

China and North Korea Relations



百聞不如一見 (백문불여일견)



What China can do in this chess game?

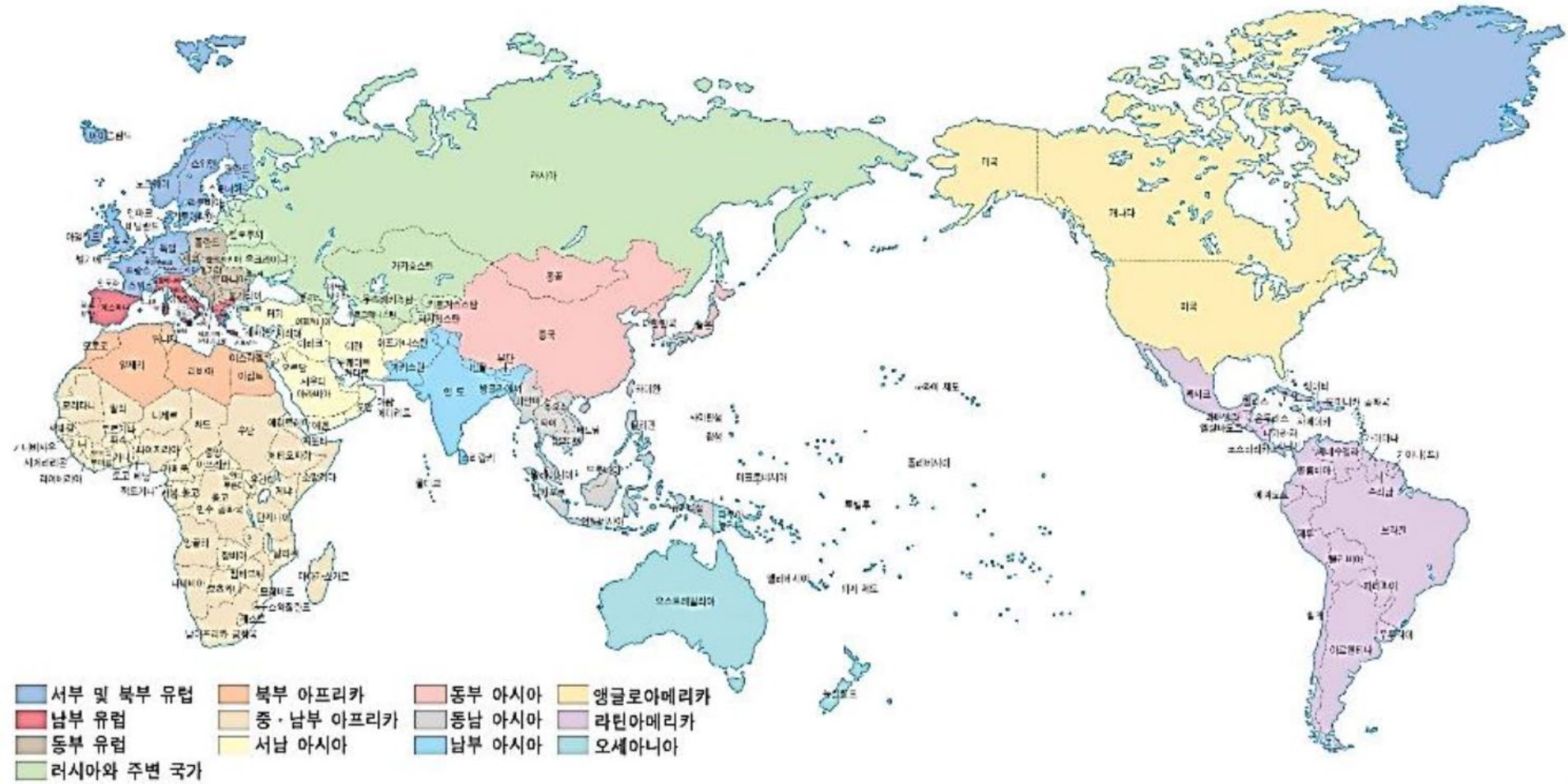


Shrimp bursts in whale fight

An innocent bystander gets hurt in a fight with a stronger opponent



Geographic location of Korea



Map of Korea

한반도 지도와 국경



Basic information

The geographical state: 219.000Km² (영국)

South: 99,237Km² (45%)

North: 120,410Km² (55%)

Population: South: 51.835.110 (2020)

North: 25.666.161(2020)

Political Configuration: ROK-15/08/1948

RPDK-09/09/1948

South Korea is one of the 10 most important economies in the world by volume of GDP (2020).

PIB Per Capita 27.745 € vs 604 € 2017 PIB Per Capita
North Korea in ranking 116

China-North Korea Relations in World Situation

1. North Korean Nuclear Weapons Conflict
2. China's economic development and antagonism with the United States



Security issues facing the Korean Peninsula and the world

(Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons)

