



**China's Perspective on the China-ROK Strategic  
Partnership:  
Developments, Debates, and Difficulties**

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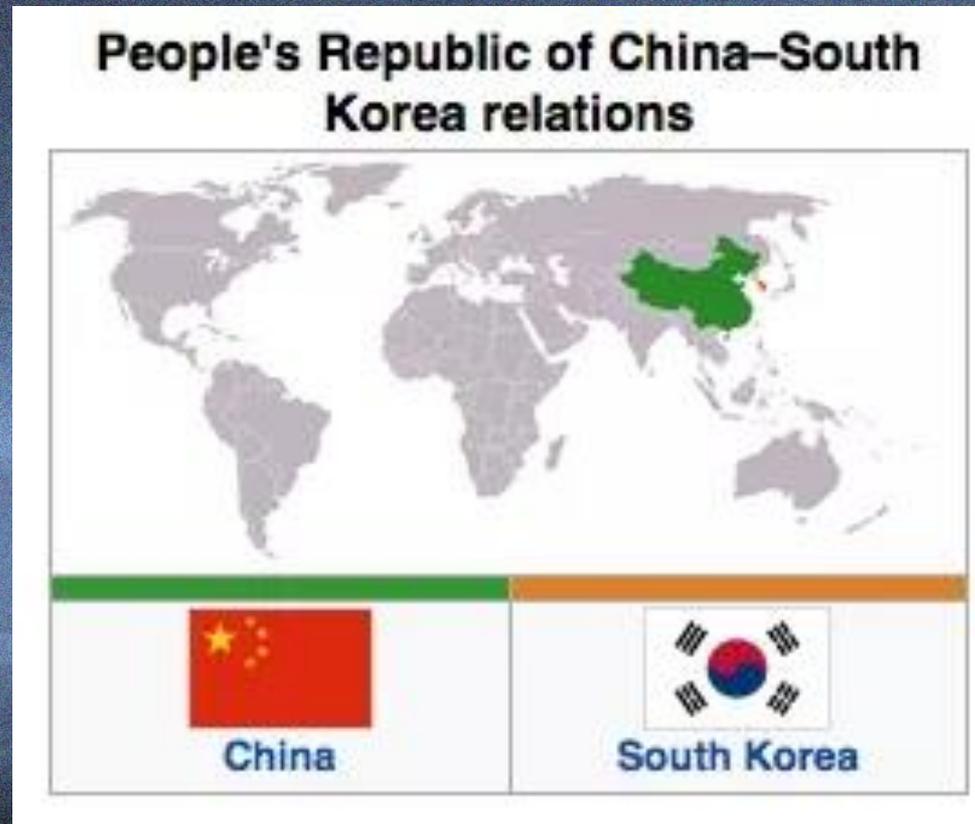
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# Content

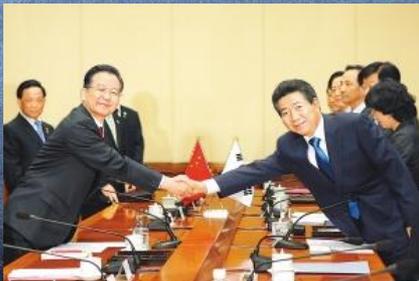
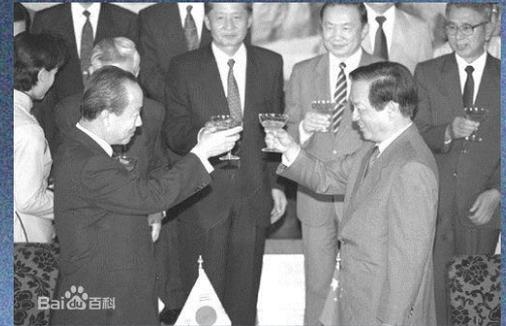
- **I. Introduction**
- **II. Overview of development in the China-ROK Strategic Partnership over the past three years**
- **III. China's debates on the future orientation of China-ROK relations**
- **IV. Difficulties in the near future**

