South Korea’s phenomenal rise has been studied extensively by political scientists and economists, both in terms of its impact on democratization and as a role model for economic development. Yet little attention has been devoted to exploring the nexus between economic development and foreign policy. In *South Korea's Rise*, Uk Heo and Terence Roehrig propose a new theoretical framework to illustrate how an increase in a country’s economic prosperity can bring about change to its foreign policy, prompting greater involvement in the international system, the transition to democracy, an expanded set of interests, and increased tools to pursue its foreign policy goals. Analysis of the foreign policy of South Korea, as a rising middle power, is crucial to our understanding of the power structure and future relations in East Asia. This is essential reading for all students and scholars with an interest in Asia, foreign policy, and global economics.

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South Korea’s Rise

Economic Development, Power, and Foreign Relations

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This book is dedicated to our wives, Sooho Song and Amy Roehrig.
Contents

List of figures page viii
List of tables ix
Acknowledgements xi

1 Introduction 1
2 Economic development, state power, and foreign policy 10
3 Inter-Korean relations: confrontation, economic exchanges, and the nuclear crisis 28
4 South Korea and the United States: from dependency to partnership 50
5 South Korea, Russia, and China: from adversaries to economic partners 67
6 South Korea and Japan: an ambivalent relationship 88
7 South Korea and the European Union: evolving cooperation and competition 110
8 South Korea and India: opportunities and obstacles 128
9 South Korea and the developing world: Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia 147
10 Contributing to the international community: from consumer to producer 166
11 Conclusion 183

Bibliography 190
Index 212
Figures

2.1 Theoretical framework  
3.1 South Korea’s aid to North Korea (USD thousands)  
3.2 Inter-Korean trade relations (USD thousands)
# Tables

4.1 ROK–US trade, 1991–2012 (USD billions)  
5.1 Trade amount between South Korea and Soviet Union/Russia, 1977–2012  
5.2 FDI between South Korea and Russia (amount declared, in USD thousands)  
5.3 Trade amount between South Korea and China, 1980–2012  
5.4 FDI between South Korea and China, 1989–2012  
6.1 South Korea–Japan trade, 1960–2012 (USD billions)  
6.2 FDI flows from South Korea to Japan (USD millions)  
6.3 FDI flows from Japan to South Korea (USD millions)  
6.4 Japanese tourism to South Korea, 2008–12  
7.1 Trade between South Korea and the EU (USD thousands)  
7.2 FDI between South Korea and the EU (amount declared, USD thousands)  
8.1 Economic statistics: India and South Korea  
8.2 ROK–India trade (USD billions)  
8.3 Bilateral trade as a share of total trade in 2007 (percent)  
9.1 Top Africa trade partners – total trade (trade balance, in USD millions)  
9.2 Total trade – South Korea and top Latin American trade partners (USD millions)  
9.3 Total trade with South Korea, 1992 and 2012 (USD millions)  
9.4 Total trade – South Korea and top Southeast Asia trade partners (USD billions)  
10.1 Examples of ROK membership in multilateral organizations  
10.2 South Korean Official Development Assistance (ODA), 2004–12
List of tables

10.3 Republic of Korea’s current UN peacekeeping operations, June 30, 2013 .... 174
10.4 Top fifteen financial contributors to UN peacekeeping operations in 2013 ... 176
We began to think about writing this book several years ago. South Korea’s phenomenal economic rise was well known. Over the years, scholars and analysts have written many studies that examine South Korea’s rise as an economic role model for other countries in the developing world. Others have examined the role South Korea’s economic development played in the country’s political transition and path to democratization. Yet it seemed to us that there was a serious gap in the literature regarding how South Korea’s economic development has affected its foreign policy and role in international relations. We hope this book begins to fill that gap while also providing theoretical insights for the study of other rising powers and the impact economic development has on foreign relations.

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