Russia matters more to North Korea than you might think. Can it play a role in resolving the nuclear crisis?

Russia was a founding member of the Six Party Talks, held 2003-2008. These were the most serious form of negotiations on North Korea's nuclear weapons program.

- 1941: Kim Jong-il born in Vyatskoye, Russia
- 1948: DPRK founded under strong Soviet influence
- 1950-1953: North Korea attempts to invade South Korea with massive Soviet aid and some direct military participation
- 1961: Kim Jong-il meets with Russian President Medvedev
- 2000-2002: North Korea and the Soviet Union signed the "Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance"
- 2003-2008: Six Party Talks on North Korea's nuclear weapons program
- 2011: Kim Jong-il meets with Russian President Putin

11.8 mile (19km) shared border

60 miles (100km) between North Korea and Vladivostok, a strategically important port city in Russia

October 2017
TransTeleCom, a Russian company, opens an internet connection to North Korea

60% of North Korean schoolchildren studied Russian until the early 1990s*

Based on estimates of the Russkiye Mir Foundation

$76.8 million trade value with Russia

$900 million in Russian re-exports to North Korea via China

300K tons of Russian oil and petroleum products North Korea buys every year

32K North Korean workers in Russia

* trade data as of September 2017 (prior to the adoption of UNSCR 2375)

Read the two reports: Russia and Crisis Management on the Korean Peninsula and Nuclear Weapons And Russian-North Korean Relations.