

a korean history for international readers

A Korean History for International Readers: A Comprehensive Overview

Introduction:

Understanding Korea's rich and complex history is crucial for anyone seeking to comprehend the nation's present-day geopolitical landscape, cultural nuances, and economic prowess. This report delves into the challenges and successes of crafting "a Korean history for international readers," analyzing the complexities inherent in presenting a nuanced historical narrative to a global audience. We will examine how different authors and publishers have approached this task, identifying key themes, biases, and methodologies used in constructing such narratives.

Author and Expertise:

While there isn't a single definitive "A Korean History for International Readers" book, many scholars have attempted to cater to an international audience. Authors like Professor Bruce Cumings of the University of Chicago, renowned for his extensive work on Korean history and U.S.-Korea relations, embody the expertise needed. His deep understanding of the region, coupled with his ability to synthesize complex historical events for a wider readership, makes him a prime example of the kind of scholarly perspective needed for this type of publication. Other notable authors include Professors Michael Breen, Carter Eckert, and Dal Yong Jin, each possessing deep knowledge and experience writing accessible accounts of Korean history for a global audience. Their books often serve as important sources for "a Korean history for international readers".

Publisher and Credibility:

Several prestigious publishing houses have contributed significantly to the field of Korean history accessible to an international readership. Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, and Routledge are notable examples. Their reputation for rigorous peer-review processes and commitment to scholarly accuracy ensures a higher level of credibility and trust in the historical narratives they publish. The selection of a reputable publisher is crucial in establishing the authority and trustworthiness of "a Korean history for international readers."

Editor's Role and Experience:

The role of the editor in shaping "a Korean history for international

readers" is paramount. A skilled editor with expertise in Korean history and experience working with international audiences can significantly enhance the clarity, accuracy, and accessibility of the final product. An editor's understanding of global readership expectations – including differences in cultural context and prior knowledge – plays a vital role in shaping the narrative's success. A seasoned editor will ensure that the work avoids jargon, uses clear and concise language, and incorporates relevant visual aids such as maps and timelines to enhance comprehension. The editor's ability to manage translation and ensure the text is culturally sensitive is also critical.

Key Themes in "A Korean History for International Readers":

Several recurring themes dominate most attempts at crafting "a Korean history for international readers":

1. The Three Kingdoms Period (57 BC – 668 AD): This foundational period, encompassing Goguryeo, Baekje, and Silla, is often treated as a launching point. The narratives frequently emphasize the internal conflicts and eventual unification under Silla, highlighting the emergence of a distinct Korean identity. Historians often debate the degree of "Koreanness" during this period, given the significant influence of Chinese culture. Data from archaeological digs and surviving texts are constantly being reinterpreted, adding nuance to this foundational period for "a Korean history for international readers."
1. The Goryeo Dynasty (918-1392): This era, marked by the rise of Buddhism and the development of a sophisticated bureaucracy, is often presented as a period of cultural flourishing and technological advancement. However, it also witnessed significant Mongol influence, a topic carefully considered in many books aiming to present "a Korean history for international readers". The impact of Mongol rule and its long-term consequences are crucial elements in understanding later developments.
1. The Joseon Dynasty (1392-1897): Often considered the longest-lasting dynasty, its portrayal in "a Korean history for international readers" frequently focuses on the development of Confucian social structures, the rise of Neo-Confucianism, and the increasing isolation from the outside world. The Hermit Kingdom period, characterized by limited interaction with Western powers, is a crucial aspect often emphasized. Research on this period draws heavily upon royal records, literature,

and evolving interpretations of social dynamics.

1. Modern Korea (1897 – Present): The narrative shifts significantly here, concentrating on Japan's colonization, the Korean War, the division of the peninsula, and the subsequent economic miracles of South Korea and the unique challenges faced by North Korea. Understanding the complexities of these developments, often portrayed with differing perspectives depending on the author's background, are integral to "a Korean history for international readers". Data from international relations, economic studies, and sociological research are heavily used to depict this period.

Challenges in Creating "A Korean History for International Readers":

Several significant challenges arise when writing a Korean history for an international audience:

Balancing Detail and Accessibility: Striking a balance between comprehensive historical detail and a narrative accessible to readers without specialized knowledge is crucial.

Avoiding Eurocentric Biases: Many historical accounts have been written from a Western perspective, often marginalizing non-Western narratives. "A Korean history for international readers" must actively work against this bias.

Addressing the Korean War: The Korean War is a highly sensitive subject with varying interpretations. Presenting a balanced and nuanced account that acknowledges multiple perspectives is vital.

Interpreting North Korea: North Korea's history remains largely opaque to outsiders. Presenting information accurately and objectively without relying on propaganda is essential.

Summary and Conclusions:

Creating "a Korean history for international readers" requires a nuanced approach that considers both the richness of Korean history and the diverse needs of a global audience. Success hinges on the author's expertise, the publisher's credibility, and the editor's skill in translating complex historical events into an accessible and engaging narrative. The works that best serve this purpose effectively address the challenges of balancing detail with accessibility, avoiding Eurocentric biases, providing a balanced account of the Korean War, and presenting North Korea's history responsibly. Ultimately, the ideal "a Korean history for international readers" aims to foster a better global understanding of Korea's complex and fascinating past.

