THE EVOLUTION OF THE SOUTH KOREA–UNITED STATES ALLIANCE

In contrast to previous studies of the South Korea–United States alliance, Uk Heo and Terence Roehrig analyze the bigger picture, including the history, economics, security, alliance structure, politics, and the future of the alliance. Taking alliance theory as a starting point, the authors argue that the alliance provides an ideal case study to examine how the political development and economic growth of junior partners impact an alliance. As South Korea’s capabilities and ambitions have grown, the alliance has evolved from an asymmetric regional security relationship to an economic partnership with global interests, while China’s rise and North Korea’s nuclear development mean that South Korea remains of strategic importance for American interests in East Asia. This book will be read both as a major contribution to Korean studies and as the study of alliance politics and theory.

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FIGURES

1.1 Alliance change  page 47
3.1 South Koreans’ perceptions of the United States  117
TABLES

2.1 Chronology of US tactical nuclear weapons in South Korea page 76
3.1 South Korean aid to North Korea ($10,000) 112
4.1 Troop size (‘00,000) 148
4.2 Military balance in ground forces 149
4.3 Military balance in navy 150
4.4 Military balance in air force (billions of current US dollars) 151
4.5 Military expenditures (billions of current US dollars) 152
5.1 US trade with South Korea (millions of US dollars) 174
5.2 US trade with South Korea (billions of US dollars) 189
5.3 US direct investment to South Korea (millions of US dollars) 190
5.4 South Korea’s trade with the United States (billions of US dollars) 191
C.1 South Korea’s defense burden sharing (millions of US dollars) 250
C.2 Defense cost-sharing per year (billions of US dollars) 251
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