

HOW THE RELATIONS OF JAPAN AND SOUTH KOREA CAN IMPACT NORTH KOREA

Muhammad Zubair Sohail

University of Management Technology, Lahore

Corresponding Author: *

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14738114>

Received	Revised	Accepted	Published
05 December 2024	15 December, 2024	17 January, 2025	25 January, 2025

ABSTRACT:

This article explores the intense relationship between South Korea and Japan, most importantly how it would be impacting on North Korea. By looking into the detailed aspects of the Japan and Korean history and how their history contributes in recent tensions with North Korea. It is already known that North Korea is the most isolated country in the world but also has its own military power. Moreover, we will thoroughly discuss the positive and negative impacts of Japan and South Korea relations on North Korea. The findings aim to highlight the prospects of all these three states and their policies together, how it will shape the world.

Keywords: Korean history, relationship between South Korea and Japan, recent tensions with North Korea, Military power, shape the world

INTRODUCTION

Several factors led to the development of the Korean Peninsula, one of the world's most dangerous regions. The historical partition of North and South Korea, Pyongyang's military and nuclear ambitions, and neighboring states' geopolitical interests contribute to this predicament. Current political instability on the Korean Peninsula is a result of all of these factors. All of these external pressures contributed to the creation of the Korean Peninsula. The link between Japan and South Korea is vital, and it is crucial to acknowledge it. These two nations. Since anybody can remember, Japan and South Korea have struggled to overcome historical grievances and political impediments. This dispute has persisted since anyone can remember. They continue to act this way despite being close US allies and sharing concerns about North Korea. Ever since anyone can remember, this has been the case. Since the beginning of recorded history, this has been the case. These concerns, which stem from Japan's colonial rule of Korea (1910–1945) and disagreements over war atrocities, continue to affect their bilateral relationship, often overshadowing their shared interests.

Because of this, the two nations' relationship is still affected. These issues stem from Japan's thousands-year-old subjugation of Korea.

North Korea's nuclear weapons program and ballistic missile testing pose a serious danger to regional peace. Ballistic missiles are being tested in these activities. Ballistic missiles will be fired against the target nation to carry out these activities. Pyongyang's actions threaten Japan and South Korea's national security if carried out. According to both nations, this is the situation. Given this, effective deterrence and coordinated responses to this threat are essential. However, Tokyo and Seoul's close relationship makes cooperation harder, something North Korea can exploit. South Korea will likely exploit these flaws. Such shortcomings could affect the two nations' relationship. North Korea may profit from these flaws. This is a worry. Japan and South Korea can improve regional security and end North Korea's provocative behavior by working together, especially within their trilateral alliance with the US. While this happens. Their ability to collaborate is why. This is especially true when they can work

together.

Additional note: Global and regional variables affect Japan, South Korea, and North Korea dynamics. These conditions affect the dynamics, making them obvious. This category includes elements including the US's mediation role, China's strategic interests in the Korean Peninsula, and East Asia's geopolitical upheavals. The conditions that contributed to the current situation were also considered. Japan and South Korea are trying to manage their complex relationship, but their exchanges affect North Korea. This is despite Japan and South Korea trying to control their complex relationship. The increasing diplomatic pressure and deterrence on Pyongyang is due to Tokyo-Seoul cooperation. This is due to Tokyo and Seoul cooperating. The ongoing conflicts make regional security institutions less effective, allowing North Korea to pursue its goals with greater impunity.

To clarify, this study seeks to determine how Japan-South Korea relations have affected North Korea. During the construction of this triangle structure, historical grievances, common security concerns, and international mediation are being highlighted. This framework is being built within the triangle system. This study uses the constructivist theory of international relations, which emphasizes how identity, beliefs, and norms shape nation behavior. The hypothesis underpins this investigation. This study uses theory to achieve its goals. This paper will discuss three key factors: Japan's approach to North Korea and its relations with South Korea; South Korea's dual strategy of deterrence and engagement with North Korea and its interactions with Japan; and North Korea's exploitation of tensions between Japan and South Korea and its response to regional cooperation. All these things interact. This article covers all these aspects. This literature covers all of these aspects. Each component is dissected and explored throughout the piece. This occurs throughout the article. This study illuminates how Japan-South Korea interactions affect North Korea's behavior and plans. This research aims to illuminate specific methods. Because of this, a deeper understanding of local security dynamics will be gained. This will be done by solving the fundamental

research challenges raised during the study.

