

IAED USA: North Korea - The Logic of Survival - Webinar

Roger Wetherall
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Webinar

The International Association for Peace and Economic Development



North Korea: Logic of Survival

Tuesday, March 21, 2 – 3 PM EST (New York Time)

Dear,

North Korea is often described as an “irrational”, even a “mad” place. It is not true. Actually, its leaders are great masters of survival, they have survived against all odds.

In order to see why North Korean policy is logical, we have to keep in mind the decision-makers’ goals. And this goal has nothing to do with economic growth. The main strategic goal of late Kim Jong Il was simple: he wanted to die a natural death while still in power. He succeeded in 2011. The main strategic goal of Kim Jong Un is the same: to live to a ripe old age, and die a natural death while still in power. This is not an easy goal but so far he has been successful.

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Prof. Andrei Lankov

Professor, Kookmin University, Seoul, Korea

Andrei Lankov was born in Leningrad (now Petersburg). He completed his undergraduate and graduate studies at Leningrad State University (Ph.D. in 1989). In 1996-2004, he taught Korean history at the Australian National University, and since 2004 he teaches at Kookmin University, currently at the College of Social Studies, and also serves as the Director of Korearisk.com group.

His major research interest is North Korean history and society. His major [English language publications on North Korea](#) include: From Stalin to Kim Il Sung: The Formation of North Korea, 1945-1960; Crisis in North Korea: The Failure of De-Stalinization, ; North of the DMZ: Essays on Daily Life in North Korea; The Real North Korea.

He has contributed to Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Financial Times, Newsweek, and has published a number of academic articles, including articles in Foreign Affairs and Foreign Policy. In 2017, the Foreign Policy magazine included him into the list of Global Thinkers.



BRADLEY BABSON

Brad Babson is a retired World Bank official who worked mainly on East and South East Asia. His first assignment was on the Korea Desk in 1975-76. As Division Chief for education and health sectors for eight countries from 1987-92, he worked to help South Korea prepare for accession to the OECD. From 1997 to the present, he has focused mainly on the North Korean economy, working with the World Bank, UN, and various foundations, institutes and universities. He is a member of the Advisory Council of the Korea Economic Institute of America and the Advisory Committee of the National Committee for North Korea. He recently also served on the World Economic Forum Global Futures Council on the Korean Peninsula. In Maine he is a former Director of the World Affairs Council, and in 2018-19 taught a course at Bowdoin College on the Two Koreas and Geopolitics of Northeast Asia. He attended Williams College and the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs.



Gerard Willis

President and CEO of HJ Magnolia US Holdings

HJ Magnolia is the holding company for several businesses including The New Yorker Hotel, the Manhattan Center, The Washington Times, and U.S. Marine.

From 2020 to 2022 he was the Chairman of the HJ Magnolia Korea Foundation, the holding company for a multi-industry conglomerate, known popularly in Korea as the Tongil Group.

He was the first foreigner ever appointed Chairman of the Korea Foundation in its 50-year history and one of the few foreigners to ever run a purely Korean Chaebol.

Based in Asia from 1988 to 2022, he has been a general counsel, transactional attorney, and business leader for Fortune 100 companies, a Wall Street law firm, and a private direct investment fund. From 2003 to 2018, he was Vice President and General Counsel, Asia Pacific for Honeywell International.

He has a BA from Brown, an MA from the George Washington University Elliott School of International Affairs and JD from New York University School of Law.



Mr. Roger Wetherall

Moderator

**US Coordinator,
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We look forward to your participation and engagement in this event.

Thank you,

Roger Wetherall

IAED-USA Coordinator

IAED@us.upf.org | Ph. (203) 260-2279



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