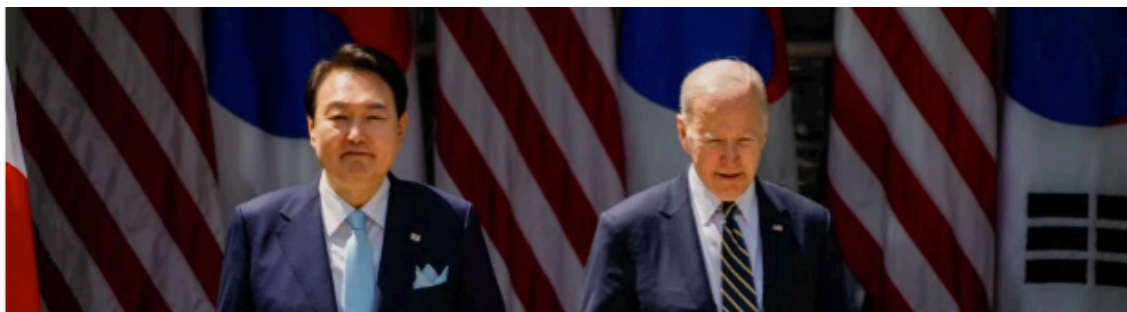


Koreans Must Regain Control of Their Destiny

Simone Chun
simonechun@gmail.com
[twitter@simonechun](https://twitter.com/simonechun)

Prepared for the Webinar, "*US-Japan-South Korea Alliance Threatens Peace in Asia*", Sponsored by the New England Korean Peace Campaign and MASS Peace Action, May 18, 2023



South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and President Joe Biden arrive for a joint press conference in the Rose Garden of the White House on Wednesday, April 26, 2023 in Washington, D.C. President Biden is hosting President Yoon on his first visit to the United States as the two nations have reached a nuclear weapons agreement. (Photo: Kent Nishimura / Los Angeles Times via Getty Images)

Yoon Suk Yeol's State Visit: U.S. Backing of Far-Right Leader Bad for South Korea

With the support of Washington, President Yoon has pursued extreme hawkish policies directly against South Korea's national interests.



By SIMONE CHUN
Apr 23, 2023
Common Dreams



South Korea's far-right President [Yoon Suk Yeol](#), who was elected by a narrow margin of 0.7% last year, is in Washington, D.C. this week for a [state visit](#) at the invitation of President Biden.

According to the New England Korea Peace Campaign, Boston Candlelight Action Committee, and Massachusetts Peace Action, which are preparing to hold a [protest](#) on Friday, April 28th in Cambridge, Massachusetts, during Yoon's visit to Harvard, "Since entering office, Yoon's right-wing administration has expanded costly and provocative U.S.-ROK military exercises, heightened tensions with North Korea, rolled back [workers' rights](#), threatened to abolish the ministry of [gender equality](#), and has taken many other actions to undermine struggles for peace and justice in South Korea."

Indeed, backed by Washington, President Yoon has pursued extreme hawkish policies directly against South Korea's national interests.

US is Maintaining Tensions with North Korea to Draw in Allies Against China

The greatest threat to peace and security in Northeast Asia is the U.S. Indo-Pacific military encirclement of China

By Simone Chun, TRUTHOUT

March 3, 2023



South Korea Subordinated to US-Japan Diad

“[Campbell] sees Japan and its right-wing ruling Liberal Democratic Party as the linchpin of the US alliance system in Asia region and views South Korea... as a subordinate partner to US and Japanese efforts to force North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons and contain the growing military power of China.”

Tim Shorrock

ASIA PACIFIC / POLITICS | ANALYSIS

Architect of U.S. pivot picked to be Biden's 'Asia czar'



Then-U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Kurt Campbell listens to a question during a news conference in Manila in December 2012. U.S. President-elect Joe Biden has picked Campbell — a key architect of the U.S. pivot to Asia — as his senior policy official for the region. | REUTERS

Yoon's Hawkish Foreign Policy Team

A B-team of diehard Pro-US and Pro-Japanese enablers resurrected from the foreign policy cabinets of disgraced conservative presidents Lee Myung-bak and Park Geun-hae

