



INTERNATIONAL PEACE PROJECT²⁰⁰⁰

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First IPP Computerised 'Weather' Forecast of an International Conflict to Peace or War:

North Korea v South Korea

1. Summary

There is a high risk of North Korean internal collapse resulting in nuclear detonations in war, according to a prototype computer model developed for the International Peace Project²⁰⁰⁰, an educational charity. This model is based on facts, not policy opinions, which are analysed in terms of both the balance of power between the two Koreas and the balance of peaceful means of conflict resolution. Although only one significant 'balance of peace' was identified, this is crucial to predicting the long-term direction of the conflict.

Without a renewed peace process, since the failed efforts in 2018/19, involving North and South Korea and their allies, China and the United States, this forecast may be unavoidable.

2. Background

The IPP computer model has been developed by a postgraduate student at one of the United Kingdom's top universities for computer science, acting as Consultant to the Trustees, with an expert in data science as their IT Adviser, who works with a company in Zimbabwe. This IT Project is under the supervision of (Dr) Peter Southwood, author of Briefings on the Prospects for Peace: The People's Republic of China, published by IPP on 11 September 2022 at www.ipp2000.uk/ipp2000 as part of the Advanced Peace Game Trials, 2021-2023.

Once this phase of the IT Project is complete in the autumn, it is hoped that sufficient progress will have been made to persuade a university computer science department to establish a research unit to set this innovative programme up on a more permanent basis. It offers the public benefit of forecasts to predict the 'climate' or propensity for peace or war in any region.

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'The final establishment of universal peace among all the nations of the earth manifestly is an object of public charity.'
Rugg C. J. in Parkhurst v Burrill 117 NE 39 (1917)

Charity registration number 1101966. Registration made possible under English law by the Court of Appeal judgment in Southwood & Parsons v H. M. Attorney General [28 June 2000] concerning the Project on Demilitarisation which, with the High Court judgment [9 October 1998], provided the first comprehensive legal framework aimed at advancing the education of the public in the differing means of securing a state of peace and avoiding a state of war.

3. Results

While this is not a publicly available programme, so its inner workings and data remain confidential, the top-level results of North versus South Korea are being published on Hiroshima Day (6 August) because of the public benefit of the warnings given.

The overall grade of the IPP Model is attached to illustrate:

- Positive and negative balances of power and peace for North v South Korea between 2010 to 2020, where a positive result for one country is negative for the other.
- These balances are assessed in terms of relevant factual data across each of the three main dimensions of security:
 - Military, where power is balanced even when nuclear weapons are taken into account. (S. Korea has none but is allied with the United States whose nuclear weapons vastly outnumber, in quality and quantity, those of N. Korea);
 - Economic, where the only material balance of peace is negative for N. Korea and positive for S. Korea (per capita income being some 30 times higher); and
 - Institutional, where again the balance of power is negative for N. Korea and positive for S. Korea, e.g. due to the former's exclusion from multilateral trade bodies.
- The overall grade is the result of summarising these positive and negative balances of power and peace to yield the **-P**, which is a propensity for war between the two states.

Public Benefit

The overall grade may seem unsurprising until it is assessed against IPP's founding principle, accepted by the English courts, of 'an irenic perspective' i.e. that a state of peace is generally preferable to a state of war and, therefore, peaceful rather than military means of resolving an international dispute are emphasised.

Applied to the North v South Korea conflict, whose semi-permanent ceasefire has lasted for 70 years since the end of the Korean War, the policy prescription of 'maximum pressure' to bring North Korea back to the negotiating table, on the basis that its leaders will completely denuclearise, understates the high risk of no peace negotiations since 2018/19. For the collapse of their state, due to a widening economic gap with the South coupled with economic isolation from multilateral institutions, would trigger conditions for nuclear weapon use.

No examples exist since 1945 in which a nuclear weapon State, with conditions like North Korea's, survived indefinitely. That the Soviet collapse in 1991 did not result in a nuclear exchange may be linked to the irenic legacy of the Gorbachev administration which is unlikely to be repeated in view of the negative reaction it generated in Russia and communist China. While no timeline can be placed on the risk of North Korean collapse, its leaders currently have no way out on their own – barring renewed peace talks – to forestall this. As a weapon of last resort, the climate for nuclear detonations in war would then become a reality.

The public benefit of this nuclear weather forecast is in alerting everyone to the dangers of the current North v South Korea conflict and the place of objective and impartial education in ensuring that politically negotiated terms of peace give due weight to the process involved.

Comparison

IPP’s Briefing No. 1 on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict published online in January 2006 at www.ipp2000.org accurately foresaw (in chapter 3) the direction of that conflict towards periodic war. The Table below illustrates both that analysis and how the N v S Korea conflict reflects it in a more extreme form. *Can such weather forecasts be safely ignored?*

Table – Forecasting the Propensity for Future Peace or War

SCENARIOS: 2006-2022				
	<i>Perspectives:</i>			
	Israeli-Palestinian Conflict (2006)		North v South Korea (2022)	
	<i>Israeli</i>	<i>Palestinian</i>	<i>North Korean</i>	<i>South Korean</i>
<i>Type of Security</i>				
Military (M):				
- conventional	Superiority	Inferiority	Balanced	Balanced
- nuclear bombs	Undeclared	None	Perhaps < 50	None but US ally has ‘000s
Economic (E):	Superiority	Inferiority	Inferiority	Superiority
Institutional (I):	Stronger	Weaker	Only military with China ally	Economic, too.
Propensity for peace or war	-P	-P	-P	-P
	despite balance of power +ve	despite balance of power -ve	despite balance of power -ve	despite balance of power +ve
	for M, E and I	for M, E and I	for E and I	for E and I

Note: the ‘balance of peace’ is not shown to simplify the Table, but it is also negative for the Palestinians and North Koreans

Overall conclusion: when coercive power is unbalanced across each type of security the risks of war rise – the main difference is that North Korea has nuclear weapons and the Palestinians do not. So, the former is a much more dangerous situation than the latter at present in terms of the high risk of economic collapse precipitating nuclear detonations – barring a renewed emphasis on peaceful means of conflict resolution. For example, when the United States assisted communist China from 1979 in military, economic and institutional terms with decisive long-term consequences for the propensity for peace or war between them.

These long-term perspectives of educators, informed by computer and data analysis, may be an essential ‘third leg’ of a tripod, with politicians and the military, to secure a state of peace. In this respect, competition between educators is a crucial part of the Advanced Peace Game Trials to find the best of differing means of forecasting the direction of international conflicts.

Notes for Editors

This IT Project has been funded by a GB£10,000 restricted donation from Peter Southwood to the International Peace Project (IPP).

Any factual questions on this Project can be directed to Peter Southwood, Adviser and Hon. Secretary to the Trustees, who is supervising the Project with the Trustees' IT Adviser:

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The IPP Trustees are listed on the Charity Commission register of charities under no. 1101966.

Email requests from media organisations for responses from Trustees will be forwarded to:

Chairman: Air Vice Marshal Mohammed Umaru (r'td)

Vice Chair: Ms Yvonne Kuimba (also works in IT management)

Finance Director: Dr Tony Lemon

Date of issue of this IPP 'weather' forecast: Friday 4 August 2023.