

SOUTH KOREA AND CHINESE CONFLICT OVER THAAD: HOW IT STARTED AND THE WAY IT ENDED

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ABSTRACT

After North Korea's fourth nuclear tested in January 2016, U.S. and South Korea has an official discussion started in early February 2016. The choice to deploy the anti-missile defense system THAAD was made in July 2016 and therefore the first launchers in May 2017. This launch was in line with the tenure of President Moon Jae In at that point. President Moon Jae In initially opposed THAAD but has now accelerated its deployment in response to North Korea's nuclear test on September 3. Even before the official THAAD discussion started, Beijing expressed its opposition to the system. Although China is additionally against North Korea's nuclear development, THAAD is seen as an arrange to undermine China's strategic interests within the region. And because of this, China giving a 'punishment' to South Korea. This research aims to describe how the conflict between South Korea and Chinese can happen, the impact of the place THAAD in South Korea to the relations between two countries, and the way the conflict ended. This research uses neorealism as an approach. The methodology employing a qualitative method and collecting the data employing Historical-comparative research.

Keywords: South Korea, China, THAAD, North Korea

INTRODUCTION

North Korea unilaterally withdrew from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) in January 2003, is not a party to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), and has conducted six increasingly sophisticated nuclear tests since 2006 (NTI, 2020). In 2013, the North Korean nuclear and missile threat in the early transition from Kim Jong-Il to Kim Jong-Un. Between 2013 to 2015, progress in the missile programs seemed uneasy (Pollack, 2018).

In January and September 2016, North Korea conducted four nuclear tests, two of which occurred in close proximity, signaling a stepped-up pace of nuclear development. North Korea was also deeply engaged in ballistic missile testing during those years (Landau & Landau, 2017). After North Korea's fourth nuclear tested in January 2016, U.S and South Korea have an Official discussion started in early February 2016. After a series of consultations, the choice to deploy THAAD was made public by the Park Geun-hye administration on July 7, 2016. Consistent with a joint statement between the U.S. and South Korea made the subsequent day, THAAD aims to act as a "defensive measure to make sure the security of ROK and its people, and to guard Alliance military forces against North Korea's weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile threats. It had been announced on July 22, 2016, that THAAD would be installed on a South Korean Air Force base in Seongju

County, which is found some 200 kilometers southeast of Seoul. But because of Park Geun-hye corruption scandal, The THAAD project was continued by the next elected president, Moon Jae In. On September 30, 2016, the U.S. and South Korea then announced the relocation of THAAD from the South Korean Air Force base to Lotte Skyhill Seongju Country Club (Institute for Security and Development Policy, 2017).

The THAAD installation by South Korea reaped a negative response from China. Even before the official THAAD discussion started, Beijing expressed its opposition to the system. Although China is additionally against North Korea's nuclear development, THAAD is seen as an arrange to undermine China's strategic interests within the region (Institute for Security and Development Policy, 2017). So later in this article, the author will try to describe how the conflict between South Korea and China started, how later the conflict affected South Korea and the resolution of the conflict between South Korea and China.

After North Korea's fourth nuclear tested in January 2016, U.S and South Korea have an Official discussion started in early February 2016. After a series of consultations, the choice to deploy THAAD was made public by the Park Geun-hye administration on July 7, 2016. Consistent with a joint statement between the U.S. and South Korea made the subsequent day, THAAD aims to act as a "defensive measure to make sure the security of ROK and its people, and to guard Alliance military forces against North Korea's weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile threats. It had been announced on July 22, 2016, that THAAD would be installed on a South Korean Air Force base in Seongju County, which is found some 200 kilometers southeast of Seoul (Institute for Security and Development Policy, 2017).

THAAD (The Terminal High Altitude Area Defense) itself is an anti-ballistic missile defense system developed by American company Lockheed Martin. THAAD missiles are 6.17 meters long h and have one stage solid-fuel rocket motor with thrust. They have a range of 200 kilometers and may reach up to 150 kilometers in altitude, this can be higher than any other missile defense system. The radar, on the opposite hand, can identify missile threats up to 1,000 kilometers in range (Technology, n.d.).

China's reaction to the official conversation between U.S. and South Korea with a crisis meeting among Deputy Foreign Minister China, Liu Zhenmin with Republic of Korea Ambassador for the People's Republic of China, Kim Jang Soo and hand-off the situation to

reject the arrangement. Also, after the declaration, the Ministry of National Defense of China delayed the significant level protection discourse with South Korea and deferred the South Korean safeguard pastor's visit to China. In light of THAAD too, the Chinese government likewise didn't send significant level authorities as the primary visitors to go to the South Korean Embassy National Day gathering in 2016. China additionally fortified the counter THAAD crusade with the Chinese unfamiliar priest, Wang Yi, referencing THAAD as significantly more than multiple times in his discourse just as the numerous THAAD protests communicated by Chinese specialists against the media (Bramantya, 2017).

