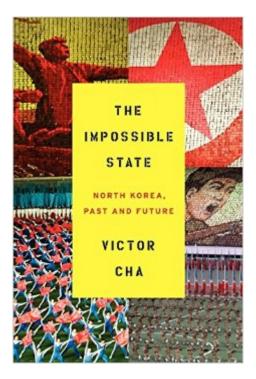
The book was found

# The Impossible State: North Korea, Past And Future





## Synopsis

Former White House official Victor Cha has written the definitive volume on North Korea, arguably the worldâ <sup>™</sup>s most menacing and mysterious nation. In The Impossible State, Cha, a singular expert on the region, exposes North Koreaâ <sup>™</sup>s veiled past; sheds light on its culture, economy, and foreign policy; and explores the possibilities of its uncertain future in the post-Kim Jong-il era. A timely and engaging insiderâ <sup>™</sup>s look at a volatile, and isolationist Asian juggernaut, The Impossible State will carry readers far deeper into this frighteningly adversarial country than theyâ <sup>™</sup>ve ever traveled before.

## **Book Information**

Hardcover: 544 pages Publisher: Ecco; 1st edition (April 3, 2012) Language: English ISBN-10: 9780061998508 ISBN-13: 978-0061998508 ASIN: 0061998508 Product Dimensions: 6 x 1.6 x 9 inches Shipping Weight: 1.7 pounds (View shipping rates and policies) Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews (104 customer reviews) Best Sellers Rank: #799,301 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #114 in Books > History > Asia > Korea > North #2035 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > International & World Politics > Asian #30097 in Books > History > World

#### **Customer Reviews**

Author Cha begins by describing his 2009 landing at Pyongyang International, an airport about one-tenth the size of typical international airports. When he arrived, there was only one departing flight listed on its schedule board - to Beijing.Schoolchildren there learn conjugations by reciting 'We killed Americans,' 'We are killing Americans,' 'We will kill Americans.' Math is similarly learned via word problems that involve calculating the number of dead American soldiers. Per capita gross national income has fallen from \$1,160 in 1990 to \$960 in 2009. Three in 90,000 own their own car, 10% have refrigerators. Most all are vegetarians, and not by choice - beef is eaten once/year by the average N.K. citizen. The average 7-year-old boy is 8" shorter and 22 lobs lighter than his S.K. counterpart. Most defectors (now 21,000) do so for economic reasons, and 75% say they retain affection for their 'Great Leader' I, II, and III.Forget about an Arab Spring in N.K., says Cha. And

there won't be a Chinese-style modernization either - it has no credible, competent, charismatic leader such as Deng Xiaoping waiting in the wings.N.K. originally had a considerable economic advantage over S.K., thanks to the Japanese occupiers; most of that, however, was leveled by U.S. bombing during the Korean War. Moscow and Beijing then helped it rebuild (primarily to win N.K. allegiance when Moscow and Beijing were competing), but Moscow backed out after the first three year plan when it saw N.K. focusing on heavy industry and refusing to engage in foreign trade to fill in other areas. (S.K. helped make the divorce permanent by later granting Moscow a \$3 billion loan as part of reconciliation; Moscow had been providing oil at one-fourth of market price.

Having had my curiosity over North Korea piqued by the recent "The Interview" and Sony hacking controversies, I picked up this book on a recommendation. After finishing it, I can say that it definitely has given me a much better understanding of not just North Korea, but also how all of the countries involved in the six-nation talks (including the U.S.) have a stake in what happens to the DPRK in the future."The Impossible State" breaks down every aspect of North Korea, from its founding by Kim II-Sung (with a massive assist from the Soviet Union) through the death of Kim Jong-II and the ascension of Kim Jong-Un (note: this book was published in 2012, so more recent events are not covered). Cha takes a very academic look at the DPRK's history, including how an economy that once dwarfed South Korea's got to a state in which its people are now starving. It also looks at the relationships between the North and the other six-party nations, provides an in-depth overview of their nuclear programming and details the horrifying conditions most North Koreans face in the service of the "Dear Leader". Cha ends the book by looking at the future of the DPRK and what would need to happen if/when the regime collapses. Cha's level of detail and critical analysis are quite impressive. You really feel like he provides a comprehensive overview of the North Korean situation from a very academic perspective, which allows you to better understand one of the most despotic regimes in the world.

#### Download to continue reading...

North Korea: The Definitive Guide to Understanding the Hermit Kingdom (history of Korea, division of Korea, real north Korea, escape from North Korea, kim jong un, kim jong il, nuclear weapons) The Impossible State: North Korea, Past and Future Korea: The Impossible Country North of the DMZ: Essays on Daily Life in North Korea Fighting Ships of the Far East (2): Japan and Korea AD 612?1639: Japan and Korea AD 612-1639 v. 2 (New Vanguard) USN/USMC Over Korea: U.S. Navy/Marine Corps Air Operations Over Korea 1950-53 - Aircraft Specials series (6048) Political Ascent: Contemporary Islamic Movements In North Africa (State, Culture, and Society in Arab North

Africa) Neotectonics of North America: Decade Map Volume to Accompany the Neotectonic Maps. Part of the Continent-Scale Maps of North America (Geology of North America) Letting Go of the Past: Hypnosis to Heal Your Life, Let Go of the Past and Move On via Relaxing Rain Hypnosis and Meditation Teddy Bears Past and Present, Vol. 2 (Teddy Bears Past & Present) Past Life Regression: A Practical Guide To Understanding PLR - Learn How To Release Past Fear, Unlock Hidden Powers, & Gain Insight On Your Life's Purpose. ... Hypnosis, Death, Dreams, Spirituality) The Great Leader and the Fighter Pilot: The True Story of the Tyrant Who Created North Korea and the Young Lieutenant Who Stole His Way to Freedom Stars Between the Sun and Moon: One Woman's Life in North Korea and Escape to Freedom The Reluctant Communist: My Desertion, Court-Martial, and Forty-Year Imprisonment in North Korea A Kim Jong-II Production: The Incredible True Story of North Korea and the Most Audacious Kidnapping in History Under the Loving Care of the Fatherly Leader: North Korea and the Kim Dynasty Marching Through Suffering: Loss and Survival in North Korea (Contemporary Asia in the World) And the Wind Blew Cold: The Story of an American Pow in North Korea The Development of Modern South Korea: State Formation, Capitalist Development and National Identity (Routledge Advances in Korean Studies) Recipes of North Korea

<u>Dmca</u>