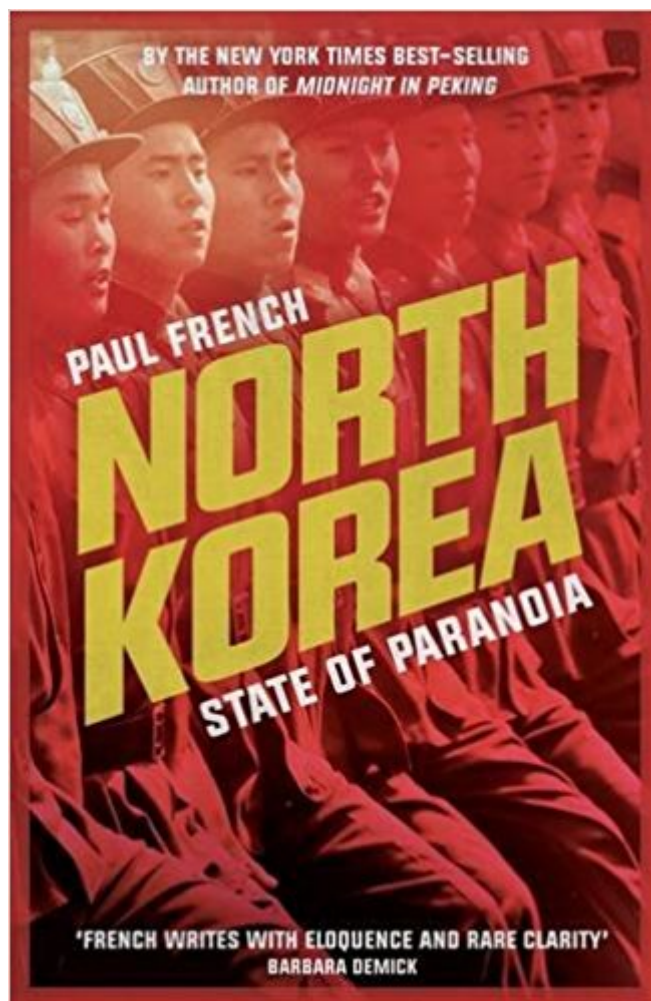




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# North Korea: State Of Paranoia (Asian Arguments)



## Synopsis

Secretive, mysterious, and almost certainly dangerous, North Korea is an object of endless fascinationâ and worryâ for the rest of the world. The worldâ™s most inaccessible nuclear power, it retains Gulag-style prison camps, completely blocks Internet access, and forbids citizens to talk to foreigners without approvalâ which makes the occasional report from a smart, dogged, connected analyst all the more valuable. North Korea: State of ParanoiaÂ is just such a report. Drawing on an impressive range of insider sources and previously unseen archival material, Paul French examines the nation and its ruling regime in forensic detail. He offers a close analysis of the history and politics of North Korea; Pyongyangâ™s complex relations with South Korea, Japan, China, and the United States; and the troubling implications of Kim Jong-Unâ™s increasingly belligerent leadership in the years since his father, Kim Jong-il, died. Straightforward and unsensationalistic,Â North KoreaÂ nonetheless paints a picture of a frightening unstable country, one whose sudden collapse could have globally dangerous consequences.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

â œPaul French writes with wit, eloquence, and rare clarity about the complicated history of North Korea.â • (Barbara Demick, author of Nothing to Envy: Real Lives in North Korea)â œNorth Korea&#39;s ability to worry and shock remains perhaps the only predictable aspect of the country&#39;s behavior. Paul French&#39;s no-nonsense approach to understanding the country&#39;s history, political system, ideology, and what remains of its decimated economy is one

of the best introductions to a country that does all it can to resist outside inspection and comprehension. This is the most accessible starting point for anyone wanting to understand the hermit kingdom.â • (Kerry Brown, China Studies Centre, University of Sydney)â œThis clear-eyed overview to North Koreaâ™s modern history is packed full of fascinating detail. French ably outlines the hermit kingdomâ™s ideology, economic system, and haphazard efforts at reform, while simultaneously revealing why pickpockets target Kim Il-sung badges, what the North Korean cabinetâ™s position is on lice, and why smoking can be a small act of resistance.â • (Louisa Lim, Beijing correspondent, NPR)â œAn admirably clear and calm survey of one of the hardest countries in the world to report on.â • (Jonathan Steele Guardian)â œHighly readable. . . . A solid overview of the countryâ™s modern history and how it became a failed state. . . . Admirably clear and refreshingly devoid of academic gobbledygook.â • (Wall Street Journal)â œFascinating. . . . Highly readable.â • (Daily Telegraph)

Paul French has lived and worked in Shanghai for many years and is a highly regarded commentator on Asia and the author of a number of books.

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