Robert D. Kaplan: When North Korea Falls Study Guide

Steven Alan Samson
Liberty University, ssamson@liberty.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/gov_fac_pubs

Part of the Other Social and Behavioral Sciences Commons, Political Science Commons, and the Public Affairs, Public Policy and Public Administration Commons

Recommended Citation
https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/gov_fac_pubs/223

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Helms School of Government at Scholars Crossing. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty Publications and Presentations by an authorized administrator of Scholars Crossing. For more information, please contact scholarlycommunications@liberty.edu.
Study Questions

1. What sorts of talents and accomplishments have strengthened the father-son dynasty known as the Kim Family Regime? How has it established its historical credibility (and thus legitimacy)? What is the danger if Kim Jong Il falters? (64)

2. The Nightmare After Iraq How does unification of divided countries generally take place? How has North Korea’s troop placement changed since 1980? Why is deployment to Korea often regarded as worse in some ways than Iraq? What makes the threat from the north so formidable? What makes life in North Korea resemble Albania during its communist years? (64-66)

3. The Seven Stages of Collapse What is one of the goals of Kim’s missile program? What does Kim’s decision to launch missiles reveal about his regime? What is the nature and potential magnitude of the challenge the United States may face? At what stage of collapse does North Korea appear to hover? What lesson did Kim learn from the collapse of the Ceaucescu Family Regime in Romania? [The Roman Emperor Septimius Severus, a Syrian, instructed his sons: “Pay the soldiers; nothing else matters”]. How well cared-for is the Army? Would it defend the regime? (66-68)


5. If North Korea Attacks In the unlikely event of an invasion, what strategy might be used by the North? Why would it fail? (70)

6. What Now, Lieutenant? Why would an intense but short artillery barrage trump the United States politically? What are the risks of economic warfare against North Korea? Why role is being played by China? (71)

7. After Reunification How does Japan fit into the picture? How would you characterize the history of Japanese-Korean relations? Why might a reunified Korea be helpful to Japan? What might happen to Korean-American relations? (72)

8. China versus America What would be the wisest course of action for the United States after the North collapses and is stabilized? Why are American air and ground troops training outside Korea? What do the Chinese hope to gain through their infrastructure investments? Why might America’s basic policy fail? (72-73)

9. North Korea and the Future of Asia What makes the Korean peninsula the pivot? What is happening to the Yongsan Garrison? What may be the price of success? Why? (73)

Review
Kim Il Sung  Kim Jong II  Choson Dynasty
DMZ  Pyongyang (the capital)  chemical/biological weapons
Army defections and morale  Tumen River region  Park Chung Hee
Yongsan Garrison