

Korea's key role in the great power game

The Korean peninsula is commonly likened at a shrimp among whales, but the strategic importance of is surprisingly large. This recent book highlights Korean role in the great power game and the risks of a new war. United States's relative weakening and China growing importance allows the balance of power in East Asia — and in the world

– are being delayed. Yet another time, however, the United States a devastating military superiority and in certain circles are the temptation to attack China "before it is too late." It is in this perspective, one should understand the tighter situation on the Korean peninsula, think the new expert on Korea Tim Beal.

On 26 March 2010 sank the South Korean the Corvette Cheonan during unclear circumstances near the disputed; the United States unilaterally declared Northern limit line (NLL), in Korean Western sea areas. South Korean President Lee Myung-bak had appoint a Commission of inquiry (where Swedish Naval experts contribute

de), whose final report accused Northern Korea for torpedoed ship.

But the Commission was politically operated by the Department of Defense and the evidence presented was obvious hoax, which both detection of criticism in South Korea and established by the Russian inquiry been allowed to examine the facts of the case.

(In Swedish-Korean Association Web page is a South Korean film which critically examines the official the report's conclusions.) This event has been taken as a pretext for stepping up confrontation and military build-up towards the north side from the South Korean the military and the United States.

Militarised superpower

United States: the militarisation of the EU [US] has been developed quickly, so that the United States now accounts for half of the world's military expenditure is the main international arms dealer,

and weapons appear to be its largest export product. United States: s stores are not further shops, without war.

China's growing power makes it in USAfinns a temptation to attack China "innandetärförsent". Somförfattaren points out, we must hope that it never happening, but it is in this perspective we must see the Korea issue.

Or as he writes in one place:

... One possible consequence of this

is that there are those in the "world's largest and most experienced military power "

considers that now is the time to give China epistaxis [Bloody nose] – and which site would be better than Korea?

From a Western perspective, north korea, the non conquered, untamed, "alien" part of Korea, while South Korea Western eyes is a nicely and välanpassat lydland, which behaves somdetförväntas and sends soldiers the war for the United States's interests when its men's iWashington so requests. For this they will be rewarded with good commercial contracts.

South Korea (ROK) is today a relatively rich State with limited sovereignty. North Korea (DFRK) is poor, but fully sovereign.

Poverty in the North have their explanations. The main reason is the United States's sanctions policy, annotated detail in the book.

DFRK's ambition is to achieve a peaceful and independent reunification throughout the nation's overall efforts. Re-nationalisation isödra Korea, with the backing of the United States, to instead promote a collapse of regime and social system in the North and during the entire Korean peninsula.

At the North-South Summit in Pyongyang 2000 joined both sides to the idea that gradually develop cooperation between the two parts of the country with a view to forming a Confederation with respect for the different political systems. The subject of a communication tourism between North and South took off during Presidents Kim Dae Jung and Roh Moo Hyun, but got a cold 2008 when Lee Myung-bak became president of South Korea. Since then It has been a confrontation which prevailed from the South Korean side. The result of the two North-South Summit meetings have vanished.

A pretext for tightening

The official ' Declaration  
the Cheonans shipwreck is false  
– and there is every indication that it is deliberate.

(Tim Beal points out that Cheonanhändelsen  
is similar to  
the bombing in 1987 by the South Korean  
passenger aircraft SKIN  
858, which was alleged to be a work of  
North Korean agents.)

Cheonans shipwreck was taken by the  
South Korean military and USAsom

a pretext for stepping up confrontation  
and military build-up  
towards the north side.

Neither Russia nor China saw  
the evidence as convincing.  
However, they seem to have concluded  
that escalation after  
Cheonan-event, the purpose of  
was ostensibly to "deter north korea",  
in fact addressed  
against China.

A chapter dealing with the so-called  
Northern Limit Line (NLL), i.e.  
the United States in August 1953 unilateral  
proclaimed the demarcation line in  
Korea's västhav, and where does he  
some important information that I do not  
seen earlier.