In this period of East Asian uncertainty, Japan-South Korea relations are crucial to North Korea's actions. These linkages shape North Korea's behavior. This is because Japan-South Korea relations shape North Korea's future. The interactions between these two major actors will likely affect peace, denuclearization, and stability on the Korean Peninsula in the coming years. Whether these contacts are cooperative or disagreeable, they will happen when intended. These findings underscore the potential and dangers that these linkages pose for regional and global safety, as well as the importance of understanding these relationships. These interactions affect safety both positively and negatively. Because this research shows both the possibilities and the challenges of these connections.

Theoretical Framework

The **constructivist theory** of international relations can be used to investigate how Japan-South Korea interactions affect North Korea. This methodology can be used to analyze this relationship's influence on North Korea. This strategy allows for more subject research. It is feasible to use the theory to guide this research. Such a possibility exists. The constructivist technique emphasizes how ideas, identities, social conventions, and interactions between people and their relationships affect state behavior. The constructivist perspective views these as the main elements affecting state behavior. This approach emphasizes how states make collective decisions. This is because individual views, identities, and social norms affect state behavior. This is why this predicament exists. This is because the constructivist technique is based on the assumption that human interactions shape states. Situations are how they are because of this. Constructivism is one of many theoretical frameworks being studied. This framework examines how historical legacies, cultural variables, and shared beliefs affect government-policy linkages. The framework will examine how these elements affect policymaking. Realists focus on power and tangible capabilities. This contradicts realism. This worldview contrasts with the rationalist approach, which will be described

in depth below. They are concerned with power and the capabilities these resources provide, just like realists.

Historical Legacies and National Identities

This relationship will affect Japan-South Korea relations for the foreseeable future. One of Japan and South Korea's most contentious partnerships has persisted throughout history. This link dates back to Japan's colonial rule over Korea from 1910 to 1945. This control included Japanese dominance over Korea. This body had to oversee the Japanese occupation of Korea. This control will continue to affect how the two countries interact in the future. Several grievances have affected political discourse and public opinion in both countries. Wartime forced labour and "comfort women." have not been addressed. These criticisms address unresolved issues. Both issues have been discussed. This information has been passed down from generation to generation, including the grievances. These criticisms have been a major cause of conflict between the two countries over their relationship for a long time. Additionally, it is crucial to consider that earlier difficulties have not been handled yet. Remembering this is crucial. Remembering this information is crucial for this issue. Japan and South Korea cooperate little because of their long history of enmity. The two nations' longstanding hostility is the cause. Japan and South Korea are in this condition due to their long history of enmity. This situation is explained as follows. This is true even when Japan and South Korea share strategic goals, such as protecting each other from North Korea. This is an example. Even when Japan and South Korea have similar strategic goals, this is true. When we examine historical narratives and national identities from a constructivist perspective, we can gain knowledge of how they hinder trust and collaboration. Constructivism allows us to explain the cosmos more deeply, therefore it serves as a lens. This is why the situations are as they are.

Shared Perceptions of North Korea as a Threat

Japan and South Korea agree that North Korea threatens national security. Both countries agreed. The judgement was

inspired by North Korea's development of nuclear weapons, shooting of ballistic missiles, and tendency to approach problems unexpectedly. The fact that the conflict caused this scenario does not change it. Despite their lengthy history of violent conflict, this is the scenario. The fact that Japan and South Korea have a similar view may drive a relationship. Japan and South Korea view the threat similarly. This partnership may lead to coordinated activities that affect North Korea. A direct or indirect effect depends on the situation. This collaboration could lead to such measures. Constructivism illuminates these collaborative possibilities. The US and North Korea may conduct joint military drills and share intelligence to show their unity and deter North Korean aggression. Two responses are conceivable. Both the US and North Korea can do these things. All of these actions are viable for the US and North Korea, depending on the situation.

