

East Asian Strategic Review 2000

The National Institute for Defense Studies
Japan

Preface

The situation in East Asia is still uncertain and unstable even 10 years after the end of the Cold War. We witnessed in 1999 the lingering fear of another North Korea's missile launch, strained U.S.-China relations and the chaos in East Timor. Against this background, regional stability and security requires active, constructive and objective discussions on the key issues of regional security, and mutual understanding based thereon. This is the very aim East Asian Strategic Review 2000 tries to achieve.

Published by the National Institute for Defense Studies (NIDS), the main policy research arm of the Defense Agency of Japan and a defense-college level senior educational institution, this publication represents the efforts of the NIDS research staff to present their own perspectives on the strategic environment of East Asia. In the process of making this report, we are greatly helped by invaluable comments and suggestions that our international colleagues shared with us on various occasions — including seminars hosted by our institution.

Subjects of analyses contained in this report are: the situation in the Korean Peninsula, China and Russia, and the U.S. security policy toward East Asia; and issues of important implications for the security of East Asia, such as the East Timor problem. These analyses cover the 12-month period of 1999.

The views expressed in this publication are solely those of the writing and editorial staff of NIDS made from their own perspectives, and should not be attributed to the government of Japan and the Defense Agency. The original Japanese version appeared in March 1999. It was translated into English and will be available for wider distribution from The Japan Times, Ltd.

March 2000

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Published by:

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ISBN 4-939034-07-0

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Printed in Japan