

questions about the weaknesses in Western negotiating cultures and the interplay between media coverage and the operationalization of foreign policy. Where does arms control fit into this landscape? Is it merely a reassuring mantra or does it have real value? What part can it play in North Korea or does the solution to the Korean impasse lie elsewhere in trade and aid for example? As with most things, it is probably not an either or situation. It may be (and indeed is likely to be) that it is too early to bring the arms control arsenal to bear on the Korean problem. These and other issues related to the new order in northeast Asia are the subject of this paper.

CHINA

For the moment China is on everyone's lips and the Napoleonic adage about leaving China undisturbed has been resurrected by many commentators. Dazzled by explosive economic growth, particularly in the southeastern coastal states, these same commentators have tended to overlook the fact that there are in fact several Chinas and that the non-littoral portions of the People's Republic are in many ways profoundly backward.² What emerges from an analysis of contemporary development in China is the realization of a dramatic tension between the centre and the periphery.³ The aged leadership in Beijing is terrified of losing control. Paradoxically, they are committing slow-motion suicide; presiding over asymmetrical economic development which threatens the very fabric of China and the survival of the Chinese Communist Party. Recent events have suggested the existence of a near fatal disjuncture between economic growth and the physical and fiscal infrastructure needed to sustain it.⁴ While the Chinese have been infinitely more successful than the Russians in effecting a transition towards a free market