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‘He gave Kim everything he wanted, in exchange for what? A photo-op?’

‘If Obama had done this, he’d have been crucified by the right!’

‘He loves dictators but hates his democratic allies?’

An almost unanimous dislike of Donald Trump is one of the few things that unites Europe these days, so it's natural that he's our focus when we talk about the Singapore summit.

Here, we question the idea of Trump taking a position for the benefit of humanity in general. After all, this is a president who has started a trade war, scrapped the Iran deal, and scapegoated minorities. He hates the EU and even seems to endorse Nazis. Trump, for us, doesn't do humanity in general. So it's no surprise that much of the European media coverage of the Kim-Trump summit was skeptical at best. But for many in South Korea, the conversation goes beyond the Trump factor, and a different picture emerges.

There, the credit for the detente goes not to Trump, but to South Korean president Moon Jae-In. As an architect of the "sunshine policy", which saw his country pursue closer engagement with the North in the 2000s, he's made it his life's work to achieve peace between the two Koreas.

It was his administration that paved the way for the joint Korean ice hockey team at the Winter Olympics. And, it was Moon himself who first met Kim Jong-un at the truce village of Panmumjom in the Korean Demilitarised Zone in April. All this while facing fierce criticism at home and abroad - both Korean conservatives and even Trump derided him as a naive appeaser. Moon has put his political life on the line to make this work.

The summit itself comes after decades of failed US policy in North Korea. The goal was to use sanctions to stop the north from developing nuclear weapons and long-range ballistic missiles, but the north developed them anyway. The cost of these sanctions was borne less Kim and his cadres and more by 25 million long-suffering North Koreans.

The next idea was that a pre-emptive strike on North Korea could 'neutralize' its nuclear capabilities. This was the line Trump was touting last autumn, leading to fears of World War III. It seemed the US could only conceive of two alternatives - keep the useless sanctions whose primary effect was to immiserate millions of innocent people, or start a war, which would kill millions of those same civilians, not to mention the millions across the border in the South. Instead, Trump gave Kim a meeting, and told him he wouldn't start a war. This may not be 'peace for our time' but neither is it Neville Chamberlain giving Czechoslovakia to Hitler.

For Moon meanwhile, this is a once in a generation opportunity. The Korean peninsula has been divided for geopolitical reasons since the 1950s. This status quo suits everyone except the Koreans.

China prefers to have North Korea as a buffer state, instead of a unified Korea which might lean towards the US. Japan also wants a divided and weakened Korea, given the acrimonious history of colonisation between the two countries. And under normal circumstances, so would the US.

After all, South Korea is a US ally, with tens of thousands of US troops stationed in the country. This forward deployment of troops enhances US power projection in the region, and, together with the US troops in Japan, ensures that the US remains a key player in regional geopolitics. Without the division of the peninsula, both the alliance and the US bases in South Korea would lose their *raison d'être*.

Lastly, the impeachment of South Korean President Park Gun-hae in 2017 has the more hawkish, anti-engagement conservatives on the back foot. It's not clear where this *détente* is going, or why Trump is reversing decades of US policy, but it's a rare opportunity for peace and Moon Jae-in is going to make the most of it.

Of course, there is no guarantee of success: 'denuclearization' doesn't seem to mean the same thing in Washington as it does in Pyongyang, and given the capriciousness of both Trump and Kim, we might be back to the brink of war in six months. But this is precisely why, given what is at stake, we here in Europe should be positive and supportive, rather than negative and cynical. Peace on the peninsula doesn't just get Moon – or Trump – a Nobel Prize. It would end a decades-old conflict and would make a huge difference to the lives of millions of North Koreans living in poverty. You don't have to like Trump to get behind this. If it helps, remind yourself that it won't really be Trump's Nobel Peace prize, it'll be Moon Jae In's.