

JIAP OBSERVATION

WHO WILL LOSE NORTH KOREA?

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The Bush Administration's evolving North Korea policy has the potential of repeating the mistakes made by previous administrations during the late-1940s and 1950s in dealing with the newly Communist states of China and Cuba. Washington was unprepared and unwilling to work with these revolutionary governments. The result was wasted decades of isolation, need, and acrimony.

Rigid beliefs on how economies and governments should act hindered creative policies in the US toward both China and Cuba. Hubris and nationalism governed reactions to US policy by both states. Thus, the early outreach by each country for dialogue and aid was misinterpreted or ignored. American policymakers were unable to believe that Communist "revolutions" are first about basic human needs—food, shelter, safety—not dictatorship and oppression. The latter are the result of isolation and fear.

As in today's China and Russia, a "second revolution" is going on in communist North Korea. Modernization and development are paired with economic and political globalization. Unfortunately, the Administration, unlike its Japanese and Korean counterparts, uses old Cold War admonishments and threats to contain this new revolution in Pyongyang. If North Korea does not join peacefully the global economy and community, it will be the Bush officials who have lost this opportunity, and *lost* Korea.

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