

A Historical Documentary Analysis Depicting Mass Media Manipulation in North Korea

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this investigation stems from the global need for recognition regarding the use of propaganda in North Korea by the Kim regime to survive. Acknowledging the propaganda tactics used by North Korea can help educate people globally, helping them understand the serious and dangerous threat North Korea poses to the world and even its citizens. It is of uttermost importance that the depiction of these techniques is acknowledged and received, as the mere knowledge of North Korea's hermit status is not enough. Ultimately, this investigation aimed to answer North Korea's propaganda and censorship techniques to ensure successful control. Sources converged to provide an answer: the evident use of North Korean daily lives, museums, culture, and media are used as propagandistic measures to ensure the Kim regime stays in power. Without this use of propaganda, North Korea would not have been able to flourish into such an illiberal and hermit republic. The North Korean citizens are entirely isolated from the outside world; due to this, they are completely unaware of the dangers their country holds, as well as what the global world holds. Overall, this research paper aims to decipher and locate numerous propaganda techniques North Korea uses to keep the power of its illiberal state.

Introduction

The Kim regime in North Korea has been in control for less than 80 years, but they have managed to maintain power through propaganda. The country's citizens are monitored and influenced by propaganda in every aspect of their lives. Even seemingly innocent activities, like cleaning picture frames, are used as propaganda tools. However, some North Koreans are starting to realize the government's propaganda methods and are secretly rebelling. Outsiders, including countries in the United Nations, need to understand the effects of North Korea's propaganda, which can result in trivializing the country's actions. The propaganda in North Korea is violent and harmful, and we must bring attention to it through research. North Korea's Kim regime has overtaken the land of the North for less than 80 years, flourishing through propaganda to stay in complete control. The Hermit Kingdom illustrates the effects of propaganda, its techniques, and the power it enriches to indoctrinate and surveil its citizens successfully. As North Korean citizens go on about their daily lives, their every movement is monitored and filled with propagandistic inclination. To outsiders, the mere cleaning of God-like picture frames is considered propagandistic; do North Koreans realize the true meaning behind the museums, literature, music, and their daily lifestyles?

From high official ranking officers to mere prisoners, North Koreans have started realizing the propagandistic ways of its government, secretly rebelling against their home country. With the aid of North Korean refugees, the considered 'outsiders,' precisely that of the countries in the United Nations, have begun taking note of the propagandistic ways of North Korea, connecting the puzzle pieces that make North Korea what it is in the present time. Outsider countries must realize North Korea's propaganda and its effects, which can cause trivia. The propaganda of North Korea is abysmal and violent; it flourishes from the perspectives of the indoctrinated, making it crucial for this research to be conveyed.

Problem Statement

The origins of North Korea's Hermit Kingdom are undoubtedly due to the Kim dynasty's use of propaganda to fulfill robust control. The Kim dynasty is a three-generational lineage of the North Korean dictatorship, descending from Kim Jung Il, the country's founder. The formation of North Korea was less than 80 years ago, emerging after World War 2 and as the result of the Korean War. Before that, the Korean Peninsula lived in great prosperity until the Japanese arrived, filled with terror and violence. To halt the Japanese, the United States and the Soviet Union, now Russia, split the peninsula, the South, and the North in half. South Korea prospered from the United States' capitalist and Westernized ideas, while North Korea began embedding communist ideas. As a result, the North, with the help of Premier Kim Il-Sung, invaded the South to have complete control and reunify the peninsula by force; as he failed to do so, the two republics created a DMZ (demilitarized zone) separating the South and North. With this, Kim Il-Sung rose to power, captivating North Koreans and establishing a totalitarian dictatorship with an extreme cult of personality surrounding his dynasty. In modern times, Kim Jung-Un and his dynasty continue to rule over North Korea with the propaganda and indoctrination that has helped them lead in power since the formation of the country. From the economy to the politics, the Kim regime controls with a violent and brainwashing mindset.

Research Questions

1. What is the importance of acknowledging North Korea's propaganda and censorship techniques?
2. How can one identify specific propaganda techniques, unique to North Korea?
3. How can one identify specific propaganda techniques, unique to North Korea?

