

North Korea's Nuclear Threat, Strategy, and Activities.

GO21 assessment: Kim is employing a nuclear theory known as *Nuclear Utilization Theory*: “deters through damage denial or limitation” vice the “punishment strategy of *Mutual Assured Destruction Theory*.” [1]. Denying US access into N. Korea as a defensive buffer via threatening US territories; and allies in Western Pacific (i.e., Guam, N. Marianas; & S. Korea, Japan) This strategy closes the balance of power gap by forcing strategic negotiations with a less powerful nation-state.

“Regional actors like Iran and **North Korea** continue to pursue game-changing capabilities and technologies, while threatening U.S. allies and partners and challenging regional stability.” [2] POTUS Biden

“**North Korea** will pose an increasing threat to the **United States, South Korea, and Japan** as it continues to improve its conventional military capabilities, providing Kim with diverse tools to advance his political objectives or inflict heavy losses if North Korea were attacked.” [3] ODNI



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AP News [#NorthKorea](#) launched a pair of new long-range cruise missiles over the weekend. The missiles hit targets capable of range needed to reach [#Japan](#). w/ a range of 1,500Km/930Mi N. [#Korea](#) statement that new missiles are “strategic weapon” implying [#nuclear](#) capability.

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Geopolitical Futures reports. [#NorthKorea](#) appears to be expanding its uranium enrichment at [#Yongbyon](#) nuclear complex, recent satellite imagery. The International Atomic Energy Agency said N. Korea resumed plutonium-production operations for the first time in around three years.

North Korea's work at uranium plant points to missile buildup



Satellite images highlight construction progress at a processing facility at the Yongbyon nuclear complex in Yongbyon, North Korea. | MAXAR TECHNOLOGIES / VIA AFP-JIJI

1:38 PM · Sep 21, 2021 · Twitter Web App Posted 21 September 2021

1. Rourke, Boyer (2006) International Politics on the World Stage. *McGraw Hill* 6th Ed. p. 274
2. Biden, Joe (2021). Interim National Security Strategic Guidance. *The White House Washington D.C* March 2021 p.8
3. Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI 2021). Annual Threat Assessment. *Office of the Director of National Intelligence* April 2021 p.15