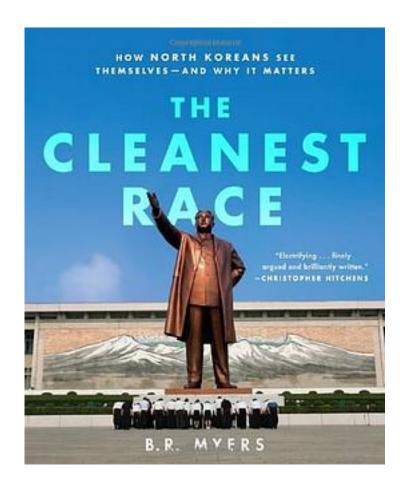
The Cleanest Race



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著者:B.R. Myers

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Understanding North Korea through its propaganda

What do the North Koreans really believe? How do they see themselves and the world around them?

Here B.R. Myers, a North Korea analyst and a contributing editor of The Atlantic, presents the first full-length study of the North Korean worldview. Drawing on extensive research into the regime's domestic propaganda, including films, romance novels and other artifacts of the personality cult, Myers analyzes each of the country's official myths in turn—from the notion of Koreans' unique moral purity, to the myth of an America quaking in terror of "the Iron General." In a concise but groundbreaking historical section, Myers also traces the origins of this official culture back to the Japanese fascist thought in which North Korea's first ideologues were schooled.

What emerges is a regime completely unlike the West's perception of it. This is neither a bastion of Stalinism nor a Confucian patriarchy, but a paranoid nationalist, "military-first" state on the far right of the ideological spectrum.

Since popular support for the North Korean regime now derives almost exclusively from pride in North Korean military might, Pyongyang can neither be cajoled nor bullied into giving up its nuclear program. The implications for US foreign policy—which has hitherto treated North Korea as the last outpost of the Cold War—are as obvious as they are troubling. With North Korea now calling for a "blood reckoning" with the "Yankee jackals," Myers's unprecedented analysis could not be more timely.

作者介绍:

麥爾斯

麥爾斯生於紐澤西州,在百慕達、南非與德國三個地方成長。他在德國杜賓根大學獲得北韓研究的博士學位。在出版極具爭議的《讀者宣言》(A Reader's Manifesto, Melville House, 2002)之前,他已完成了《韓雪野與北韓文學》(Han Sorya and North Korean Literature, Cornell East Asia Series, 1994)這部金日成時代北韓文化的先驅研究。目前他在南韓東西大學國際研究系擔任系主任。他是《大西洋月刊》(The Atlantic)的特約編輯,同時也為該刊撰寫文學評論。麥爾斯定期為《紐約時報》(Ne w York Times)、《華爾街日報》(Wall Street Journal)與其他學術刊物撰寫有關北韓的文章。

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极权主义
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至今为止看过的最难懂的一本英文书,行文里有大量的社会学、政治学术语,另外也会涉及到不少的历史部分,没有叙事性,就连叙述性也比较弱。如果说以前那些书是脱北者关于事实描述的话,那么这本书就从几个角度深究了朝鲜为什么会这样。首先,它当然不是社会主义,反而是披着某种外衣的丧心病狂家族集权式。作者提出一个特别有亮点的观点:朝鲜领导人的形象基本都是以和蔼的、带着父爱般的慈祥、明显体现出家长式的关爱展示给大众的,金氏父子的很多照片都是身边拥簇着一群小孩,朝鲜人都宛如他们的子女,书的封面也暗示了这一点,朝鲜这个民族从历史上就特别对这样的领导人(君主)有极其强烈的心理依赖。而相比其他东亚国家,朝鲜在这一点上显得更加色彩鲜明,金氏的倒行逆施又把握住它并且有意加深了这种意识。这本书堪称超一流:知其然又知其所以然。
Informative.

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Ultimately, it's how an American sees the way Koreans see themselves

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书评

此文十分背运。写完之后发给一家报纸书评版,编辑都已经安排上版,但是最后一刻被总编拿下,理由是金正日正在访华,话题敏感,时机敏感。 没有办法,我只好等金正日走了之后,重新投稿,发给另外一家报纸的书评编辑,同样 ,编辑都已经安排上版,但是最终又被总编拿下,还是说…

我是延边朝鲜族,看了颇有感触。 朝鲜族天生就有臭臭的自豪感,在北边那就更厉害了 韩国也是,一般的民众到还行,但是有些狭隘保守的人就特别喜欢 这种感觉。他们感觉很危险,每个人感觉都是随时要爆炸的炸弹。 也特别迷恋洒脱,豪爽,匪气。当然有那么一点点这种气质是…

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