

# **Democracy, human rights and peace in Korea: Psychological, political and cultural perspectives**

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The Rafto Prize for Human Rights 2000 was awarded Kim Dae-jung for his lifelong struggle for democracy, peace and human rights in the Korean peninsula and for his Sunshine Policy towards North Korea. President Kim was subsequently awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in December 2000. This book brought together leading scholars in this area to provide an in-depth of democracy, human rights and peace in Korea. This volume consists of the following ten contributions:

Opening Address: Mr. Kjell Magne Bondevik, the Norwegian parliamentarian and the former Prime Minister of Norway, provided the opening address for the seminar.

Acceptance Speech: The Acceptance Speech provided by president Kim Dae-jung has been transcribed from his videotape message to the Rafto Foundations for Human Rights.

Chapter 1: Henriette Sinding argues that the concept of that peace, democracy and human rights have to be viewed as processes, and that a continued implementation of the Sunshine Policy is crucial to promote human rights improvements in both North and South Korea.

Chapter 2: Uichol Kim points out that democracy, human rights and peace are cultural construction, provides a psychological analysis of the Sunshine Policy, and outlines three approaches to peace in the Korean peninsula.

Chapter 3: Geir Helgesen presents the Asian values debate and survey results from 1990, 1995 and 2000 in South Korea, concerning attitudes towards democracy, political leadership and political institutions.

Chapter 4: Chung-in Moon describes objectives, operating principles, and results of the Sunshine Policy promoted by the Kim Dae-jung government, analyzes the unresolved issues and recent downturns, and argues that the Sunshine Policy is the only feasible way to achieve peaceful co-existence and national unification in the Korean peninsula.

Chapter 5: David I. Steinberg (Chapter 5) analyzes the role of the United States in the Korean peninsula, which demonstrates that US policies in Korea have given priority to

security concerns, economics and democratic concerns (including human rights), which brought both positive and negative results.

Chapter 6: Aidan Foster-Carter describes security concerns, conventional threats and concerns related to human rights violations in North Korea, and questions the North Korea's constructive response to the Sunshine Policy.

Chapter 7: Stephen Winn Linton describes three keys to understanding North Korean people, leadership and mentality: Radical post-colonialism, strong traditional-conservatism and division-consciousness.

Chapter 8: Uichol Kim provides a brief ethnography of Korean culture and people.