

# North Korea's Economic System

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 North Korea's Market Economy Society from Below

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## FREEMAN SHANIA

*Bridging the Chasm* Routledge

The changes taking place in North Korea's political, military, and economic aspects since Kim Jong-un inherited power, are drawing the world's attention. In particular, as the Kim Jong-un regime places greater importance on the economy, there is a growing international interest as to whether the new economic measures will bring about positive changes in North Korea. Current policies of the North bear many startling resemblances to the reform policies of former socialist countries. At present, the time might not yet be ripe for predicting North Korea's full transition to a market economy. However, the Stalinist state has been placed in an abnormal situation where a planned economy and markets coexist in the country. As it is not likely that the socialist-planned economy would prosper in such a situation, for North Korea, the transition to a market economy is almost inevitable. This report studies the marketization of North Korea and seeks to forecast the possibility of change in its economic system in commemoration of the advent of the new Kim Jong-un regime

as well as the tenth anniversary of the "July 1st Economic Reform Measures" in 2012. The advances in marketization are likely to result in the weakening of the state control of North Korean authorities. In addition, the spread of markets suggests the high possibility of transition to a market economy, which occurred previously in socialist states in Eastern Europe and China.

**North Korean Economic Reform and Political Stability** Columbia University Press  
 Politics in North and South Korea provides students with a comprehensive understanding of the political dynamics of the two Koreas. Giving equal weight to North and South Korea, the authors trace the history of political and economic development and international relations of the Korean peninsula, showing how South Korea became democratized and how Juche ideology has affected the establishment and operation of a totalitarian system in North Korea. Written in a straightforward, jargon free manner, this textbook utilizes both historical-institutional approaches and quantitative evidence to analyse the political dimensions of a wide variety of issues including: Legacies of early-twentieth-century Japanese colonial rule South Korean democratization and democratic consolidation South Korean diplomacy and North Korean nuclear crises The economic development of both North and South Korea The three-generation power succession in North Korea

North Korean human rights issues Inter-Korean relations and reunification This textbook will be essential reading for students of Korean Politics and is also suitable for undergraduate and postgraduate courses on East Asian Politics, Asian Studies, and International Relations.

## Markets in North Korea I

CHAPTER 1: Conventional Planned Economy 1. Framework of a Planned Economy 2. Taaen Work System & Unified and Detailed Planning 3. System for Distribution of Food Rations and Other Necessities CHAPTER 2: Planned Economy after the Economic Crisis 1. Contraction and Weakening of the Planned Economy 2. Generalization of Direct Control by the Supreme Leader 3. Collapse of the Ration Distribution System CHAPTER 3: Development of North Korea's Market ization 1. Conceptual Framework 2. Economic Crisis of the 1990s and the Arduous March 3. After the July 1 Economic Management Improvement Measures 4. Since the Latter Half of the 2000s: Between Restriction and Tolerance of Markets CHAPTER 4: Development, Status, and Structure of North Korea's Marketization 1. Foreign Dependency of Marketization 2. Rise of Monopolies and Oligopolies & Wealth Disparity due to Collusion Between Government and Businesses 3. Prolonged Marketization and Its Establishment 4. Evaluation of Marketization CHAPTER 5: Characteristics of

North Korea's Dual Economic Structure 1. Dual Economic Structure with Ambiguous Boundaries 2. Coexistence of the Planned and Market Economies 3. Supplementary and Conflicting Relations Between the Planned and Market Economies 4. The North Korean Government's Dilemma CHAPTER 6: Future of North Korea's Dual Economic Structure 1. Elements that Spread and Restrain Marketization in North Korea 2. Future Prospects for Marketization in North Korea

**Understanding North Korea** Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center

This volume is based on papers from the conference, "Developing social infrastructure in North Korea for economic cooperation between the South and the North," held at Korea University, Seoul, November 1998. Yoon (economics, Korea U.), Lau (economic development, Stanford U.), and other scholars discuss the development potential of the North Korean economy and the compatibility of economic reform with the maintenance of internal political stability. Twelve contributions are organized into sections on the political economy of North Korea, development potential under reform, the experience of other transition economies, the availability of social infrastructure, and the importance of industrial location. c. Book News Inc.