As China's financial expands, China has applied economic sanctions as its international strategy instrument in debates. China utilizes monetary approval in Sino-Korean relations about the establishment of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD). Lotte as a supplier of land doesn't get away from economic sanction since China has set speculation guidelines to Lotte, in significant Chinese urban areas to pressure the South Korean government. Also, along these lines, shopping centers, and general stores that Lotte claimed in those urban communities were closed down because of unexpected fire assessments (Huang, 2019).

Not just for the Lotte gathering, China's resistance to THAAD additionally squeezes the improvement of Korean Wave/Hallyu in China, after restriction there are a few things that have happened with respect to Hallyu exercises in China, remembering for their view, for example, steps taken by the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television (SARFT) China against a few K-dramatizations that are as of now in the broadcast. Another exertion was found in a few abrogations of craftsman exhibitions from South Korea in China which were in the end supplanted by specialists from China. Another effect of the breaking down connection among China and South Korea with respect to THAAD is in the travel industry division, alluding to the choice taken by the Chinese government toward the beginning of March 2017, specifically the issue of restricting Chinese travel services from selling venture out proposals to South Korea (Habiburrahman, 2017).

The effect that was then felt by South Korea with this economic sanction was after the choice to disallow venture out for Chinese residents to South Korea, one of the South Korean banks, the Korea Development Bank, clarified that this circumstance would in any event have an impact by decreasing deals, particularly from obligation free businesses by up to 80%. The misfortunes could be up to USD 11.7 million and could reach USD 20 million if things deteriorated. The approaches that influence the travel industry exercises of these

two nations cause the number of visits by the two residents of these nations to seem to have definitely diminished and the number has diminished altogether (Habiburrahman, 2017).

Aside from the travel industry, the beautifiers exchange likewise encountered an uncommon decrease after the economic sanction. This brought about a lessening in the volume of South Korean beauty care products fares to China in July 2016 (Putri, 2019). In the fall of 2017, South Korea reached an agreement with China to normalize economic relations and remove the informal economic sanctions Beijing used in an attempt to coerce Seoul into reversing the decision to deploy the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missile defense system. The agreement with China called for the resumption of normal economic relations and a commitment “Three No’s” by South Korea. The contents of this agreement include, no additional deployment of THAAD batteries, no South Korean integration into a U.S. led regional missile defense system, and no trilateral alliance with the United States and Japan (Stangarone, 2019).

ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK

Neorealism can also know as structural realism. Neorealist thinking has been influenced by the thoughts of Kenneth Waltz since the 1970s. Waltz's thinking about international relations is heavily influenced by the philosophy of science and microeconomic models (Bakry, 2017). Structural realism attempt to abstract from every attribute of states except their capabilities in order to highlight the impact of anarchy and the distribution of capabilities. Interaction between countries will give rise to international structures and will then restrict them from taking certain actions while pushing it in other directions. Therefore, despite great variations in the attributes and interactions of states, there is a ‘striking sameness in the quality of international life through the millennia’ (Burchill, 2005).

The two principal political ordering principles are hierarchy and anarchy. Units either stand in relationships of hierarchy or anarchy. Waltz argues that striking qualitative differences exist between politics conducted in a condition of settled rules and politics conducted in a condition of anarchy. Hierarchy entails relations of super and subordination among a system’s parts and that implies their differentiation. Consider the separation of legislative, executive and judicial powers. Anarchic orders see that every unit must put itself in a position to be able to take care of itself because there’s no one else can be counted on to do so. If all international orders are anarchic and if this implies minimal functional differentiation, then international political structures differ only in their distribution of

capabilities. The distribution of capabilities defined by the changing fates of great powers (Burchill, 2005).

So what can be concluded from Kenneth Waltz's explanation is that neorealism has three layers of explanatory factors that have a contribution to state behavior, namely: (1) anarchy or self-help system; (2) functional differentiation of the units; and (3) change in power capability distribution or change in polarity configuration (Bakry, 2017). International system is an anarchic, competitive, self-help system and other primary motivation that makes states should survive. A motivation which manifests itself as the quest for security and the sublimation of all other goals, such as the acquisition of power in the absolute rather than relative sense, to that quest (Bendel, 1994).

