

(Download) Modern Korea: All That Matters

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Andrew Salmon

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#1947946 in Books Teach Yourself 2014-11-28 2014-11-28 Original language: English PDF # 1 .75 x 7.00 x 5.251, .0 #File Name: 1473601258160 pages Teach Yourself | File size: 22.Mb

Andrew Salmon : Modern Korea: All That Matters before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Modern Korea: All That Matters:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Worth the purchase By Agency Man Much better than the illustrated guide offered at Amazon. This is helpful and has a train of thought with it. Worth the money. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Chapter three charts the shifting political landscape and the painful establishment of democracy after a series of dictators and By Barry Englishman Andrew Salmon first visited Korea in 1989 and permanently relocated to the country in 1998. In the intervening years since, he has become one of the most experienced foreign journalists based in South Korea. He currently reports on both Koreas for a variety of national and international publications. As well as being a storied Korea-watcher and veteran journalist, Salmon is also a successful

and award winning author of highly detailed, compelling books on the Korean War; one of which saw him receive a Korean Wave award from South Korea's National Assembly. Nevertheless, despite his wealth of experience, when he was approached to write a book on modern Korea for the All That Matters series he was, he says, stumped; "How do you dissect the two Koreas in just 150 pages?" Yet this is exactly what he achieves – a succinct, cogent and persuasive dissection of the last 100 years or so of Korean history. The six chapters of "Modern Korea" essentially provide a precise, detailed primer or refresher to anyone with a passing interest in the historical, cultural and social issues influencing modern Korean society. Salmon starts his narrative in the twilight of the hermit kingdom. In the first chapter he highlights the ramifications of Japanese colonisation and details the significant effects of the Korean War and the peninsula's subsequent division. In chapter two the narrative turns to the new economic realities of the 20th Century – the rise of the chaebols, the development of new industries, crises and IMF bailouts. Chapter three charts the shifting political landscape and the painful establishment of democracy after a series of dictators and military repression. Chapter four discusses the rapidly changing nature of Korean society, the birth of the Korean wave and South Korea's burgeoning soft power. Chapter five attempts to shed some light on the machinations of North Korea and chapter six looks somewhat to the future and asks "what's next?" All in all this an excellent little book and a highly accessible one. "Modern Korea" is an invaluable introduction to and an excellent summary of Korea's recent history. Highly recommended. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Masterful work! By phillip kelma

A defining hallmark of a great book for me is how long it lingers in my imagination. Several days after reading this wonderful tome I'm still mulling over Mr. Salmon's work and contemplating my relationship with Korea. This book is everything the previous posters have described--a great introduction and reference piece for a rich and colorful people and land. But it's more for me: Having lived in Korea for a few years in the early 2000's, I knew the basics of how Korea worked--the idiosyncrasies of culture there certainly is extreme and the pace of change extremely rapid. Learning how to cope in the business and personal spheres takes a lot of cultural navigation if frustration is to be minimized and any mutual understanding is to be had. But until now, I never really pieced together WHY it worked like it does. With few unnecessary words and brilliant clarity, Andrew Salmon provides sound reasoning for why this culture developed as it exists today. I'm still reconciling my own experiences with the reasons he argues--for such a short book it is packed with information. It's all coming together with a bit of Andrew's help. My only criticisms of the book are its brevity (I've been known to go on at length for many of the subjects he just touches!), and that this abbreviation extends even to uses of initials for the more important personal figures in Korea's recent history. Spelling out the names wouldn't seem like too much to ask, nor make the book much longer! This book should be mandatory reading for those new to living and working in Korea, but also highly recommended for anyone who left the country experiencing their own frustration and lack of understanding. Andrew is a cultural counselor that can help you better understand why things are as vibrant and seemingly chaotic as they are.

In no nation on earth has history accelerated with such speed as in Korea. A medieval dynasty at the end of the 19th century, it underwent a traumatic colonization, then, in its hour of liberation was divided by the great powers at the end of World War II. Devastated by a fratricidal war, the peninsula has remained divided ever since. South Korea is the greatest national success story of the 20th century. From the ashes of war, it transformed itself, against the odds - and against much advice - into an industrial powerhouse and thriving democracy. Now a high-tech wonderland, it is undergoing social and cultural transformations that add further layers to its dynamic DNA. North Korea is an economic, social and political disaster, successful only at totalitarianism. Having transmogrified from a blood-and-iron communist dictatorship into a bizarre, neo-fascist monarchy, it is a black hole at the heart of Asia. Engulfed by paranoia, the regime presides over a malnourished populace, a 1.1 million man army and a nuclear arsenal. From nuclear missiles to Samsung smartphones; from assassins to salarymen; from Kim Il-sung to Psy; this is the extraordinary story of the flashpoint peninsula that dominates talk in boardrooms and newsrooms. Korea, the author argues, provides two stark benchmarks for national development: Epic success and catastrophic failure. And its final chapter has yet to be written.

About the Author Seoul-based reporter Andrew Salmon, 47, covers the Koreas for Forbes, France 24, The South China Morning Post and The Washington Times. He has authored four books covering Korean food, the Korean War and the role of US business in South Korean development. His *To the Last Round: The Epic British Stand on the Imjin River, Korea, 1951* won a "Military Book of the Year" award in the United Kingdom in 2009 and a "Korea Wave" award at the National Assembly in Seoul in 2010. It has been translated into Korean and a Chinese translation is due out later this year.