Norms and International Pressure

International accords also affect Japan, South Korea, and North Korea ties. These links involve human rights and nuclear non-proliferation conventions. In particular, human rights conventions affect these relations. This set of conventions is essential for these relationships to survive. Japan and South Korea have shown their commitment to these goals in many ways. They can join the UN and form coalitions with the US. The notion of constructivism may explain how these criteria foster participation in North Korea's foreign engagement (or opposition). Because constructivism emphasises their interrelation. This can be explained within the international community.

Constructivism in Practice

Constructivism can help explain how Japan and South Korea's relationship could change from tension to collaboration and how this affects North Korea. This can be understood using constructivism. Constructivism can help achieve this level of understanding. The constructivist technique is based on the premise that interactions are multifaceted and comprised of multiple perspectives. This is why things are as they are. This goal can be achieved by focussing on ideas,

perceptions, and identities. It is possible to reach this goal. North Korea's attitude and ambitions can be affected by Japan-South Korea relations, such as collaboration or distrust. Transformational interactions can affect Japan-South Korea relations. This illuminates the possibility of transformational interactions, which could change North Korea's behaviour and plans. The following paragraphs illustrate a future scenario.

Discussion of Three Entities

1. Japan

The belief that Pyongyang threatens Japan's security is the main factor in its North Korea policy. This conviction matters most. This conviction matters most when all other factors are considered. Belief is the most important factor in Japan's posture. Due to North Korea's frequent missile launches over Japan, national security anxieties have increased. The North Korean government launches these. North Korea has launched this series multiple times. There have been repeated actions. These launches are the responsibility of North Korea's government. These advances are in addition to North Korea's nuclear weapons production. Significant development. Japan maintains maximum pressure on North Korea as part of its overall strategy. Japan would prioritize sanctions and support the US-led denuclearize-korean Peninsula initiative. This policy was created to curb North Korea's nuclear development.

Japan's historical grudges against South Korea complicate their relationship. One reason the connection is complicated is this. Resentments caused tensions between the two countries. Japan has shown it is willing to work with South Korea on national security issues. Despite the scenario's challenges, this is true. Despite the challenges, this decision was made. This is the current condition, notwithstanding this. This collaboration often involves trilateral agreements with the US. These agreements emphasize intelligence sharing, joint military drills, and strategic planning to counter North Korean provocations. The US is also involved in this relationship, which is interesting. The US is actively involved in this relationship, which is another topic of interest. The fact that the US is actively

involved in this collaboration is also noteworthy. Japan's nationalistic politics can make it hard to communicate with South Korea on important subjects. This is especially true for Japan-related topics. It's crucial to remember this when discussing sensitive topics.

Japan's strategy with North Korea has focused on solving the kidnapping problem from the start. The Japanese military's defence strategy includes this. It's crucial to remember that North Korea held Japanese citizens captive in the 1970s and 1980s. Keeping in mind that this is a topic is crucial. This issue remains central to Japan's foreign policy and affects how the country negotiates and maintains diplomatic relations with Pyongyang.

2. South Korea

North Korea and South Korea have a special connection because South Korea is divided along two lines. This can clarify the relationship. North Korea borders South Korea. North and South Korea border. This is the most fundamental and important link issue. The case matters most. South Korea, like Japan, values engagement and reconciliation to achieve peaceful cohabitation and reunification of the Korean peninsula. South Korea worries about North Korea's military. Japan and South Korea share concerns about North Korean military threats. This is done to move forward with Korean peninsula reunification. South Korea feels this is the only way to achieve this aim, which is why this is the case. South Korea shares Japan's military concerns about North Korea. Japan also worried about these things. South Korea's policy on North Korea is based on discourse and deterrence. South Korea's North Korea policy centers on this approach. South Korea emphasizes this dual approach as its strategy platform. The design requires both of these components, which cannot be present simultaneously.