In anarchic systems, the great power of others is always a threat when there is no government to turn to. Therefore, the offender seeks to reduce risk by well balancing internally, reallocating resources for national security. Externally this will be done through alliances and other formal and informal agreements (Burchill, 2005). Stephen Walt defined alliance as a formal or informal relationship of a security cooperation between two or more sovereign states. This definition assumes some level of commitment and an exchange of benefits for both parties; severing the relationship or failing to honor the agreement would presumably cost something, even if it were compensated in other ways. But this definition can not be as straightforward as Walt's definition suggest in anarchic world. States enter into such agreements from different relative power standings, which implies unequal costs and benefits, and with no guarantee that an alliance partner will live up to its bargain (Bendel, 1994).

METHODOLOGY

The purpose of this research is descriptive research. This research wants to describe how the conflict between South Korea and Chinese can happen, the impact of the place THAAD in South Korea to the relations between two countries, and the way the conflict ended. The data or evidence used for this study are secondary sources. Secondary sources themselves consist of materials or documents that are reviewed through the reading of notified materials that have been recorded elsewhere. These sources are summarized in magazines, journals, encyclopedias, treatises, annual reports, etc. Secondary source research uses qualitative data used in historical research that is reported or written by historians or other people, who did not directly participate in the events or settings. Qualitative data itself is narrative or

descriptive data that describes the quality of a phenomenon. The quality of a phenomenon is usually not easy or cannot be measured numerically.

DISCUSSION

South Korean installation of THAAD

The THAAD installation carried out by South Korea was not without reason, but due to a sense of insecurity with the massive nuclear test carried out by North Korea. Departing from this feeling of insecurity, finally South Korea and the United States, which are its allies, discussed to improve security and defense in their countries. The discussion has been carried out since the time of South Korean President Moon Geun Hye and was continued by the next South Korean President, President Moon Jae In.

The Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) is an anti-ballistic missile defense system developed by American company Lockheed Martin. Production of this missile began in 1992 and the first contract with the U.S government was signed in January 2007. The aims of THAAD is to defend U.S troops, allied forces, population centers, and critical infrastructure from short and medium range missiles. One of the main characteristics of THAAD is the ease of transportation which makes it possible to quickly reposition the system. This characteristics great flexibility to respond to changing threats (Institute for Security and Development Policy, 2017).

The installation of THAAD certainly caused a sense of insecurity felt by other countries. Even the THAAD installation received a negative response from within South Korea itself. The strongest criticism comes from Seongju, where this system was first put in place. The people of Seongju felt that the decision to deploy the missile was very undemocratic. Other critics say there will be side effects resulting from radiation from the missile and the loss of land for THAAD placement (Institute for Security and Development Policy, 2017).

The security and defense enhancement carried out by South Korea in the eyes of Neorealism is a way to increase its power so that there is a balance of power. This increase in strength is important in an anarchic, competitive and self-help international system. The balancing effort carried out by South Korea is carried out with its allies, which is the United States.

China Oppositions

The establishment of THAAD in South Korea for beyond any doubt caused a sense of uncertainty within the encompassing nation. China of course is one of the nations that feels undermined by the situation of THAAD in South Korea. The situation of THAAD is seen as an orchestrate to weaken China's key interface inside the locale. There are two reasons for China positions. To begin with, China's fear that THAAD may be utilized to caught Chinese rockets and spy on its region. Besides, THAAD would be ineffectively situated against Chinese ICBMs in the event that propelled in South Korea or Japan (Institute for Security and Development Policy, 2017).

The moment reason is that the indisputable realty that, through the arrangement of THAAD, South Korea will have a long-term commitment with the U.S, hence reinforcing its nearness in Northeast Asia. So it implies, that China is concerned with some more grounded security alliance between South Korea, The U.S., and Japan which raises fears of China's control (Institute for Security and Development Policy, 2017). It was for these security reasons that China ended up in conflict with South Korea. The conflict between China and South Korea is not in the political arena. China prefers to impose economic sanctions on South Korea because it has placed THAAD which China considers endangering their missiles. China has begun to show its ire by imposing sanctions on Korean Pop Culture (Hallyu) content. Even the state of Press and Publication, Radio, Film and TV which supervises state-owned enterprises within the radio, film and TV industries has banned Korean content (Cho, n.d.).

This Chinese anger can be concluded that there is a sense of insecurity with the development of THAAD in South Korea. Besides, the development of THAAD in South Korea with the United States also increases China's sense of insecurity. China, whose economy has recently begun to develop, is showing how it can use suppression through the economy to dominate. China prefers to use its power in the economic field to be able to influence the actions taken by countries that are in conflict with it.

