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New CNAS Report Offers Lessons for Future Negotiations with North Korea

Washington, D.C., November 9, 2009 - Amidst increased talk in Washington of a new round of negotiations with North Korea, the Center for a New American Security (CNAS) released today a report on the past two decades of U.S. negotiations with Pyongyang. *Hard Lessons: Navigating Negotiations with the DPRK* is meant to help current and future policymakers who will engage with North Korean officials navigate the pitfalls of past negotiations and forge a credible path toward denuclearization.



[Click here to download the full report.](#)

Based on interviews with over 50 high-level current and former American and South Korean government officials, politicians, academics, and journalists, the authors of the report - CNAS Fellow [Abraham Denmark](#) and CNAS Research Assistants [Zachary Hosford](#) and [Michael Zubrow](#) - summarize obstacles faced in past negotiations and recommend new strategies and tactics for addressing them.

Though many observers doubt that North Korea will ever denuclearize, the authors agree that negotiations remain the only viable option if a nuclear-free Korean peninsula remains the U.S. objective, and hope this report can serve as a guide by laying out the hard lessons learned by past negotiators.

"If policymakers learn from past negotiations, they can launch a new round of talks with the DPRK on a more positive trajectory," write the authors. "Success, however hard won, will not only increase America's security but also restore stability to the Northeast Asian region."

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