
The Impossible State North Korea Past And Future Victor D Cha

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Society Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center
"Provocative ... A fascinating analysis."
—Dwight Garner, The New York Times
The first full-length study of the North Korean worldview to draw on extensive research into the regime's domestic propaganda, including films, romance novels and other artifacts of the Kim dynasty personality cult ... What do the North Koreans really believe? How do they see themselves and the world around them? From Kim Il-sung to Kim Jong-il to current leader Kim Jong-un, it's been hard to define

a consistent ideology amongst North Korea's Supreme Leaders. But you can reach a more profound understanding of North Korea through its propaganda, says renowned North Korea analyst, and Atlantic contributing editor B.R. Myers. Myers analyzes each of the country's official myths in turn, from the notion of Koreans' unique moral purity, to the myth of an America quaking in terror of "the Iron General." In a concise but groundbreaking historical section, Myers also traces the origins of this official culture back to the

Japanese fascist thought in which North Korea's first ideologues were schooled. What emerges is a regime completely unlike the West's perception of it. This is neither a bastion of Stalinism nor a Confucian patriarchy, but a paranoid, nationalist, "military-first" state on the far right of the ideological spectrum. Since support for the North Korean regime now derives almost exclusively from pride in North Korean military might, Myers argues that Pyongyang can neither be cajoled nor bullied into giving up its nuclear program. The

implications for Western foreign policy — which has hitherto treated North Korea as the last outpost of the Cold War — are as obvious as they are troubling.

Alignment Despite

Antagonism Cambridge University Press

“A crisp, dramatic examination of how technology and human ingenuity are undermining North Korea’s secretive dictatorship.”—Kirkus Reviews
One of the least understood countries in the world, North Korea has long been known for its repressive regime. Yet it is far from being an impenetrable black box. Media

flows covertly into the country, and fault lines are appearing in the government’s sealed informational borders. Drawing on deeply personal interviews with North Korean defectors from all walks of life, ranging from propaganda artists to diplomats, Jieun Baek tells the story of North Korea’s information underground—the network of citizens who take extraordinary risks by circulating illicit content such as foreign films, television shows, soap operas, books, and encyclopedias. By fostering an awareness of life outside North Korea and enhancing cultural knowledge, the materials these citizens

disseminate are affecting the social and political consciousness of a people, as well as their everyday lives. “A fine primer on the country, based on extensive interviews with defectors.”—Times Literary Supplement
“A fascinating book.”—The New York Times
“[A] timely and cogent book.”—Los Angeles Review of Books
“A fascinating and intelligent overview of the ways that information is liberating North Koreans’ minds.”—Robert S. Boynton, author of *The Invitation-Only Zone: The True Story of North Korea’s Abduction Project*
“A fascinating, important, and vivid account of how unofficial

information is increasingly seeping into the North and chipping away at the regime's myths—and hence its control of North Korean society.”—Sue Terry, former CIA analyst and senior research scholar at the Weatherhead East Asia Institute, Columbia University Essays on Strategy, Economics and International Relations Rowman & Littlefield Publishers Under the Loving Care of the Fatherly Leader offers in-depth portraits of North Korea's two ruthless and bizarrely Orwellian leaders, Kim Il-Sung and Kim Jong-Il. Lifting North Korea's curtain of self-imposed isolation, this book will take readers inside a society, that to a Westerner, will

appear to be from another planet. Subsisting on a diet short on food grains and long on lies, North Koreans have been indoctrinated from birth to follow unquestioningly a father-son team of megalomaniacs. To North Koreans, the Kims are more than just leaders. Kim Il-Sung is the country's leading novelist, philosopher, historian, educator, designer, literary critic, architect, general, farmer, and ping-pong trainer. Radios are made so they can only be tuned to the official state frequency. "Newspapers" are filled with endless columns of Kim speeches and propaganda. And instead of Christmas, North Koreans celebrate Kim's birthday--and he presents each

child a present, just like Santa. The regime that the Kim Dynasty has built remains technically at war with the United States nearly a half century after the armistice that halted actual fighting in the Korean War. This fascinating and complete history takes full advantage of a great deal of source material that has only recently become available (some from archives in Moscow and Beijing), and brings the reader up to the tensions of the current day. For as this book will explain, North Korea appears more and more to be the greatest threat among the Axis of Evil countries--with some defector testimony warning that Kim Jong-Il has enough chemical weapons to wipe out the entire