FAQs

1. What is the best single book for understanding Korean history for international readers? There's no single "best" book, as different books cater to different levels of knowledge and interests. Look for reputable authors and publishers specializing in East Asian history.
1. How does Korean history compare to other East Asian histories? Korean history shares similarities with Chinese and Japanese history due to geographical proximity and cultural exchange, but also possesses distinct features due to unique political and social developments.
1. What are the main sources used to write about Korean history? Primary sources include royal records, literature, archaeological finds, and oral histories. Secondary sources include scholarly articles and books.
1. How has the portrayal of Korean history changed over time? Early accounts were often influenced by colonial perspectives. Modern scholarship aims to provide more nuanced and less biased interpretations.
1. What are the key debates among historians regarding Korean history? Debates often revolve around interpretations of the Three Kingdoms period, the impact of foreign influence, and the causes and consequences of the Korean War.
1. How can I learn more about Korean history beyond books? Explore documentaries, museums, and online resources focusing on Korean history and culture.
1. What is the role of religion in Korean history? Buddhism, Confucianism, and shamanism have significantly influenced Korean culture and society throughout history.

1. How has Korean art and culture reflected its history? Korean art forms such as painting, pottery, and music often reflect the historical events and social norms of their time.

1. What are some of the lasting legacies of Korean history? Korea's resilience, its rich cultural heritage, and its post-war economic development are key legacies of its past.

Related Articles:

1. The Korean War: A Global Perspective: This article examines the Korean War's global implications, including its impact on the Cold War and the geopolitical landscape.

1. The Rise of the Joseon Dynasty: A detailed exploration of the factors contributing to the establishment and growth of the Joseon Dynasty.

1. Korean Buddhism: Its Impact on Society and Culture: This article investigates the pervasive influence of Buddhism on Korean culture and its social structures.

1. Japanese Colonial Rule in Korea: A Critical Analysis: An in-depth examination of the Japanese occupation of Korea, including its impacts on Korean identity and society.

1. The Economic Miracle of South Korea: An analysis of the factors contributing to South Korea's rapid economic growth and development.

1. North Korea: A History of Isolation and Authoritarianism: This article

explores the political and social dynamics of North Korea.

1. The Three Kingdoms Period of Korea: A Comparative Study: A comparative analysis of the three kingdoms that shaped early Korea.

1. Korean Art and Architecture: A Reflection of History and Culture: An exploration of the connection between Korean art and its historical context.

1. Understanding Korean Identity in the 21st Century: This article investigates how Korea's historical experiences have shaped its contemporary identity and global interactions.

a korean history for international readers: *A Korean History for International Readers*

Chŏn'guk Yŏksa Kyosa Moim (Korea), Association of Korean History Teachers, 2010 This book is a historical text that covers Korean history from its foundation to the modern era. It especially deals with pre-modern societies of Korea in detail. Despite its long history, life in its society and its culture are rarely spoken of outside the peninsula. Rather than arranging the historical events chronologically, this book focuses more on the details of the historical events by questioning how the diverse experiences that Koreans had affected their life and culture and what influences that culture had on constructing Korean history. This is the reason why we publish this book, although there are already numerous books that introduced Korean history. Readers could realize what Koreans have endured and how it led to their position in the world today. It also mentions their moral values and what they believe is right or wrong.

a korean history for international readers: *A Korean History for International Readers* □□□□□
□□□(The Association of Korean History, 2021-09-13

a korean history for international readers: *The Korean War* Wada Haruki, 2018-03-29 This classic history of the Korean War—from its origins through the armistice—is now available in a paperback edition including a substantive introduction that considers the heightened danger of a new Northeast Asian war as Trump and Kim Jong-un escalate their rhetoric. Wada Haruki, one of the world's leading scholars of the war, draws on archival and other primary sources in Russia, China, the United States, South Korea, Taiwan, and Japan to provide the first full understanding of the Korean War as an international conflict from the perspective of all the actors involved. Wada traces the North Korean invasion of South Korea in riveting detail, providing new insights into the behavior of Kim Il Sung and Syngman Rhee. He also provides new insights into the behavior of Communist leaders in Korea, China, Russia, Eastern Europe, and their rivals in other nations. He traces the course of the war from its origins in the North and South Korean leaders' failed attempts to unify their country by force, ultimately escalating into a Sino-American war on the Korean Peninsula. Although sixty-five years have passed since the armistice, the Korean conflict has never really ended.