[Troubled Transition](#) Rowman & Littlefield

Hwang analyses the Koreas' traditional interdependence and the economic consequences of the fratricidal war, giving a comparison of the two economies in terms of both the macroeconomic index and of living standards.

**The Hidden People of North Korea** □□□□□□□□

Analyzes economic, political, and security issues associated with Korean unification. Considers how the North Korean system might unravel, leading to possible unification, and what the capital costs of unification would be under differing circumstances and assumptions. Compares points of relevance and nonrelevance between the German experience with unification in the 1990s and what might occur in Korea.

*Understanding North Korea's Economic Reforms* Edward Elgar Publishing

Viewed from afar, North Korea may appear bizarre, or positively irrational. But as Nicholas Eberstadt demonstrates in this meticulously researched volume, there is a grim coherence to North Korea's political economy, and a ruthless logic undergirding it—one that unreservedly subordinates economic welfare to augmentation of political power. Thus, paradoxically, even as official policies and practices consign the DPRK economy to a perilous realm between crisis and catastrophe, the country's leadership maintains unchallenged domestic control and has actually managed to increase its international influence. Through painstaking collection of hard-to-uncover data and careful analysis, Eberstadt provides a quantitative tableau of North Korea's terrible failure in its economic race against South Korea; its stubborn adherence to policies all but guaranteed to stifle growth and undermine economic performance; and the longstanding official effort to ignore, or mitigate, pressures for economic reform. Eberstadt is skeptical of optimistic accounts from South Korea and elsewhere suggesting that the North Korean leadership is interested in resolving the current nuclear impasse, and getting on with the business of reform and development. So long as Pyongyang's rulers entertain the ambition of reunifying the Korean peninsula on its own terms, Eberstadt argues, economic reforms worthy of the name will be subversive of state authority—and vigilantly resisted by Pyongyang's rulers. This authoritative volume has received widespread attention from Asian specialists, well as those concerned with nuclear proliferation and world peace, and international relations professionals in general.

**Constitutional Handbook on Korean Unification (Economic Issues)** Unveiling the North Korean Economy

Monograph on the economic structure and economic development of Korea DPR since 1945 - covers the agricultural sector, (incl. Land reform and collective farming), the industrial sector, (incl. Nationalization and industrial growth), trade, etc., and includes an evaluation of the role of collectivism and central economic planning. Bibliography pp. 195 to 206, map, references and statistical tables.

[The Structure of North Korea's Political Economy](#) American Enterprise Institute

In *Policy and Economic Performance in Divided Korea during the Cold War Era: 1945-91*, Eberstadt presents an impressive compilation of hard-to-find comparative data on economic performance for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK, or North Korea) and the Republic of Korea (ROK, or South Korea) over two critical generations. By a number of indicators, Eberstadt argues, Kim Il Sung's North Korea actually outperformed South Korea for much of this period—not only in the years immediately following partition, but perhaps also into the 1970s.

*North Korea in the World Economy* McFarland

Even as its rise as a nuclear power unfolds on the nightly news, North Korea remains arguably the most mysterious country in the world. A virtual blackout of statistical information coming from the reclusive regime has shrouded the day-to-day lives of its inhabitants in secrecy. This groundbreaking study—which relies on rare U.N.-assisted household data and carefully scrutinized propaganda materials—offers the first comprehensive examination of the social and economic history of North Korea from its founding in 1948 to the present day. Included are a chronicle of the political formation of the two Koreas, an exploration of the social aspects of life in North Korea, a discussion of the country's economic structure and development, and cutting-edge anthropometric analysis that reveals how life in seclusion has affected the physical development of North Koreans. A concluding socioeconomic forecast predicts what lies ahead for the "hermit kingdom." Instructors considering this book for use in a course may request an examination copy here.

