

Where exactly is North Korea?

In recent days, the New York Times has been filled to the brim with articles on the war on terror. Italy, Pakistan, Greece, and the United States have all had recent arrests in connection with regional and global terrorist groups. The perceived threats that the involved groups represent for the citizens of each respective country are dominant stories in the international news and media. In a simple analysis of the cause of this focus on terror one question arises concerning present day world affairs. Where do the threat of North Korea and its nuclear development program appear on the media's radar? In a recent New York Times article, (Bradsher, Keith. New York Times. "North Korea Says a U.S. Attack Could Lead to a Nuclear War." 3/02/2003.), the media finally gave a subtle nod to the evolving issues in North Korea. The appearance of this article on page A12 of the Times is a bit disturbing in the context of its subject matter. This apparent media oversight deserves a bit of investigation and contemplation.

Fundamentally, the predominant agenda of the United States Government is the complete disarming of Iraq and the subsequent removal of Saddam Hussein. In a speech to the United Nations Security Council, Colin Powell indicated to the council that United States intelligence agencies had secured direct and specific ties between Saddam Hussein's regime in Iraq and the Al Qaeda Terrorist network of Osama Bin Ladin. These connections, if accurate, illustrate a strong and compelling case for high-priority disarmament of Iraq. It also supports the current stance of government officials on North Korea that indicates moderation and negotiation rather than military intimidation and

confrontation. If the government does not wish to provoke response from North Korea, where does North Korea fit into today's U.S. news?

Anyone who has seen the massive news coverage of the United Nations and United States actions concerning Iraq can easily make a case that much of today's media stories are redundant and have already examined nearly every aspect of the proposed military aspect. This media coverage, although thorough, is leaving the North Korean issue drastically under investigated. Events in North Korea recently have turned toward the possibility of a real nuclear war. The prospect of such a war are to threatening and too important to disappear from the eyes of the American people. The New York Times has an obligation to report direct threats to America from international hot-spots like North Korea. The most critical problem in today's media is directly shown in this situation. The problem is that too much of the investigative resources of the leading media sources are being spent on the war on terror instead of distributing the resources throughout the world and thoroughly investigating all critical issues concerning the United States Foreign Policy.

Historically, the media has played a powerful role in wartime as the chief source of government statements and information on the progress of the conflict being resolved at the moment. This sort of media coverage has great strength in its unflinching coverage of nearly every aspect of the war. Soldiers, civilians, and politicians are under constant media watch for any signs of war damage. Today, however, the media seems to be unsure how to treat the frontier field of the war on terror. If this wartime press style is sustained over the duration of the never-ending war on terror, then some critical piece of

news might escape the public eye until it comes back to wreak havoc on American lives.

What then is our current expectation of the media?