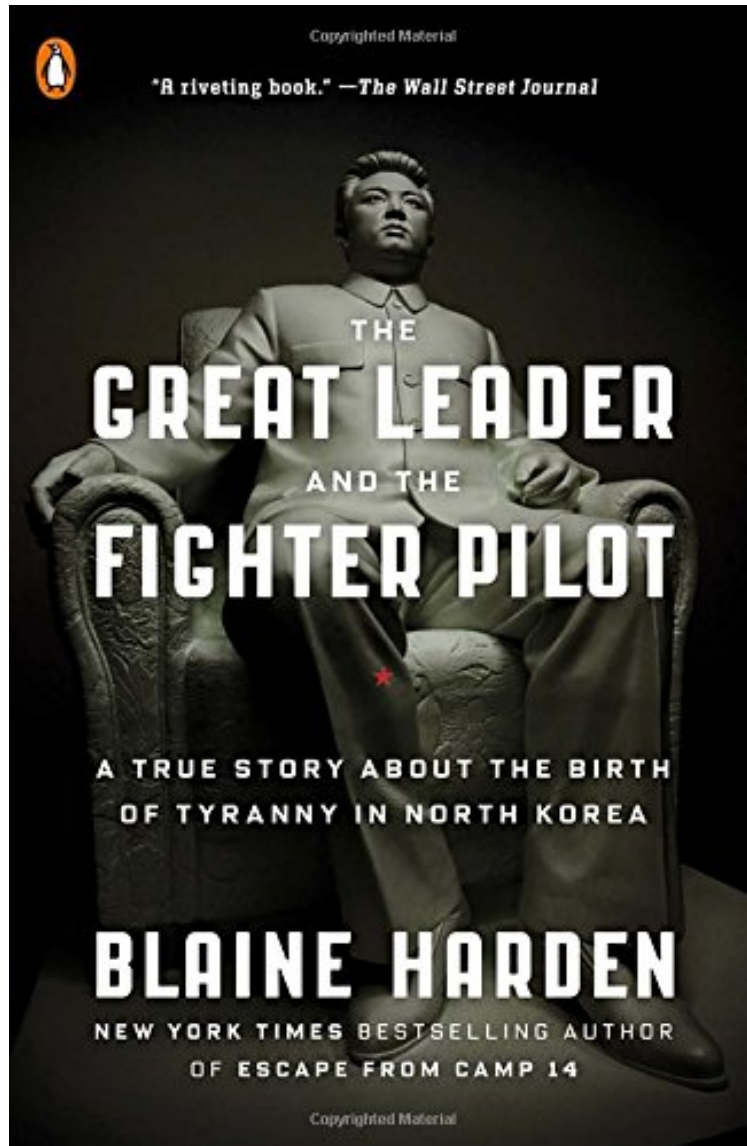


[Download pdf] The Great Leader and the Fighter Pilot: A True Story About the Birth of Tyranny in North Korea

The Great Leader and the Fighter Pilot: A True Story About the Birth of Tyranny in North Korea

Blaine Harden

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#161116 in Books Blaine Harden 2016-03-29 2016-03-29Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.40 x .80 x 5.40l, .81 #File Name: 0143108026304 pagesThe Great Leader and the Fighter Pilot A True Story about the Birth of Tyranny in North Korea | File size: 38.Mb

Blaine Harden : The Great Leader and the Fighter Pilot: A True Story About the Birth of Tyranny in North Korea before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Great Leader and the Fighter Pilot: A True Story About the Birth of Tyranny in North Korea:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great read. By Narut Ujnat North Korea is really a horrible and awful place for anyone that values say, human life and consciousness. I have read more than a few books, and this is certainly one of the better books about the Hermit Kingdom. The tack of this book is two stories, one about Kim, the founder of North Korea and No, the "moolah man" that delivered a Mig-15 to the West during the Korean War. But really this book is not about so much those events but the related history in between. I found the book so very compelling. Both stories are fascinating and worthwhile. I think the value is reaching an understanding of both the promise of America and why North Korea fears and uses America as an all-purpose bogeyman. Well worth reading. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good read...something different about NK By Brian I'm mildly obsessed with the DPRK. There actually aren't a ton of books out there about Kim Il-Sung. This gave an interesting account of his history and thus that of NK that was not dry nor was it overly opinionated. The idea to parallel that history with that of "Kenneth Rowe" was a great idea and this was truly a unique read (even as far as DPRK books go). I was actually surprised at how much I liked this book. A lot of books on NK read the same and tread the same few facts. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Great Mig Giveaway By elius yanakis I have finally finished the Book of No or how do "I give away a Mig"? No's tenacity and his scruples seem to me as the real story. He was brow beat by his own and manipulated by Americans yet he stayed on a path that eventually made him part of the American Middle class. The Mig was incidental to the real story. His brush with his country and his interaction with America seemed to be similar. He had no real friends but he remained true to himself. Maybe his mom helped. I guess I take it as a lesson in "being true to your school" Unless one has the disposition of constancy, changing sides in war is iffy.