**The End of North Korea** Springer

Kim Jong-il once declared he would transform North Korea into a great and powerful country by 2012, apparently believing that nuclear weapons would compel the international community to engage on his terms. With no such prospect in sight and Kim himself now in failing health, his regime faces a multitude of intractable problems. Kim has apparently chosen his twenty-something third son as his successor, but will North Koreans accept this inexperienced young man as their leader, and will he embrace new thinking to solve the country's problems? Why do North Korean leaders resist reform of an economic system that impoverishes the people? Can a country so dependent on outside help continue to defy the international community? In *Troubled Transition*, leading international experts examine these dilemmas, offering new insights into how a troubled North Korea may evolve in light of the ways other command economies and totalitarian states—from the Soviet Union and East Germany to Vietnam and China—have transitioned.

*Politics in North and South Korea* Cambridge University Press

This unique book, now fully updated, provides a comprehensive overview of all aspects of life in North Korea today. Drawing on decades of experience, noted experts Ralph Hassig and Kongdan Oh explore a world few outsiders can imagine. In vivid detail, the authors describe how the secretive and authoritarian government of Kim Jong-un shapes every aspect of its citizens' lives, how the command socialist economy has utterly failed, and how ordinary individuals struggle to survive through small-scale capitalism. Weighing the very limited individual rights allowed, the authors illustrate how the political class system and the legal system serve solely as tools of the regime. The key to understanding how the North Korean people live, the authors argue, is to realize that their only allowed role is to support Kim Jong-un, whose grandfather founded the country in the late 1940s. Still a cypher, Kim Jong-un, as did his father before him, controls his people by keeping them isolated and banning most foreigners. North Koreans remain hungry and oppressed, yet the outside world is slowly filtering in, and the book concludes by urging the United States to flood North Korea with information so that its people can make decisions based on truth rather than their dictator's ubiquitous propaganda.

*North Korea's Planned Economy and Marketization* Routledge

North Korea's brinkmanship diplomacy has continued to disturb the world with its seemingly reckless missile testing, as the country's leader, Kim Jong-Il, is rumored to be terminally ill with pancreatic cancer. North Korea appears to be in a state of serious internal crisis not only because its dictatorial system, albeit skillful and ruthless leadership, is inherently unstable, if not skillful and ruthless leadership, but also because the main pillar of Kim Jong-Il's legitimacy is rapidly eroding due to both mass starvations and the exodus of grassroots and mass exodus of the North Korean people into nearby regions. The main objective of this book is to explore the probability of North Korea's implosion, and second to search for a feasible way for Korean reunification as a possible consequence of a big bang event on the peninsula. The geopolitics of the Korean Peninsula is historically very complicated as Korea is bordered and surrounded by four big powers; namely, China, Russia, Japan, and the United States. Each country has its own varying degrees of political, economic, and military stakes with respect to the Korean Peninsula. Thus, the Land of the Morning Calm has remained divided since 1945 mainly as a result of the domain war among these super powers. As the North nears a turning point, however, there is a new possibility for the two Koreas to reunite if the international environments work in their favor, and if both countries are well prepared to assume reunification.

[The North Korean Economy](#) Stanford, Calif. : Hoover Institution Press, Stanford University

Preface 1. A Quantitative Comparison of Socio-Economic Conditions in North and South Korea : Implications for a Prospective Reunification - Nicholas Eberstadt 2. Economic Policy During and

After Reunification in Korea - Sung-Hee Jwa and Chan Guk Huh 3. Economic Institution Building - Joachim Ragnitz 4. Korean Unification and the Privatization of North Korean Economy - Kun-Young Yun 5. Constructing a Social Safety Net for Korean Unification - Sung-Yeal Koo 6. Improving Business Environment - Udo Ludwig 7. The Cost and Financing of Korea Unification - Young-Sun Lee [Fiscal Segmentation and Economic Changes in North Korea](#) □□□□□□