# I. Brief Introduction



# Timeline

- 1992, establishment of diplomatic relationship
- 2008, upgrade to “strategic cooperative partnership”
- 2010, challenges by Cheonan and Yeonpyong

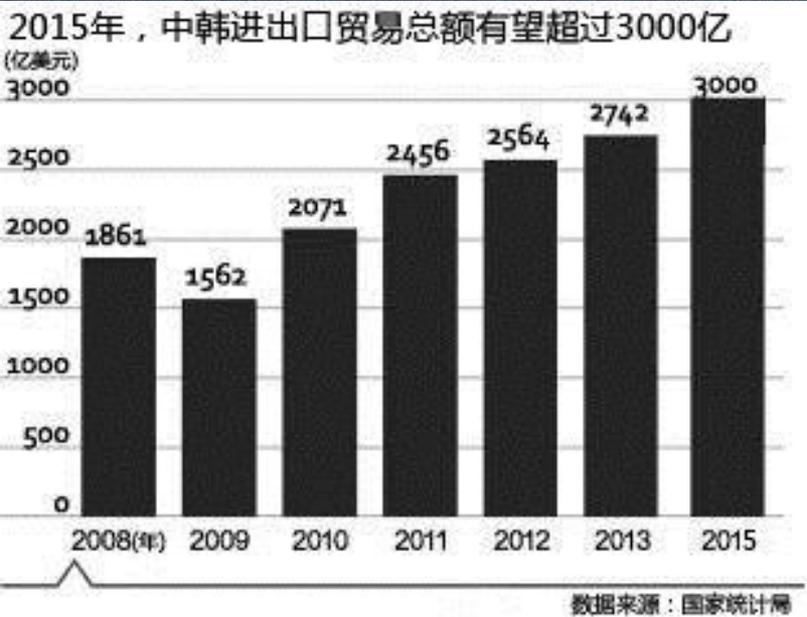


# II. Overview of developments in the China-ROK Strategic Partnership

- 1. Political
- 2. Economic
- 3. Strategic
- 4. Security

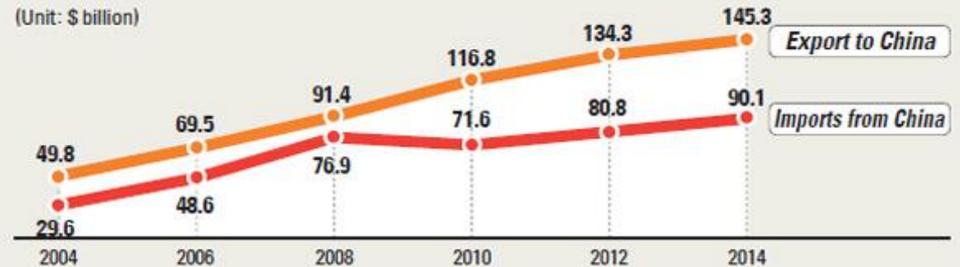


# China-ROK Economic Relations



## Korea-China trade

(Unit: \$ billion)



## Economic impact after FTA

	First 5 years	Within 10 years
Real GDP (%)	0.3	0.96
Benefits to consumers (\$ billion)	5.6	14.6
New jobs created	13,600	53,800
Annual fiscal impact (trillion won)	-0.17	0.27

Source: Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy, Korea International Trade Association and Impact Assessment Report on Korea-China FTA (written by Korea Institute for International Economic Policy)

## Impacts of China-S. Korea FTA on Taiwan

NTS1b (US\$32.6m)	FTA 100% in force		65% in force		40% in force	
	Output Affected	Percentage Points	Output Affected	Percentage Points	Output Affected	Percentage Points
Manufacturing	-648.5	-3.85	-429.4	-2.55	-267.4	-1.59
IC	-179.3	-3.35	-113.1	-2.11	-68.3	-1.28
Chemicals	-227.6	-4.63	-150.7	-3.06	-93.8	-1.91
Metals	-195.6	-4.23	-133.2	-2.88	-84.3	-1.82
Daily Goods	-46	-2.39	-32.4	-1.68	-21	-1.09