북한 핵개발 주요 일지

- 1985.12.12 북, 핵확산금지조약 (NPT) 가입
- 1993.3.12 북한 NPT 탈퇴 선언
- 1994.11.1 북한 핵 활동 동결 선언
- 2005.2.10 북한 핵무기 보유 선언
- 2005.5.11 북한 영변 5MW원자로에서 폐연료봉 8천개 인출 발표
- 2005.9.19 6자회담서 '北 모든 핵무기와 현존 핵계획 포기' 등 6개 항의 9·19공동성명 채택
- 2006.10.9 ① 북한 제1차 핵실험 실시
- 2007.2.13 6자회담서 영변 원자로 폐쇄 및 불능화 합의
- 2007.7.15 영변 원자로 폐쇄
- 2007.10.3 6자회담서 모든 핵시설 불능화 및 핵프로그램 신고 합의
- 2008.6.27 영변 원자로 냉각탑 폭발
- 2008.9.24 영변 원자로 봉인 해제
- 2009.5.25 ② 북한 제 2차 핵실험 실시
- 2009.11.3 북한 사용 후 폐연료봉 8천개 재처리 완료 선언
- 2013.2.12 ③ 북한 제 3차 핵실험 실시
- 2013.4.2 영변 원자로 재가동 발표
- 2016.1.6 ④ 북한 제 4차 핵실험
- 2016.9.9 ⑤ 북한 제 5차 핵실험
- 2017.9.3 ⑥ 북 풍계리에서 6차 핵실험 실시
- 2018.5.25 북, 풍계리 핵실험장을 갱도 폭파 방식으로 공개적 폐기
- 2019.2.28 하노이 북미 정상회담에서 트럼프 대통령, 영변 외 북한 다른지역의 큰 규모의 핵시설 언급

영변
평양

연합뉴스

김정은 집권 이후 핵·미사일 도발 급증

김일성, 김정일 때보다 2배 많은 도발

김일성 집권기	김정일 집권기	김정은 집권기
8회 15발	28회 58발	74회 210여발

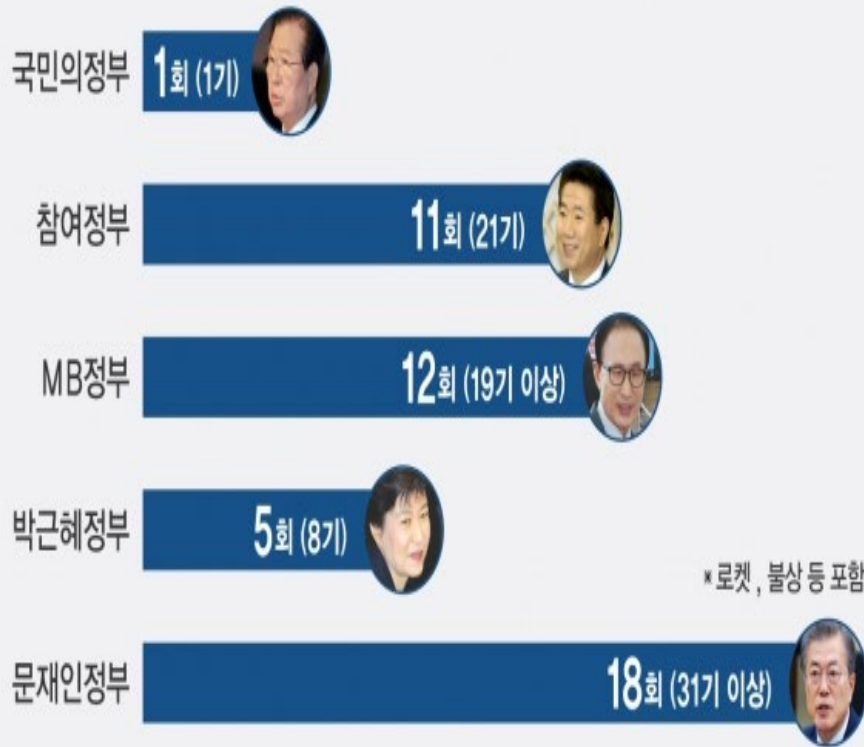
김정은 도발의 특징

- 다양해진 미사일 (스커드, 북극성2형, 화성12형 등)
- 특정시점에 집중 (한미연합훈련 기간, 다자정상회담 시)

North Korea's Missile Threat

Number of North Korean missile launches, and number of projectiles calculated by South Korean regime

정권별 북 미사일 발사 횟수와 발사체 수



북한 미사일 발사 일지

※ 2020년 이후 기준



- ① 3월 2일 강원도 원산에서 초대형 방사포 두 발 발사
 - ② 3월 9일 함경남도 선덕에서 다종의 단거리 발사체발사
 - ③ 3월 21일 평안북도 선천에서 KN24 발사
 - ④ 3월 29일 강원도 원산에서 초대형 방사포 두 발 발사
 - ⑤ 4월 14일 강원도 문천에서 단거리 순항미사일 발사
- 2021년
- ⑥ 3월 21일 평안북도 온천에서 서해상으로 순항미사일 두 발 발사
 - ⑦ 3월 25일 함경남도 함주 일대에서 동해상으로 단거리 탄도미사일 두 발 발사 <연합뉴스>

On 11–12 September 2021, North Korea carried out tests of a new **long-range cruise missile** according to the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA)

The missiles flew for 1,500 kms and successfully hit their target in North Korea's waters and were meant for a "strategic role" according to the news agency and, was a **missile capable of carrying nuclear warheads.**

On 15 September, North Korea fired two ballistic missiles off of its coast according to the South Korean military.

New Phase of China-North Korea Relations

President Xi Jinping and Chairman Kim Jong-un (March 2018)



Kim Jong-un, chairman of the North Korean Workers' Party, held a summit meeting in Beijing from 25 to 28 of March 2018.