The history of North Korea's fiscal segmentation can be categorized largely into four periods headed by different entities. First, between 1953 and 1972, Kim Il-sung created special budget to maintain political power. Second, from 1972 to 1984, Kim Jong-il gave birth to suryong economy to consolidate hereditary power succession. Third, from 1985 to 1994, party-state agencies began foreign currency earning activities. Finally, from 1995 to the present, in addition to the suryong economy and major party-state bodies, the foreign currency earning activities of party-state bodies for off-budget revenue have been generalized and become the backbone of North Korean party-state bodies' budget system. This paper addresses the process of fiscal segmentation from the second period onwards. 1.Fiscal Segmentation in North Korea 2.1972[]1984: Advent of Suryong Economy and the Expansion of the Market A. The Rise of Suryong Economy B. Economic Hardship and the Expansion of the Market C.The Monopoly of Foreign Currency Earnings by the Party Center D. The Decay of the Planned-Economy 3.1985[]1995: Surge in Foreign Currency Earning Activities of Major Party-state Agencies A. Expansion of Foreign Currency Earning Agencies B. The Generalization of Foreign Currency Earning Activities of the Party-State Agencies in the Early 1990s 4.Post 1995: 'Songun (Military First)' Policy and the Expansion of the Market A. The Generalization of Public Agencies' Foreign Currency Earning B. Kim Jong-il's Style of Economic Management C. Agents of the Private Economy Strengthened 5. Summary and Conclusion [Policy and Economic Performance in Divided Korea During the Cold War Era](#) Rowman & Littlefield On the Korean peninsula one of the greatest success stories of the postwar era confronts a famine-ridden—and possibly nuclear-armed—totalitarian state. The stakes are extraordinarily high for both North and South Korea and for countries such as the United States that have a direct stake in these affairs. This study, the most comprehensive volume to date on the subject, examines the current situation in the two Koreas in terms of three major crises: the nuclear confrontation between the United States and North Korea, the North Korean famine, and the South Korean financial crisis. The future of the peninsula is then explored under three alternative scenarios: successful reform in North Korea, collapse and absorption (as happened in Germany), and "muddling through" in which North Korea, supported by foreign powers, makes ad hoc, regime-preserving reforms that fall short of fundamental transformation.

*A Socioeconomic History of North Korea* Rand Corporation

Prolonging North Korea's life may actually increase the costs and the dangers of its inevitable demise.

[Avoiding the Apocalypse](#) Columbia University Press

Gray and Lee focus on three geopolitical 'moments' that have been crucial to the shaping of the North Korean system: colonialism, the Cold War, and the rise of China, to examine how the emergence and subsequent development of the North Korean political economy was fundamentally shaped by broader processes of geopolitical contestation.

*North Korea and Economic Integration in East Asia* Hoover Press

Following the death of Kim Jong Il, North Korea has entered a period of profound transformation laden with uncertainty. This authoritative book brings together the world's leading North Korea experts to analyze both the challenges and prospects the country is facing. Drawing on the contributors' expertise across a range of disciplines, the book examines North Korea's political, economic, social, and foreign policy concerns. Comprehensive and deeply knowledgeable, their analysis is especially crucial given the power consolidation efforts of the new leadership underway in Pyongyang and the implications for both domestic and international politics.

*The Inefficiency of North Korea's Economic System as Revealed by the Former East German Economy* Transaction Publishers

In the mid-1990s, as many as one million North Koreans died in one of the worst famines of the twentieth century. Stephan Haggard and Marcus Noland present the most comprehensive and penetrating account of the famine to date, examining not only the origins and aftermath of the crisis but also the regime's response to outside aid and the effect of its current policies on the country's economic future. North Korea's famine exemplified the depredations that can arise from tyrannical rule and the dilemmas such regimes pose for the humanitarian community. To reveal the state's culpability is a vital project of historical recovery, especially in light of our current

engagement with the "North Korean question."

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