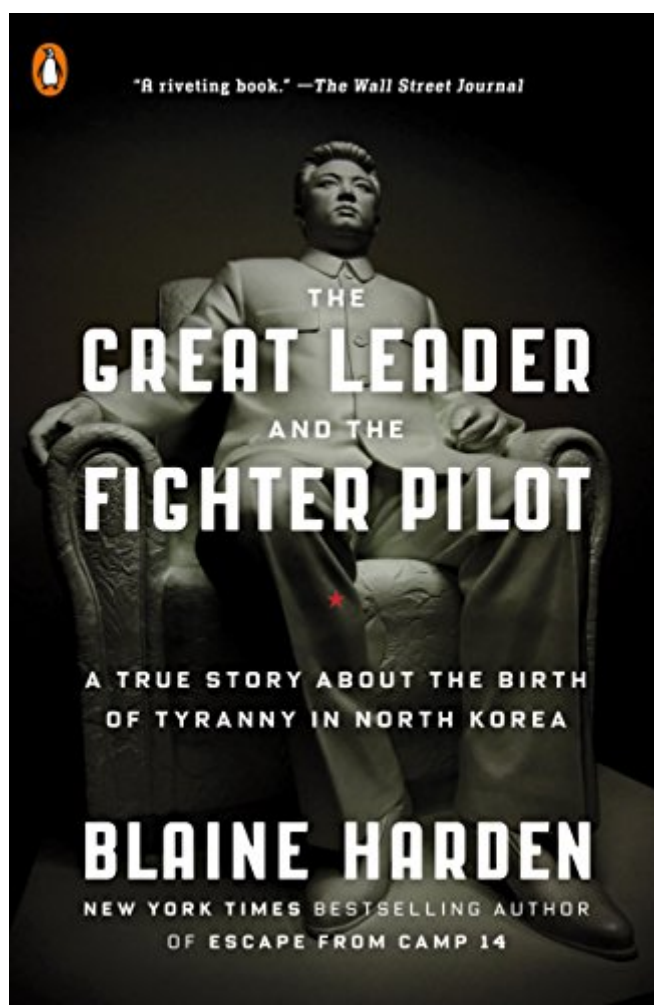


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The Great Leader And The Fighter Pilot: A True Story About The Birth Of Tyranny In North Korea



Synopsis

From the New York Times bestselling author of *Escape From Camp 14*, Blaine Harden tells the riveting story of Kim Il Sung's rise to power, and the brave North Korean fighter pilot who escaped the prison state and delivered the first MiG-15 into American hands. In *The Great Leader and the Fighter Pilot*, New York Times bestselling author Blaine Harden tells the riveting story of how Kim Il Sung grabbed power and plunged his country 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 noisily 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 role 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 escape adventure and an entirely new way to understand the world's longest-lasting totalitarian state. From the Hardcover edition.

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Customer Reviews

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.

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.

A very interesting read about an episode in history about which I had no prior awareness. If you're a first-half of the 20th Century history buff, as I am, this makes a good addition to a library.

Suppressive Great Leader can't keep everybody under his thumb forever.

Easy history, and entertaining. Some interesting info on MIGs, and the role played by the Russians, and Chinese.

great reading

Excellent history of how North Korea came to be what it is. Also very good background on the Korean war and how both Stalin and Mao handled their country's involvement...they both thought Kim was an idiot! The story of the fighter pilot was gripping and there was just a plethora of information about this time period and this country that I had never heard. I thought the book was

well written and very straightforward.

I loved rooting for the pilot. The fact that he was basically planning his escape in some way for years before he was able to make it happen was so interesting. And I loved the way the author showed the parallel story lines of the pilot and Kim. I've read several North Korea books recently, and this was a completely different angle than the others, definitely a good story.

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