Japan and South Korea have fought throughout their histories. Tensions between the two sides include wartime forced labour, territorial disputes over the **Dokdo** and **Takeshima islands**, and other issues. Battles of this kind have been rare for a while. A long time. The two countries' differing perspectives affect their mutual respect and collaboration. Due to their differences, the

two nations rarely work together. This is true even when both parties share security concerns. This is true even when security concerns overlap between parties. South Korea has sometimes resisted trilateral security arrangements with Japan and the US. Such incidents have occurred. Numerous incidents have shown this. This is because South Korea has considered its own political difficulties. This is why. This is why things are the way they are.

South Korea knows that cooperation with Japan is crucial to reacting to North Korea's provocations. To counter North Korea's provocations, both nations are cooperating. South Korea has overcome many obstacles, but this is the result. Collaboration between these parties can be shown through projects like the **General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA)** intelligence exchange. This strategy could work. In this circumstance, security concerns outweigh historical hatred. South Korea also remains committed to international frameworks like the **Six-Party Talks** to resolve North Korea's nuclear disarmament efforts. The goal is to solve the problem. The goal is to solve the problem.

3. North Korea

North Korea's government offers a unique perspective on Japan-South Korea relations by examining their survival strategy. This study offers insight and perspicacity. Later in this paragraph, this analysis is explained. This study offers one of the most crucial new perspectives. This effort seeks a deeper understanding of the link. The US continues to isolate and destabilise North Korea despite the fact that any alliance between Japan and South Korea could threaten its national security. The US is continuing its efforts. Even if any Japan-South Korea alliance is risky, this has happened. This is because Japan and South Korea have worked together for a long period. This is why. This vista is in Pyongyang, North Korea's administrative capital. This vista is available in Pyongyang. This perspective is also found in Pyongyang. However, as Japan-South Korea relations deteriorate, North Korea can exploit tensions and diminish international pressure. North Korea can profit from the situation by taking advantage of it. This is because North Korea

may profit most from the scenario. This is because North Korea can maximise profit from the current circumstances. Even while tensions between the two countries exist, North Korea can profit on them. This is why. North Korea typically responds to Japan and South Korea with provocations. This is how to respond to certain behaviours. This condition is caused by North Korea's response to Japan and South Korea's previous actions. The missile tests over Japanese territory were meant to warn Tokyo, the capital. These experiments were meant to send a message to Tokyo. The exams were meant to warn participants. This target was achieved after several testing. This was done to destabilise South Korean politics and discourage Japan-South Korea cooperation. Seoul faced insults and threats when attacked. But Seoul was the focus of invective and threats. The threats targeted Seoul. This action was taken to achieve earlier goals. North Korea also promotes historical grievances to start a war between Japan and South Korea. These actions intend to set the stage for a bilateral confrontation. Some call these "propaganda operations." This operation aims to plant the seeds that would lead to war. This move aims to sow discord between the two nations. These programs are designed to influence the solution to the problem they are addressing. Despite this, North Korea is aware of the potential benefits of improving relations with Japan or South Korea. These benefits can be obtained in many ways. These two countries are viable options for obtaining these benefits. South Korea's economic support and sanctions removal have often been used as incentives in inter-Korean negotiations. Throughout the process, this has been the case. Sanctions against South Korea have been lifted. This image shows how South Koreans typically did things. North Korea has also attempted direct connection with Japan to avoid trilateral arrangements and weaken its competitors. The goal is to achieve the above goals. This activity aims to achieve the sentence's goals. All of these acts aim to achieve the same aims as the previous example. The way something is done is similar.

Answers to Research Questions

1. How can improved relations between Japan and South Korea influence North

Korea's behavior and strategies?

The growth of Japan-South Korea relations may influence North Korea's actions and strategic considerations. This is because the two nations can strengthen their connections. Japan and South Korea can improve their relations, which benefits both nations. If Japan and South Korea cooperate to form a unified front, regional security frameworks may improve and diplomatic and economic pressure on Pyongyang may increase. This is feasible. Having this happen would be good. Growing connections between the two countries would increase regional deterrence, one of the most direct benefits. This would be a quick benefit. This is one of the many benefits of improving ties, in addition to the many immediate benefits. Given the possibility that the two countries might coordinate on military exercises, integrate missile defence systems, and share intelligence, this scenario is plausible. South Korea's proximity to North Korea's military installations illustrates this. This proximity could create a strong network that can detect and eliminate future threats. One of the main reasons for this is Japan's superior radar technology. If provocations were carried out this way, they would raise danger and lower their chances of success. This would reduce their chances of success. Pyongyang would be given the message that its nuclear aspirations and missile launches are being strongly opposed, making the provocation more likely to fail. This is why.

