

#### North Korea

In this historically grounded, richly empirical study of social and economic transformation in North Korea, Hazel Smith evaluates the 'marketisation from below' that followed the devastating famine of the early 1990s, estimated to be the cause of nearly one million fatalities. Smith questions preconceptions about North Korea; charting the development of a distinct northern identity prior to the creation of the Democratic People's Republic in 1948 before analysing the politics, economics and society of the Kim II Sung period. Smith shows how the end of the Cold War in Europe and the famine ushered in a process of marketisation that brought radical social change to all of North Korean society. This major new study analyses how different social groups in North Korea fared as a result of marketisation, transforming interests, expectations and values of the entire society, including Party members, the military, women and men, the young and the elderly. Smith shows how the daily life of North Koreans has become alienated from the daily pronouncements of the North Korean government. Challenging stereotypes of twenty-five million North Koreans as mere bystanders in history, Smith argues that North Koreans are 'neither victims nor villains' but active agents of their own destiny.

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Markets and Military Rule

Hazel Smith

University of Central Lancashire





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To Mihail – from Mount Myohyang to God's own county . . .





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### x Acknowledgements

name out there on the internet and in the press. I would like then to record my experience of the highly professional and genuinely reflective analysis that takes place in DC; in the Congressional Research Service, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Bureau of Intelligence and Research (INR) and the Bureau of Conflict and Stabilisation and in Defense. The pity is that this knowledge and expertise does not seem to permeate top-level decision-making.

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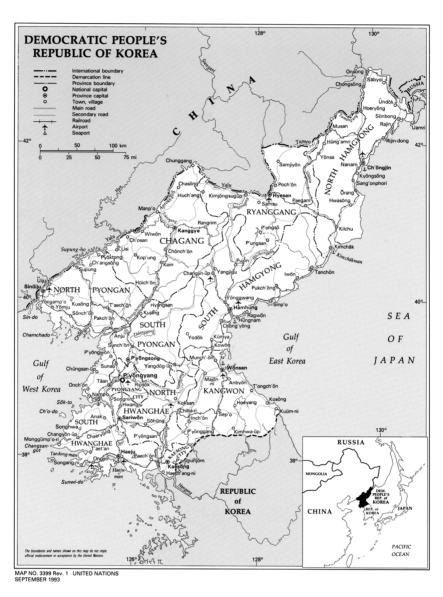
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Map of North Korea (Map No 3399 Rev 1. UNITED NATIONS. September 1993. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.)

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