



North Korea's Nuclear Cinema

Simulation and Neoliberal Politics in the Two Koreas

Elizabeth Shim

"Elizabeth Shim is perhaps the most well-informed U.S. reporter on Korean politics, international relations, and media. Drawing upon her extensive knowledge and depth of insight, her book *North Korea's Nuclear Cinema* seamlessly weaves together modern North Korean history, international relations and politics, North Korean film history, and film interpretation. Its ambition sets it apart in the small but growing corpus of scholarship on North Korean cinema. Written in readable prose, the book is accessible to lay readers, who have interests in the reclusive nation, yet it has the requisite historical and theoretical depth to be relevant to Koreanists and to film historians." *David C. Oh, Editor of "Mediating the South Korean Other: Representations and Discourses of Difference in the Post/Neocolonial Nation-State"*

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***North Korea's Nuclear Cinema* examines why and how North Korea has transitioned to an image-based nuclear power in the changing context of a post-Cold War world.** What exactly is the North Korean nuclear threat? Why is North Korea engaging in hostilities when its erstwhile adversaries have offered a diplomatic exit ramp? Chapter by chapter, it explains how North Korea's footage-based nuclear politics is presented as military practice, but ultimately traces its lineage to cinematic propaganda, a tradition that blurs the line between image and reality.

By leveraging cinematic resources in place of physical military mobilization, North Korea continues to move international political actors with the mere suggestion of nuclear power. At a moment when North Korea is enhancing media representation, this book dives into a timely exploration of how the regime is projecting state power as South Korean television media challenges the North Korean communist spectacle that has held a captive audience for decades.

Elizabeth Shim was a Center for Strategic and International Studies Korea Chair Nextgen Scholar, is currently Senior Principal at Haven Tower Group and previously United Press International's Chief Asia Writer. She has written for The Associated Press, USA Today, the Toronto Star and the South China Morning Post and is co-author of *The Korean War in Color* (2011).

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