In the disputed area occurred  
two major incidents in 1999 and 2002  
and further impact in  
november 2009. DFRK has made several  
attempts to negotiate a solution  
and reduce tension in this area,  
but they have consistently rejected  
of the Danube.

Exercises for nuclear war

Another chapter deals with the  
military exercises as the United States and the  
South Korean armed forces.  
The proceeds from scenario about a collapse  
in the North and a military invasion.  
The author cites a u.s.  
militärkommentatorsom menarattde  
nordkoreanskaprotesternaär unjustified  
and routine because these  
exercises conducted annually since  
1996. He says:

It is a simple but complete  
invalid argument to claim that  
anything becomes acceptable only  
It occurs frequently. Woman  
who complains that her husband  
routinely spöar [beats her] up her is  
no less a victim of violence

is routine.

The joint military exercises has three components: training massive strengthening of the United States's military in Korea, for providing the South Korean uppmarschområdet and for invasion of North Korea.

Tim Beal depicting in detail the plans for nuclear war in Korea as the U.S. armed forces drafted – (contingency scenarios plans, CONPLAN) and war plans (operational plans, OPLAN).

In the power game as book highlights includes also the psychological warfare.

War propaganda

United States's incessant indoctrination by public opinion, both at grass-roots level, have built up hostility against North Korea as become a driving force in itself.

This characterises also forming in our own country, where objective and balanced news coverage of Korea is extremely rare and printed and said in the media almost exclusively is political disinformation.

A consequence of this indoctrination is, he writes, that "a growing number of Americans and Koreans think DFRK stands near a collapse, or at least becoming more vulnerable, and attitudes approaches for what many have longed for and dreamed of for nearly 60 years of age: the destruction of the DFRK and the Korean peninsula United under Seoul's management and in Washington State auspices. The underlying reason for that is the assumption that the siege of North Korea—particularly sanctions that have plagued the country—has the desired effect."

But this is a false and dangerous delusion, believe the book's author. Although the sanctions have had and have a devastating effect. Trade Embargo against DFRK is the most protracted ever against any country. IN the book presents the calculations on what it cost the country in money counting — and These are astronomical!

The main effect is lack of electricity and food. This is a shape by acts of war, basically a the form of weapons of mass destruction

directed against the population. They have a clear effect: to kill, harm and impoverish people, and it is also the intention of the United States's them. decades-long blockadpo wide energy policy against the DFRK is a violation of humanity, said Tim Beal

#### One-sided hostility

Despite the tightening of sanctions has DFRK's economy stabilized and developed considerably since the beginning of in the 1990s. In fact, DFRK's growing economic success likely an important cause for the intensified confrontation.

Tim Beal points out that the 60-year-old the enmity between United States and DFRK essentially unilateral, from United States against DFRK. DFRK threatens not United States: s interests in any other way than by to assert its independence. On The Contrary characterized DFRK's policy gentemotUSA consistently by the desire for "peaceful coexistence "and normalization of relations. The DFRK should summarize He in three points:

- 1) Removed the threat from the United States.
- 2) away by United States troops from The Korean Peninsula.
- 3) peace agreement with the United States to end Korea War.

Tim Beal calls for a fresh start: Accept north korea as it is – a sovereign State with its own interests. But two factors speak against such peaceful policy, he said: the militarisation of the American society, and the fact that the voltage in East Asia, South Korea and Japan still in alliance with the United States against China. Korea issue is for USAett instruments in order to maintain its grip over Japan and South Korea and put China in a dilemma. The notion of "threat from north korea "is fundamental for Japan to accept that the United States retain their base on Okinawa.

Tim Beals book is a sober and sharp analysis of the tension in a region increasingly central in world politics. The risks he points to be taken at a large earnest. They should also have implications for Sweden's conduct in the Korea conflict.

Christer Lundgren