Blaine Harden, New York Times–bestselling author of *Escape From Camp 14*, tells the riveting story of Kim Il Sung's rise to power and the young North Korean fighter pilot who dared to defy him. Harden's latest book, *King of Spies*, will be available from Viking in Fall 2017. In the aftermath of World War II, Kim Il Sung plunged North Korea into war against the United States while the youngest fighter pilot in his air force was playing a high-risk game of deception—and escape. As Kim ascended from Soviet puppet to godlike ruler, No Kum Sok pretended to love his Great Leader. That is, until he swiped a Soviet MiG-15 and delivered it to the Americans, not knowing they were offering a \$100,000 bounty for the warplane (the equivalent of nearly one million dollars today). The theft—just weeks after the Korean War ended in July 1953—electrified the world and incited Kim's bloody vengeance. During the Korean War the United States brutally carpet bombed the North, killing hundreds of thousands of civilians and giving the Kim dynasty, as Harden reveals, the fact-based narrative it would use to this day to sell paranoia and hatred of Americans. Drawing on documents from Chinese and Russian archives about the roles of Mao and Stalin in Kim's shadowy rise, as well as from never-before-released U.S. intelligence and interrogation files, Harden gives us a heart-pounding adventure and an entirely new way to understand the world's longest-lasting totalitarian state.

.com An Best Book of the Month for March 2015: A lot of ink has been spilled writing about North Korea lately, and for good reason: the Hermit Kingdom is inscrutable, ominous, and just plain strange. In fact, this is author Blaine Harden's second visit to deliriously Orwellian country in three years, following his remarkable 2012 book, *Escape from Camp 14*. This second effort is also well worth the trip. Relying on declassified documents and interviews, Harden applies his journalistic acumen to the task of tracking two pivotal players at the dawn of the Kim regime. On one side is Kim Il Sung, rising from his origins as a scrappy guerrilla insurgent to become the self-appointed "Great Leader" who brazenly, sometimes incompetently, pitted a triumvirate of superpowers against each other on the Korean peninsula. Harden exposes Kim's shadowy, contentious relationships with Stalin and Mao, both of whom underestimated the budding tyrant's recklessness--while overestimating his martial talent--in their game of global chess. On the other side is No Kum Sok, a young fighter pilot who silently labors as a secret traitor, patiently biding his time reciting state pabulum and waiting for the main chance to make a high-stakes flight for the south. The Great Leader and the Fighter Pilot expertly melds geopolitics with personal struggle, creating an exciting and illuminating account of a chapter of world history that still resonates today. --Jon Foro An Best Book of 2015 "A fascinating retelling of a tale from the early years of the Cold War. . . . [an] artful narrative." —The New York Times "Blaine Harden has done more than anyone else to bring [North Korea] to a mass audience. . . . Thrilling stuff." —The Washington Post "By contrasting these emblematic figures [Kim Il-Sung and No Kum Sok], Mr. Harden has produced a riveting book that makes the history of North Korea accessible to the general reader." —Wall Street Journal "A gripping account of the battle fought in the skies and its lasting significance." —The Economist "An eminently readable picture of our most under-remembered war." —The Daily Beast "A gripping read." —Financial Times "[A] rigorously researched and entrancing tale of the Korean War." —Los Angeles of Books "Skillfully crafted." —The Washington Times "Reads like an impossible-to-put down thriller." —Christian Science Monitor "Harden delivers another page-turner...weav[ing] together narratives of 'Great Leader' Kim Il Sung and No Kum Sok, who harbored a childhood dream of coming to the U.S., even though 'at 19 he became the youngest jet fighter pilot on either side of the Korean War...' With access to No and newly released intelligence, Harden presents fresh insights into North

