

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND ENERGY SECURITY

IN THE KOREAN PENINSULA

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ABSTRACT

The prevalent national and international security concerns necessitated an appropriate geopolitical framework for adoption in conceptualizing international politics for much of the Cold War period. After the Cold War, economic aspect gained the prominent profile in the discussions of geopolitics. This paper seeks to analyse the geopolitical aspect and issues of the Korean peninsula, focusing primarily on energy issues and linkages to regional development. Apart from this, energy also becomes an excellent confidence building measure for engaging the interests of regional and extra-regional powers on the peninsula. Korean peninsula's energy dependence can also be connected with its geographical attributes. The peninsula lacks domestic oil and natural gas reserves. Hence, apart from geopolitical reasons, both the Koreas have found the alternate nuclear proposition attractive, particularly since the oil shock of 1970s. In this background then, it is pertinent to examine the geopolitics of the energy resources of the region.

KEYWORDS: North Korean Nuclear Programme, Geopolitics, Energy Security, Regional Development, Korean Peninsula