

Korea review

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Abstrak

The six-party process aimed at North Korea's denuclearization has been stalled since the six-party talks failed to agree on a verification protocol in early December 2008. North Korea now wants to be recognized as a nuclear state, and is unlikely to abandon its nuclear weapons without security guarantees provided by the United States. Some scholars argue that the six-party talks have outlived their usefulness. The author has argued over the years that the six-party process remains alive and useful as the best means of resolving North Korea's nuclear issue to achieve denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula under the September 19 joint agreement, which is a prerequisite for building a peace regime on the Korean Peninsula and regional peace in Northeast Asia. The author discusses the current status of the talks, analyzing three key obstacles to the restoration of the six-party process. He makes policy recommendations for an early resumption of the long-stalled process.