Source: IEK

CNA graphic

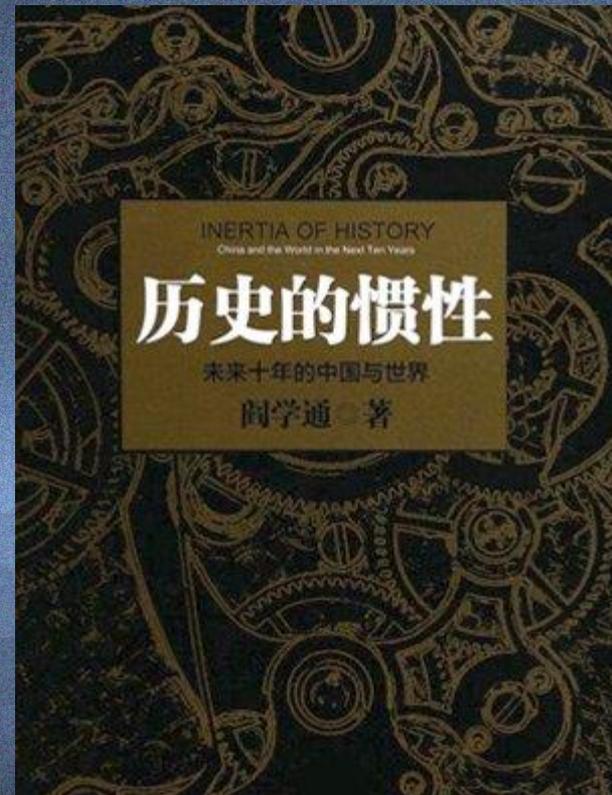
# OBOR and Eurasia Initiative



# III. China's debates on the future orientation of China-ROK relations

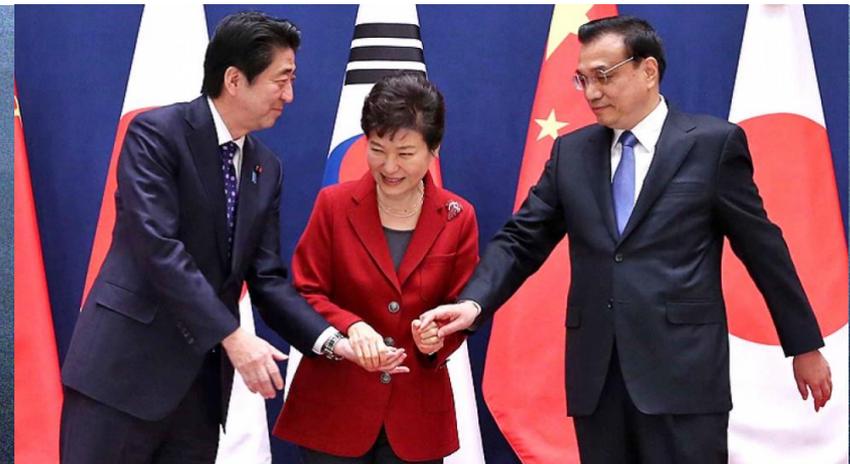
- *1. Idealist School*: China should try to establish an alliance with the ROK.
- “China and South Korea share three mutual security interests: namely, the Japanese threat, North Korea’s nuclear threat, and maintaining peace in East Asia.”
- “ a China-ROK alliance does not need to replace South Korea’s alliance with the US, thus reducing opposition from the United States.”