On May 8, 2018, Chairman Kim Jong-un and President Xi Jinping met (Dalian)



북한 최고위급 인사 중국 방문

  **중국**
시진핑 국가주석

  **북한**
김정은 국무위원장

7일 다렌 방문
8일 자국산 항모 시험운항 참석 예정



5월8일
북한 최고위급 인사, 전용기 편으로
다렌 공항 도착(김정은 방중설)
-교도통신 보도

250 km

연합뉴스

YONHAP NEWS

김토일 기자 / 20180508 / 페이스북 tune.y.kr/LeYN1, 트위터 @yonhap_graphics

June 21, 2018: The third meeting between Chairman
Kim Jong-un and President Xi Jinping
(a week after the Kim & Trump Singapore summit)



Chairman Kim Jong-un's 4th visit to China

7-10 de enero de 2019



4th Summit between China and North Korea

Kim Jung Eun's intention was to prevent China moving away from North Korea and prepare for the US-North Korean talks by strengthening the common front again was revealed during the visit.

Nevertheless, to ease the trade war with the USA, China has tighten its sanctions on North Korea. Thus, the remittance to North Korea has been restricted and trade at the national level has been reduced considerably.

The 2nd Summit breaks between Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un in February 27-28 2019



Critical Factors in China-North Korea Relations

- I. Common border
- II. Historical background
- III. Ethnic and cultural ties
- IV. Ideology and Security
- V. Economy

Korea and its frontier

The geografic location of Korean Peninsula conditioned its history



I. Common border

- China and North Korea share a 1,416 km long border.



Common border

- **Dandong** is the largest city on the border. **Sinuiju** is on the other side of the river.
- Much of the China-North Korea trade goes through the port of Dandong, the "lifeline to the outside world."



Border of ancient time

Goguryeo (37 B.C-668) Balhae (698-926)



Chosun (1392-1910)

Korea (1948-present)



II. Historical Background

- China's involvement in the Korean peninsula has historical roots *far earlier than 1950.*

Historical Background

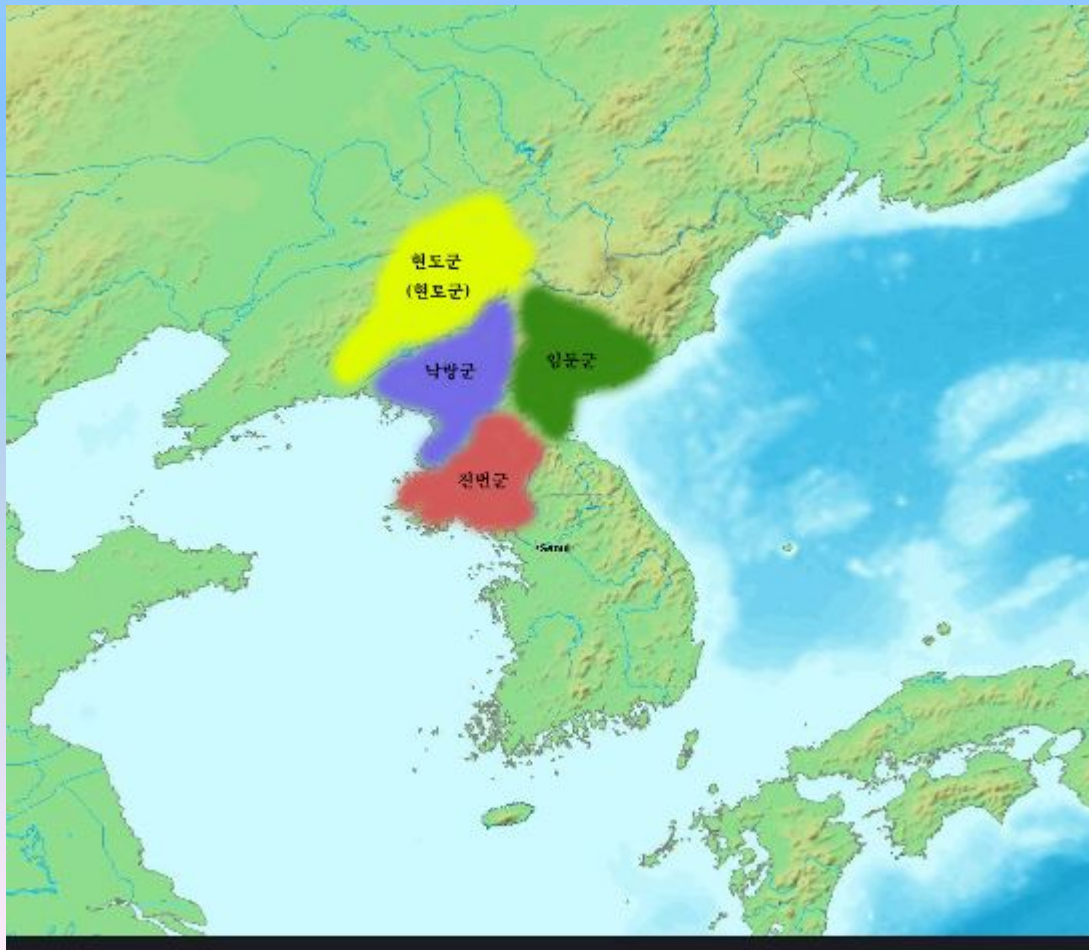
- 1) In 108 B.C, the Han dynasty defeated the northern part of the Korean peninsula and **installed four commanderies**.
- 2) In the sixth century, the **Goguryeo kingdom** ruled central and northern Korea and a vast portion of Manchuria and Siberia.