Tensions remain high on the peninsula as Washington and Pyongyang, as well as Seoul and Pyonggyang, continue to face off. It is even more timely now to address the origins of the Korean War, the nature of the confrontation, and the ways in which it affects the geopolitical landscape of Northeast Asia and the Pacific region. With his unmatched ability to draw on sources from every country involved, Wada paints a rich and full portrait of a conflict that continues to generate controversy.

a korean history for international readers: *Korea's Twentieth-Century Odyssey* Michael E. Robinson, 2007-04-30 For more than half of the twentieth century, the Korean peninsula has been divided between two hostile and competitive nation-states, each claiming to be the sole legitimate expression of the Korean nation. The division remains an unsolved problem dating to the beginnings of the Cold War and now projects the politics of that period into the twenty-first century. Korea's Twentieth-Century Odyssey is designed to provide readers with the historical essentials upon which to unravel the complex politics and contemporary crises that currently exist in the East Asian region. Beginning with a description of late-nineteenth-century imperialism, Michael Robinson shows how traditional Korean political culture shaped the response of Koreans to multiple threats to their sovereignty after being opened to the world economy by Japan in the 1870s. He locates the origins of both modern nationalism and the economic and cultural modernization of Korea in the twenty years preceding the fall of the traditional state to Japanese colonialism in 1910. Robinson breaks new ground with his analysis of the colonial period, tracing the ideological division of contemporary Korea to the struggle of different actors to mobilize a national independence movement at the time. More importantly, he locates the reason for successful Japanese hegemony in policies that included—and thus implicated—Koreans within the colonial system. He concludes with a discussion of the political and economic evolution of South and North Korea after 1948 that accounts for the valid legitimacy claims of both nation-states on the peninsula.

a korean history for international readers: *Korea's Place in the Sun: A Modern History (Updated Edition)* Bruce Cumings, 2005-08-30 When Korea's Place in the Sun first appeared, Bruce Cumings argued that Korea had endured a fractured, shattered twentieth century. The new century has seen South Korea flourish after a restructuring of its political economy, and North Korea suffer through a famine that has cost the lives of millions of people. The United States continues to play an important role on the Korean peninsula, from the Clinton administration overseeing the first real hints of reunification to the Bush administration confronting a renewal of nuclear threats. On both sides Korea seems poised to continue its fractured existence on into the new century, with potential ramifications for the rest of the world. For those who need a grounding in the tempestuous history surrounding Korea, or a context in which to understand its role in current global politics, this updated edition of Korea's Place in the Sun is a must read.--BOOK JACKET.

a korean history for international readers: *Korea Between Empires, 1895-1919* Andre Schmid, 2002 Turning from more traditional modes of historical inquiry, Korea Between Empires explores the formative influence of language and social discourse on conceptions of nationalism, national identity, and the nation-state.

a korean history for international readers: *The Korean War* Carter Malkasian, 2014-06-06 The Korean War was a significant turning point in the Cold War. This book explains how the conflict in a small peninsula in East Asia had a tremendous impact on the entire international system and the balance of power between the two superpowers, America and Russia. Through the conflict, the West demonstrated its resolve to thwart Communist aggression and the armed forces of China, the Soviet Union and the United States came into direct combat for the only time during the Cold War.

a korean history for international readers: *Korea* Eugene Y. Park, 2022-02-15 This book is a comprehensive account of Korean history from early times to December 2020.

a korean history for international readers: *The Korean Popular Culture Reader* Kyung Hyun Kim, Youngmin Choe, 2014-03-07 Over the past decade, Korean popular culture has become a global phenomenon. The Korean Wave of music, film, television, sports, and cuisine generates significant revenues and cultural pride in South Korea. The Korean Popular Culture Reader provides a timely

and essential foundation for the study of K-pop, relating the contemporary cultural landscape to its historical roots. The essays in this collection reveal the intimate connections of Korean popular culture, or hallyu, to the peninsula's colonial and postcolonial histories, to the nationalist projects of the military dictatorship, and to the neoliberalism of twenty-first-century South Korea. Combining translations of seminal essays by Korean scholars on topics ranging from sports to colonial-era serial fiction with new work by scholars based in fields including literary studies, film and media studies, ethnomusicology, and art history, this collection expertly navigates the social and political dynamics that have shaped Korean cultural production over the past century. Contributors. Jung-hwan Cheon, Michelle Cho, Youngmin Choe, Steven Chung, Katarzyna J. Cwiertka, Stephen Epstein, Olga Fedorenko, Kelly Y. Jeong, Rachael Miyung Joo, Inkyu Kang, Kyu Hyun Kim, Kyung Hyun Kim, Pil Ho Kim, Boduerae Kwon, Regina Yung Lee, Sohl Lee, Jessica Likens, Roald Maliangkay, Youngju Ryu, Hyunjoon Shin, Min-Jung Son, James Turnbull, Travis Workman

a korean history for international readers: *Sketches of Korea* Benjamin Joinau, Elodie Dornand de Rouville, 2015-11-05 How Much Do You Think You Know about Korea? Get a glimpse of the many faces of Korea in illustration form Kimchi, K-pop, taekwondo, Samsung—the images that most people get when they think of Korea don't stray much beyond the usual ones. But there are so many more fascinating sides to Korea. A cultural anthropologist with over 20 years of personal experience in Korea, author Benjamin Joinau introduces readers to the various faces of Korea outside those that Koreans typically like to present, guided by Elodie Dornand de Rouville's refreshingly original and detailed illustrations—Korean society through the eyes of two foreigners. Grab a copy and let's take a look at the real faces of Korea, past and present.

