

North Korea: “Annihilation”, “Massive Military Response” or Economic Warfare?

Washington Contemplates a Total Freeze on Trade with North Korea, as well as Possible Sanctions Directed against China

By [Prof Michel Chossudovsky](#)

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Region: [Asia](#)

Theme: [Crimes against Humanity](#), [Global Economy](#), [US NATO War Agenda](#)

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Defense Secretary “Mad Dog” James Mattis confirmed at a Press Conference that the “North Korea threat to the US will be met with ‘massive military response’” while cautioning that “We are not looking for the annihilation of North Korea – we have many options.” (emphasis added).

Mattis stated that president Trump “wanted to be briefed on each of the “many military options””:

“Any threat to the United States or its territories, including Guam, or our allies will be met with a massive military response, a response both effective and overwhelming.”

Annihilation was the objective of the Korean war (1950-53). and “Mad Dog” James Mattis [was responsible for the annihilation of Fallujah \(Iraq\) in 2004.](#)

Retired Gen. James Mattis earned the nickname “Mad Dog” for leading U.S. Marines into battle in Fallujah, Iraq, in April 2004. In that assault, members of the Marine Corps, under Mattis’ command, shot at ambulances and aid workers. They cordoned off the city, preventing civilians from escaping. They posed for trophy photos with the people they killed. ...

During the siege of Fallujah, which I covered as an unembedded journalist, Marines killed so many civilians that the municipal soccer stadium had to be turned into a graveyard. (emphasis added)



Fallujah 2004, source CNN

The “Mad Dog” designation of Trump’s defense secretary is not in doubt. [According to Felicity Arbuthnot:](#)

The Americans invaded, chillingly: “house to house, room to room”, raining death and destruction on the proud, ancient “City of Mosques.”

One correspondent wrote: “There has been nothing like the attack on Fallujah since the Nazi invasion and occupation of much of the European continent – the shelling and bombing of Warsaw in September 1939, the terror bombing of Rotterdam in May 1940.”

Further: “ ...the ‘battle for Fallujah’ was entirely one-sided. US military and technical superiority over the Iraqi resistance (was) as great, if not greater, than the American army’s advantage over their Indian opponents in the 1870s and 1880s.”(1)

Seventy percent of houses and shops were reported destroyed, with those still standing damaged. Iraqi doctor, Ali Fadhil, described a city: “ ... completely devastated, destruction everywhere. It looked like a city of ghosts. Falluja used to be a modern city; now there was nothing. We spent the day going through the rubble that had been the centre of the city; I didn’t see a single building that was functioning.”(City of Ghosts, The Guardian, January 11, 2005.)

Annihilation 2.0 with “Mad Dog” Mattis in Charge

Now “Mad Dog” Mattis heads the Pentagon, in charge of both tactical and strategic nuclear weapons, threatening an entire country with a Fallujah inspired “Massive Military Response”. The same criminal motivations prevail on a much larger scale.

War criminals in high office. Who’s threatening Whom?

North Korea lost 30% of its population as a result of US carpet bombing during the Korean

war. Let's be under no illusions: It was a policy of total annihilation.

US General Curtis Lemay in the aftermath stated:

"After destroying North Korea's seventy eight cities and thousands of her villages, and killing countless numbers of her civilians ... Over a period of three years or so we killed off - what - twenty percent of the population."

"We went over there and fought the war and eventually burned down every town in North Korea anyway, some way or another ...", (see Pyongyang below)



Pyongyang 1953

Economic Warfare

Vice President Pence, however, intimated at the press conference that the immediate objective was to freeze trade with North Korea, namely a policy of total economic isolation. This would be carried out by a sanctions regime of "stopping trade with any nation doing business with North Korea".

What is now on the US drawing board is to freeze trade with North Korea, 90% of which is with China

"If carried out, that option could mean a halt to US trade with China, which has supported economic sanctions on North Korea but remains the key economic partner for the rogue nation."

That statement (CNN, September 3, 2017) borders on ridicule. Sanctions directed against China would immediately backlash against America, leading to the potential disruption of the "Made in China" consumer economy.

Will China heed to Washington's threats? While Beijing controls 90% of the trade with North Korea, the People's Republic of China is America's largest trading partner.

China is not dependent on US imports. Quite the opposite. America is an import led

economy with a weak industrial and manufacturing base, heavily dependent on imports from the PRC.

Imagine what would happen if China following Washington's threats decided from one day to the next to significantly curtail its "Made in China" commodity exports to the USA.

It would be absolutely devastating, disrupting the consumer economy, an economic and



financial chaos.

"Made in China" is the backbone of retail trade in the USA which indelibly sustains household consumption in virtually all major commodity categories from clothing, footwear, hardware, electronics, toys, jewellery, household fixtures, food, TV sets, mobile phones, etc.

Ask the American consumer: The list is long.

"China makes 7 out of every 10 cellphones sold Worldwide, as well as 12 and a half billion pairs of shoes' (more than 60 percent of total World production). Moreover, China produces over 90% of the World's computers and 45 percent of shipbuilding capacity" ([The Atlantic](#), August 2013)

Make America Great again: Made in China. Not a good option for the Donald!

Economic Hara-kiri

This kind of economic blackmail on the part of the Trump administration directed against China will not work. It falls flat.

US sanctions against China would backlash on the USA. America cannot relinquish its imports of Chinese manufactured goods.

It would be suicide, a self-imposed "economic hara-kiri".

For further details see Michel Chossudovsky, [Imagine What Would Happen if China Decided to Impose Economic Sanctions on the USA?](#) August 03, 2017

Deterioration of US- South Korean Relations

Moreover, Trump is also blackmailing South Korea for its failure to fully endorse the US

military agenda against Pyongyang, threatening to rescind the US-ROK bilateral free-trade agreement (KORUS).

ROK president Moon favors dialogue and reconciliation rather than confrontation with Pyongyang, not to mention the restoration of North-South trade and investment established as a result of the 2000 Joint Declaration.

WASHINGTON — While the world agonized over the [huge nuclear test in North Korea](#) this weekend, President Trump aimed his most pointed rhetorical fire not at the renegade regime in Pyongyang, but at America’s closest partner in confronting the crisis: [South Korea](#).

In taking to Twitter to accuse Seoul of “appeasement,” Mr. Trump was venting his frustration at a new liberal South Korean government he sees as both soft on [North Korea](#)’s atomic program and resistant to his [demand for an overhaul of trade practices](#) that he views as cheating American workers and companies.

Screenshot NYT, September 3, 2017

President Trump, in a tweet on September 3, accused South Korea of talking about “appeasement.”

What is significant is that without South Korea’s cooperation, the US will not be in a position to effectively initiate military procedures against the DPRK. Hopefully, peace negotiations (with the support of China, Russia and South Korea) could emerge.



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