

## 38 North

Cultivating informed public policy debate about North Korea

Stimson's 38 North program cultivates informed public policy debate about North Korea. Our web journal, [38North.org](http://38North.org), serves as a reliable and authoritative source of information and analysis about the North's internal and external affairs. It highlights the views of experts with hands-on experience working with North Koreans, develops data-driven technical analyses and resources, and curates an affiliate network of highly respected specialty blogs on North Korea. 38North.org provides the policy community and general public with a wealth of knowledge and expertise to help inform policy options and recommendations.

### UNDERSTANDING THROUGH ANALYSIS

North Korea is often misunderstood and underestimated but holds enormous geopolitical importance. The legacy of war and division of the Korean Peninsula has left the two Koreas in a state of perpetual conflict. The insecurity of long-term adversarial relations, and the economic and military superiority of the South, have fueled the North's pursuit of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), including nuclear weapons and long-range ballistic missiles. This has created a complex security dynamic that, despite multiple efforts to address it, makes Northeast Asia one of the most dangerous regions in the world.

Understanding North Korea's self-perception and motivations is critically important to creating effective strategies and policies and avoiding the high costs of miscalculation. However, the opaque regime and tightly controlled society make it difficult for the outside world to understand what is happening north of the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel. Too often, the assumption is that North Korea is unknowable, a view that distorts the public debate and undermines the development of effective policies. This is particularly true for policies concerned with advancements in the North's weapons programs, which pose an increasing challenge to international

### PROJECTS

#### [38North.org Web Journal](#)

Informed Analysis of North Korea: 38 North provides high-quality research, analysis and commentary on a broad range of topics related to North Korea

#### [North Korea Digital Atlas](#)

A comprehensive geospatial dataset based on open source data of North Korea's political, economic, cultural and security infrastructures

### LEADERSHIP

#### Joel Wit

Director



[Full bio →](#)

#### Jenny Town

Deputy Director



[Full bio →](#)

peace and security as well as the global nuclear nonproliferation regime.

### **TOWARD AN END TO HOSTILITY ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA**

In addition to the web journal, 38 North works toward the peaceful resolution of the nuclear issue and an end to decades of hostility on the Korean Peninsula. We conduct in-depth research on issues contributing to North Korea's strategic thinking, and have a long track record of informal diplomatic engagement with North Korean officials to facilitate a better understanding of both countries' perceptions of the evolving security situation and potential windows of opportunity to alter it.

Given the inherent dangers of conflict on the Korean Peninsula, an informed public debate on issues related to North Korea remains of paramount importance to reduce the risks of misperception and miscalculation. 38 North's focused efforts help ensure that high-quality research, analysis, and data resources are available to policymakers and practitioners working to solve one of the most complex security dilemmas facing the world today.

## **Contact**

For more information about program activities, contact Jenny Town at [jtown@stimson.org](mailto:jtown@stimson.org). To discuss supporting the program, contact Sarah Savoy at [ssavoy@stimson.org](mailto:ssavoy@stimson.org).

**THE STIMSON CENTER** promotes international security, shared prosperity & justice through applied research and independent analysis, deep engagement, and policy innovation. More at [www.Stimson.org](http://www.Stimson.org).

The Stimson Center, 1211 Connecticut Ave NW, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Washington, DC 20036