

EDITORIAL

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How to cite this editorial

Kim, Bongchul (2026). Editorial. *Janus.net, e-journal of international relations*. VOL. 17 Nº. 1, TD 1 – Thematic Dossier – The Korean Peninsula in a Global Context: Security, Culture, and Transnational Perspectives, June 2026, pp. 2-4. DOI <https://doi.org/10.26619/1647-7251.DT0426ED>





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This special issue presents seven articles on the Korean Peninsula and its broader international dimensions. Although the contributions differ in theme and approach, they are united by a shared concern with how Korean questions are shaped by wider developments in contemporary world politics, public discourse, and transnational exchange.

The order of the articles follows a deliberate editorial logic. The issue begins with immediate questions of security and strategy on the Korean Peninsula, then moves to changes in public security perceptions, and subsequently broadens toward external diplomatic, comparative, and cultural perspectives. It closes with a contribution that addresses the longer-term political future of Korea through the question of reunification. This progression is intended to give the volume coherence across otherwise diverse themes.

Michael Reiterer's "North Korea: Back to the Future is no solution" opens the issue by reconsidering established approaches to North Korea. Sungwah Ko's "Alliance Dilemmas under the Trump Administration: Abandonment, Entrapment, and South Korea's Strategic Choices" examines South Korea's strategic choices under alliance uncertainty. Hayann Lee's "From Solidarity to Survival: An Analysis of the Transition of Security Perceptions in the Korean Digital Public Sphere during the Ukraine War Using KoBERT" traces changing perceptions of security in Korea's digital public sphere during the Ukraine War.

The issue then turns to wider comparative and transnational questions. Euichan Shin's "The UK's Reset Diplomacy towards the EU: Implications for Peace on the Korean Peninsula in the Era of Polycrisis" considers the relevance of European diplomatic change for the Korean Peninsula. Jieun Kim's "Cultural Iberism and its Applicability to the Korean Peninsula" offers a comparative perspective on historical imagination. Jai-Ung Hong's "Scandinavian Literature in Korea: Infrastructural Alignment, Translation, and Cultural Mediation" explores the role of translation in Korea's cultural connections beyond the peninsula.

The final article, Jongho Park's "Yes, Reunification by Absorption Would Be a Catastrophe for Korea," concludes the special issue by raising a fundamental question about the political and institutional consequences of a future Korean settlement. Finally, the articles



show the diversity of perspectives through which the Korean Peninsula can be examined today. Written primarily by Korea-based researchers, together with Michael Reiterer, former Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Korea, the collection reflects both local scholarly engagement and broader international relevance.