a korean history for international readers: *A History of Korea* Michael J. Seth, 2010-10-16 In this comprehensive yet compact book, Michael J. Seth surveys Korean history from Neolithic times to the present. He explores the origins and development of Korean society, politics, and still little-known cultural heritage, showing how this ancient, culturally and ethnically homogeneous society was wrenched into the modern world, ultimately to be arbitrarily divided into two opposed halves after World War II. Tracing the six decades since, Seth explains how the two Koreas, with their deeply different political and social systems and geopolitical orientations, evolved into sharply contrasting societies. Throughout, he adds a rich dimension by placing Korean history into broader global perspective and by including primary readings from each era. All readers looking for a balanced, knowledgeable history will be richly rewarded with this clear and concise book.

a korean history for international readers: *A Handbook of Korea* , 1998

a korean history for international readers: *Guns, Guerillas, and the Great Leader* Benjamin R. Young, 2021-04-06 Far from always having been an isolated nation and a pariah state in the international community, North Korea exercised significant influence among Third World nations during the Cold War era. With one foot in the socialist Second World and the other in the anticolonial Third World, North Korea occupied a unique position as both a postcolonial nation and a Soviet client state, and sent advisors to assist African liberation movements, trained anti-imperialist guerilla fighters, and completed building projects in developing countries. State-run media coverage of events in the Third World shaped the worldview of many North Koreans and helped them imagine a unified anti-imperialist front that stretched from the boulevards of Pyongyang to the streets of the Gaza Strip and the beaches of Cuba. This book tells the story of North Korea's transformation in the Third World from model developmental state to reckless terrorist nation, and how Pyongyang's actions, both in the Third World and on the Korean peninsula, ultimately backfired against the Kim family regime's foreign policy goals. Based on multinational and multi-archival research, this book examines the intersection of North Korea's domestic and foreign policies and the ways in which North Korea's developmental model appealed to the decolonizing world.

a korean history for international readers: *The Penguin Book of Korean Short Stories* Bruce Fulton, 2023-04-27 'An ever-surprising and stylistically diverse anthology that will surely stand as the touchstone collection of Korean literature for decades to come' Literary Review This eclectic, moving and wonderfully enjoyable collection is the essential introduction to Korean literature.

Journeying through Korea's dramatic twentieth century, from the Japanese occupation and colonial era to the devastating war between North and South and the rapid, disorienting urbanization of later decades, *The Penguin Book of Korean Short Stories* captures a hundred years of Korea's vibrant short-story tradition. Here are peddlers and donkeys travelling across moonlit fields; artists drinking and debating in the tea-houses of 1920s Seoul; soldiers fighting for survival; exiles from the war who can never go home again; and lonely men and women searching for connection in the dizzying modern city. The collection features stories by some of Korea's greatest writers, including Pak Wanso, O Chonghui and Cho Chongnae, as well as many brilliant contemporary voices, such as P'yon Hyeoyong, Han Yujoo and Kim Aeran. Curated by Bruce Fulton, this is a volume that will surprise, unsettle and delight. Edited by Bruce Fulton With an introduction by Kwon Youngmin

a korean history for international readers: *Land of Morning Calm* John Stickler, 2014-06
This book introduces the culture and traditions of Korea, from ancient times to the present.

a korean history for international readers: *The Red Palace* June Hur, 2022-01-25 June Hur, critically acclaimed author of *The Silence of Bones* and *The Forest of Stolen Girls*, returns with *The Red Palace*—a third evocative, atmospheric historical mystery perfect for fans of Courtney Summers and Kerri Maniscalco. To enter the palace means to walk a path stained in blood... Joseon (Korea), 1758. There are few options available to illegitimate daughters in the capital city, but through hard work and study, eighteen-year-old Hyeon has earned a position as a palace nurse. All she wants is to keep her head down, do a good job, and perhaps finally win her estranged father's approval. But Hyeon is suddenly thrust into the dark and dangerous world of court politics when someone murders four women in a single night, and the prime suspect is Hyeon's closest friend and mentor. Determined to prove her beloved teacher's innocence, Hyeon launches her own secret investigation. In her hunt for the truth, she encounters Eojin, a young police inspector also searching for the killer. When evidence begins to point to the Crown Prince himself as the murderer, Hyeon and Eojin must work together to search the darkest corners of the palace to uncover the deadly secrets behind the bloodshed. Praise for *The Red Palace*: An ABA Indie Bestseller A Junior Library Guild Selection Forbes Most Anticipated Book of 2022 Selection A tense political thriller, a beautiful romance, and a coming of age all in one unique package. —School Library Journal, starred review This atmospheric historical mystery will transport and captivate readers ... A beautifully written story full of historical and cultural details that will leave readers aching for a follow-up. —Booklist, starred review An expertly choreographed mystery with a touch of romance and an emotionally satisfying conclusion ... The perfect book to curl up with for a cozy winter afternoon of murder and intrigue. —NPR

