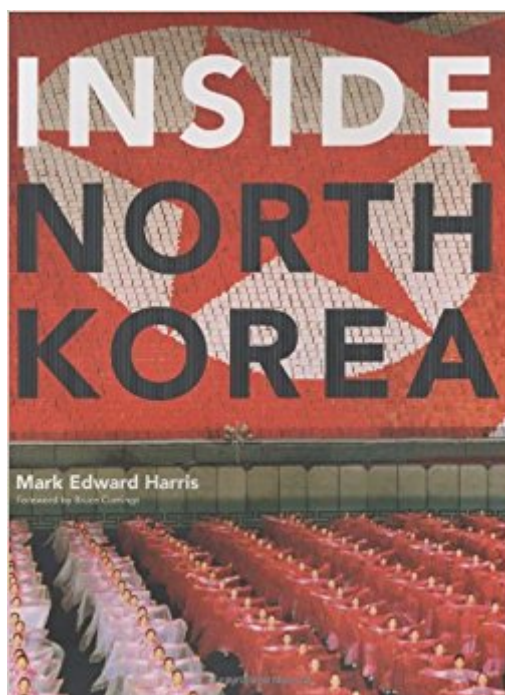


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# Inside North Korea



## Synopsis

All but closed to outside visitors and influence, its public posture guarded and combative, we see almost nothing from inside North Korea. Award-winning photographer Mark Edward Harris has had rare access to this reclusive country, traveling within its borders as well as documenting life along its northern border with China and the highly militarized DMZ dividing North and South Korea. His images are amazing: the monumental architecture and empty streets of the capital; tightly controlled zones of economic and tourist trade with South Korea; mass games featuring 100,000 choreographed participants. Short essays, extended captions, and a foreword by North Korea expert Bruce Cumings further illuminate a country increasingly at the center of international politics.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Mark Edward Harris has traveled and photographed in more than 70 countries. He lives in Los Angeles. Bruce Cumings is the author of *North Korea: Another Country* and *Korea's Place in the Sun*, and the two-volume *Origins of the Korean War*, and is a professor of history at the University of Chicago.

This gives one a quick overview and some cool pics of North Korea. Great way to get a basic understanding of what it's like in N. Korea

For the price, not good. Basic overview that jumps around... pretty generic and ridiculously expensive for how short it is. Nothing you couldn't get from a Google search

It's a nice book with lots of pretty pictures.

This book had a few interesting tidbits, but it was fairly short and made up of mostly pictures, it hardly had much detail and history. If you want the absolute minimum historical context of the DPRK and a bunch of pictures, then this book will suffice.

When I purchased this book, I envisioned a narrative of life in North Korea, however, I quickly discovered this book WAS NOT what I had expected. Pleasantly surprised, I opened the book to see dozens of high-resolution photographs of North Korean cultural sites, monuments, Pyongyang, the DMZ, towns and farms, and Koreans. It shocked me to see these photographs, which were no-doubt screened before leaving the country, of a reclusive nation with a rich historical background. The book is large, full of photographs, and sparse on narrative. The photographer teamed with noted American author and Korean Historian Bruce Cumings for the forward. Photographs include: Mass Games, Pyongyang, The Monument to the Workers' Party, the Juche Tower, trolleys and subways, the Mansudae Grand Monument on Mansu Hill, the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum, Arch of Triumph, the Reunification Arch, the DMZ, murals, soldiers in uniform, children, farmers, and small towns.

I have read quite a few books about North Korea, most with few or no pictures. It's nice to see pictures of the places I have read about.

The book came in excellent shape, I really enjoyed it and it was very informative.

I recently purchased two North Korean photo books, "Inside North Korea" (which is this one) and "North Korea" (North Korea). Both books are excellent but the two are actually quite different. This book is the more comprehensive of the two books. While the other book ("North Korea") stays primarily within Pyongyang, this book covers various regions of the country. This book also has more detailed photo captions, including English translations for many of the propaganda posters that can be found everywhere. This book is comparatively more verbose than "North Korea." The Foreword is by Bruce Cumings, and each chapter also begins with an introduction of usually a couple of pages. Some people may find this useful; I usually just go straight to the photos. There are many photos of the yearly Arirang Festival presented here. It looks like they're trying to portray the

panels flipping from one side to the other, which creates a larger, composite image of the Great Leader. About half of the Arirang photos may seem redundant (unless you've never seen video footage of this before). If you want to learn more about the country and could only buy one photo book, this is the one I would buy. If you're looking for a more esthetically pleasing coffee table book, then I would recommend "North Korea" (North Korea), but keep in mind that book stays predominately within Pyongyang.

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