Supports Japanese naval buildup in Korean Peninsula



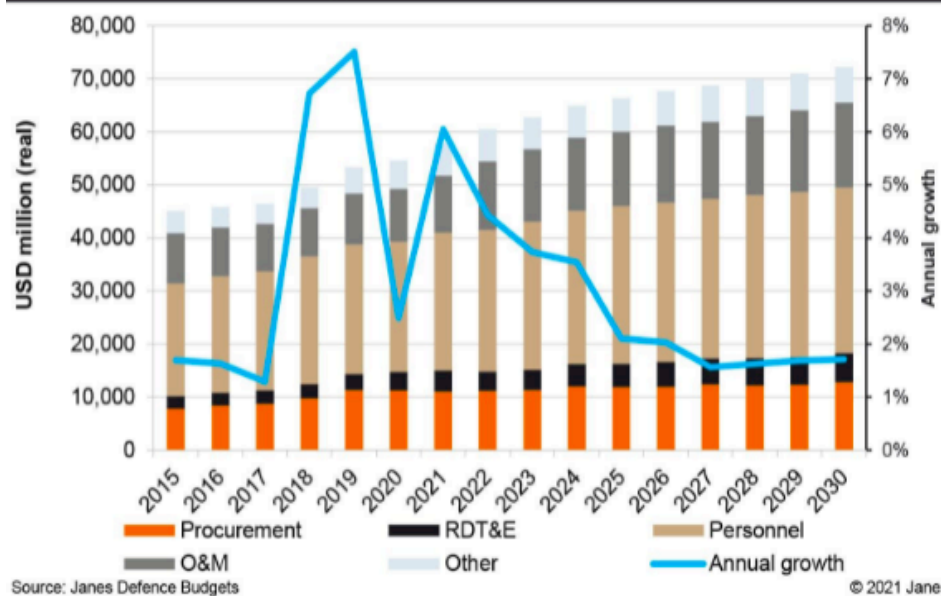
▲이명박 정부 시절 국군 사이버사령부의 정치개입 행위에 관련한 의혹을 받는 김태효 전 청와대 대외전략기획관이 지난 2017년 12월5일 오전 서초구 서울중앙지검으로 소환되며 취재진 질문에 답하고 있다. ©연합뉴스

Korea imported 7x more US weapons in the first year of the Yoon administration than in the last 5 years combined

윤석열 정부(2022.5~2023.4): 사업 12건, 18조6725억원				
제60회 (2022.6.9)	공지통신무전기 성능개량 구매계획(안)		'22~'28	4558 (美) Collins, (美) Boeing, (美) Lockheed Martin
	미군의 공지통신무전기 통신방식 전환에 따라 원활한 연합작전 수행을 위해 항재밍 기능이 강화된 무전기로 항공전력(국외체계연동형)에 대해 성능개량하는 사업			
	F-X 2차 사업추진기본전략(안)		'23~'28	3조9450 (美) Lockheed Martin
	공군의 고성능 전투기를 확보하는 사업			
제62회 (2022.7.14)	대형기동헬기-II 구매계획 수정(안)		'22~'28	1조3963 (美) Boeing, (美) Lockheed Martin
	육군이 운용 중인 노후 CH-47D를 대체할 대형기동헬기를 국외구매로 확보하는 사업			
	AH-64E 성능개량 사업추진기본전략(안)		'23~'27	4030 (美) Boeing
	AH-64E의 연합 및 합동작전 수행능력 향상을 위해 전술데이터링크를 장착하고, 팀 단위 임무 수행능력 보강을 위해 사격동제레이더를 추가 확보하는 사업			
제70회 (2022.11.10)	대형공격헬기 2차 사업추진기본전략 수정(안) 및 구매계획(안)		'23~'28	3조3027 (美) Boeing
	공세적 중심기동작전 수행 간 기동사업의 공격속도 보장 및 공중화력 지원을 위한 대형공격헬기를 확보하는 사업			
	F-15K 성능개량 사업추진기본전략(안)		'24~'34	3조4627 (美) Lockheed Martin
	F-15K 전투기의 임무능력과 생존성을 제고하고, 부품단종에 따른 후속군수지원 제한사항을 해소하기 위해 F-15K 전투기를 성능개량하는 사업			
제72회 (2022.12.1)	공중급유기 2차 사업추진기본전략(안)		'24~'29	1조2182 (美) Boeing
	전투기의 항공작전 지속 능력을 보장하고 증가하는 원거리 공수임무를 수행하기 위해 공중급유기를 추가 확보하는 사업			
	패트리엇 성능개량 2차 사업 유도탄 기종결정(안)		'22~'27	7490 FMS, (美) Raytheon
	고도화된 적 탄도미사일 위협 대응능력 향상을 위해 유도탄을 구매하고 PAC-2 발사대를 PAC-3 발사대로 성능개량하는 사업			
제76회 (2023.2.9.)	장거리함대공유도탄(SM-6급) 사업추진기본전략 수정(안) 및 1차 구매계획(안)		'23~'31	7680 FMS
	이징스함(KDX-III)에 탑재하여 적 탄도탄 위협을 종말단계에서 대응하는 장거리함대공유도탄(SM-6급)을 확보하는 사업			
	특수작전용 대형기동헬기 사업추진기본전략(안)		'24~'31	7288 (美) Lockheed Martin, (美) Boeing
	육군특임여단의 공중침투 능력과 탐색구조작전 능력 등을 보강하기 위한 특수작전용 대형기동헬기를 확보하는 사업			
제77회 (2023.3.2)	F-X 2차 구매계획(안)		'23~'28	7526 FMS
	공군의 고성능 전투기를 추가로 확보하는 사업			
	대형기동헬기-II 기종결정(안)		'23~'28	1조4904 (美) Boeing
	육군이 운용 중인 노후 CH-47D를 대체할 대형기동헬기를 국외구매로 확보하는 사업			