4 comandries

낙랑, 진번, 임둔, 현도

It was destroyed in AD 313, 421 years after its establishment.



Historical Background

3) *-The Goguryeo kingdom was the rival force to the Sui. (Inv/Failed exp.)*

-Tang allied with the Shilla in 668, finally conquered Goguryeo.

-The Silla United defeated the Tang (668-676) with the remnant forces of Baekje and Goguryeo.

-Balhae(698- 926) : The successor of the Goguryeo Kingdom, **was lost to the Khitan, Liao dynasty.**

4) *In the 13th century, the Mongol Yuan dynasty allied with Chosun tried to invade the Japan. (United force of China and Chosun)*

Historical Background

5) During 1592-1598, the Ming dynasty sent troops to help the Chosun dynasty *from the two invasions of Toyotomi Hideyoshi of Japan.*

6) *In the 17th century, the Qing empire of Manchuria tried to separate the relationship between the Ming and Chosun.*

(Invasions in 1627 and, 1636 with a force of 100,000)

7) Toward the end of the 19th century, the political and economic rivalry between China and Japan over Korea led to the Chinese-Japanese War (1894 - 1895).

Historical Background

- 8) During the Pacific War of 1941, the Korean Liberation Army allied with the Chinese forces fought against Japan.
- 9) Chiang Kai-shek's government of China *was defeated by the communist regime of Mao Zedong in 1949.*

(Kim Il-sung helped the Chinese Communist Party of China, Mao Zedong, with arms aid)

The People's Republic of China (PRC) and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) exchanged diplomatic recognition on October 6th, 1949 (Establishment of DPRK in September 8, 1948 and PRC in October 1st 1949)

Historical Background

10) Contemporary Relations between China and North Korea

- **In 1950:** A total of 2.97 million Chinese soldiers fought and around 180,000 were killed in the Korean War. (*Mao Zedong's son died in the war*) “*Blood allies*”

- **In 1961,** the PRC and the DPRK signed the **Sino-North Korean Mutual Aid and Cooperation Friendship Treaty**, whereby China pledged to render *military and other assistance to its ally* against any outside attack.

This treaty was prolonged twice, in 1981 and 2001, with validity until 2021.



Kim Jong-un



III. Ethnic and Cultural ties

1. *Chinese influence in Korea*

Korea has been greatly influenced by the Chinese civilization, borrowing from its written language (15C), arts, religions, and models of government administration.

The Confucian thought from China still remains as a fundamental part of the Korean society, shaping its moral system, way of life, and social relations among people.

Ethnic and Cultural ties

2. Korean ethnic groups in China

- Since the Neolithic period **Korean ethnic groups lived in Manchuria, Siberia, China**, and the Korean peninsula.
- Korean ethnic people lived during the **Goguryeo and Balhae** dynasty, continued living there **until the territory was later absorbed by China**.
- In the present day, a minority of around **2 million Koreans live in China**.

Ethnic and Cultural ties

3. *Immigration of Koreans to China*

-1st large scale immigration of Koreans into China occurred about 300 years ago. (migrated in order to avoid the oppressive feudal landlords)

-2nd wave was caused by the great famine of 1869, and the third wave of Korean migrants arrived during the prolonged war between Russia and Japan (1904-1905).

-Also, many immigrated to China during the Japanese Occupation of Korea in the early 20th century.

-In the 1950s and 1960s, many ethnic Koreans in Northeast China crossed the border into North Korea to escape economic hardship and famine in China.

-In recent years, the flow of refugees has reversed, with a considerable number of North Koreans fleeing to China.

Ethnic and Cultural ties

Chinese Koreans : Autonomous Prefecture **Yanbian** in the Jilin Prv.
(pop. of **2.2 million** in 2010, **a third were Koreans**)

Ethnic Koreans: model minority - high socio-economic position .
(lowest Illiteracy and the college attendance rate is the highest)

Maintains a strong sense of ethnic identity.

“Chinese citizens with strong ties to Korea”

A minority around 2 mil. Koreans living in China

Koreans in China. Korean-Chinese Population in China Jilin Province: Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture and Jilin City



IV. Ideology and Security

1. *Comunist Ideology*

The ideology today is not as strong as it was, it is still a factor present in today's relations.

PRC and the DPRK exchanged Diplomatic recognition: 6 October 1949-**firm allies based on socialism.** (common enemy: the USA)

China: Support for North Korea, considering the American presence in the region is pragmatic and **reinforced by ideological justification.**

In geopolitical security terms, **China cannot afford to turn away from North Korea**

Ideology and Security

2. Security concern

China : If North Korea collapse, US-backed South Korea will border China and pose **a threat**.

Chaos on its border is a real worry for China: hundreds of thousands of refugees will get into China's economically weak northeast region.

Ideology and Security

3. Evidence of China and North Korea's close relationship

- China keeps **wide-ranging ties with DPRK**, including economic exchanges and **high-level state trips**:

•

Senior C.C Party member Li Yunshan's visit to attend the seventieth anniversary of North Korea's ruling party in **Oct. 2015**.

- North Korea Workers' Party Politburo member Ri Su-yong's trip to Beijing in **June 2016**.

- On **February 28th, 2017**, North Korea's Vice Foreign Minister Ri Kil-song arrived in Beijing for talks with Chinese officials.

