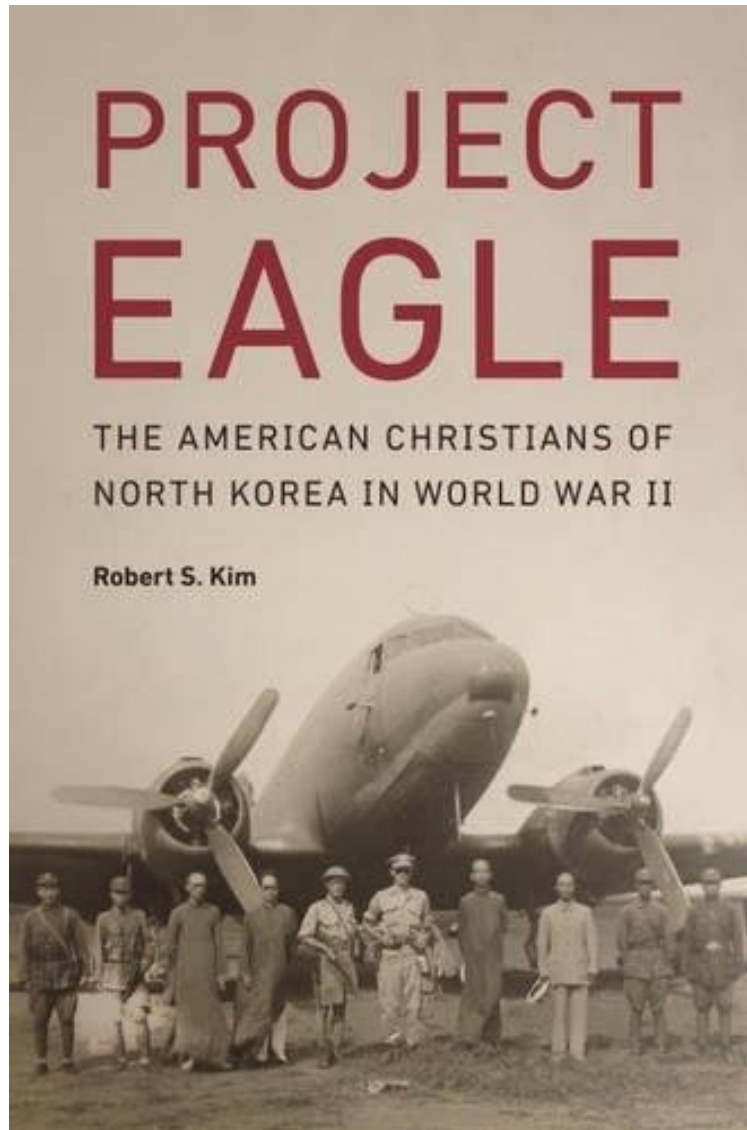


(Read now) Project Eagle: The American Christians of North Korea in World War II

Project Eagle: The American Christians of North Korea in World War II

Robert S. Kim

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Robert S. Kim : Project Eagle: The American Christians of North Korea in World War II before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Project Eagle: The American Christians of North Korea in World War II:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A saga of unconsummated heroismBy SlimAmerica, with its hands full during World War II, paid scant attention to little-known Korea. The "hermit kingdom" had been occupied by

Japan for decades. However, "Wild Bill" Donovan of the OSS saw an opportunity to harass Japan and liberate a unified Korea, working from China. He recruited Americans who had grown up in North Korea as the offspring of missionary parents to work with the self-styled Korean government-in-exile to organize commando units and a liberation army consisting largely of Koreans who had been forced to serve in the Imperial Japanese Army before deserting in China. Plans came unraveled when atomic bombs hastened the end of the war. America disbanded the OSS and blundered into the division and occupation of post-war Korea without benefit of available expertise. Robert Kim's book, a must-read for anyone interested in mid-20th century East Asian history, should also appeal to many others. Kim tells the story skillfully and thoroughly. Building steadily from a lengthy but necessary discussion of Korean history and missionary activity that led to pre-war Pyongyang becoming the "Jerusalem of the East," he relates a saga of unconsummated heroism. At war's end, bureaucratic infighting and a poisonous triangle of personality conflicts among Harry Truman, Bill Donovan, and Douglas MacArthur led to American expertise on Korea being ignored. America's initial occupation of Korea was clumsy and ineffectual, helping set the stage for the brutality of the Korean War.

Robert S. Kim contributes to a fuller understanding of Asia in World War II by revealing the role of American Christian missionary families in the development of the Korean independence movement and the creation of Project Eagle, the forgotten alliance between that movement and the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), called Project Eagle. Project Eagle tells the story of American missionaries in Korea from 1884 to 1942. They brought a new religion, modern education, and American political ideals to a nation conquered and ruled by the Japanese Empire. The missionaries' influence inextricably linked Christianity and American-style democracy to Korean nationalism and independence, meanwhile establishing an especially strong presence in Pyongyang. Project Eagle connects this era for the first time to OSS-Korean cooperation during the war through the story of its central figures: American missionary sons George McCune and Clarence Weems and one of Korea's leading national heroes, Kim Ku. Project Eagle illuminates the shared history between Americans and Koreans that has remained largely unexamined since World War II. The legacy of these American actions in Korea, ignored by the U.S. government and the academy since 1945, has shaped the relationship of the United States to both North Korea and South Korea and remains crucial to understanding the future of U.S. relations with both Koreas.

"I would recommend this book to anyone wanting to know something about modern East Asian history and the relationship of religion and politics."—James H. Grayson, *Reading Religion*