population of South Korea.
The Third Revolution
September Publishing
**Named one of the best books
of 2015 by The Economist**
Private Markets, Fashion
Trends, Prison Camps,
Dissenters and Defectors.
North Korea is one of the most
troubled societies on earth. The
country's 24 million people
live under a violent
dictatorship led by a single
family, which relentlessly
pursues the development of
nuclear arms, which
periodically incites risky
military clashes with the larger,
richer, liberal South, and which

forces each and every person to
play a role in the "theater state"
even as it pays little more than
lip service to the wellbeing of
the overwhelming majority.
With this deeply anachronistic
system eventually failed in the
1990s, it triggered a famine that
decimated the countryside and
obliterated the lives of many
hundreds of thousands of
people. However, it also
changed life forever for those
who survived. A lawless form
of marketization came to
replace the iron rice bowl of
work in state companies, and
the Orwellian mind control of
the Korean Workers' Party was

replaced for many by dreams of
trade and profit. A new North
Korea Society was born from
the horrors of the era—one that
is more susceptible to outside
information than ever before
with the advent of k-pop and
video-carrying USB sticks.
This is the North Korean
society that is described in this
book. In seven fascinating
chapters, the authors explore
what life is actually like in
modern North Korea today for
the ordinary "man and woman
on the street." They interview
experts and tap a broad variety
of sources to bring a startling
new insider's view of North

Korean society—from members of Pyongyang's ruling families to defectors from different periods and regions, to diplomats and NGOs with years of experience in the country, to cross-border traders from neighboring China, and textual accounts appearing in English, Korean and Chinese sources.

The resulting stories reveal the horror as well as the innovation and humor which abound in this fascinating country.

Becoming Kim Jong Un
Hachette UK

Victor D. Cha and David C. Kang 's Nuclear North Korea was first published in

2003 amid the outbreak of a lasting crisis over the North Korean nuclear program. It promptly became a landmark of an ongoing debate in academic and policy circles about whether to engage or contain North Korea. Fifteen years later, as North Korea tests intercontinental ballistic missiles and the U.S. president angrily refers to Kim Jong-un as “ Rocket Man, ” Nuclear North Korea remains an essential guide to the difficult choices we face. Coming from different perspectives—Kang believes the threat posed by

Pyongyang has been inflated and endorses a more open approach, while Cha is more skeptical and advocates harsher measures, though both believe that some form of engagement is necessary—the authors together present authoritative analysis of one of the world ' s thorniest challenges. They refute a number of misconceptions and challenge the faulty thinking that surrounds the discussion of North Korea, particularly the idea that North Korea is an irrational actor. Cha and Kang look at

the implications of a nuclear North Korea, assess recent and current approaches to sanctions and engagement, and provide a functional framework for constructive policy. With a new chapter on the way forward for the international community in light of continued nuclear tensions, this book is of lasting relevance to understanding the state of affairs on the Korean peninsula.

North Korea in the Global Economy Vintage

North Korea continues to make headlines, arousing curiosity and fear in equal measure. The

world's most secretive nuclear power, it still has Gulag-style prison camps, allows no access to the Internet and bans its people from talking to foreigners without official approval. In this remarkable and eye-opening book, internationally best-selling author Paul French examines in forensic detail the history and politics of North Korea, Pyongyang's complex relations with South Korea, Japan, China and America, and the implications of Kim Jong-un's increasingly belligerent leadership following the death of his father, Kim Jong-il. As an already unstable North Korea grows ever more unpredictable, antagonizing enemies and allies alike, North Korea: State of Paranoia delivers a provocative and

frightening account of a potentially explosive nuclear tripwire.

Talking to North Korea Harper Collins

North Korea is perilously close to developing strategic nuclear weapons capable of hitting the United States and its East Asian allies. Since their first nuclear test in 2006, North Korea has struggled to perfect the required delivery systems. Kim Jong-un's regime now appears to be close, however. Sung Chull Kim, Michael D. Cohen, and the volume contributors contend that the time to prevent North Korea from achieving this capability is virtually over; scholars and policymakers must turn their attention to how to deter a nuclear North Korea. The

United States, South Korea, and Japan must also come to terms with the fact that North Korea will be able to deter them with its nuclear arsenal. How will the erratic Kim Jong-un behave when North Korea develops the capability to hit medium- and long-range targets with nuclear weapons? How will and should the United States, South Korea, Japan, and China respond, and what will this mean for regional stability in the short term and long term? The international group of authors in this volume address these questions and offer a timely analysis of the consequences of an operational North Korean nuclear capability for international security. Entering the New Era of Deterrence Springer

