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Like an Island of Autocracy in the Sea of Democracy? -- The South Korea-the US Alliance Has Come to a Fork and Whither Way for South Koreans: "Midlife Crisis" or "Twilight Divorce"? -- The Special Relationship between South Korea and the United Nations: Metamorphosis from a Beneficiary into a Benefactor and Vice Versa. -- New Geopolitical Configuration of Power in the Asia-Pacific World for the Twenty-First Century: Will It Resemble Time's Cycle or Time's Arrow toward a Regional Brave New World? -- Epilogue -- Timeline -- Bibliography -- Index.

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#### Sommario/riassunto

Koreans historically consider their country as a victim of foreign powers – sometimes seeing themselves as a shrimp among whales. In fact, Korea's national status has to a great extent been determined by the historical rivalries between the great powers. This collection of essays, produced over time by one of Korea's leading political scientists, probes many of the fundamental post-Korean-War issues South Korea has wrestled with in the context of its foreign policy positions, not least the question of how it actually defines its foreign policy, its relationship with the United States, and the ever-present security issues. Other essays examine the role of the US on the Korean peninsula after the end of the Cold War; what policy directions South Korea should take towards North Korea; what is North Korea's security policy; and what are the conditions for reunification. This thought-provoking volume provides a valuable overarching framework towards a more informed understanding of how South Korea's relationship with the outside world has evolved in the twentieth century and the manner in which it is likely to do business in the twenty-first.

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