

This paper attempts to combine the main contributions of the four papers into an overall account as seen by non-Koreans vitally interested in the problems of Korea. It will also interject points occurring to this author, cite a few recent pertinent articles, and add a few elements of background for the benefit of readers not well acquainted with the complicated and tortured history of the area.

The author wishes to acknowledge the contributions of the four "perspective" papers, which are not cited in the remaining text.

### **External Countries with a Close Interest In Korea's Security: Their Recent History Relating to Korea**

The central actors in this enduring conflict are North and South Korea, each of which has made longstanding declarations of their intent to unify the Peninsula into a single state. There remain however profound differences as to the terms under which unification would be acceptable, and doubts as to the real desire on the part of either of the two principals, or of their neighbours, for unification to be accomplished in the immediate future. Any analysis of the prospects for unification must begin with the two central players. However, in efforts to identify the prospects for regional arms control together with the general security interests of the entire region, consideration must be given to both the situation which would exist without Korean unification, as well as that after unification, should it occur.

The three most powerful neighbours of Korea are China, Japan, and Russia. North Korea shares a long land frontier with China, and all of Korea was associated with the Chinese Manchu Empire until 1895. North Korea lies adjacent to Russia close to the vital Russian zone surrounding Vladivostok, and all of Korea came under Russian protection at the end of the century. Japan manoeuvred to obtain control of Korea, and after Japan's defeat of Russia in 1905, Korea became a Japanese protectorate. The Peninsula was annexed by Japan in 1910. Thirty-five years later, at

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<sup>9</sup> Jing-dong Yuan, "Building Peace and Stability on the Korean Peninsula: A Canadian Perspective", in Unger and Cleminson (eds.), *Promoting Peace on the Korean Peninsula through Arms Control*.