Korea.” —Publishers Weekly “A rewarding book with much to offer, including the likely spark of new interest in how singular choices made by both men and nations can reverberate for generations.” —Kirkus s “An enjoyable read that is highly recommended for those interested in Cold War or North Korean history, or for anyone who likes a strong narrative.” —Library Journal (starred review) “Blaine Harden takes us on a fascinating journey deep into the dark origins of the North Korean state, leavened by a stirring account of one young man's courageous quest to escape it. Thoroughly transporting.” —Daniel James Brown, New York Times bestselling author of *The Boys in the Boat* “I could not put this book down. The interwoven stories of Kim Il-Sung and MiG fighter pilot No Kum Sok are carefully researched and artfully told. Harden shows how each man played the system to achieve his lifelong goal—in Kim's case, the creation of a personality cult and oppressive regime, and in No's case, defection from it. Harden succeeds in offering a unique lens on North Korean history and politics that offers something for both the general and expert readership.” —Dr. Victor Cha, Professor of Government and Director of Asian Studies, Georgetown University; former National Security Council director for Asian affairs, 2004-7 “Having exposed the full horror of the North Korean gulag by telling the story of Shin Dong-hyuk's escape from Camp 14, Blaine Harden now uses contrasting portraits of the founding tyrant Kim Il Sung and the young MiG pilot who flew to freedom six decades ago to explain how the monstrous political system of North Korea came into existence in the first place. The result is a triumph of story-telling that brings history to life and explains why the North Korean regime is such a menace to its own people and to the world.” —Carl Gershman, President of the National Endowment for Democracy “The Great Leader and the Fighter Pilot is at once a fascinating look at how evil takes hold and how one ordinary man escapes its grasp with wit and determination. Harden's compelling narrative is not to be missed, an outstanding follow-up to *Escape from Camp 14*.” —Gregory A. Freeman, author of *The Gathering Wind: Hurricane Sandy, the Sailing Ship Bounty, and a Courageous Rescue at Sea* “A masterful account of a forgotten story from a forgotten war. In an artful blending of the stories of Kim Il-Sung's rise to power and leadership of North Korea during the Korean War, with that of No Kum Sok, a young man who became a fighter pilot in the North Korean Air Force and who defected to South Korea in his MiG-15, Harden provides us with a unique insight into a missing chapter of the Korean War. Harden's account of No Kum Sok's life before, during and after the Korean War is a commanding performance of interviews and exploitation of declassified intelligence documents. *The Great Leader and the Fighter Pilot* is recommended to anyone interested in the Korean War, Kim Il-Sung or military aviation.” —Joseph Bermudez, North Korea expert and Chief Analytics Officer and Co-Founder, A Unique Advantage Praise for *Escape From Camp 14* “Harden's book, besides being a gripping story, unsparingly told, carries a freight of intelligence about this black hole of a country.” —Bill Keller, *The New York Times* “A remarkable story, [*Escape from Camp 14*] is a searing account of one man's incarceration and personal awakening in North Korea's highest-security prison.” —*The Wall Street Journal* “A book without parallel, *Escape from Camp 14* is a riveting nightmare that bears witness to the worst inhumanity, an unbearable tragedy magnified by the fact that the horror continues at this very moment without an end in sight.” —Terry Hong, *Christian Science Monitor* “U.S. policymakers wonder what changes may arise after the recent death of North Korean leader Kim Jong Il, this gripping book should raise awareness of the brutality that underscores this strange land. Without interrupting the narrative, Harden skillfully weaves in details of North Korea's history, politics and society, providing context for Shin's plight.” —*The Associated Press* “[Shin's] tale becomes even more gripping after his unprecedented journey . . . after he realizes that he has been raised as something less than human. He gradually, haltingly—and, so far, with mixed success—sets out to remake himself as a moral, feeling human being.” —Fred Hiatt, *The Washington Post* “A riveting new biography . . . If you want a singular perspective on what goes on inside the rogue regime, then you must read [this] story. It's a harrowing tale of endurance and courage, at times grim but ultimately life-affirming.” —CNN “As an action story, the tale of Shin's breakout and flight is pure *The Great Escape*, full of feats of desperate bravery and miraculous good luck. As a human story it is gut wrenching; if what he was made to endure, especially that he was forced to view his own family merely as competitors for food, was written in a movie script, you would think the writer was overreaching. But perhaps most important is the light the book shines on an under-discussed issue, an issue on which the West may one day be called into account for its inactivity.” —*The Daily Beast* “Blaine Harden's chronicle of Shin Dong-hyuk's life in a North Korean prison camp and his eventual escape is a slim, searing, humble book—as close to perfect as these volumes of anguished testimony can be.” —*Book Forum* About the Author Blaine Harden is the author of *Africa: Dispatches from a Fragile Continent*; *A River Lost: The Life and Death of the Columbia*; and *Escape from Camp 14*. *Africa* won a PEN American Center citation for first book of nonfiction. *Escape from Camp 14* was both a *New York Times* and an international bestseller published in twenty-seven languages. Harden lives in Seattle.