

**CHINA'S CONFLICT MANAGEMENT APPROACH TO THE NUCLEAR
STANDOFF ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA**

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Abstract:

This paper provides an overall analysis and assessment of China’s conflict-management approach to the Korean peninsula. Focusing on China’s uncharacteristically proactive preventive (mediation) diplomacy in the latest (second) US-DPRK nuclear confrontation (2002–2005), this paper proceeds in three parts. The first briefly tracks the shift in China’s conflict-management role as well as the style and substance of this approach. The second explains the proximate and underlying causes that catapulted Beijing into action. The final section critically evaluates the possibilities and limitations of China’s conflict-management approach for the resolution of this US-DPRK nuclear standoff as well as for the creation of long-term peace in Northeast Asia in general and on the Korean peninsula in particular.