1. Record Nr. UNINA9910827406103321 Autore French Paul Titolo North Korea: state of paranoia / / Paul French; index by John Barker Pubbl/distr/stampa London, [England];; New York, New York:,: Zed Books,, 2014 ©2014 **ISBN** 1-78032-949-0 Edizione [3rd ed.] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (482 p.) Disciplina 330.95193 Soggetti Korea (North) Politics and government Korea (North) Social conditions Korea (North) Social life and customs Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Description based upon print version of record. Note generali Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di bibliografia Nota di contenuto Front cover; About the author; Title; Copyright; Contents; Acknowledgements: Abbreviations, spellings and figures: A note on spellings and names; A note on figures; Foreword: The myth and the reality of the state of paranoia; Introduction: The paranoid peninsula; Observers of planet Pyongyang; Tentative reform; The problem of the command economy; North Korea: paranoid peninsula; Part I The Juche nation: beloved leaders, brilliant thoughts, power cuts and empty shelves; 1 A normal day in Pyongyang; Pyongyang: capital of our revolution: A roof over your head: Badges, bicycles and fashions Looking for the rush hour Shopping; Work and school; Love, marriage and fun; Living in the land of perfect bliss; 2 The Juche state: political theory in North Korea; The politics of self-reliance; A creative application of Marxism-Leninism; Selective borrowings from Maoism; Confucianism: tapping into traditional thinking: Underpinnings of Korean nationalism and traditionalism: The architects of Juche: 'Original, brilliant and revolutionary'?; The contradictions of selfreliance; 3 The revolutionary dynasty: leadership in North Korea; Birth

From guerrilla leader to leader of a nation Consolidation and

dominance; The undisputed Great Leader; The successor and Dear Leader; 'Expect no change from me'; Tiger father, dog son; The lodestar

of a personality cult

of the twenty-first century; Part II The economics of North Korea: Chollima, speed battles, collapse and famine; 4 Economics Pyongyang style: command and control; The possibility of perestroika, the impossibility of glasnost; The Chollima spirit; The Great Leap Outward; The impregnable fortress of socialism; The industrial crown jewels; The lack of investment; The doublethink on foreign trade From subsidy junkie to ailing economy Palaces galore but no socks; The economy shows its cracks; The arduous march begins; The energy crisis: grinding to a halt; The two-track survival economy; The DPRK as an aid economy; The command economy remains firmly in place; 5 The worst of times: food, famine and the arduous march; From riches to rags; The collective agricultural disaster; 'Slow motion famine'; Attempts to resolve the agricultural crisis; Dying in silence; Solving the shortages; The end of the arduous march; 6 The start of a sort of reform: change and regime survival

Open windows attract flies Perestroika a la Pyongyang; Wages and pricing reforms; Jettisoning the ration; The role of farmers' markets; Reaching under the mattress; Chinese and Russian reform precedents; Pyongyang's twilight economy; A fishing rod of temptation; Reform or die; 7 The reality of reform: a case study of Sinuiju; Caged investment; Sinuiju is announced; The orchid grower comes to town; Greenhouses from Shenyang to Pyongyang; What kind of zone was Sinuiju to be?; The departure of the orchid grower; Sinuiju's confusing message Part III Diplomacy and the military: foreign relations, nuclear crisis and self-defence

Sommario/riassunto

A gripping and provocative account of one of the world's most secretive countries.