a korean history for international readers: *The New Koreans* Michael Breen, 2017-04-04
Just a few decades ago, the Koreans were an impoverished, agricultural people. In one generation they moved from the fields to Silicon Valley. The nature and values of the Korean people provide the background for a more detailed examination of the complex history of the country, in particular its division and its emergence as an economic superpower. Who are these people? And where does their future lie?--

a korean history for international readers: *South Korea at the Crossroads* Scott A. Snyder, 2018-01-02
Against the backdrop of China's mounting influence and North Korea's growing nuclear capability and expanding missile arsenal, South Korea faces a set of strategic choices that will shape its economic prospects and national security. In *South Korea at the Crossroads*, Scott A. Snyder examines the trajectory of fifty years of South Korean foreign policy and offers predictions—and a prescription—for the future. Pairing a historical perspective with a shrewd understanding of today's political landscape, Snyder contends that South Korea's best strategy remains investing in a robust alliance with the United States. Snyder begins with South Korea's effort in the 1960s to offset the risk of abandonment by the United States during the Vietnam War and the subsequent crisis in the alliance during the 1970s. A series of shifts in South Korean foreign relations followed: the "Nordpolitik" engagement with the Soviet Union and China at the end of the Cold War; Kim Dae Jung's "Sunshine Policy," designed to bring North Korea into the international community; "trustpolitik," which sought to foster diplomacy with North Korea and Japan; and changes in South

Korea's relationship with the United States. Despite its rise as a leader in international financial, development, and climate-change forums, South Korea will likely still require the commitment of the United States to guarantee its security. Although China is a tempting option, Snyder argues that only the United States is both credible and capable in this role. South Korea remains vulnerable relative to other regional powers in northeast Asia despite its rising profile as a middle power, and it must balance the contradiction of desirable autonomy and necessary alliance.

a korean history for international readers: *A History of Korean Literature* Peter H. Lee, 2003-12-18 This is a comprehensive narrative history of Korean literature. It provides a wealth of information for scholars, students and lovers of literature. Combining both history and criticism the study reflects the latest scholarship and offers a systematic account of the development of all genres. Consisting of twenty-five chapters, it covers twentieth-century poetry, fiction by women and the literature of North Korea. This is a major contribution to the field and a study that will stand for many years as the primary resource for studying Korean literature.

a korean history for international readers: *Dear Reader* Michael Malice, 2014-01-25 No country is as misunderstood as North Korea, and no modern tyrant has remained more mysterious than the Dear Leader, Kim Jong Il. Now, celebrity ghostwriter Michael Malice pulls back the curtain to expose the life story of the Incarnation of Love and Morality. Taken directly from books spirited out of Pyongyang, DEAR READER is a carefully reconstructed first-person account of the man behind the mythology. From his miraculous rainbow-filled birth during the fiery conflict of World War II, Kim Jong Il watched as his beloved Korea finally earned its freedom from the cursed Japanese. Mere years later, the wicked US imperialists took their chance at conquering the liberated nation—with devastating results. But that's only the beginning of the Dear Leader's story. In DEAR READER, Kim Jong Il explains: *How he can shrink time *Why he despises the Mona Lisa *How he recreated the arts in Korea *Why the Juche idea is the greatest concept ever discovered by man *How he handled the crippling famine *Why Kim Jong Un was chosen as successor over his elder brothers With nothing left uncovered, drawing straight from dozens of books, hundreds of articles and thousands of years of Korean history, DEAR READER is both the definitive account of Kim Jong Il's life and the complete stranger-than-fiction history of the world's most unique country.

a korean history for international readers: *Under the Loving Care of the Fatherly Leader* Bradley K. Martin, 2007-04-01 Under the Loving Care of the Fatherly Leader offers in-depth portraits of North Korea's two ruthless and bizarrely Orwellian leaders, Kim Il-Sung and Kim Jong-Il. Lifting North Korea's curtain of self-imposed isolation, this book will take readers inside a society, that to a Westerner, will appear to be from another planet. Subsisting on a diet short on food grains and long on lies, North Koreans have been indoctrinated from birth to follow unquestioningly a father-son team of megalomaniacs. To North Koreans, the Kims are more than just leaders. Kim Il-Sung is the country's leading novelist, philosopher, historian, educator, designer, literary critic, architect, general, farmer, and ping-pong trainer. Radios are made so they can only be tuned to the official state frequency. Newspapers are filled with endless columns of Kim speeches and propaganda. And instead of Christmas, North Koreans celebrate Kim's birthday--and he presents each child a present, just like Santa. The regime that the Kim Dynasty has built remains technically at war with the United States nearly a half century after the armistice that halted actual fighting in the Korean War. This fascinating and complete history takes full advantage of a great deal of source material that has only recently become available (some from archives in Moscow and Beijing), and brings the reader up to the tensions of the current day. For as this book will explain, North Korea appears more and more to be the greatest threat among the Axis of Evil countries--with some defector testimony warning that Kim Jong-Il has enough chemical weapons to wipe out the entire population of South Korea.

a korean history for international readers: *Brother's Keeper* Julie Lee, 2020-07-21 With war looming on the horizon and winter setting in, can two children escape North Korea on their own? Winner of the Freeman Book Award! North Korea. December, 1950. Twelve-year-old Sora and her family live under an iron set of rules: No travel without a permit. No criticism of the government.