- 시사저널 인수 방위사업청 자료
- 빨간색 표시 부분은 최종 기종 결정된 무기체계, 3000억원 이상 12개 사업 가운데 2건 계약 완료.
- FMS는 대외군사판매(Foreign Military Sale)로, 미국산 무기를 수입하는 나라가 미국 정부와 계약을 맺고 무기를 구매하는 방식이다.

South Korea defence budget: 2015-2030



South Korea is one of the fastest growing large defence markets in the world, according to Janes Defence Budgets. (Janes Defence Budgets)

ISSUE
& DATA

S. Korea 3rd-largest importer of US weapons

Importers of US weapons

(Unit: \$ billion)

1	Saudi Arabia	10.63	4	UAE	6.7
2	Australia	7.27	7	Japan	3.75
3	S. Korea	6.73			

Source: 2018 Global Defense Market Yearbook/Yonhap





 **REUTERS®** World ▾ Business ▾ Markets ▾ Legal ▾ Breakingviews ▾ Technology ▾ Investigations

5 minute read · April 19, 2023 4:15 AM PDT · Last Updated 8 hours ago

Exclusive: South Korea's Yoon opens door for possible military aid to Ukraine

By Soyoung Kim, Ju-min Park and Hyonhee Shin



80% of S.Koreans Oppose Washington's New Cold War

중국과의 경제, 미국과의 안보 동시 추구 79.6% vs. 동맹인 미국과 탈중국 노선 함께 12.1%

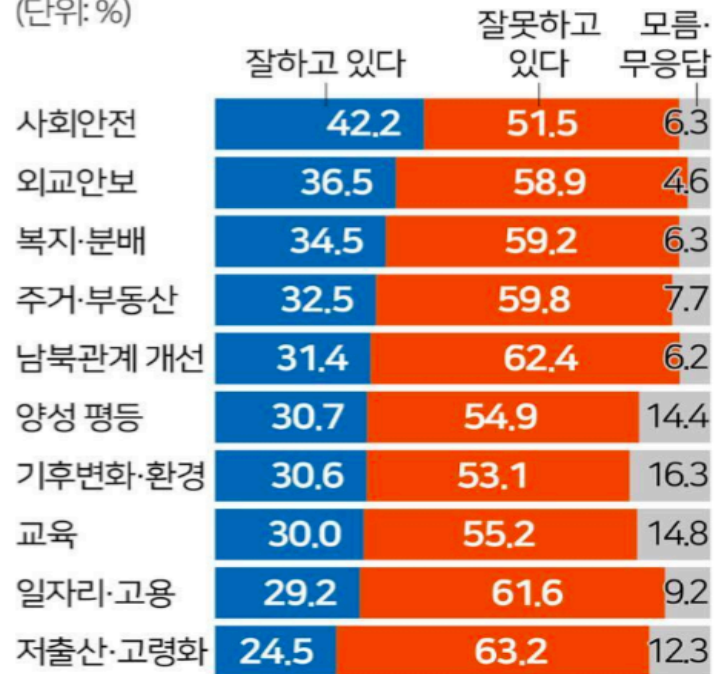


'중국과의 경제, 미국과 안보를 동시에 추구해야 한다'는 응답이 79.6% '동맹인 미국의 탈중국 노선과 함께해야 한다'는 응답(12.1%) 대비 압도적으로 높은 비율로 나타남/사진=여론조사 꽃

Majority of S. Koreans disapprove of Yoon's foreign policy

주요 정책 분야별 대통령 평가

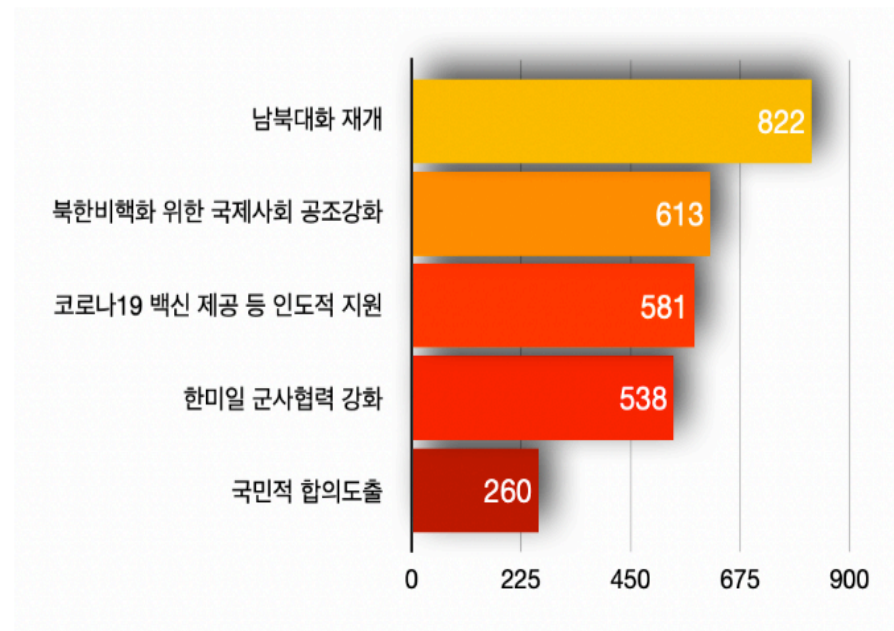
(단위: %)



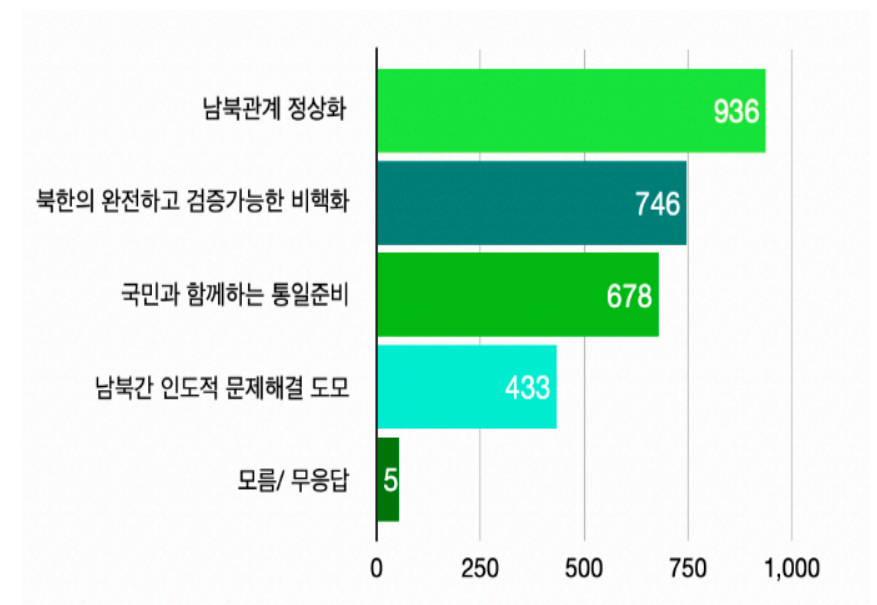
주요 정책 분야별 대통령 평가

Majority of S. Koreans consider inter-Korean rapprochement a top priority

윤석열 정부가 가장 중점적으로 추진해야 할 대북정책 과제는?



