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Panel 4.4: Negotiating Differences

Looking Past Stereotype Images of North Korean Irrationality

Whilst the provocative conduct of the North Korean Government has been a significant factor in leading to regional tensions, it is also necessary to bear in mind that this situation has been further exacerbated by media portrayals of the North Korean leadership as being composed of irrational warmongers. Such an image of North Korea has also been injected into the general public's image of the country. The author proposes to examine how and why such stereotype images of North Korea have come to shape public perceptions of North Korea. In addition, the author will consider the implications that such stereotype images have for the formulation of US diplomatic and security policy in the Northeast Asian geostrategic setting. This study will conclude by considering how best to mitigate such stereotypes' impact on the formulation of US policy towards North Korea.