Better coordination between Japan and South Korea would make it harder for North Korea to exploit historical tensions. For these reasons: Japan and South Korea have had tense relations since their foundings. North Korea has used diplomatic and media channels to incite tensions throughout its history. Japan has been portrayed as an aggressor and rhetorically associated with South Korea on historical grievances. Resulting in goal achievement. To make matters worse, this effort succeeded. Thus, this achieved its goal. This strategy's execution has been considered throughout its history to assure its success. Such manipulation would be eliminated as the area accessible for it would decrease. This goal can be achieved by restoring bilateral relations. This would ensure North Korea receives a coordinated reaction to its

activities. If this happened, it would be lucky. If Tokyo and Seoul strengthened their ties, trilateral cooperation would be easier for the US. The improvement of links between the two nations would bring about this additional benefit. Thus, sanctions, diplomatic measures, and military deterrent would gain credibility and effectiveness. This result would be expected throughout the process.

Despite being the second-to-last factor, improving contacts may affect North Korean dynamics. Not the least important thing is to consider this option. Pyongyang's regime uses international enmity to justify military spending and quash opposition. To justify costs, this is done. If Japan and South Korea had a more cooperative and diplomatic environment, this possibility would likely be questioned. If diplomatic relations were transparent, it would be like this. This would boost domestic pressure on North Korea's leadership to behave more constructively. The result would be this. The consequence would be this. This would result in the same effects as above. Improved relations between Japan and South Korea could reorganize East Asia's geopolitics, forcing North Korea to reassess its aggressive policies. This would benefit both nations. If this happened, North Korea would have to reassess its hostile tactics. This outcome would benefit both countries. If anything comparable happened, both sides of the fight would benefit.

2. How do strained relations between Japan and South Korea impact North Korea's position in the region?

Given Japan and South Korea's adversarial relations, regional security has plummeted. A direct result of the situation. North Korea has been able to progress its strategic goals and seize several opportunities. Japan's colonial control of Korea from 1910 to 1945 caused historical grievances that continue to hinder relations between the two nations. This is due to historical occurrences from that time. Forced labour and Korean women's "comfort women" status during World War II have not been addressed. Wartime exploitation of Korean women is another. Both issues persisted throughout the Korean War. This aspect of the issue has exacerbated political conflicts and public

animosity. In 2018, the Supreme Court of South Korea ordered Japanese firms to compensate Korean forced labourers, which strained diplomatic relations and even restricted commerce. This ruling came in 2018. Based on the decision, this happened. This was because Japanese corporations had to compensate Korean workers compelled to labour against their will. So, something happened. These issues prevent Japan and South Korea from presenting a united front, which hinders their ability to coordinate security operations against North Korea. This explains their security coordination shortcomings. Every nation cannot gain from the current situation.

One of the biggest effects of US-North Korea tensions has been a decline in security cooperation, which is necessary to respond to Pyongyang's provocations. Responding to Pyongyang's provocations requires security cooperation. This is one of the worst consequences of strained relationships. North Korea's nuclear and missile intelligence sharing arrangements have become politically challenging, according to new information. General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA) is one of numerous agreements in this category. One of many agreements in this area. South Korea will abandon the Global System for the Management of International Trade in 2019 to avenge Japan's technology transfer limitations. After this action, regional defences were unclear, putting South Korea in a bind. This approach also challenged South Korea. Both governments struggle to forecast and respond to North Korean missile tests and other provocations due to a lack of intelligence sharing. This is because they don't communicate enough. This is because they can't efficiently share intelligence. This creates major security weaknesses, which they cannot fix. Due to a lack of coordination, violent behaviour prevention efforts are losing confidence. This gives North Korea the confidence to develop nuclear weapons and test missiles without repercussions.