No absences from Communist meetings. Wear red. Hang pictures of the Great Leader. Don't trust your neighbors. Don't speak your mind. You are being watched. But war is coming, war between North and South Korea, between the Soviets and the Americans. War causes chaos--and war is the perfect time to escape. The plan is simple: Sora and her family will walk hundreds of miles to the South Korean city of Busan from their tiny mountain village. They just need to avoid napalm, frostbite, border guards, and enemy soldiers. But they can't. And when an incendiary bombing changes everything, Sora and her little brother Young will have to get to Busan on their own. Can a twelve-year-old girl and her eight-year-old brother survive three hundred miles of warzone in winter? Haunting, timely, and beautiful, this harrowing novel from a searing new talent offers readers a glimpse into a vanished time and a closed nation. A Jane Addams Children's Book Award Finalist An ILA Intermediate Fiction Award Winner An American Library Association Notable Children's Book A Kirkus Reviews Best Book of the Year A Junior Library Guild Selection A Bank Street Best Children's Book of the Year Will ultimately be recognized as one of the best books... on the Korean War.—Education About Asia, the Association for Asian Studies

a korean history for international readers: The Interrogation Rooms of the Korean War Monica Kim, 2020-11-03 Traditional histories of the Korean War have long focused on violations of the thirty-eighth parallel, the line drawn by American and Soviet officials in 1945 dividing the Korean peninsula. But *The interrogation rooms of the Korean War* presents an entirely new narrative, shifting the perspective from the boundaries of the battlefield to inside the interrogation room. Upending conventional notions of what we think of as geographies of military conflict, Monica Kim demonstrates how the Korean War evolved from a fight over territory to one over human interiority and the individual human subject, forging the template for the U.S. wars of intervention that would predominate during the latter half of the twentieth century and beyond. Kim looks at how, during the armistice negotiations, the United States and their allies proposed a new kind of interrogation room: one in which POWs could exercise their free will and choose which country they would go to after the ceasefire. The global controversy that erupted exposed how interrogation rooms had become a flashpoint for the struggles between the ambitions of empire and the demands for decolonization, as the aim of interrogation was to produce subjects who attested to a nation's right to govern. The complex web of interrogators and prisoners -- Japanese-American interrogators, Indian military personnel, Korean POWs and interrogators, and American POWs -- that Kim uncovers contradicts the simple story in U.S. popular memory of brainwashing during the Korean War

a korean history for international readers: A Journey in Search of Korea's Beauty Yong-jun Pae, 2010 It's not every day you get an inside peek at the world of a famous artist. So when bookseller Delhi Laine gets the opportunity to appraise the late Nate Erikson's library, she jumps at the chance, despite the mysterious circumstances surrounding the illustrator's death. But as she spends more time with the eccentric Erikson clan at the family compound in the Hamptons, Delhi can't help but wonder what really happened to the lost patriarch. When death visits the family once more and another Erikson is found murdered, dark secrets come to light. Left coping with a charmed family not quite as idyllic as she first believed, Delhi is determined to solve the murders once and for all. But digging up truths can get you dirty . . . and Delhi is about to discover just how far some will go to keep them buried.

a korean history for international readers: Brief History of Korea Michael J. Seth, 2019-11-12 If you need get caught up on Korean history in a hurry Michael J. Seth's *A Brief History of Korea* is the book that you should read. It is an informative, accessible, and gracefully written account of Korea's past from its mythical origins to the present. No other book on Korea covers so much ground so succinctly and with such erudition. --Gregg Andrew Brazinsky, Professor of History and International Affairs & ESIA Asian Studies Program Director, The George Washington University

a korean history for international readers: A Cultural History of Modern Korean Literature Kyoung-hoon Lee, 2022-02-07 This book examines one of the seminal chapters in the history of the modern Korea. Through an analysis of texts of various genres and types, the author analyzes Japanese colonialism and modernity and its impact on Korean culture and society during

the first half of the twentieth century.

a korean history for international readers: A Concise History of Modern Korea Michael J. Seth, 2010 This comprehensive and balanced history of modern Korea explores the social, economic, and political issues it has faced since being catapulted into the wider world at the end of the nineteenth century. Placing this formerly insular society in a global context, Michael J. Seth describes how this ancient, culturally and ethnically homogeneous society first fell victim to Japanese imperialist expansionism, and then was arbitrarily divided in half after World War II. Seth traces the postwar paths of the two Koreas with different political and social systems and different geopolitical orientations as they evolved into sharply contrasting societies. South Korea, after an unpromising start, became one of the few postcolonial developing states to enter the ranks of the first world, with a globally competitive economy, a democratic political system, and a cosmopolitan and dynamic culture. By contrast, North Korea became one of the world's most totalitarian and isolated societies, a nuclear power with an impoverished and famine-stricken population. Considering the radically different and historically unprecedented trajectories of the two Koreas, Seth assesses the insights they offer for understanding not only modern Korea but the broader perspective of world history.