This book provides a unique summary of North Korean environmental and developmental policies. Coupling ideological and political developments with a review of practical projects within specific sectors, it provides the North Korean or East Asian analyst a new lens with which to understand one of the most diffuse and difficult nations on earth. *How North Koreans See Themselves and Why It Matters* Pluto Press (UK) Originally published by Alfred A. Knopf in 2012. Inside the World's Most Secret State Random House When Kim Jong Un became the leader of North Korea following his

father's death in 2011, predictions about his imminent fall were rife. North Korea was isolated, poor, unable to feed its people, and clinging to its nuclear program for legitimacy. But he has solidified his grip on his country and brought the U.S. and the region to the brink of war. Pak, a former CIA analyst, provides a groundbreaking account of the rise of North Korea's dictator from his nuclear ambitions to his summits with President Donald J. Trump. She argues that Kim's personality, perceptions, and preferences are underestimated by Washington policy wonks who assume he sees the world as they do. -- adapted from jacket North Korea Flatiron Books The award-winning author of

The Interpreter traces her experiences as an English teacher to the sons of North Korea's elite during the last six months of Kim Jong Il's reign, an effort complicated by oppressive regime enforcers, propaganda and evangelical missionaries. 40,000 first printing.

In the Dragon's Shadow

Council on Foreign Relations Press

North Korea is one of the most closed and secretive societies in the world. Despite a high level of interest from the outside world, we have very little detailed information about how the country functions economically.

In this valuable book for both the academic and policy-making circles, Byung-Yeon Kim offers the most comprehensive and systematic analysis of the present day North Korean economy in the context of economic systems and transition economics. It addresses what is really happening in the North Korean economy, why it has previously failed, and how the country can make the transition to a market economy. It takes advantage not only of carefully reconstructed macro data but also rich, new data at the micro level, such as quantitative surveys of North Korean refugees settled in South

Korea, and the surveys of Chinese companies that interact heavily with North Korea.

Kim Jong Un and the Bomb

Columbia University Press

A timely look at the impact of China's booming emergence on the countries of Southeast Asia Today, Southeast Asia stands uniquely exposed to the waxing power of the new China. Three of its nations border China and five are directly impacted by its claims over the South China Sea. All dwell in the lengthening shadow of its influence: economic, political, military,

and cultural. As China seeks to restore its former status as Asia's preeminent power, the countries of Southeast Asia face an increasingly stark choice: flourish within Beijing's orbit or languish outside of it. Meanwhile, as rival powers including the United States take concerted action to curb Chinese ambitions, the region has emerged as an arena of heated strategic competition. Drawing on more than a decade of on-the-ground experience, Sebastian Strangio explores the impacts of

China's rise on Southeast Asia, the varied ways in which the countries of the region are responding, and what it might mean for the future balance of power in the Indo-Pacific. [Survival and Deterrence in North Korea](#) Broadway Books
A close look at the evolution of American political alliances in Asia and their future While the American alliance system in Asia has been fundamental to the region's security and prosperity for seven decades, today it encounters challenges from the growth of China-based regional organizations. How was the American alliance system originally established in Asia, and is it

currently under threat? How are competing security designs being influenced by the United States and China? In *Powerplay*, Victor Cha draws from theories about alliances, unipolarity, and regime complexity to examine the evolution of the U.S. alliance system and the reasons for its continued importance in Asia and the world. Cha delves into the fears, motivations, and aspirations of the Truman and Eisenhower presidencies as they contemplated alliances with the Republic of China, Republic of Korea, and Japan at the outset of the Cold War. Their choice of a bilateral "hub and spokes" security design for Asia was entirely different from the system created in Europe, but it was essential for its time. Cha argues

that the alliance system ' s innovations in the twenty-first century contribute to its resiliency in the face of China ' s increasing prominence, and that the task for the world is not to choose between American and Chinese institutions, but to maximize stability and economic progress amid Asia ' s increasingly complex political landscape. Exploring U.S. bilateral relations in Asia after World War II, *Powerplay* takes an original look at how global alliances are achieved and maintained.

Oxford University Press, USA
Under Kim Jong-un, North Korea has experienced growing economic markets, an emerging 'nouveau riche,'

and modest levels of urban development. To what extent is North Korean politics and society changing? How has the growth of markets transformed state-society relations? This Element evaluates the shifting relationship between state, society, and markets in a deeply authoritarian context. If the regime implements controlled economic measures, extracts rent, and subsumes the market economy into its ideology, the state will likely retain strong authoritarian control.