China and South Korea conflict impact to South Korea

The advancement of China's capability in the economic field also affects how Chinese politics is against other countries. The trade relations between South Korea and China have existed since the 1980s and have been in an indirect form through Hong Kong and Japan. On June 1, 2015, China and South Korea signed the Korea Free Trade Agreement, the

benefits of the FTA have been since overshadowed by China's sanctions. China's economic sanctions on South Korea began with a ban on Korea's artists and entertainment industry in early August 2016. As is well known, China is one of the largest markets for Korean entertainment companies. Many Korean artists have appeared on Chinese TV Shows and collaborated on many dramas and variety shows (Yang, 2019).

With the existence of tires issued by China on the Korean entertainment industry, it caused four South Korean entertainment agencies to experience shock. YG entertainment shares fell by 7.96%, CJE & M fell by 6.85%, JYP by 5.4%, and SM Entertainment by 5.32%. Within 3 days, the shares worth 300 million US dollars fell (Asiangrup.com, 2016). Not only the entertainment industry, but China also limits the cosmetic trade from South Korea in China. According to the Korea International Trade Association, Chinese authorities published a list of cosmetics whose makers had failed to submit the proper paperwork for import as of November 2016. Eleven tons of cosmetics have been sent back to Korea as a result. Of the 28 products, 19 of them came from Korea and included products from Aekyung, Laso, and CJ Lion (Chosun, 2017).

The tourism industry endured from Beijing's financial sanctions as well. The number of Chinese visitor going by South Korea dropped essentially in walk and in April 2017, it come to brings down point of 227,811 (Yang, 2019). Chinese visitor went through an normal of \$2,391 per individual whereas going to Korea and it implies the 8 million Chinese tracer who gone to Korea in 2016 brought about \$20 billion into South Korea economy. So, in the event that the 40% out in guests result in comparing drop in income, the Korean tourism industry might lose up to \$7.7 billion as a coordinate result of China's THAAD countering (Gibson, n.d.). Korean firms in China and Lotte Corporation suffered from stricter regulations, environment inspections, and decline in sales. The economic sanctions also hurt the sales of other Korean companies. And also, China's direct investment into South Korea dropped drastically (Yang, 2019).

The resolution of the conflict

Because its economy was shaken by economic sanctions imposed by China, South Korea finally decided to make peace with China so that its economy would stabilize again. To resolve the dispute between South Korea and China, the two sides finally conducted a mediation process. This settlement effort was carried out before the holding of a summit

between South Korea and China at the summit of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEF) Conference (KBS World Radio, 2017).

In the fall of 2017, South Korea reached an agreement with China to normalize economic relations and remove the informal economic sanctions Beijing used in an attempt to coerce Seoul into reversing the decision to deploy the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missile defense system. The agreement with China called for the resumption of normal economic relations and a commitment “Three No’s” by South Korea. The contents of this agreement include, no additional deployment of THAAD batteries, no South Korean integration into a U.S. led regional missile defense system, and no trilateral alliance with the United States and Japan (Stangarone, 2019).

The joint statement has made the advancement in two-sided ties official after a significant imply toward the heading, after Beijing shockingly concurred to resume \$56 billion money swap bargain monetary security net for the Korean economy. The most recent enhancement in reciprocal relationship is raising trusts that China would before long authoritatively lift the tourism boycott and other directions that postured a challenge to numerous Korean businesses the depend on Chinese buyers. A neighborhood Chinese travel office in northern Chinese area of Hebei as of now posted a gather visit bundle bargain to Korean on its site for the primary time in about seven months and a number of Chinese budget carries arrange to continue their benefit to Jeju Island, Korea’s popular destination (Sang hwan, 2017).

CONCLUSION

The conflict between China and South Korea stems from the missile tests carried out by North Korea. The test of this missile increased South Korea's sense of insecurity over its territory. For this reason, finally, South Korea and the U.S began placing THAAD devices in the Seongju region as an effort to increase South Korea's security and defense. However, efforts to increase South Korea's security and defense were not welcomed by China. This increased security and defense increase China's sense of insecurity because THAAD thinks it can endanger China. Finally, China imposed economic sanctions on South Korea in response to China's disapproval of placing THAAD in South Korea.

The economic sanctions imposed by China on South Korea have proven successful with the economic shocks felt by South Korea. Because of this shock, South Korea finally

decided to end the conflict by making Three No's policy. In the view of Neorealism, the behavior of the South Korean and Chinese states is part of an effort to balance power in an anarchic system. As the assumption of neorealists that peace can be guaranteed as long as the power in the international system is balanced as possible. The international system also requires countries to implement a self-help system to survive in the international system.

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