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Colloquium Series



Construction of the Jeju Naval Base and the Vicious Triangle Created among Korea, China and the United States

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Jeju Island's Gangjeong Village, located off the southern tip of the Korean Peninsula, is suffering from the construction of a South Korean naval base. One might think this should be acquiesced for the sake of national security. However, it has been concluded that, for the sake of national security and peace, the base construction must be stopped because the base would ruin not only this beautiful and peaceful natural community, but also relations between South Korea and China. Jeju Naval Base is highly likely to be used as a port call and, in the event of a contingency, as a stopover or launching point for the U.S. Navy. Should the Jeju base be used by the U.S. military for the purpose of blockading China, China is expected to retaliate in various ways including diplomatic complaints and economic retaliations, such as travel and trade restrictions. In a worst case scenario, China's reaction could include military actions such as a retaliatory attack or maritime transportation blockade. Construction of the Jeju Naval Base is likely to worsen the arms race and negatively impact triangular relations among South Korea, China, and the United States.

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