



SOCIOECONOMIC ABUSE: FROM GOVERNMENT MISHAP TO SYSTEMETIC FAILURES

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Su Min Lee: I am an enthusiastic scholar of Asian descent attending an international school in Dubai, UAE. I enjoy delving into deep conversations about socioeconomic issues afflicting the core foundation of social integrity. I am a staunch supporter of equal rights for all through the power of education and awareness.

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Research Highlights

Compared to what has been portrayed in the mass media, the true picture of North Korea's situation is unbearable. I was able to glean insight into the North Korean regime that has abused its powers through a cascade of systematic measures that suppress and oppress its citizens from attaining communal benefits of society. The tragic stories of poverty, famine, and the systematic abuse of citizens by the government in North Korea are all too common. In fact, for millions of children in North Korea today, these are recurring themes. The exploitation of underage children—forced into labor and given minimal to no payments—is common. These children are placed in vulnerable situations and exploited by the very government which should be protecting them.

Kim Jong Un, the Supreme Leader, is a perfect example of how dictators often exploit citizens to maintain power, by violating human rights and suppressing freedom. Today, the world is only aware of the modernized Pyongyang, but do they really know what is behind the façade of luxury?

Research Objectives

The aim of this paper is to investigate the harsh reality of the exploitation taking place inside North Korea. Secondary sources are the main method of investigation, as well as information taken directly from personal testimonies given by North Korean refugees.

Methodology

I relied on a variety of statistical data to draw a picture of everyday life of ordinary citizens in a given society. I also utilized the secondary sources of interviews published in other journals and/or publications that also corroborate the abuses suffered by ordinary citizens at the hands of government. I have included key phrases spoken through interviews and experts speaking on the state of abuses.

Results

This research summarizes research goals which identify specific ways through which North Korea has exercised its abusive power over its citizens – through child labor, “virgin school girls”, statewide propaganda, etc. While the primary focus of this article is to shed light on the prevalent abuse found in North Korea, it also attempts to address a much broader question pertinent to general human nature: “Does human nature allow power to lead to corruption?”

As a female student living in the United Arab Emirates, the restriction of women's rights is evident in everyday life. In school buses in the UAE, female students have to sit in the back while male students sit at the front of the bus. The violation of women's rights is pervasive throughout the Arab world. In Saudi Arabia, women only recently received their emancipation rights in 2015. However, women still cannot marry, divorce, travel, get a job or have elective surgery without permission from their male guardians.

Findings

According to Human Rights Watch, exploitation has been common since the beginning of the North Korean government, which means North Korean citizens have been exploited for seventy years. The Kim regime in North Korea is a quintessential example of how power can lead to corruption. To maintain his power, Kim Jong Un, the “Supreme Leader” of North Korea, is





exploiting the citizens of North Korea through child labor, the Songbun' social hierarchy, and pleasure squads as a means of asserting his sexual dominance over women. Leadership and power lose their true intentions, which is to protect the people, when taken to the extreme.

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