•

.Four summit between China and North Korea in 2018 and 2019.

Envoys from Pyongyang and Beijing underline their friendship on second anniversary of Xi Jinping's trip to North Korean capital (June 20–21, 2019 summit, Xi's first trip to North Korea)

Ideology and Security

- Beijing supports UNSC Resolutions (1718,1874,2087,2094,2270,2321) which impose sanctions on DPRK.
- There is doubt regarding how committed China is implementing trade restrictions.
- China opposed harsh international sanctions on North Korea in the hope of avoiding regime collapse and a refugee influx into its border.

V. Economy

China's support of Kim Il-sung, Kim Jong-il and Kim Jong-un has been vital to North Korea's development.

China provided extensive assistance to North Korea to support its reconstruction through the Sino-North Korea Friendship Treaty.

Economy

1. Increase of Trade Volume

The trade volume in 2016 between China and North Korea amounted to 5.51 billion USD, **representing approximately 92% (previously around 70%) of North Korea's total trade volume.** (Int. Trade Center of the WTO)

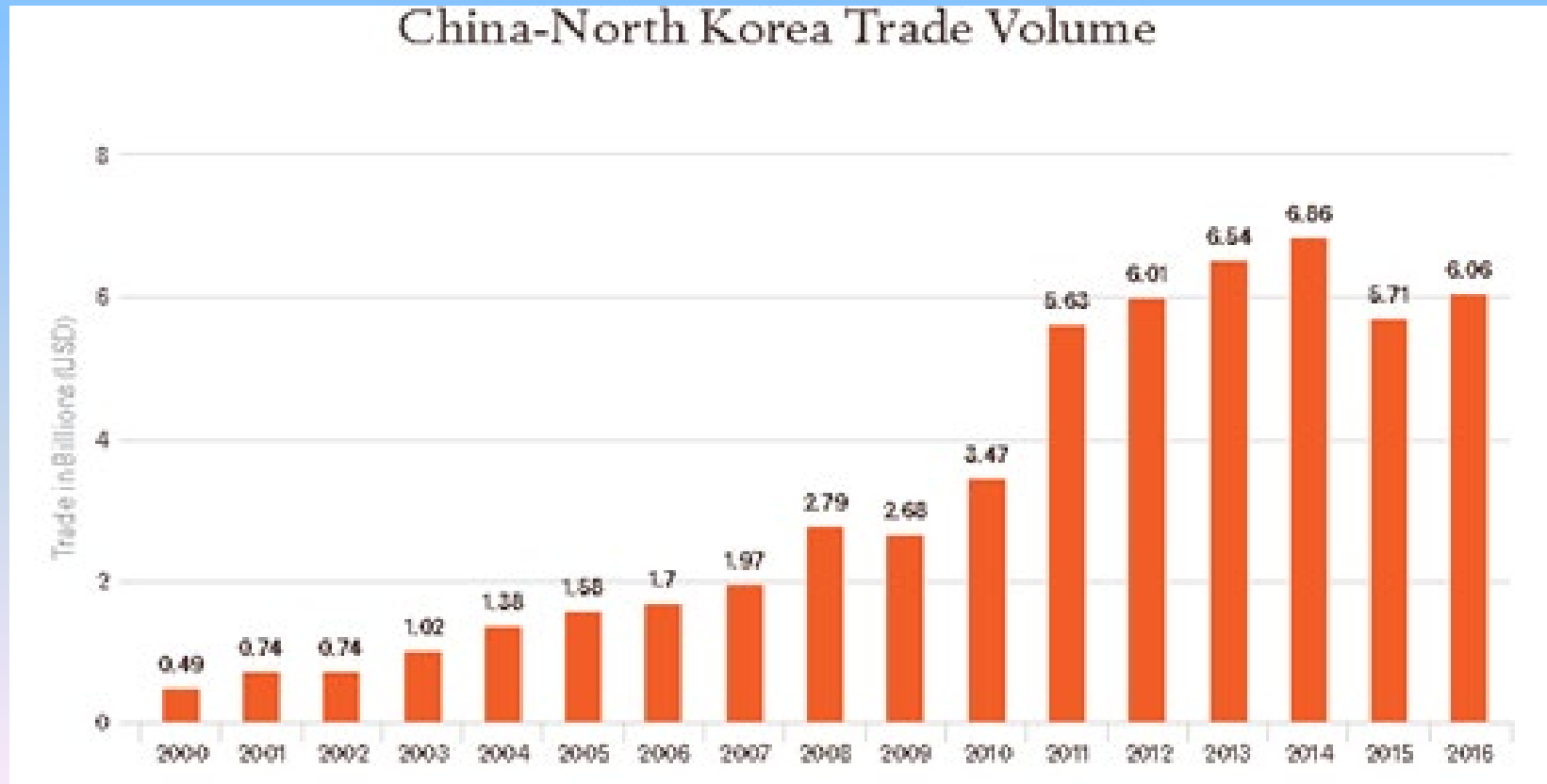
북중무역은 1999년 북한 대외무역의 25%에 불과했지만, 2016년 92%의 비중을 차지하고 있다.

