The geopolitical shift: Challenges and opportunities for Northeast Asia

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The geopolitical shift

- Historic changes
- New era of geopolitics
  - Creative diplomacy
  - Historic limitations
- Post-Cold War structures: challenged
Trump-Kim summit

- Trump’s success?
- Korea Mission Program
- CIA role
  - Acting Director Morell: CIA at the table
- SecState Pompeo
  - Unique role
  - CIA-State coordination
Post-summit

- Security guarantees to Kim regime?
  - Principles articulated
  - Trump’s approach: sustainable?
- FDI: NK toward a market-oriented economy?
The goal: CVID

- Complete
- Verifiable
- Irreversible
- Denuclearization
  - Will Kim agree to CVID?
  - Trump: potentially a 10-year process
  - Different from Iran deal
- Dismantle missiles, test sites
‘Byungjin’: North Korea’s policy

- Two elements:
  - Economic growth
  - Nuclear development
- Kim’s 2013 speech: obstacles to growth
  - Market-oriented economy?
Criticism, doubt, skepticism

- Criticism of Trump
  - Domestic; Geopolitical rivals; Globalists
- Summit: trust-building with NK?
Japan

- FDI and North Korea?
- Abe on abductions: Trump fulfilled promise
- Japan: global player
South Korea

- President Moon: 70-80% approval rating
- NK economic development
  - East Asian “privatized Marshall Plan”
- Trump: “War games”
China

- North Korea: buffer state
- Sanctions
- Chinese view: summit “a success”
  - FM Wang Yi: “The relevant approach and initiative proposed by China and its endeavors ... have played a positive and constructive role in getting the situation on the peninsula to where it is now.”
End of Cold War structures

- Post-Cold War shift in global economic order
  - US engagement with China
  - Trade/investment rules benefit China
- Multilateral institutions vs. the nation-state
- Xi’s ‘legalistic’ approach
- WTO vs. bilateral negotiations
  - Trump prefers reciprocal, no barrier free trade
Security and economic order in the Indo-Pacific

- Summit: step one shifting Indo-Pacific strategic balance
- SecDef Mattis at Shangri-la Dialogue:
  - “This is our priority theater; our interests and the regions are inextricably intertwined”
- Aspects:
  - Interoperability with allies
  - Rule of law/civil society/governance
  - Private-sector-led development
Future of the international economic system

- The Cold War-era structures cannot survive
  - Trump is challenging the multilateral, globalization process that transcends the nation-state
  - Restored primacy of Westphalian system, based on national aspiration for fair, reciprocal trade?
Thank you for your attention