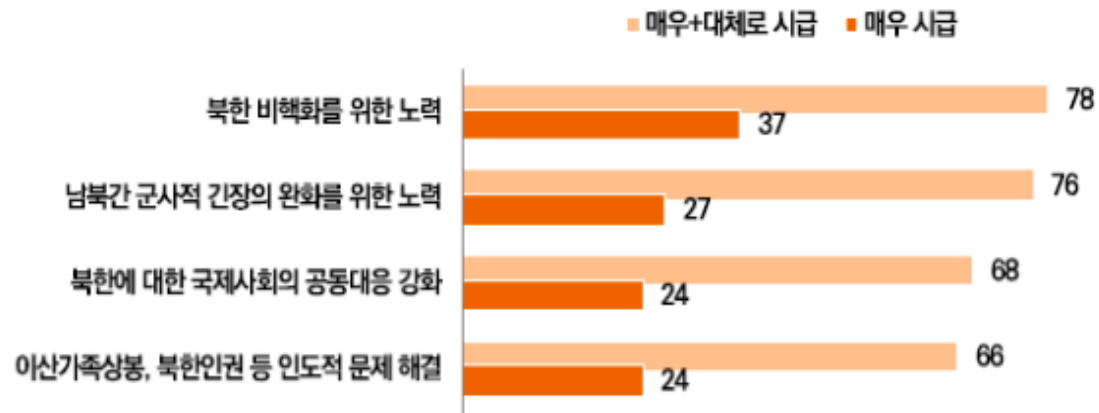
윤석열 정부가 제시한 통일, 대북정책과 관련해 국정과제 중 무엇이 가장 중요한가?



Over two thirds of S. Koreans urgently want to ease inter-Korean military tensions

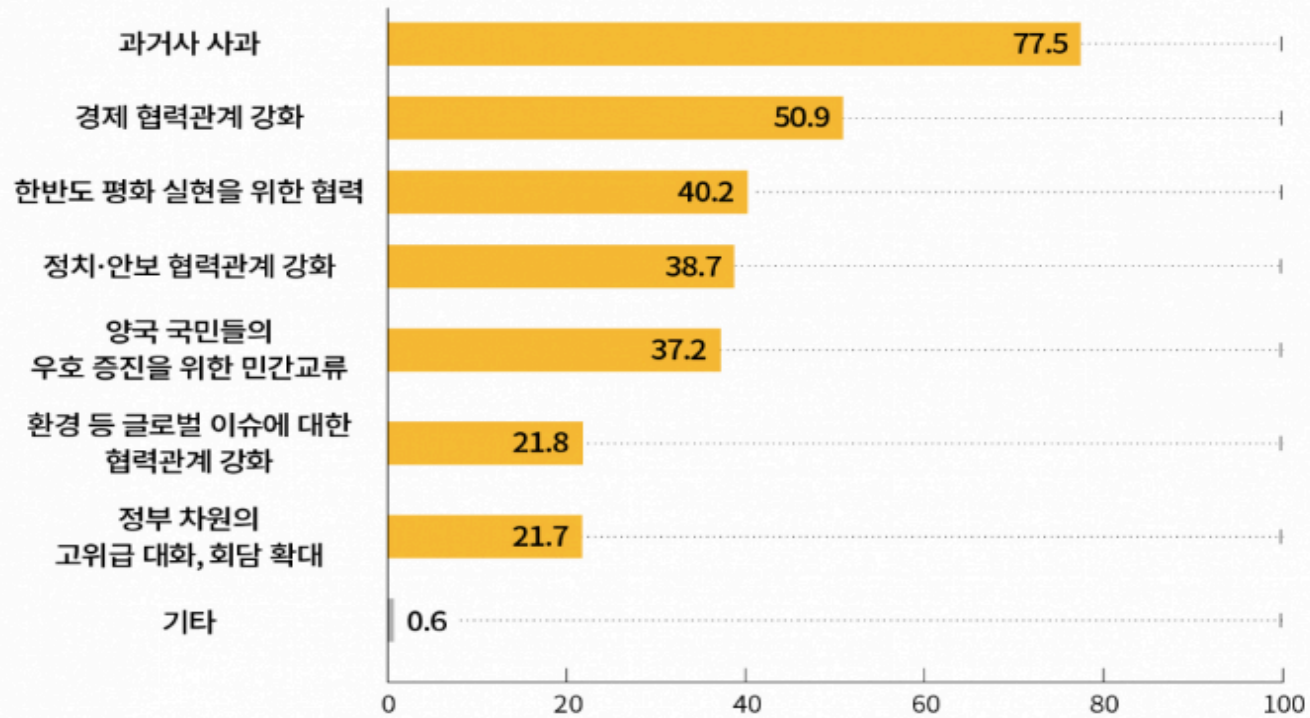
북한 비핵화와 남북 군사적 긴장 완화, 우선순위 높은 대북 정책
통일 준비는 상대적으로 시급성이 떨어진다고 생각해