As sanctions from the international community against the DPRK are implemented, **North Korea's dependence on China appears to continue growing.**

Economy

China's Aid and Trade for North Korea

Contrary to the U.N. Resolution of economic sanction against North Korea, China–North Korea trade has been **steadily increasing in recent years.**



Trade between China and North Korea

NORTH KOREA'S IMPORTS AND EXPORTS BY COUNTRY

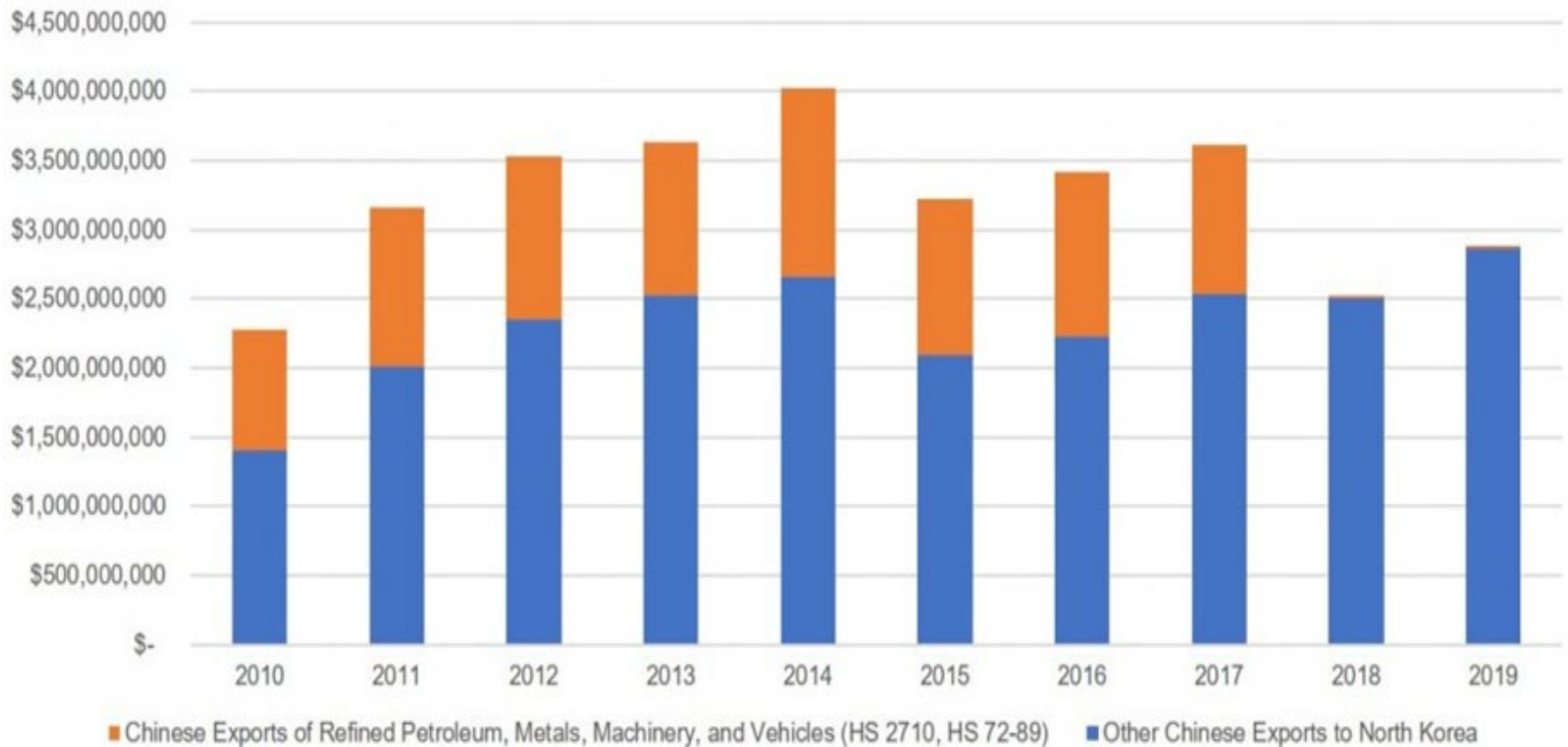


North Korea's trade with China as a percentage of total foreign trade between 1999 and 2019

(Chinese customs and KOTRA)

