

North Korea's Nuclear Risk Management and Transformation of the 'International Security Regime': Focusing on Korea-U.S.-Japan 'Linkage Politics' and Policy Coordination Mechanisms

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This study examines North Korea's nuclear risk management and security regime transformation through trilateral policy coordination mechanisms among South Korea, the United States, and Japan. The research investigates policy cooperation and confrontation mechanisms regarding North Korea's nuclear weapons, comparing 'Sunshine Policy' versus 'hardline policy' effectiveness through systematic outcome assessment. Findings demonstrate that reciprocity-guided North Korea policies benefit global security regimes. South Korea evolved from diffuse reciprocity strategies under Kim Dae-jung, Moon Jae-in, and Roh Moo-hyun administrations to specific reciprocity under Lee Myung-bak and Yoon Suk-yeol governments. Japan's Liberal Democratic Party consistently maintained hardline policies based on specific reciprocity. Trilateral hardline stances correlate with increased military tensions and economic instability, amplifying US-China influence. The analysis concludes that diffuse reciprocity-based policies prove more effective than specific reciprocity approaches for coordinating trilateral North Korea policy. This research contributes to understanding optimal coordination mechanisms in managing regional nuclear risks within evolving security architectures.

Keywords: Risk Management for North Korea's nuclear crisis, International Security Regime, diffuse/specific reciprocity, Linkage Politics, Deterrence Theory