# North Korea as a Nuclear Danger

# NUCLEAR DANGERS FROM HIROSHIMA TO FUKISHIMA

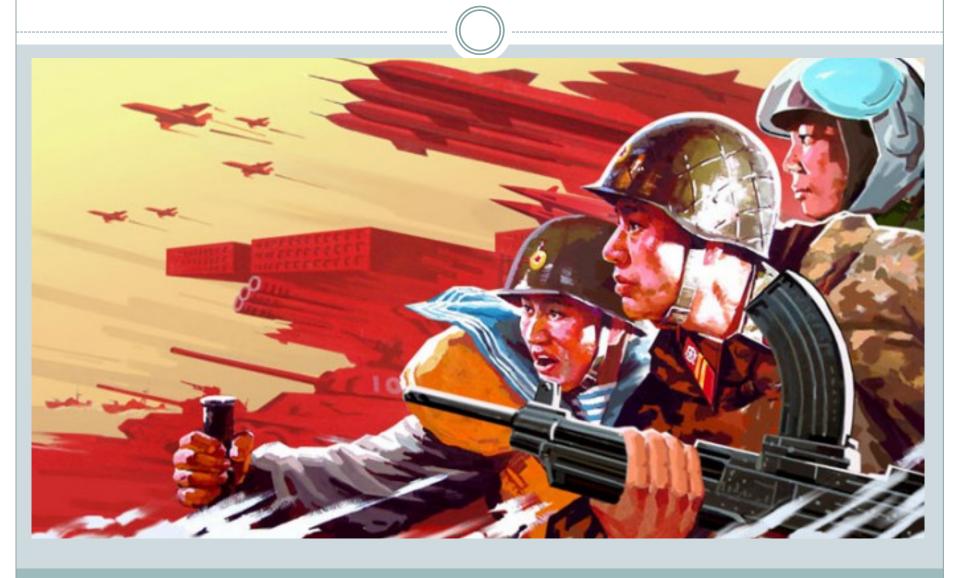
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LIU INSTITUTE, UBC VANCOUVER, MAY 2, 2016

#### **Two Questions**

- Why does North Korean want nuclear weapons?
- The North Korea nuclear threat to whom?
  - o Regional states: Japan, South Korea, China
  - North America: U.S., Canada

## North Korea: "threatened kingdom"

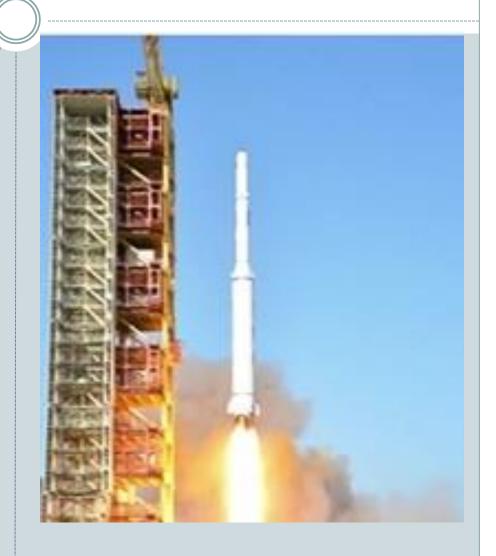


#### North Korea – a nuclear state

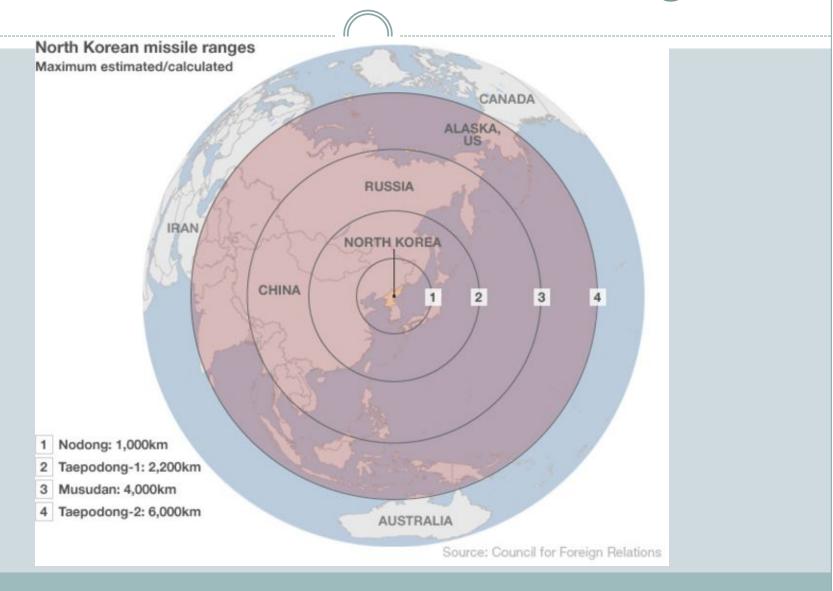
- North Korea's unrelenting advancement
  - × North Korea "a nuclear state"
- The Goal: 2<sup>nd</sup> strike nuclear capacity
  - Despite an attack, deliver a nuclear weapon intercontinentally
    - 3-stage long-range rocket delivery
    - x Miniaturized nuclear warhead
    - × Hydrogen bomb
    - × Satellite control
    - **Mobile** missiles
    - × Submarine launched missiles