(단위 : %)



Over two thirds of S. Koreans want a sincere apology from Japan

그림9-2. 한·일 관계 개선을 위해 우선시해야 하는 것은? (최대 3개 선택, 단위: %)



Majority of S. Koreans disapprove of whitewashing Japan's colonial exploitation of Korean laborers



Korea's share of global export drops to lowest since financial crisis on chips

2023.04.17 12:21:02 | 2023.04.17 12:33:02



[Photo by MK DB]

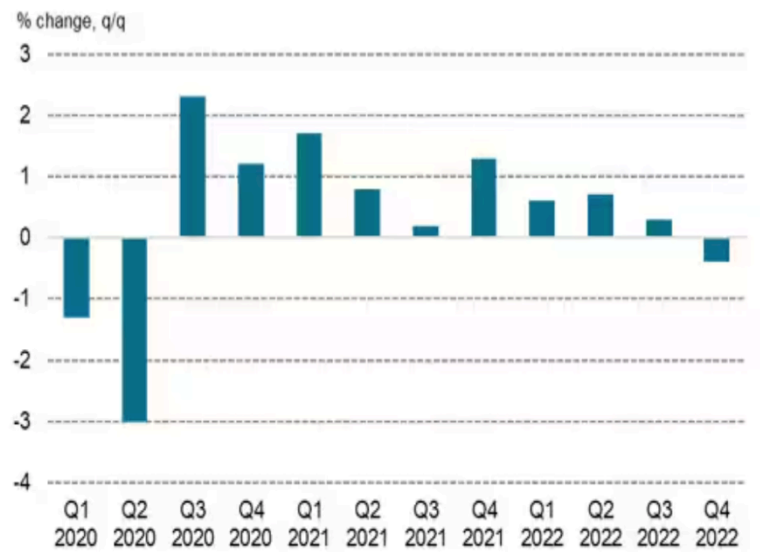
Korea's share of the global exports has plunged to their lowest levels since the global financial crisis in 2008, driven by sluggish semiconductor demand and increasing competition from Taiwan and China.

