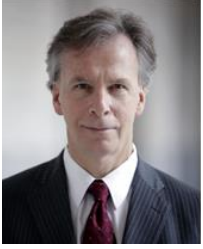


September 2017



Dr. Robert S. Litwak

Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

Robert S. Litwak is vice president for scholars and director of international security studies at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. His most recent publication is *Preventing North Korea's Nuclear Breakout*.

Dr. Litwak is also a consultant to the Los Alamos National Laboratory. He served on the National Security Council staff as director for nonproliferation in the first Clinton administration.

He was an adjunct professor in the Security Studies Program at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and has held visiting fellowships at Harvard University's Center for International Affairs, the International Institute for Strategic Studies, the Russian Academy of Sciences, and Oxford University.

Dr. Litwak is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Subject Area/Topic: HOW SHOULD THE US DEAL WITH THE NORTH KOREAN THREAT?

Highlights: Dr. Litwak presented a factual, realistic and very discouraging picture of US/North Korean relations. He noted that the current Administration inherited a very troubled relationship with North Korea were, nevertheless, the probability of war was low. Our strategy will depend on how we judge the speed of societal change in North Korea.

North Korea's long-range objective is unclear. It may be to become integrated into the global community. The situation is unique because of the vast difference in power and prosperity between the adversaries. The US, China, and South Korea have immense wealth.

North Korea has an economy the size of Dayton, Ohio—\$40 billion, estimated by the CIA. Most North Koreans, who average 1500 calories a day, are noticeably smaller than South Koreans, who average 2500 calories per day.

The conflict has been transposed into a volatile and unpredictable relationship between "Rocket Man" and "The Mad Man Across the Border." Litwak pointed out that personalizing an international crisis situation is highly undesirable because it makes it far more difficult for either party to back down or compromise.