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Von Karl Stinger

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Von Karl Stinger : Case Study: North Korea: How predictable is the regime? (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Case Study: North Korea: How predictable is the regime? (English Edition):

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Can North Korea be saved? Von Christoph Greil This extremely successful neutral analysis of North Korean isolationism is characterised by a considerably varied methodology. Convincing all round, Karl Stinger highlights the dichotomous

background to the North Korean regime's seemingly irrational thoughts and actions under Kim Jong-il. Starting with a differentiation of the political and military dimension, the reader is offered an indispensable basic framework of theoretical and scientific approaches leading to an understanding of the North Korean conflict. In an impressively balanced way, critical and systemic perspectives invite a comprehensive and multi-perspective view of the Juche doctrine, while the author's holistic explanations of the original source material (sadly rather thin on the ground) provide a valuable contribution to interpreting North Korean intentions - particularly with regard to the military.³ von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Tracking skills in "Case Study: North Korea" Von SLAM multimedia channel "Politics is often about complicating a simple fact in such a way that everyone calls for a new simplifier", Italian journalist and writer Giovanni Guareschi once said. Such a simplifier was surely our best-loved former president of all time George W. Bush, who in the aftermath of 9/11 felt himself appointed to draw up a kind of rogues' gallery of international political antagonists that appeared to be least considerate of US hegemony, called the "Axis of Evil" - states that would cooperate with international terrorism. And since it's easy to lose sight of the current total of 193 countries, he graciously whittled it down to Iran, Iraq and North Korea. Alert consumers from the western media know full well that Iran and Iraq are those nice people that supply us with oil. But North Korea? Aren't they the ones with the nuclear weapons program and the peculiar little head of state with antiquated fashion sense and health insurance company glasses, who suffers from an inferiority complex and starts warbling mournful arias when feeling lonely? Admittedly, the last two characteristics are from the imaginations of "Team America: World Police" makers Trey Parker and Matt Stone, but can nonetheless still be seen as a humorous reflection of what we know (or don't know) about this sealed-off communist country north of the 38th latitude. This is where Karl Stinger's book "Case Study: North Korea" comes in, trying to sift the propaganda and fiction from the different levels of media perception. The so-called "Juche" ideology is indispensable for understanding the guiding principles of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's (DPRK) political actions. Developed by Kim Il-sung, father and predecessor of present head of state Kim Jong-il, it can be described as a specifically North Korean concept. It is based on Confucian ideals - with which the authoritarian regime legitimises itself - and also combines religious and cult motifs with the idea of the omniscient "leader". The basic tenets of Juche can be seen as the self-assertion and isolation of the (North) Korean people from the hostile outside world. At any rate, the singularity of the North Korean regime is no longer fathomable in terms of the key word "communism" since there is no "homogenization of the classes" - unlike the basic principles of Marxism-Leninism. Instead, since the death of Kim Il-sung in 1994, the power epicentre has shifted to the army, which since this time has gained a central role in the North Korean state. This "prioritisation" of the military is rooted less in the breakdown of the Eastern bloc and consequent withdrawal of economic aid, but rather in efforts for domestic stabilisation. It is therefore remarkable to western observers that despite a long-eroding economic order and famine, the regime's uppermost motivation is still to sustain the most extensive autarchy in the country. In terms of international diplomacy, North Korea is seen as unreliable, unpredictable and latently aggressive. As the author suggests after his analysis of the DPRK's military potential, its risky offensive foreign policy is not designed for actual conflict against South Korea and the protecting power of USA, but rather for improving its own weak situation - in the sense of classic deterrence theory. The North's efforts in developing rocket technology and particularly its atomic program are therefore also to be viewed in this context: yes, the regime has announced this through the media, but to date has not produced any irrefutable proof that such operational nuclear weaponry actually exists. As Karl Stinger concludes, there is no patent remedy to solve this "North Korean dilemma" or the permanent tension on the Korean peninsula. Indeed, a war with the South is at present unlikely, based on the inevitable regime collapse that will be expected after a defeat; nevertheless the politics of the North in its apparent irrationality are difficult to predict and it therefore remains a permanent risk for the region. This book is published as part of the Tectum Publishing House political science range and offers the most up-to-date analysis of the motives of a regime that is difficult to fathom and which frequently provokes irritation in the international arena. Stinger accurately addresses the country's ideologically-contingent isolationism and simultaneous policy of strength by providing a solid methodical foundation using the most important scientific approaches to explain real processes. The only point of criticism is the somewhat fragmentary exploration of historic development on the Korean peninsula, which would have been desirable in a more comprehensive form. Nevertheless - "Case Study: North Korea" is on the whole a successful analysis and worth recommending to anyone looking for an unbiased overview of the subject, far removed from media representation.³ von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Successful Analysis Away From Media Representation Von MV/ZPol Western media frequently conveys the image of North Korea's communist regime as a player whose apparently irrational politics are predictable in their unpredictability. In truth, its activities are neither irrational nor unpredictable, not does it act like a communist system in the classic sense - as can perhaps best be summarized from Stinger's insights. In short chapters, the author tackles the policies of isolationism, prioritisation of the military (which has more or less made the working class party a supernumerary in the country's power structures), and the all-controlling Juche ideology that propagates an autarchy the country has never even come close to. This doctrine, elevated to the rank of religious teaching by Kim Il-sung, has proven more versatile than previously thought since not only is it able to establish anything to the regime's interest - even radical reforms - but also any action against the

leadership or eternal president and omnipresent father would also be aimed at itself. Additionally, the author shines some light on internal spheres of power that can no longer be seen based on Marxist teachings, but rather by an aspect of Confucianism that demands a respect for elders and thus prevents a youth uprising. Stinger, whose analysis actually puts North Korean politics in a rational light, offers a geopolitical outlook on a region in which the potential collapse of North Korea is both a hopeful and frightening scenario. As plausible as his argumentation is, however, Stinger must also deal with the problem of incomplete data - which necessarily leaves many questions open. His recurring objection - according to the author's view - suggests an uncertainty about relationships in situ, which attests to the calculated success of the regime's isolation strategy.

Kurzbeschreibung North Korea: a ruthless political actor and true threat to the world - or at least that's how the Western hemisphere sees it. Yet our factual knowledge of this post-Leninist and totalitarian regime is extremely limited and relatively distorted; it is largely circumstantial evidence and judgmental speculation that accounts for our perception of this East Asian state. Karl H. Stinger challenges this view with a thorough academic enquiry using models based on foreign policy, power politics and economic considerations to compensate for the lack of data. From these angles, North Korean politics appears neither irrational nor unpredictable: the logic of its actions may at first seem opaque, but it nonetheless displays its own rationale and patterns. Stinger offers profound insights into the "Juche" philosophy and the concept of autarky introduced by Kim il-Sung in 1967, demonstrating how these ideas form the theoretical core of North Korea's strategy for political survival. It is this balanced view of North Korean politics and culture that make Stinger's book an important contribution to diplomatic relations and international communication.

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