MOST READ

MOST RECENT

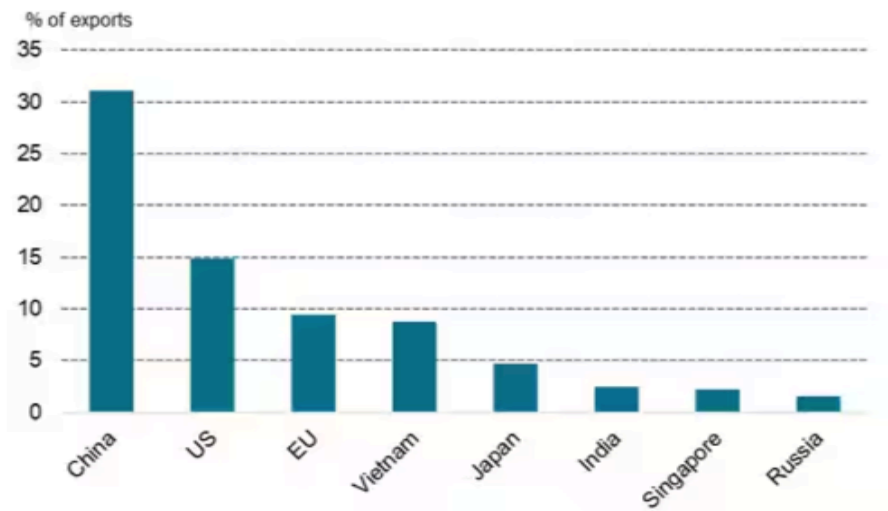
- 1 South Korea's exports fall 11% on-year in first 20 days of A..
- 2 Korea's producer price index gains for third month in March
- 3 POSCO Future M to issue first Korean green bond in battery i..
- 4 Futurenet shares soar as Hyundai Home Shopping increases sta..
- 5 Samsung Electronics brings menstrual cycle tracking to Galax..
- 6 Korean government to invest \$424 million in software industr..
- 7 Krafton becomes Korea's top game stock on positive earnings ..
- 8 Apple, Amazon eyes webtoon market led by Korean platforms

South Korea's real GDP growth



Source: S&P Global

South Korea's export markets



Source: MOTIE

Yoon Seok-youl (South Korea)



The republic of prosecution: South Korea's national security state unleashes attacks on labor and peace activists

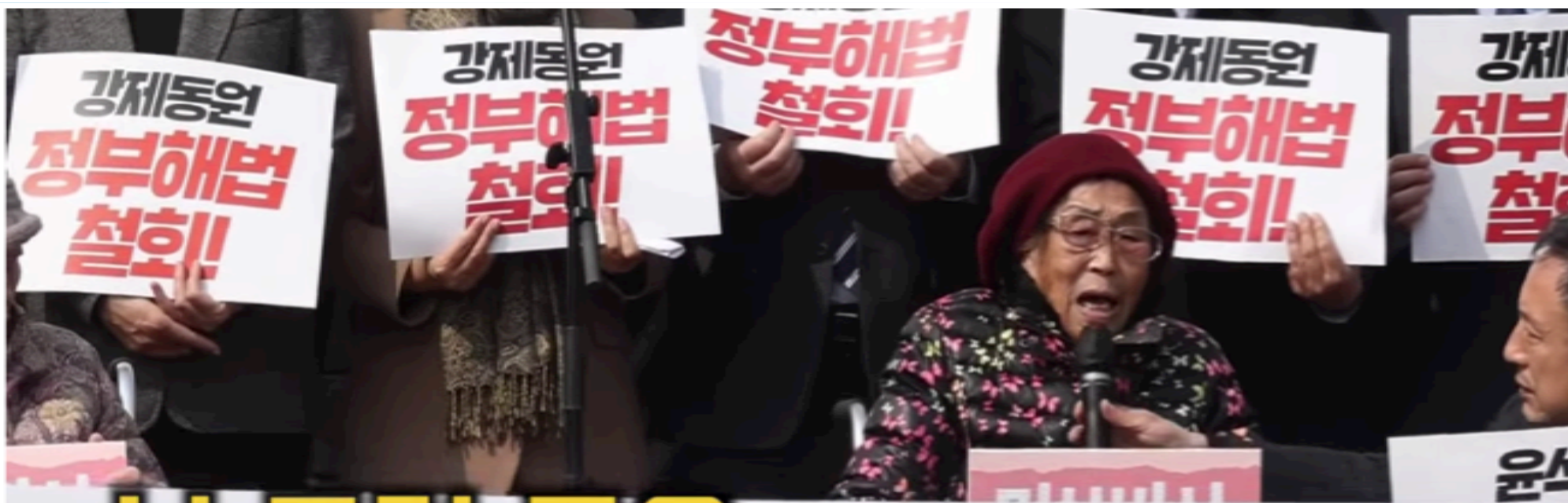
By [K. J. Noh](#) (Posted Jan 24, 2023)



Yoon's Approval rating falls to 27%: Poll

“There is no future for Korea under the Yoon administration”





**나 그런 돈은
곧 굶어 죽어도 안 받아요**



South Korea-US-Japan military alliance resurrects Japanese militarism

일본군국주의 부활음모
한미일 군사동맹 해체하라!