### Recent "sprint" of developments

- Dec 2015 SLBM failed? H-bomb?
- Jan 2016 4<sup>th</sup> nuke test
- Feb 2016 -- long range missile
- Mar 2016 miniature war head test
- April 2016 mobile missile, SLBM ?
- May 2016???
- Why?
  - Reaction against UN 2270
  - o May 6, 7<sup>th</sup> KWP convention
  - US presidential election



### North Korean Missile Threat Ranges



## Regional Players

#### South Korea

Japan

- Conventional threat
  - hostile actions
- Charged rhetoric

North Korea threatens South Korea with attack on presidential palace

- Park regime – hard line

- Missile threat since 1990s
- History abductees
- Abe hard line
- Japan -> US missile defence

## China's dilemma ....

- No longer "teeth and lips"
- Regime stability? Reform?
- Strategic buffer
- Blowback from NK nuclear steps = < US presence</li>

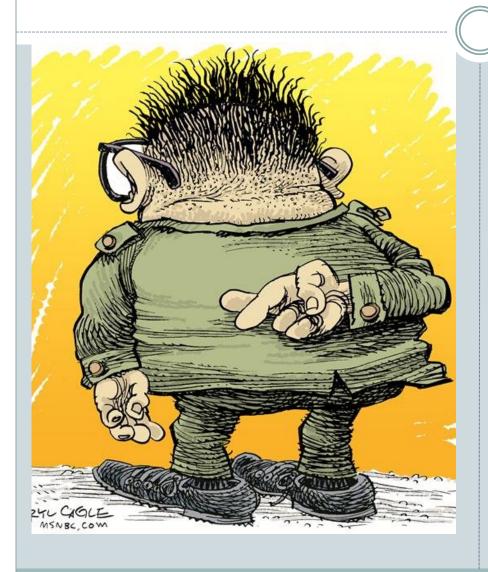


### **United States**

- US NK ... stalled
- Increased concern over development pace
- "strategic patience"
- Bolster regional presence



#### North Korea ... the future?



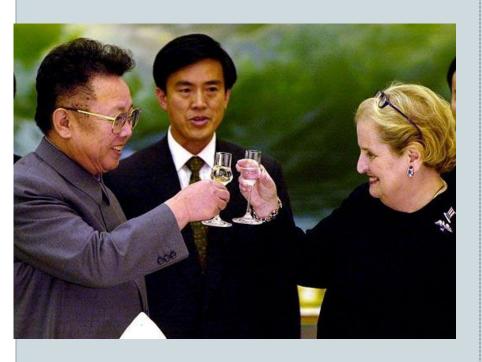
• Use would be suicidal ... but ??

- Additional dangers
  - Proliferation
  - CBRN programs

• But .. Sanctions ??

## Diplomacy ...

2000 2002





## Diplomacy ...

**200**7

#### 2016



**Korean Summit** 



**US – China on sanctions** 

## Canadian policy

- Canada NK engagement NGOs, Track 2
- Harper gov't
  - "toughest sanctions in the world"
  - No diplomatic relations
- Trudeau gov't
  - Condemn & support sanctions
  - o "Canada will remain engaged with the international community in response to North Korea's actions. We support efforts to forge multilateral solutions to enhance security in the Asia-Pacific region."

#### North Korea as a Nuclear Threat ... to Whom?

