

specific contributions of Greek and Roman society, however, are not addressed. This is due, in part, to the length of the book itself, but also the structure chosen by the authors. Beard and Henderson aim to provide a brief glimpse into the complex world of Classics. The text is not meant to serve as a definitive reference on the subject. It is intended for students to use as a supplemental resource in an introductory course on antiquity, or for non-historians to familiarize themselves with Classics. The authors offer a fascinating introduction into the discovery, reconstruction and final analysis of classical materials; more importantly though, they promote critical thinking about examining ancient art and literature.

James Spicer

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Barbara Demick. *Nothing to Envy: Ordinary Lives in North Korea*. New York: Spiegel & Grau 2009. Pp. 336. Paper \$16.00.

In *Nothing to Envy: Ordinary Lives in North Korea* Barbara Demick vividly tells the life stories of six North Koreans who defected in the past ten years. The men and women chronicled in this fascinating book are from varied backgrounds struggling under the rigid communist regime. Though not a historian by trade, Demick offers a thorough discussion of North Korea's history and subsequent development since the end of World War II. Using information collected during oral interviews, Demick presents detailed accounts of how ordinary North Koreans endured various disasters, both natural and manmade. From the downfall of the USSR in the late 1980s to the crop failures in the early 1990s, North Koreans fought to survive day-to-day, while many desperately wanted to believe the propaganda bulletins distributed by their government.

As the bureau chief for *The Los Angeles Times* in South Korea, Demick has visited North Korea twice in the past fifteen years. Using the information obtained during these visits and as a reporter in the region, she paints a poignant, yet disheartening picture of this small third-world country that is surrounded by some of the strongest economies of our time. Demick's focus, however, is the life stories of six North Korean defectors. These individuals come from all walks of life and have rather surprising backgrounds. Mi Ran is the daughter of a South Korean POW who never returned to his country and was forced to work as a miner. Jun-Sang, a university student, is the son of a Japanese pro-communist

national who willingly moved to North Korea right after the war in 1953. Mrs. Song and her daughter Oak-Hee were followers of Kim Il-sung and his son Kim Jong-il. Kim Hyuck's father gave him to an orphanage because the family could not feed him. Mr. Kim was a doctor struggling with the failed medical system and a member of the Workers' Party. Each one of these men and women became disillusioned with the party propaganda of better days ahead. All of them, some as individuals, others with their families, risked their lives to flee to South Korea where they could get more than one meager meal per day.

This book offers an intriguing glimpse into the lives of North Koreans, past and present. Although these individuals managed to escape, there are millions (estimated at 24 million by the CIA and the UN World Bank) still living under the oppressive regime enduring the daily hardships outlined by the defectors. Demick is straightforward and even blunt in her analysis of how and why many North Koreans have been "brainwashed" into submission by the party and their often-eccentric leader. As individuals these six defectors not only describe their lives under this dictatorship, but they also share how their realization that what they had been told and what they had believed was a fabrication. Simply put, this book provides first-hand accounts of the lives of six ordinary North Koreans, their miseries and their eventual triumphs at reaching the free world. Anyone interested in North Korea, the ways in which oppressive regimes manipulate people, and anyone who enjoys reading inspiring life stories, will find this book appealing and informative.

Amarilla Blondia

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Michael H. Hunt. *Crises In U.S. Foreign Policy: An International History Reader*. New Haven & London: Yale University Press, 1996. Pp. 447. Paper. \$27.00.

Crises In U.S. Foreign Policy: An International Reader focuses on seven international crises in the twentieth century with major U.S. involvement: events leading to WWI, WWII, the Cold War, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and the 1953 Iranian Revolution. Written, researched, and edited by University of North Carolina's Everett H. Emerson professor emeritus Michael H. Hunt, *Crises In U.S. Foreign Policy* sifts through the details of these crises to gain a better understanding of what happened and to suggest what is to be learned from