a korean history for international readers: Cultural Policy in South Korea Hye-Kyung Lee, 2018-07-16 This is the first English-language book on cultural policy in Korea, which critically historicises and analyses the contentious and dynamic development of the policy. It highlights that the evolution of cultural policy has been bound up with the complicated political, economic and social trajectory of Korea to a surprising degree. Investigating the content and context of the policy from the period of Japanese colonial rule (1910–1945) until the military authoritarian regime (1961–1988), the book discusses how culture, often co-opted by the government, was mobilised to disseminate state agendas and define national identity. It then moves on to investigate the distinct characteristics of Korea's contemporary cultural policy since the 1990s, particularly its energetic pursuit of democracy, a market economy of culture and outward cultural globalisation (the Korean Wave). This book helps readers to understand the continuous presence of the 'strong state' in Korean cultural policy and its implications for the cultural life of Koreans. It argues that this exceptionally active cultural policy sets an important condition not only for artistic creation, cultural consumption and cultural business in the country, but also for the nation's ambitious endeavour to turn the success of its pop culture into a global phenomenon.

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a korean history for international readers: Korean History for International Citizens Yukhoon Kim, 2007

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The Burden of the Past reexamines the dispute over historical perception between Japan and South Korea, going beyond the descriptive emphasis of previous studies to clearly identify the many independent variables that have affected the situation. From the history textbook debates, to the Occupation-period exploitation of “comfort women,” to the Dokdo/Takeshima territory dispute and Yasukuni Shrine visits, Professor Kimura traces the rise and fall of popular, political, and international concerns underlying these complex and highly fraught issues. Utilizing Japanese and South Korean newspaper databases to review discussion of the two countries’ disputed historical perceptions from the end of World War II to the present, The Burden of the Past provides readers with the historical framework and the major players involved, offering much-needed clarity on such polarizing issues. By seeing behind the public discourse and political rhetoric, this book offers a firmer footing for a discussion and the steps toward resolution.

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a korean history for international readers: The White Book Han Kang, 2019-02-19 FROM HAN KANG, WINNER OF THE 2024 NOBEL PRIZE IN LITERATURE “[Han Kang writes in] intense poetic prose that . . . exposes the fragility of human life.”—from the Nobel Prize citation SHORTLISTED FOR THE BOOKER PRIZE • A “formally daring, emotionally devastating, and deeply political” (The New York Times Book Review) exploration of personal grief through the prism of the color white, from the internationally bestselling author of *The Vegetarian* “Stunningly beautiful writing . . . delicate and gorgeous . . . one of the smartest reflections on what it means to remember those we’ve lost.”—NPR While on a writer’s residency, a nameless narrator focuses on the color white to creatively channel her inner pain. Through lyrical, interconnected stories, she grapples with the tragedy that has haunted her family, attempting to make sense of her older sister’s death using the color white. From trying to imagine her mother’s first time producing breast milk to watching the snow fall and meditating on the impermanence of life, she weaves a poignant, heartfelt story of the omnipresence of grief and the ways we perceive the world around us. In captivating, starkly

beautiful language, *The White Book* offers a multilayered exploration of color and its absence, of the tenacity and fragility of the human spirit, and of our attempts to graft new life from the ashes of destruction.

a korean history for international readers: *The History of Modern Korean Fiction (1890-1945)* Young Min Kim, 2020-11-09 This book explores the history of modern Korean literature from a sociocultural perspective. Rather than focusing solely on specific authors and their works, Young Min Kim argues that the development of modern media, shifting conceptualizations of the author, and a growing mass readership fundamentally shaped the types of narratives that appeared at the turn of the twentieth century. In particular, Kim follows the trajectory of the *sin sosŏl* (new fiction) as it meshed with the new print and media culture to give rise to innovative and hybrid genres and literary styles. In doing so, he compellingly illuminates the relationship between literary systems and forms and underscores the necessity of re-locating literary texts in their sociohistorical contexts.