To make matters worse, Japan and South Korea's hostile relationship makes trilateral collaboration with the US harder, which is essential to regional peace. Peace and tranquility in the region depend on this. This must be done to maintain regional stability.

When Tokyo and Seoul disagree, the US often mediates. This is due to circumstances. To achieve this purpose, the US must divert its attention and resources from North Korea's threats. Due to this dispersion, international frameworks struggle to function. The Six-Party Talks and UN sanctions are examples of this structure. Japan and South Korea have different goals, hence the area is less cohesive. This is due to circumstances. Situations are how they are because of this. North Korea can use its provocations to coerce concessions or engage in selective diplomacy, reducing collective pressure, due to the absence of unity. Climate fracturing allows this. These acts are executed to capitalize on the lack of unity. The difficult ties between Japan and South Korea contribute to an increasingly unpredictable security climate in East Asia and boost North Korea's confidence. North Korea is confident. The strong links between Japan and South Korea are directly accountable for North Korea.

3. What role can the United States play in fostering Japan-South Korea cooperation to counter North Korea?

The US is crucial to Japan-South Korea cooperation for collaboration. The US recognises that a unified policy is needed to address North Korea's ongoing threats. This is why. Situations are how they are because of this. The US recognises the significance of the method, therefore this may be concluded. The US is in a unique position to mediate conflicts and promote communication. Never before has this position been mentioned. This is especially true for sensitive historical issues that could affect Japan-South Korea relations. Because both countries view the US as an ally, this situation has emerged. The US's support of shared security interests allows both nations to focus on their shared goals. This has major benefits. The US has used **trilateral summits** and **cooperative military exercises** to build confidence and increase practical collaboration. Several times, this has been done. Public events have been held to attain these goals. The US, Japan, and South Korea participating in trilateral drills illustrates this. These exercises send a deterrent signal to North Korea, strengthening their relationship. These

exercises also aim to boost Japan-South Korea relations. Another benefit of participating in these exercises is building the alliance with other countries. These drills also assess the three countries' military readiness. This review determines each country's readiness.

The US has actively supported trilateral security mechanisms to improve regional defence. This goal is regional defence strengthening. Additionally, communicating with people from different countries is crucial. The US may increase collective deterrence against North Korea by promoting intelligence sharing, missile defence integration, and collaborative strategic planning. This can be achieved by promoting missile defence integration. These approaches help the US reduce judgement errors and integrate missile defence more efficiently. Using these strategies, this goal is attained. Without these guidelines, Pyongyang's nuclear and missile operations can be monitored more efficiently. This would cover gaps North Korea could exploit. Because monitoring can be done more efficiently. These frameworks allow parties to create such arrangements. The US provides financial incentives to Japan and South Korea to strengthen their ties. This improves Japanese-South Korean cooperation. This action aids in strengthening these relationships. These are further efforts the US is taking to protect its citizens. Financial support for joint regional infrastructure investments or activities is one incentive. Other incentives include financial aid. Financial aid is another motivation. In addition to growing the economy, these initiatives increase interdependence, which strengthens bilateral ties and reduces the likelihood of a Tokyo-Seoul conflict. The product of their effort benefits both of them.

The US helps consolidate international law and create a common international mindset. The US achieves these goals by increasing sanctions against North Korea, pressuring Pyongyang on human rights issues, and coordinating with Japan and South Korea at international organisations like the UN to denuclearise. Each of these actions aims to further denuclearization. The US uses its influence to solve its friends' problems. Japan's concerns over North Korea

kidnapping its citizens and South Korea's dreams for reunification must be integrated into bigger diplomatic initiatives. To clarify, this means considering both difficulties. This comprehensive plan builds trust and aligns goals. This contact builds trust among participants.

The US stabilises Japan and South Korea by ensuring that historical differences do not overshadow their shared strategic goals. This is why the US is so important. This can be achieved by ensuring the US protects both countries' interests. To do this, this strategy will be used. The US is helping build a coherent coalition that can respond to North Korea's provocations in a variety of ways. The US is concerned. This includes collective action advocates, security cooperation promoters, and debaters. Other examples include discussion-starters. The fact that this **trilateral alliance** discourages Pyongyang's belligerence and promotes long-term stability and peace on the Korean Peninsula shows the US's role as a mediator and leader in the region. These examples demonstrate the US's importance to the region.

