, whose recent elevation in the hierarchy raised pundits' view that she could be a successor (An Interview with Mike Pompeo, on 23rd April, 2020).

Again he said "The challenge remains the same, the goal remains in-charge- whoever is leading North Korea. He renewed the US promise to bring the North Korean people a brighter future if the leadership gives up nuclear weapons. (Ibid). Till now the hope for a breakthrough that will promote viable and dynamic relationship between USA and North Korea remains a mirage wishful thinking and unattainable. In as much as North Korea continues to fire rockets which is seen by USA and South Korea as a serious threat to Korea peninsula, the USA will not lift the sanctions impose on her. Again, the North Korea notion that sanctions should be lifted before full denuclearization is provocative and highly suspicious.

VIII. CONCLUSION

National interest, as the compass and operational guide which States consider in their interaction with one another played out very well in the North Korea and US relations during the period under focus. Although the relationship between the two countries started after the San Francisco Treaty, but the USA active participation in the Korean peninsula was during the civil war between the North and South Koreans when USA supported the South Korea against the North Korea.

It was reported that at least Three Million North Koreans died in the war. The Democratic People's Republic of Korean governments never forget the Lesson of North Korea's vulnerability to American air attack and for a half a century after the Armistice, continued to strengthen anti-air craft defenses, build underground installations and eventually develop nuclear weapons to ensure that North Korea would not find itself in such a position again.

Before USA intervention in the affairs of Korean Peninsula, Korea was under the control of Japan and China at one time and the other. The geographical location of Korea between Japan and China helped to shape the nation's history as the territory has frequently been the arena of struggles and competition between the armies from China, Mongolia, Japan and Russia.

When Japan was defeated in the Second World War, the US and the USSR simply divided the Korean Peninsula into two with the US taking Seoul and the USSR taking over Pyongyang. By the terms of San Francisco Treaty Japan recognized the independence of Korea.

In order to promote cordial relationship with USA, North Korea in 1990 submitted a proposal for denuclearization to the International Agency for Atomic Energy subject to guarantee's from the US that it would not use the 1,000 nuclear bombs it has in South Korea against them, In reciprocation in September, 1991, US President George Bush made the decision to withdraw tactical nuclear weapons from South Korea and in November, 1991, this was accomplished. The relationship between US and North Korea came to a halt when in 1993 refused to allow the International Atomic Energy Agency to inspect its nuclear weapon.

In 1997 there was improved relationship between North Korea and USA when Kim Jong II proposed a tripartite negotiation between Pyongyang, Seoul and Washington for a peace agreement on the peninsula.

However, there was strained relationship in the 21st century between Donald Trump the President of USA and Kim Jong-Un the absolute Leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. All attempts to reach a concrete and tangible agreement between the two countries yielded no result. The bone of contention is the refusal of North Korea to embark on complete denuclearization before USA can lift sanctions imposed on her. It was only in Singapore summit that Donald Trump announced that North Korea was no longer a nuclear threat. The summit of February 27th – 28th 2019 in Hanoi, Vietnam was a total failure as no agreement was reached as North Korea appeared to be building new intercontinental ballistic missiles.

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