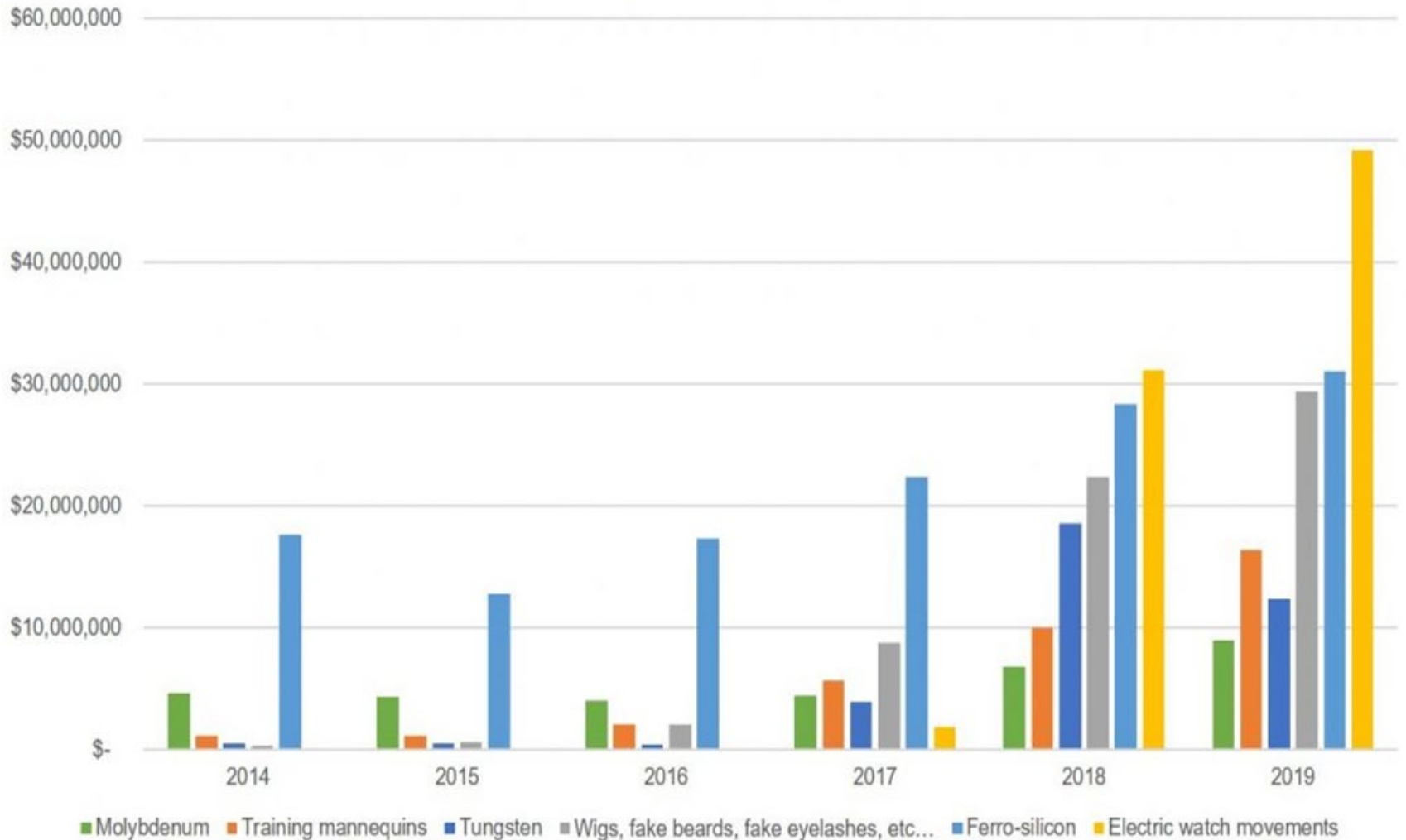
Reported Chinese Exports to North Korea - Refined Petroleum, Metals, Machinery, and Vehicles Separated

(In USD, includes estimated crude oil export value)



Emerging North Korean Exports to China

(In USD, not adjusted for CIF/FOB)



Economy

2. Is China effectively implementing the U.N sanctions against North Korea?

UNSCR 2321, passed in November 2016, was the first sanctions resolution to target North Korea's commercial trade by placing a limit on imports, most notably on North Korea's coal export.

As the next chart shows, both the value and volume of North Korean **coal exports to China continued to rise** over the course of 2016, violating the resolution.

Economy

When the **UNSCR 2321** imposed the limit on coal trade,

China takes a flexible approach in the wording of UNSC sanctions in order to argue that they are not outright violating the resolutions

China had banned imports of **coal from North Korea** in April in 2016, but **made exceptions for household** use, which in part led to China unable to meet their commitments as they wrestled with these problems.

2321, 2371, 2375, 2397 (2017)

Resolutions 2371 and 2375 of the UN Security Council, in 2017, exports of seafood, coal and textiles from North Korea are prohibited.

The Chinese government announced bans on imports and exports to North Korea, so they drastically reduced bilateral trade.

Although trade between North Korea and China was cut in half, in 2018, trade between North Korea and China accounted for 93.8% of North Korea's total trade volume.

