Koreans Must Regain Control of Their Destiny

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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.

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

S. Korea 3rd-largest importer of US weapons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Importers of US weapons</th>
<th>(Unit: $ billion)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>10.63</td>
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<td>Australia</td>
<td>7.27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>3.75</td>
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<tr>
<td>S. Korea</td>
<td>6.73</td>
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</table>

Source: 2018 Global Defense Market Yearbook/Yonhap
80% of S.Koreans Oppose Washington’s New Cold War
Majority of S. Koreans disapprove of Yoon’s foreign policy
Majority of S. Koreans consider inter-Korean rapprochement a top priority
Over two thirds of S. Koreans urgently want to ease inter-Korean military tensions
Over two thirds of S. Koreans want a sincere apology from Japan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<td>과거사 사과</td>
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<td>정치·안보 협력관계 강화</td>
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<td>양국 국민들의 우호 증진을 위한 민간교류</td>
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<td>정부 차원의 고위급 대화, 회담 확대</td>
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<td>기타</td>
<td>0.6</td>
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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

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.
Yoon Seok-youl (South Korea)

19%  6%  75%  NET -57

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.
윤석열 정부
졌음외교 OUT!

윤석열 정부
ڿ lettong OUT!
South Korea-US-Japan military alliance resurrects Japanese militarism
한반도 전쟁위기 해소
한미연합군사연습 중단 촉구!

한미연합군사연습 중단하야
d시 대화의 장을 열자

NO! WAR
YES! PEACE

전쟁날개 불안합니다
한미연합군사연습
당장 멈추시오

한미연합군사연습
프리덤쉴드(Freedom Shield)
중단하라

일시 | 2023년 3월 7일(화) 오전 11시 장소 | 용산 대통령실 앞 주최 |
이땅은 미국의 전쟁기지가 아니니
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
Yongsan Garrison
In the heart of Seoul
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.
Toward a Peaceful, Neutral and Unified Korea

평화, 중립, 통일 조국 향한 대장정

Thank you

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