

## North Korean Reading List

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### **1. *Under the Loving Care of the Fatherly Leader: North Korea And the Kim Dynasty* by Bradley K. Martin. (2006).**

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.

### **2. *Perspectives on Policy Toward North Korea: Stalemate or Checkmate* edited by Sharon Richardson (2007).**

North Korea has been described as the most secretive country on earth. Dealing with such a closed society one that is simultaneously seeking acceptance through nuclear relations while defying the plea to cease development of nuclear weapons is difficult for governments and policy makers, but Perspectives on Policy Toward North Korea opens discussion on the various approaches the United States has adopted and is considering.

### **3. *The Ministry of Truth: Kim Jong-Il's North Korea* by Eva Munz, Christian Kracht, Lukas Nikol, Chŏng-il Kim (2007).**

The few dozen tourists--and a few journalists--who come annually to the North Korean capital of Pyongyang are accompanied by guides and are only allowed to see what the regime blinders for their viewing. For the visitors, actors often represent pedestrians, and the consumer goods seen in stores are unavailable to the public at large. The statistics heaped upon the visitors are dubious at best. Kim Jong Il's People's Republic of North Korea is a gigantic installation, a simulation, a play. Eva Munz, Christian Kracht, and Lukas Nikol traveled to this land to take pictures of a country from which there are no pictures. What they show in *The Ministry of Truth* is a window view of the gigantic 3-D production of Kim Jong Il, who writes the nation's statistics and authors its film script. Because no accurate view is available of this total installation, the authors make the only one possible: They comment on their photos with quotations from a didactic book on the art of film written by the dictator--who not only collects wine

and Mazda RX-7 sports cars, but also has an enormous film library. Christian Kracht is a celebrated journalist and author and the editor of the German cultural magazine *Der Freund*. The photographs of Eva Munz and Lukas Nikol have had numerous international exhibitions.

**4. *North Korea* by Christopher L. Salter (2007).**

The information-packed volumes in this series provide comprehensive overviews of each nation's people, geography, history, government, economy, and culture while taking readers on a voyage of discovery to far-away lands.

**5. *Inside North Korea* by Harris, Mark Edward/ Cumings, Bruce (FRW)**

An award-winning photographer furnishes a rare, behind-the-scenes visual tour of the reclusive Asian nation, documenting life in North Korea, in the militarized DMZ dividing North and South Korea, and on South Korea's border with the north, along with extended captions and brief essays on the controversial country.

**6. *Red Rogue: The Persistent Challenge of North Korea* by Bruce E. Jr. Bechtol (2007).**

A unique analysis of the evolving North Korean threat and the challenges facing the South Korea-U.S. alliance.

**7. *North Korea: The Paranoid Peninsula: A Modern History* by Paul French (2007)**

North Korea remains one of the least understood nations on earth; a nuclear enabled "Hermit Kingdom" ravaged by economic mismanagement and reliant on illegal weapons sales, smuggling and counterfeiting for most of its foreign reserves while undergoing a prolonged famine and propped up by aid donations. Not a normal country in any sense of the word, its nuclear weapons program makes it a country whose actions could have global ramifications. This book demystifies North Korea through revealing the daily life of its citizens; the political and economic history of the nation; the reasoning behind the country's combative way of engaging the world and the tentative economic reform process now being undertaken. The prospect of a nuclear North Korea preferring brinkmanship to engagement and negotiation, makes understanding Pyongyang's guiding principles, motives and possible future increasingly important.