—Yan Xuetong



# III. China's debates on the future orientation of China-ROK relations

- *2. Institutional School: China should regard the ROK as a “Pivot State.”*
- “If South Korea becomes a pivot state, US-ROK alliance will be forced to loosen, and China’s neighboring countries will follow South Korea to maintain positive neutral(not seeking alliance with US encircling China)”  
—Xu Jin



# III. China's debates on the future orientation of China-ROK relations

- 3. *Pragmatist School*: China should engage with the ROK in order to make it a “Trojan Horse” in America’s Asia-Pacific alliance system.



- Many Chinese scholars believe South Korea is the most important ring in the US security chain in Northeast Asia, that China could win to break the US Cold War mentality



# III. China's debates on the future orientation of China-ROK relations

- *4. Traditionalist School:* China-ROK relationship is not sustainable and will never make consequential changes to the East Asian strategic landscape.
- Narrative 1: strongly oppose the notion that “China should [will] abandon North Korea.”
- Narrative 2: China does not have the ability to undermine the solid military alliance between the US and ROK,



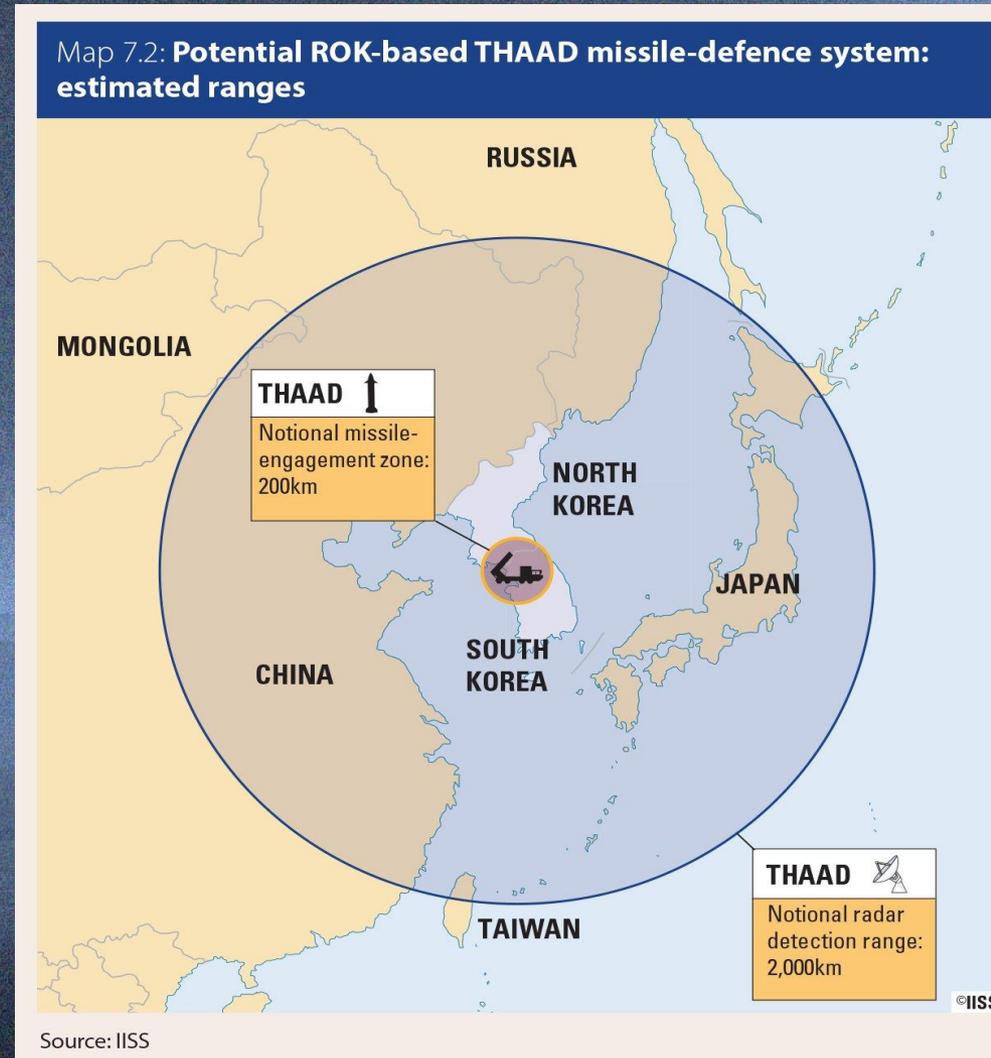
# IV. Difficulties in the near future

- 1. continuously unstable, unpredictable North Korea



