

Information Sheet for 2012 Study of North Korea's Long-Term Future

By Michael Lee, Founder of the Institute of Futurology

The key elements of North Korea's long-term future are:

- Social, economic and environmental problems will escalate over the next ten years in North Korea and the country will face more famines and malnutrition as its agriculture continues to decline and the state slides into debt and bankruptcy
- Meanwhile, information, from radio, internet and books and magazines smuggled into the country, will invade North Korea, showing that the country cannot hold out indefinitely against forces of global technology revolutionising society across the planet
- North Korea's rulers will try some economic and even political reforms in the 2020s but this will serve only to release pent-up anger of the nation's voiceless masses
- A popular revolution will begin sometime between 2020-2030 by such groups as the unemployed, the poor and hungry masses, workers on farms and in factories, political prisoners and human rights activists, the youth who are largely in favour of modernisation and modern technology, factions within the echelons of power in Pyongyang, defectors in South Korea as well as criminal gangs and warlords
- This revolution will lead to civil war and the eventual invasion of a "peace-keeping" Chinese force to restore order
- North Korea will then become a colony, or puppet state, of China for a few decades
- China will bring about the belated modernisation of North Korea, producing an agricultural and economic revival in the 2nd half of this century
- Finally, the two Koreas are likely to unite early in the 22nd Century, as Germany did in 1990; the probable time-scale for a joyous reunification of a free and democratic Korea is sometime between 2050-2120

Read futurist Michael Lee's essay "Unmasking North Korea's Future" at <http://www.futurology.co.za>.

Read "The Ten Greatest Predictions of All Time" at <http://www.futurology.co.za>.

About Michael Lee

Michael Lee is a futurist who founded the World Future Society's Southern African Chapter and the Institute of Futurology. He is CEO of the ATM Industry Association (www.atmia.com), a non-profit trade association with more than 3,500 members in 60 countries. Lee is a member of the World Future Society (www.wfs.org), the International Society for the Study of Time (www.studyoftime.org), the Royal Institute of Philosophy (www.royalinstitutephilosophy.org) and the Institute of Physics (www.iop.org). He serves on the Board of Directors of the global ATM Industry Association and the US-based Benefit Corporation Standards Institute (<http://www.bcorpoinstitute.org>). His book *Knowing our Future – the startling case for futurology* will be published in November 2012 - http://www.infideas.com/pages/store/products/ec_view.asp?PID=1804. The book is also available on Amazon at <http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/1906821984>