

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) is a very unique and closed country that remains hidden to the surrounding world in many various aspects. My thesis focuses on the status of the DPRK at the turn of the 2nd millennium on the background of historical and political development on the Korean peninsula. I present the role of DPRK in the international arena especially on the issue of the DPRK's nuclear program and the process of its solution with its key partners. The history of DPRK is an essential part of the process how to understand contemporary North Korea. Therefore I briefly introduce a historical and cultural impact on the development of Korean peninsula and a historical development of the Republic of Korea in relation to DPRK. The historical development of DPRK since its establishment in 1948 provides a crucial background for a current situation in DPRK. Except the role of DPRK in the international arena I point out a current situation within the country - in the economic, political and human rights areas because they certainly have a great impact on the DPRK's position in the international field (e.g. issue of refugees).