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Abstract

The East Asian region has become an arena of a new arms race characterized by the erection of missile defense systems (MDSs) and the development of long-range ballistic missiles. Fueled by global security competition, the United States, Japan, South Korea, and even Russia have deployed MDSs or are in the process of building them. This paper examines the strategic implications of this arms race.

Section 1: The arms race in East Asia

1.1. Ballistic Missile Threat in East Asia

There has been a considerable increase in the number and sophistication of ballistic missiles, and the technological gap between the United States and East Asian states has been reduced. The development of long-range missiles has been observed not only in China and North Korea but also in Japan and South Korea.

1.2. Missile Defense Systems

Given the proliferation of long-range missiles, missile defense systems (MDSs) have been deployed in East Asia. The United States, Japan, and South Korea have deployed or are in the process of building MDSs. However, the deployment of MDSs has been accompanied by a number of concerns.

Section 2: Strategic Implications of the Arms Race

2.1. Nuclear Tensions and Strategic Stability

The deployment of MDSs has raised concerns about nuclear tensions and strategic stability. The United States and Japan have been accused of violating the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty.

2.2. Security Divisions and Regional Security

The deployment of MDSs has also created security divisions and regional security concerns. The deployment of MDSs in East Asia has been seen as a threat to strategic stability and regional security.

2.3. Economic Costs

The deployment of MDSs has also had economic costs. The arms race has diverted resources from more pressing economic issues.

Section 3: Future Prospects

3.1. Prospects for Peace

The United States and China have expressed a desire for peace and stability in East Asia. The deployment of MDSs has been seen as a step toward achieving this goal.

3.2. Prospects for Conflict

The deployment of MDSs has also raised concerns about the prospect of conflict. The arms race has been seen as a precursor to conflict.

Conclusion

The deployment of MDSs in East Asia has raised significant strategic implications. The United States, Japan, and South Korea have deployed or are in the process of building MDSs.

The opinions expressed in this essay are the personal views of the author.