



NORTH KOREA

The Paranoid Peninsula - A Modern History

Paul French, Director of Access Asia

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This accessible, up-to-date and comprehensive introduction to North Korea provides an overview of the politics, economics and history of the DPRK with particular emphasis on the current economic situation since the collapse of the Soviet Union and Pyongyang's relationship with America leading up to the current nuclear crisis.

This book seeks to explain how the North Korean economy has moved from one that maintained parity with, and even surpassed, South Korea until the mid-1970s since when it has spiralled down into industrial decline and severe famine. The author argues that the country's collapse has been due to its rigid adherence to central planning, international isolation, Military-First line and an inflexible political philosophy - Juche.

The book also deals with the long troubled relationship between Pyongyang and Washington as well as the continued division of the Korean peninsula. The author considers the likely scenarios for the future of the DPRK and the history and possible ramifications of a reunited Korea as well as the guiding personalities of the country and the recent diplomatic initiatives, economic reforms and nuclear crisis.



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