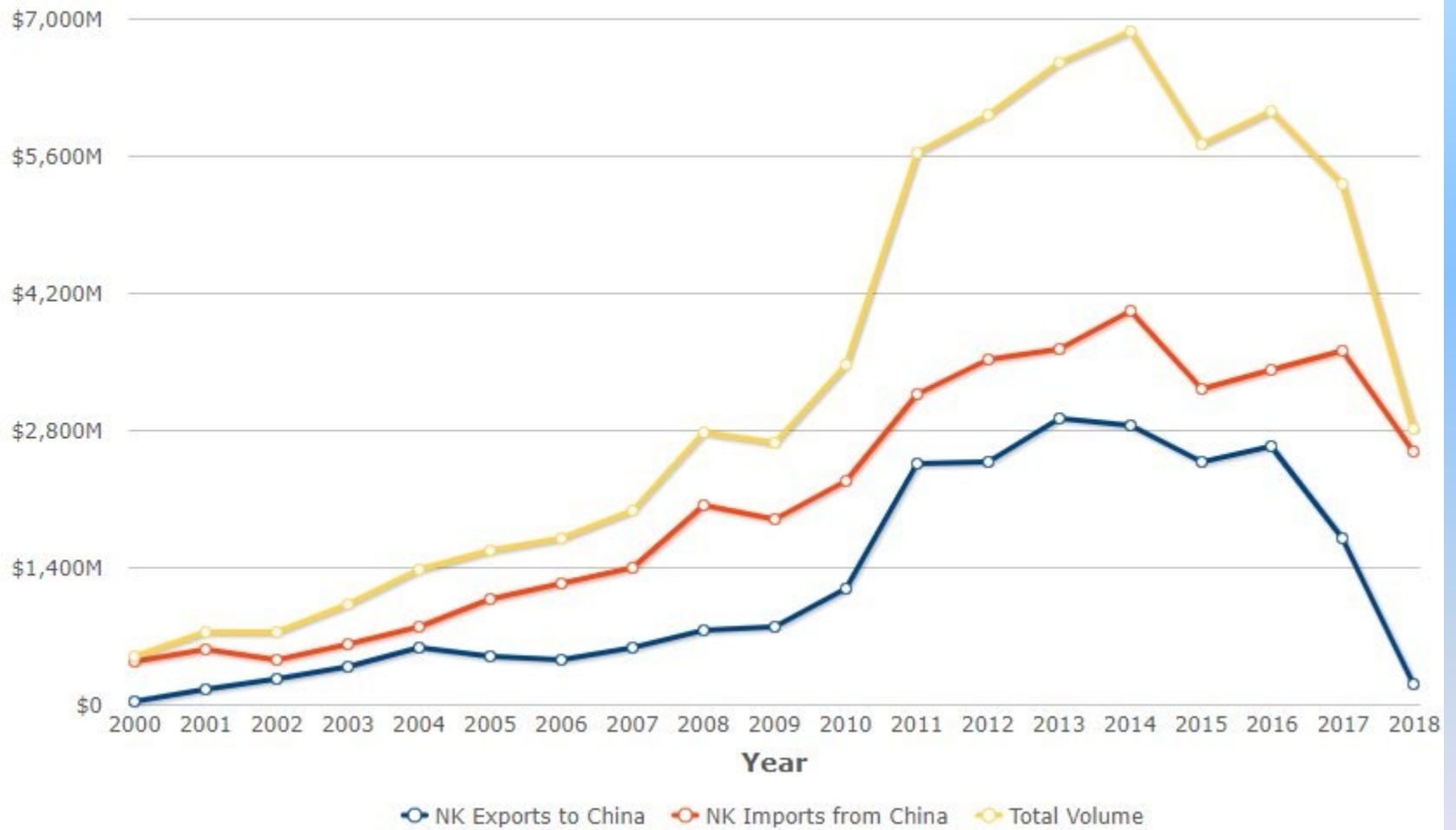
North Korea continues to rely heavily on China and indicates that most of its imported products are supplied from China.

In 2018, the total commercial volume between North Korea and China decreased 51% year-on-year. (Comtrade of the United Nations).

North Korea's imports from China were around \$ 2,218 million, a 31.6% decrease from the \$ 3,254 million in the previous year.

North Korea's exports to China were approximately \$ 213 million, 87.7% less compared to the \$ 1.73 billion 2019.

China-DPRK Merchandise Trade Volume



Economy

3. *Sanctions have not been effective*

- Kyungnam University's Graduate School of North Korean Studies reveals that there has been a noticeable easing in oversight by authorities. (Chinese customs offices hinted)
- IBK (Industrial Bank of Korea) : customs inspections have become loose along the Sino-North Korean border.

Banned items are being disguised as products that are not subject to the UNSC sanctions and **are being traded**.

North Korea's **exports to China** in the first half of 2019
were \$ 150 million

and

imports were \$ 1.45 billion, **14% and 15.5%** each an
increase

(The report published by the Korea International Trade
Association on August 8, 2019)

China suggests sanctions relief for North Korea after Trump-Kim summit

- After the 1st Summit between Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un in June 2018, China suggested sanctions relief for North Korea.
 - After the 2nd Summit between Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un in February 27-28 2019 (new sanctions related to North Korea, designating two China-based shipping companies for evasion activities)
- (The cause of collapse in Hanoi: North Korea wanted a large package of sanctions relief, and the United States wouldn't agree to it short of Pyongyang's total nuclear abdication).

1st Summit between Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un in June 2018



The 2nd Summit breaks between Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un in February 27-28 2019



Current China-North Korea Trade

Chinese merchandise trade data with North Korea for the 2017-2019 period indicates that trade in **goods not prohibited by UN sanctions continues to flow** through formal channels in the same way that such trade occurred in the pre-sanctions years.

It assumes that smuggling of sanctioned goods between China and North Korea: **Chinese authorities generally turn a blind eye toward it.**

The major flaws in Chinese trade data with North Korea are essentially due to **the omission of certain sensitive categories of trade.**

China and North Korea: Trust or Distrust

North Korea and China distrust each other, but relations continue.

It is because they have a common enemy, the United States, and that unites the two. For China, North Korea is a contradiction.

North Korea is a spear and a shield for China. It is the sharpest spear that China can use to break America's containment policy by using North Korea. It is a shield as a buffer zone to protect China from American pressure.

For North Korea, there is no better leverage than China for negotiating with the United States. First, using South Korea, North Korea reached a summit with the US. North Korea took this opportunity, recovering its deteriorated relationship with China.

North Korea used China with the fact that they are allies to negotiate with the US

Conclusion

China wants:

Stability and the avoidance of war on the Korean peninsula

- North Korea's collapse would destroy China's strategic buffer between China and South Korea (29,000 U.S. troops)
- A huge North Korean refugees would flood into China if the DPRK regime collapse.

For all these reasons, China has consistently urged world not to push DPRK too hard, for fear of its regime collapse.

