

The Reshaping of the National Strategy of DPRK and the China-DPRK Relationship: A Chinese Perspective



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The DPRK's Eighth Party Congress

Politics

- Taking Economic Construction as the Central Task
- The System of the Cabinet Responsibility
- “Eradication of the Institutional Weakness”

Military:

- Improved Nuclear Warheads
- More Accurate Long-range Missiles
- New Solid-fuel ICBMs
- Military Reconnaissance Satellite, new UAVs
- Hypersonic Capabilities

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Economic

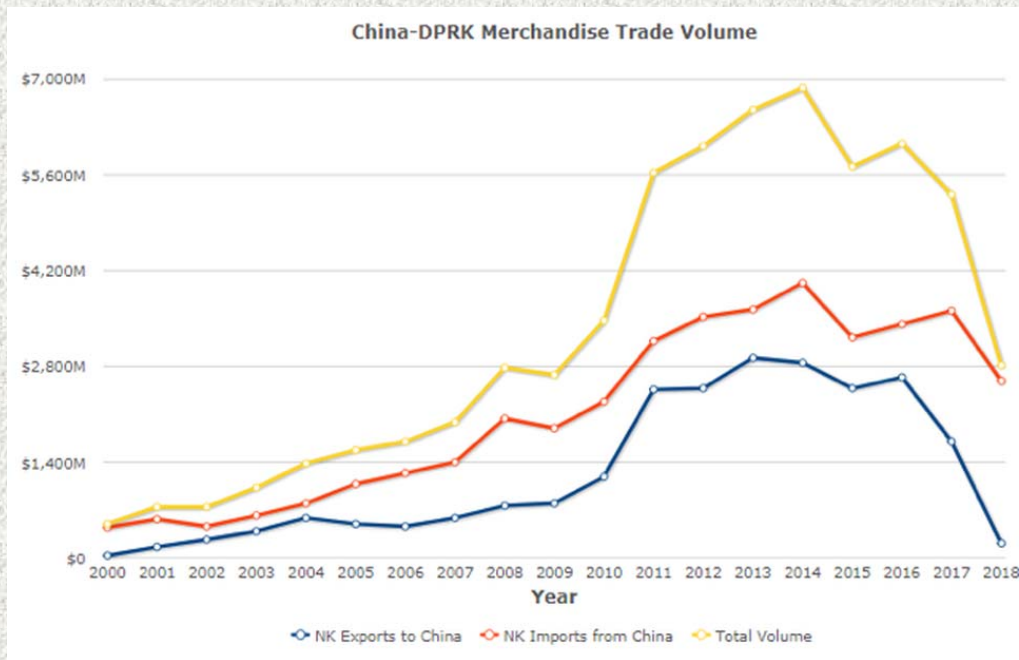
- Non-party Faults
- More Self-sufficiency
- Some Specifics

Foreign Affairs:

- The United States: “biggest, main enemy” ; the key obstacle to DPRK development; “no matter who leads the White House, U.S. policy on the DPRK never changes.” “If its anti-DPRK policy is withdrawn, the potential for a new U.S.-DPRK relationship exists”
- ROK: “no exaggeration” that inter-Korean relations have “reverted back to before the Panmunjom Declaration was announced. DPRK also blamed ROK for ongoing military modernization efforts and for continuing with joint military exercises.
- China: “the relations with China improved significantly in recent years”, with a future goal to prioritize “special” relations with China.

DPRK's Strategic Thinking on China

- Maintaining the traditional relationship.
- Building up the strategic communication.
- China's experience on economic development
- “An unreliable balancer”.
- Counterbalancing the US threat in its global level strategy,



China-DPRK Trade Volume 2000 to 2018. Source: data is collected from the Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA), and includes adjustments for unreported Chinese crude oil exports to North Korea. 2018 DATA IS COLLECTED FROM CHINESE CUSTOMS

The DPRK's View on "the Belt the Road"

- From Misunderstanding, Clarification to Support.
- The Barriers to Join the B & R:
 1. The Sanctions Barrier
 2. The Environment Barrier
 3. The Multilateral Approach Barrier

Thank You