한미연합군사연습 중단

AR
ACE

한미연합군사연습 중단하여
다시
대화의 장을 열자

NO ! WAR
YES ! PEACE

전쟁날까 불안합니다
한미연합군사연습
당장 멈추십시오

적대를 멈추고 평화로!
한미연합군사연습
중단을 촉구합니다

한미연합군사연습
프리덤실드
(Freedom Shield)
중단하라

3.11(토)
평화행진에
만나요!

한반도 전쟁위기 해소
한미연합군사연습 중단 촉구

일시 | 2023년 3월 7일(화) 오전 11시 장소 | 용산 대통령실 앞 주최 |



A Framework: JNC TV Webinar With Noam Chomsky, April 26, 2023

- “A multipolar versus a unipolar world”
- “The US is developing an attack –not impending, but already underway– on China...”
- “Most of the world is refusing to support the US effort to launch a major new Cold War...
Every country is moving towards independence from the US-dominated global system”
- “Washington’s new Cold War is a severe threat to South Korea”
- “The question is whether South Korea wants to remain subordinated to the US or join most of the rest the world in moving towards a global order with independent sources and centers of control, not just the US”

“A war with China would mean the end of humanity”

Japan's Military Buildup: Frontlines of a Future US-instigated War

- Using North Korea's threat as cover for Japanese rearmament targeting China (Admiral Tomohisa Takei)
- Double military spending within the next 5 years
- Developing counterattack capability = pre-emptive strike capability
- Direct opposition to the Peace Constitution
- US-made Tomahawks capable of hitting targets on the Chinese mainland
- Missile systems & warships far beyond Japan's islands and maritime zones
- To become the world's third-largest military powers after the U.S. and China
- Japan's deepening imperial advances intertwined with US hegemonic quest

Japan is a “failed peace state” and “a state actively girding for war under a so-called pacifist constitution.” (Gavin McCormack)

South Korea: “subcontractor” in a new US Cold War

- US nuclear-armed submarines dispatched to South Korea
- Extended deployment of US strategic assets
- Intensification of US-SK-joint war games
- Resuming the GSOMIA intelligence-sharing
- Whitewashing Japan’s responsibility for colonial exploitation of Korean workers
- Consolidating the US-Japan-SK military alliance
- Seoul pressured into the US chip war against China its own economic interests
- SK in the security architecture of the US anti-China Asia-Pacific grand strategy

US retains effective sovereign control of SK military

- The US has had continuous OPCON of the SK military since 1950
- OPCON is usually only a temporary transfer of military control. It is unprecedented that it should last decades past the close of active operations and implementation of an armistice.
- The US maintains de facto and de jure control of 600,000+ Korean troops, 3.1 million reservists and all military bases, weapons, and materials in South Korean possession.
- The US has 28,500 active duty troops in South Korea, and has deployed THAAD anti-missile batteries in the South Korean countryside over the sustained objections of residents.
- These combined forces and materiel are not part of a defensive posture for the benefit of South Korea, but in fact form an US imperial force and threat projection platform deployed on a de facto US outpost

(K.J. Noh, *JNC TV Webinar With Noam Chomsky*, April 26, 2023)

South Korea will be on the front lines of any US-led war in Asia

Major U.S. bases in South Korea

(USFK troop number: 28,500)

• April, 2013	The 23rd Chemical Battalion (Camp Stanley)
• October, 2013	The 4th Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment (Camp Humphreys)
• January, 2014	12 F-16 fighters with some 300 troops (Osan Air Base or Gunsan)
• February, 2014	800-strong 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment (Camp Hovey, Camp Stanley)



Major U.S. military bases near North Korea



Source: (The Guardian) US Air Force, US Navy



Alternative

If Washington has a genuine interest in achieving regional security and stability, it should pursue a broader vision in which nations can coexist, rather than exploiting the North Korean threat as a cover for its own regional ambitions.

RETURN OPCON

Toward a Peaceful, Neutral and Unified Korea

평화, 중립, 통일 조국 향한 대장정

Thank you

Simone Chun
simonechun@gmail.com
[twitter@simonechun](https://twitter.com/simonechun)