

PARK IN-KOOK

President, Korea Foundation for Advanced Studies (KFAS)

International community is paying attention to the principal contradiction facing Chinese society, notably unbalanced and inadequate development and people's demand for a better life. There are ever-growing needs of the people for a better life, which will be a test for the future of the CCP. In foreign policy, we find both elements of continuity and change. Overall, in the next five years, China will have more continuity than change with a more pragmatic approach and more Xi imprint. China also seems to aim to become the arbiter in the Asia-Pacific both politically and militarily so China will become more assertive in the next five years and after. On the North Korea challenge, there is probably only six months to one year left until a daunting catastrophe begins. North Korea seemingly has no reentry vehicle yet so it is not ready to talk. The most critical factor is whether the Trump administration continues to maintain the North Korea challenge as its top priority. Unless it is kept as a deal breaking issue, the U.S. cannot secure genuine full engagement of China that has the final say on the issue.