



From Deterrence to Engagement: The U.S. Defense Commitment to South Korea

By Terence Roehrig

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From Deterrence to Engagement provides a comprehensive examination of the U.S.-South Korea defense relationship from 1945 to the present. Using deterrence theory as its framework, this work explores the evolving nature of U.S. interests in a region that became a focal point only after the North Korean invasion in 1950. Author Terence Roehrig addresses the changing nature of the threats to U.S. interests in Korea, especially North Korea's buildup and its efforts to acquire nuclear weapons, and examines specific measures utilized by the United States to implement its deterrence policy. While U.S. policy regarding Korea has changed over the years, this timely and important work argues that although the U.S. commitment to protect its ally has been credible and effective the same cannot be said for its attempts to prevent North Korean nuclear proliferation. From Deterrence to Engagement is certain to find an audience amongst scholars of defense policy, national security, and Korean security relations.

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From Deterrence to Engagement: The U.S. Defense Commitment to South Korea By Terence Roehrig Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #6250755 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Lexington Books
- Published on: 2006-02-20
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.39" h x 1.08" w x 6.35" l, 1.40 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 298 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

In his well-documented and original study of U.S. Korea policy, Terence Roehrig does a marvelous job linking extended deterrence theory to U.S.-Republic of Korea security relations since 1945. He produced something rare: application of a broad, sophisticated theoretical framework explicating the complex subject. Furthermore, his discussions of U.S. security policy vis-à-vis North Korea's nuclear and missile threats are timely, meticulous, and well-balanced. (Seung-Ho Joo, University of Minnesota, Morris)

From Deterrence to Engagement is a valuable background for those now making policy. Recommended. (CHOICE)

This book provides a remarkably clear exposition of deterrence and the security situation on the Korean peninsula and U.S. interests in that region. This creative work suggests plausible guidance. A must-read for anyone interested in that region. (Uk Heo, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee)

...well written and comprehensively argues, providing detailed empirical support...level-headed examinations of the issues at hand, using theoretical insights from the literature on international relations to illuminate core aspects of the North Korean problem and various foreign policies that states have attempted. (*Journal of Asian Studies*)

About the Author

Terence Roehrig is professor and director of the Asia-Pacific Studies Group at the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island.

Users Review

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Margaret Wright:

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