TMD AND NORTHEAST ASIAN SECURITY

Recommended Citation

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Abstract
China and North Korea may be developing a nation-state missile defense (TMD) in East Asia to ensure military cooperation among U.S. allies by reducing the risks of intimidation from ballistic missiles and to secure America's ability to intervene in regional conflicts where the potential use of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) exists. An effective TMD can dissuade countries from expanding their ballistic missile arsenals and thus contribute to non-proliferation and reduction of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons.

China and North Korea criticize U.S. East Asia TMD as escalating the arms race and destabilizing the strategic environment in East Asia. However, China and North Korea should realize that it is their missile expansion, not TMD, that provokes the criticism. China and North Korea have announced plans to expand their ballistic missile forces. This is fully explained by their security concerns, which have been underscored by the nuclearization of North Korea and the flight of ballistic missiles from Russia to Japan.

1. Ballistic Missile Threat in East Asia

A recent report released by the Department of Defense (DoD) on East Asia warned of the increasing spread of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). In East Asia, China, North Korea and Japan have deployed ballistic missiles with ranges exceeding 100 kilometers. Apart from Russia, China and North Korea have been increasing the number of their ballistic missiles. China has deployed land-based intermediate-range ballistic missiles, about 70 of which have conventional warheads and about 10 of which have CBW warheads. North Korea has been making efforts to strengthen not only its short- and medium-range ballistic missiles, which can strike Japan, but also longer-range ones, which may be capable of reaching the continental United States. (3)

North Korea has been increasing its ballistic missile forces and nuclear weapons. Although the North is not an official signatory of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), it has not concealed its efforts to build nuclear weapons. North Korea's (4) and Japan's (5) declaration that they would consider or have already considered the development of nuclear weapons. China, North Korea and Japan, along with Taiwan, have all participated in the Asia-Pacific missile defense exercises. (6)

2. Countermeasures to Ballistic Missile Threat

Although there are several proposals to deal with the missile threat in East Asia, there are several countermoves to theater ballistic missiles armed with WMD. (1) First, to offset the nuclear superiority of the United States, China and North Korea have announced plans to expand their ballistic missile forces. This is fully explained by their security concerns, which have been underscored by the nuclearization of North Korea and the flight of ballistic missiles from Russia to Japan.

3. Ballistic Missile Threat in East Asia

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4. Criticisms of the TMD program and Counter-argument

China and North Korea have announced plans to deploy TMD in East Asia to reduce the risks of intimidation from ballistic missiles and to secure America's ability to intervene in regional conflicts where the potential use of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) exists. An effective TMD can dissuade countries from expanding their ballistic missile arsenals and thus contribute to non-proliferation and reduction of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons.

5. Conclusion

As the U.S. and China develop their TMD systems, the dynamics of East Asia may change. The potential deployment of ballistic missile defense systems in East Asia may raise strategic tensions in the region and create a new arms race. The impacts of TMD on missile proliferation in East Asia will be analyzed in the next chapter. This chapter will discuss the implications of TMD deployment on East Asia's security environment.

References

The above text is a summary of the main points discussed in the document. It provides an overview of the main arguments and conclusions regarding the potential deployment of TMD in East Asia and its implications for regional security. The text highlights the concerns of China and North Korea regarding the potential for TMD to escalate the arms race and destabilize the strategic environment in East Asia. It also discusses the potential benefits of TMD in terms of reducing the risks of intimidation from ballistic missiles and securing America's ability to intervene in regional conflicts.

The text concludes with a discussion of the potential impacts of TMD on missile proliferation in East Asia, which will be analyzed in the next chapter. Overall, the text provides a comprehensive analysis of the challenges and implications of TMD deployment in East Asia, and identifies the need for further research to fully understand its implications for regional security.