Conversely, if it fails to incorporate markets into its legitimating message, as private actors build informal trust networks, share information, and collude with state bureaucrats, more fundamental changes in state-society relations are in order. By opening the 'black box' of North Korea, this Element reveals how the country manages to teeter forward, and where its domestic future may lie.

[The State of the World's Land and Water Resources for Food and Agriculture](#) Routledge

In September 2017, North Korea shocked the world by exploding the most powerful nuclear device tested anywhere in 25 years. Months earlier, it had conducted the first test flight of a missile capable of ranging much of the United States. By the end of that year, Kim Jong Un, the reclusive state's ruler, declared that his nuclear deterrent was complete. Today, North Korea's nuclear weapons stockpile and ballistic missile arsenal continues to grow, presenting one of the most serious challenges to international security to date. Internal regime propaganda has called North Korea's nuclear forces the country's "treasured sword," underscoring the cherished place of these weapons in national strategy.

Fiercely committed to self-reliance, Kim remains determined to avoid unilateral disarmament. Kim Jong Un and the Bomb tells the story of how North Korea—once derided in the 1970s as a "fourth-rate pipsqueak" of a country by President Richard Nixon—came to credibly threaten the American homeland by November 2017. Ankit Panda explores the contours of North Korea's nuclear capabilities, the developmental history of its weapons programs, and the prospects for disarming or constraining Kim's arsenal. With no signs that North Korea's total disarmament is imminent over the next years or even decade, Panda explores the consequences of a nuclear-armed North Korea for the

United States, South Korea, and the world.

My Time with the Sons of North Korea's Elite
Zed Books Ltd.

Since the end of the Cold War, scholars and analysts have been predicting the collapse of the communist regime in North Korea. Yet, despite a deteriorating economy characterized by declining industrial output, outdated technology, and difficulty feeding its people, the country has been able to persist and continues to plod along. How has North Korea

been able to survive, and how long can it last without significant change to its economic and political structures? How can we peacefully resolve the North Korean nuclear standoff through constructive dialogue? This book examines North Korea's survival strategy and offers practical solutions to a 50-year nuclear standoff through a series of essays written by 15 of the world's foremost scholars and leading experts on strategy, economics and international relations. It is

essential reading for anyone interested in peace in Northeast Asia and will be invaluable in helping policy-makers, diplomats, politicians, researchers and other North Korea watchers to understand three closely related issues about North Korea: (1) why North Korea will continue to survive; (2) how the United States and North Korea can build a mutual confidence; and (3) why a dialogue is the only viable way to resolve the North Korea problem peacefully.

Ending the Nuclear Standoff

Princeton University Press

The first in-depth study of the puzzling relationship between Japan and the Republic of Korea and the influence of the United States on it from the Cold War to the present. It draws on recently declassified U.S. documents, internal Korean government documents, and interviews with former policy makers in the United States, Japan, and Korea.

The Extraordinary True Story of a Kidnapped Filmmaker, His Star Actress, and a Young Dictator's Rise to Power

Georgetown University Press

After providing an accessible history of the nation, the author turns his focus to what

North Korea is, what its leadership thinks and how its people cope with living in such an oppressive and poor place, arguing that North Korea is not irrational, but rather a nation that has survived against all odds.

Environment, Politics, and Ideology in North Korea Yale University Press

In *The Third Revolution*, eminent China scholar Elizabeth C. Economy provides an incisive look at the transformative changes underway in China today. Chinese leader Xi Jinping has

unleashed a powerful set of political and economic reforms: the centralization of power under Xi, himself, the expansion of the Communist Party's role in Chinese political, social, and economic life, and the construction of a virtual wall of regulations to control more closely the exchange of ideas and capital between China and the outside world. Beyond its borders, Beijing has recast itself as a great power, seeking to reclaim its past glory and to create a system of international norms that better serves its

more ambitious geostrategic objectives. In so doing, the Chinese leadership is reversing the trends toward greater political and economic opening, as well as the low-profile foreign policy, that had been put in motion by Deng Xiaoping's "Second Revolution" thirty years earlier. Through a wide-ranging exploration of Xi Jinping's top political, economic and foreign policy priorities—fighting corruption, managing the Internet, reforming the state-owned enterprise sector, improving

the country's innovation capacity, enhancing air quality, and elevating China's presence on the global stage- Economy identifies the tensions, shortcomings, and successes of Xi's reform efforts over the course of his first five years in office. She also assesses their implications for the rest of the world, and provides recommendations for how the United States and others should navigate their relationship with this vast nation in the coming years.