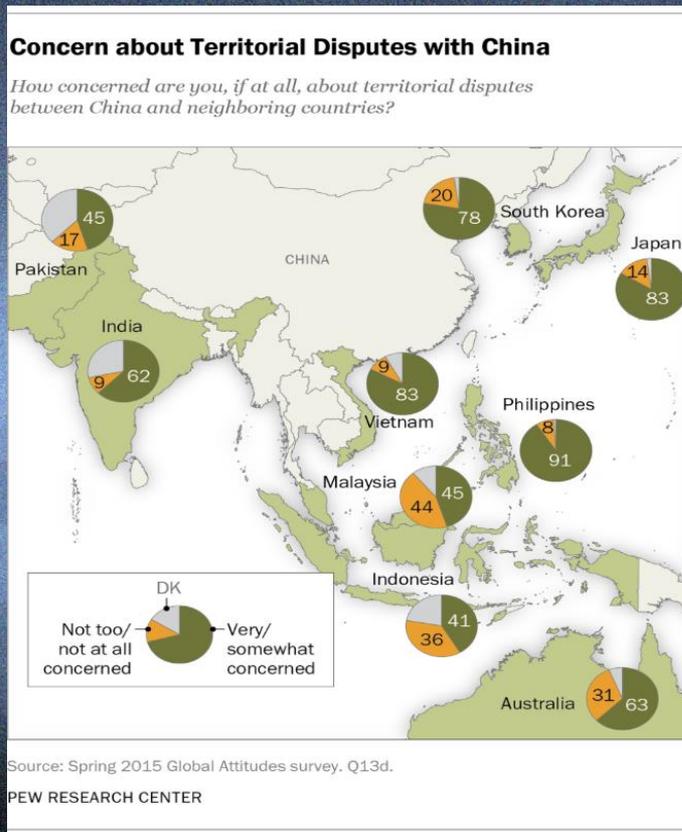
# IV. Difficulties in the near future

- 2. US deployment of THAAD
- “Deployment of the THAAD system could destroy the Beijing-Seoul relationship in an instant”.
- —Qiu Guohong, Chinese Ambassador to South Korea

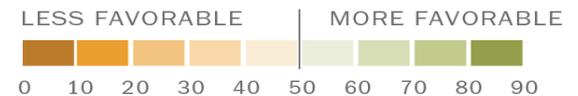


# IV. Difficulties in the near future

## 3. Maritime Security



### Asians' Views of Each Other



IEWS OF ►	Japan	China	India	South Korea
IEWS IN:				
Malaysia	84%	78	45	61
Vietnam	82	19	66	82
Philippines	81	54	48	68
Australia	80	57	58	61
Indonesia	71	63	51	42
Pakistan	48	82	16	15
India	46	41	—	28
South Korea	25	61	64	—
China	12	—	24	47
Japan	—	9	63	21
<b>MEDIAN</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>47</b>

Source: Spring 2015 Global Attitudes survey. Q12b, g, i, r.

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# IV. Difficulties in the near future

## New Normal



- 1. Despite some turbulence in recent months, the direction put forth by both leaders must not be changed.
- 2. China-ROK relations have figured prominently in the comprehensive fields, including political, economic, and increasingly security issues too, breaking the old binary of security and economy.
- 3. Domestic politics need to be taken further into account.



Thanks!