Conclusion

The strong relationship between Japan and South Korea affects the region around North Korea as well as its actions and plans. Because Japan and South Korea are neighbours. This relationship is very important. These repercussions could arise in the US and Japan. It should be done because Tokyo-Seoul partnership raises diplomatic pressure and deterrence, reducing Pyongyang's ability to exploit domestic differences. It should be done. However, the region's lack of friendly relations with North Korea makes regional reactions less effective and gives North Korea more confidence to act provocatively. This research is based on constructivism. Constructivism emphasises historical legacies, shared perceptions, and international conventions in developing these three components' interconnections. Constructivism underpins these discoveries. The theoretical underpinning for this study is constructivism. The current state of Japan-South Korea relations will likely determine the Korean Peninsula's stability and security in the future. Japan and South Korea are

close relatives, thus this hypothesis is most likely right. As a mediator, the US will work hard to promote cooperative opportunities. Situations are how they are because of this. This explains things in the current situation.

REFERENCES

- Bennett, B. W., & Lind, J. (2011). *The Collapse of North Korea: Challenges, Planning, and Geopolitical Consequences*. RAND Corporation. Retrieved from https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR331.html
- Cha, V. (2018). *Powerplay: The Origins of the American Alliance System in Asia*. Princeton University Press.
- Choe, S. H. (2019). *South Korea to End Intelligence-Sharing Pact With Japan, Escalating Tensions*. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com>
- Cumings, B. (2005). *Korea's Place in the Sun: A Modern History (Updated Edition)*. W.W. Norton & Company.
- International Crisis Group. (2018). *North Korea's Missile Tests: Key Responses by Japan and South Korea*. Retrieved from <https://www.crisisgroup.org>
- Kang, D. C. (2017). *American Grand Strategy and East Asian Security in the 21st Century*. Cambridge University Press.
- Kirk, D. (2020). *Japan and South Korea's Strained Relations: Historical Legacy and Its Effect on Regional Security*. *Asian Affairs Journal*, 51(3), 321–345. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03068373.2020.1768410>
- McEachern, P. (2019). *North Korea: What Everyone Needs to Know (2nd Edition)*. Oxford University Press.
- Nanto, D. K., & Chanlett-Avery, E. (2021). *Japan and South Korea: Strained Relations and Impact on U.S. Policy*. Congressional Research Service. Retrieved from <https://crsreports.congress.gov>
- Rozman, G. (2020). *Northeast Asia's Undercurrents: Japan-South Korea Relations in a Shifting Global Order*. *Pacific Review*, 33(4), 576–598. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09512748.2019.1679823>
- Smith, S. A. (2019). *The Japan-South Korea Dispute and Its Regional Consequences*. Council on Foreign Relations Report. Retrieved from <https://www.cfr.org>
- United Nations Security Council. (2022). *Sanctions Enforcement Against North Korea: Challenges and Regional Dynamics*. Retrieved from <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil>
- U.S. Department of State. (2021). *Joint Statement from the U.S.-Japan-Republic of Korea Trilateral Meeting on North Korea*. Retrieved from <https://www.state.gov>
- Wright, T. (2017). *All Measures Short of War: The Contest for the 21st Century and the Future of American Power*. Yale University Press.
- Yonhap News Agency. (2020). *South Korea Seeks Resolution of Historical Issues with Japan Amid Growing Security Concerns*. Retrieved from <https://www.yonhapnews.co.kr>
- Zhang, X. (2018). *The Geopolitics of Northeast Asia: Japan, South Korea, and the United States*. Routledge.
- Zhai, F. (2020). *Trilateralism in East Asia: The Role of the United States in Japan-South Korea Cooperation*. *Asian Security*, 16(1), 76–95. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14799855.2019.1657453>
- Zhao, T. (2021). *Historical Legacies and Contemporary Politics: Japan-Korea Relations in the 21st Century*. *Journal of East Asian Studies*, 21(2), 255–278. <https://doi.org/10.1017/jeas.2021.14>