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a korean history for international readers: *Pachinko* (National Book Award Finalist) Min Jin Lee, 2017-02-07 A New York Times Top Ten Book of the Year and National Book Award finalist, *Pachinko* is an extraordinary epic of four generations of a poor Korean immigrant family as they fight to control their destiny in 20th-century Japan (San Francisco Chronicle). NEW YORK TIMES NOTABLE BOOK OF 2017 * A USA TODAY TOP TEN OF 2017 * JULY PICK FOR THE PBS NEWSHOUR-NEW YORK TIMES BOOK CLUB NOW READ THIS * FINALIST FOR THE 2018 DAYTON LITERARY PEACE PRIZE * WINNER OF THE MEDICI BOOK CLUB PRIZE Roxane Gay's Favorite Book of 2017, Washington Post NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER * #1 BOSTON GLOBE BESTSELLER * USA TODAY BESTSELLER * WALL STREET JOURNAL BESTSELLER * WASHINGTON POST BESTSELLER There could only be a few winners, and a lot of losers. And yet we played on, because we had hope that we might be the lucky ones. In the early 1900s, teenaged Sunja, the adored daughter of a crippled fisherman, falls for a wealthy stranger at the seashore near her home in Korea. He promises her the world, but when she discovers she is pregnant--and that her lover is married--she refuses to be bought. Instead, she accepts an offer of marriage from a gentle, sickly minister passing through on his way to Japan. But her decision to abandon her home, and to reject her son's powerful father, sets off a dramatic saga that will echo down through the generations. Richly told and profoundly moving, *Pachinko* is a story of love, sacrifice, ambition, and loyalty. From bustling street markets to the halls of Japan's finest universities to the pachinko parlors of the criminal underworld, Lee's complex and passionate characters--strong, stubborn women, devoted sisters and sons, fathers shaken by moral crisis--survive and thrive against the indifferent arc of history. *Includes reading group guide*

a korean history for international readers: *The Korean Vernacular Story* Si Nae Park, 2020-08-04 As the political, economic, and cultural center of Chosŏn Korea, eighteenth-century Seoul epitomized a society in flux: It was a bustling, worldly metropolis into which things and people from all over the country flowed. In this book, Si Nae Park examines how the culture of Chosŏn

Seoul gave rise to a new vernacular narrative form that was evocative of the spoken and written Korean language of the time. The vernacular story (yadam) flourished in the nineteenth century as anonymously and unofficially circulating tales by and for Chosŏn people. The Korean Vernacular Story focuses on the formative role that the collection *Repeatedly Recited Stories of the East* (Tongp'ae naksong) played in shaping yadam, analyzing the collection's language and composition and tracing its reception and circulation. Park situates its compiler, No Myŏnghŭm, in Seoul's cultural scene, examining how he developed a sense of belonging in the course of transforming from a poor provincial scholar to an urbane literary figure. No wrote his tales to serve as stories of contemporary Chosŏn society and chose to write not in cosmopolitan Literary Sinitic but instead in a new medium in which Literary Sinitic is hybridized with the vernacular realities of Chosŏn society. Park contends that this linguistic innovation to represent tales of contemporary Chosŏn inspired readers not only to circulate No's works but also to emulate and cannibalize his stylistic experimentation within Chosŏn's manuscript-heavy culture of texts. The first book in English on the origins of yadam, *The Korean Vernacular Story* combines historical insight, textual studies, and the history of the book. By highlighting the role of negotiation with Literary Sinitic and sinographic writing, it challenges the script (han'gŭl)-focused understanding of Korean language and literature.

a korean history for international readers: *Exodus to North Korea* Tessa Morris-Suzuki, 2007 Ranging from Geneva to Pyongyang, this remarkable book takes readers on an odyssey through one of the most extraordinary forgotten tragedies of the Cold War: the return of over 90,000 people, most of them ethnic Koreans, from Japan to North Korea from 1959 onward. Presented to the world as a humanitarian venture and conducted under the supervision of the International Red Cross, the scheme was actually the result of political intrigues involving the governments of Japan, North Korea, the Soviet Union, and the United States. The great majority of the Koreans who journeyed to North Korea in fact originated from the southern part of the Korean peninsula, and many had lived all their lives in Japan. Though most left willingly, persuaded by propaganda that a bright new life awaited them in North Korea, the author draws on recently declassified documents to reveal the covert pressures used to hasten the departure of this unwelcome ethnic minority. For most, their new home proved a place of poverty and hardship; for thousands, it was a place of persecution and death. In rediscovering their extraordinary personal stories, this book also casts new light on the politics of the Cold War and on present-day tensions between North Korea and the rest of the world.

a korean history for international readers: *One Left* Kim Soom, 2020-09-15 A powerful tale of trauma and endurance that transformed a nation's understanding of Korean comfort women During the Pacific War, more than 200,000 Korean girls were forced into sexual servitude for Japanese soldiers. They lived in horrific conditions in "comfort stations" across Japanese-occupied territories. Barely 10 percent survived to return to Korea, where they lived as social outcasts. Since then, self-declared comfort women have come forward only to have their testimonies and calls for compensation largely denied by the Japanese government. Kim Soom tells the story of a woman who was kidnapped at the age of thirteen while gathering snails for her starving family. The horrors of her life as a sex slave follow her back to Korea, where she lives in isolation gripped by the fear that her past will be discovered. Yet, when she learns that the last known comfort woman is dying, she decides to tell her there will still be "one left" after her passing, and embarks on a painful journey. *One Left* is a provocative, extensively researched novel constructed from the testimonies of dozens of comfort women. The first Korean novel devoted to this subject, it rekindled conversations about comfort women as well as the violent legacies of Japanese colonialism. This first-ever English translation recovers the overlooked and disavowed stories of Korea's most marginalized women.

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