

politische Relevanz absinkt (S. 511). Hervorzuheben ist aber auch die Betonung des Verfassers, dass neben der idealtypischen theologischen (Luther), institutionellen (Calvin) und ethischen (Bonhoeffer, Barth) Ausrichtung des Christentums als vierte idealtypische Komponente der Konfuzianismus nicht unbeachtet bleiben darf, so dass der Verfasser resümiert (S. 559): „The *Li*, as the structural order of the *Tao*, is just the ethical order of the Church of the Chinese Christians! The Chinese Christians live in the *Li* according to the moral norms of the *Li* in China, by which they communicate with their neighbours and others in society.“ Zugleich warnt der Verfasser aber auch vor zwei Gefahren, die die Kirche in China vermeiden muss, wenn sie einen bleibenden Beitrag zur Gesellschaft leisten will: sie darf weder dem Extrem eines postmodernen Synkretismus noch dem Extrem einer biblizistischen Abschottung von der Moderne und der nicht-christlichen chinesischen Gesellschaft erliegen; letzteres ist bei fundamentalistischen Gruppen in China durchaus zu beobachten. Aber auch in einem radikalen Nationalismus Chinas sieht der Verfasser eine Gefahr für die Kirche, die – trotz der Drei-Selbst-Bewegung – immer auch eine universale Kirche sein muss.

Zieht man ein kurzes Resümee, so hat der Verfasser ein Programm (bzw. eine Vision) vorgelegt, das zeigt, wie die theologisch-kirchliche Ethik die Grundlage sein muss, um die (protestantische) Kirche in China zu entwickeln, um nicht durch Nationalismus oder Säkularismus Schaden zu nehmen, sondern um als Gestaltungsfaktor der chinesischen Gesellschaft dem Prinzip des *Li* (als christlicher Ethik) verpflichtet in der Zukunft erfolgreich wirken zu können.

Manfred Hutter

**Suk Hi Kim, Terence Roehrig,  
Bernhard Seliger (Hgg.):  
The Survival of North Korea.  
Essays on Strategy, Economics and  
International Relations**

Jefferson: McFarland & Company, 2011.  
255 S., EUR 30,99

Setting the tone with a reference to Sun-Tzu's well-known adage "know the enemy and know yourself" (S. 1), this work sets out to inform readers on how success might finally be brought to the lasting diplomatic struggle between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the international community. Through a collection of short articles claiming to be "essential reading for anyone interested in peace in North-east Asia" (S. 8), the work strives to reassess predominating views on this reclusive state. The editors aim to offer a deeper understanding of the DPRK and its survival strategy, highlight the failures of past and current policies by the international community. They also intend to debunk collapse predictions and ultimately show that cooperation incentives exist for both sides. The editors conclude that hitherto diplomatic strategies set by the international community towards the DPRK have been misguided, on account of a lack of knowledge about the DPRK's culture, a misunderstanding of its intentions, and the predominance of a 'collapse mentality' among experts. They argue that the former would be prudent in abandoning short-term for long-term strategies towards Pyongyang, and recommend a policy of engagement, nuclear containment, and, most importantly, mutual confidence-building.

The editors intend to appeal to a mixed and well-informed audience that includes "policy-makers, diplomats, politicians, researchers, and other North Korea watchers" (S. 8); they do so with correspondingly mixed results. The introductory pages and subsequent three chapters primarily expound on the points of diplomatic failure and collapse predictions by the international community

in regards to the DPRK, a result of the latter's unique historical trajectory, its *songun* military first-policy, *juche* ideology and a presumably entrenched Neo-Confucian tradition – an argument that has been made by many other scholars. Here, the authors do make headway in providing convincing cultural and historical understandings, but fall short due to the brevity of their articles. Many of the chapters are a mixture of conjecture, end-game theories and assertions with little credible evidence. Chapters 4-6, 8 and 9 employ liberal economic arguments in an attempt to laud the potential monetary benefits of cooperation in the areas of trade, energy and economic development. However, the economic idealism that they employ tends to altogether ignore political considerations and is based on statistics that lack relevant analysis and a grounding in theory, utilizing vague arguments, such as: "Scholars argue that Northeast Asia is a region with every possibility of becoming the best trading bloc in the future, because of Japanese capital and technology, Chinese labor, Russian natural resources, and the Korean work ethic." (S. 84). Many of the articles that the editors chose to include do not support the work's main aims, relying on passing references or allowing the readers make their own connections. A number of the articles are likewise liberal in their use of newspaper clippings – and even Wikipedia – as sources.

Sections of this work can, however, be praised for their critical reevaluation of existing intelligence and studies – of both North Korea and those states engaging it –, arriving at some novel conclusions. Four chapters stand out in this regard and for that fact that they support the editors' main aims. Chapters 7 and 10 are devoted to uncovering the truths about East Asian international relations in regards to Pyongyang, with an enlightening contribution by Dick K. Nanto and Mark E. Manyin on China-North Korea relations, and a praiseworthy contribution by Mikyoung Kim that utilizes the Cheonan Incident to show that *realpolitik* and domes-

tic political considerations in Seoul and Tokyo trump efforts to engage Pyongyang. Chapter 11, written by Terence Roehrig, offers alternative readings of the DPRK's political motivations through the lens of decades-old maritime border disputes along the Northern Limit Line. In Chapter 12, Siegfried S. Hecker gives the DPRK's nuclear program a rational choice framework, shedding new light on the state's actions and underlying motivations.

All in all this work does present some insightful information on the DPRK's survival strategy and allows the reader to reflect on often-ignored realities in diplomatic relations. The editors of this work seek to offer a deeper understanding of DPRK diplomacy, ultimately intending to demonstrate the need for long-term engagement and confidence-building by the international community. However, most of the articles chosen do not provide ample support for the main arguments. Those who stand to benefit most from this collection of essays are general readers and undergraduate students, who seek background information. Diplomats, politicians, post-graduate students and scholars might choose to look elsewhere.

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