Research Objectives

1. To determine the extremity of North Korea's indoctrination, power, and strategies they use to keep the Kim regime in power.
2. To identify specific North Korean nationalistic and 'victim complex' propaganda inflicted upon citizens.
3. To delineate the various psychological traumas, experiences, and memories that North Korean defectors have, as well as what current citizens are living through.

Theoretical Framework

The use of propaganda and media censorship in the North Korean Government has had a prominent role in the creation and survival of the North Korean Kim Regime (Ma, 2016). "Organizational Life," a method of monitoring North Koreans' daily lives, is crucial for the North Korean government, as they use this to indoctrinate and surveil North Koreans of all ages and genders (Lankov et al., 2012). Depicting Americans as violent monsters through literature, artwork, and music, the North Korean government indoctrinates North Korean citizens into believing that they are prime examples of 'racial purity' and homogeneity (Meyers, 2010). Furthermore, the use of anti-Japanese and South Korean propaganda helps North Korea create feelings of patriotism toward its citizens and build a nationalistic narrative for younger generations (Lee, 2017). With the aid of propaganda,

the Kim dynasty has been able to establish a personality cult, which functions as a state religion; it regulates and contributes to the daily lives of North Koreans, as well as aids in the standings of the regime (McNamara et al., 2022).

Definition of Terminologies

Organizational Life” is North Korea’s most infamous propaganda technique. This propaganda technique is used to monitor and surveillance North Korean citizens, who are divided into categories depending on their specific ages and genders. It is called “Organizational Life” because the main focus of North Korea is to purposely trick citizens into believing that they are organized and loyal citizens when intake they are being indoctrinated and monitored (Lankov et al., 2012). The Ten Principles of the Monolithic Ideological System is a list of ten principles that make North Korean Workers Party members comply, worship, and respect Kim Jung Un. In addition, one must memorize them perfectly (McNamara et al., 2022). The various departments of the Kim regime are divided into specific divisions. In the Department of Propaganda and Agitation, division 5 focuses on literature, while division 19 revolves around poetry. Both of these divisions use their respective focuses to create North Korean propaganda, indoctrinate, and create loyal citizens (New Statesman, 2014).

Review of Literature

An Insight on the Overall Scope of Propaganda in North Korea

Many countries have explicitly condemned the overall scope of propaganda that North Korea surrounds itself with. The article emphasizes the vital role of propaganda and media restrictions in North Korea's regime. For instance, the political and cultural propaganda of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the censorship and propaganda tactics and strategies employed by North Korea showcase North Korea's goal to create control. In addition, the state-run media outlets in China and Russia that support North Korea display these totalitarian countries' power over their people. With this, one can conclude that North Korea only exposes and allows its citizens to state-run media outlets to keep them isolated from Western media and contact. The referenced material focuses primarily on how North Korea uses propaganda and media restrictions to control its citizens completely. By doing this, they spread their manufactured lies via state-run media outlets in countries like China and Russia and within their government. The North Korean leadership uses the media to inflame public opinion over everything to maintain control. By doing so, North Korea's Hermit Kingdom will continue in power. The following article can exemplify the following:

The role of propaganda and censorship is more evident than it may seem. At times, it is subtle; other times, it appears obvious. From the infamous propaganda arm of the North Korean government to the state-run media organizations in China and Russia, it is clear that the mechanisms and effectiveness of propaganda and censorship vary widely. During the height of propaganda in the twentieth century, authoritarian governments could craft strong, singular national narratives by propagating political messages in popular media while censoring those that conflicted with the government’s line of thought. With the advent of the digital age, Russia and China have been forced to develop their propaganda strategy to combat the newfound power of the average Internet user, who can seek and share information at the instant click of a mouse. While the basics of propagandist strategy have persisted, fundamental changes have occurred as a response to the paradigm shift in information sharing and seeking. ...An extreme example of propaganda’s role in a state can be seen in North Korea. (Ma, 2016)

As other sources within this research paper imply, dictatorships use propaganda to keep control of their countries. The article above elaborates on the harsh reality and techniques modern-day dictators use to

incite terror and control through propaganda and censorship, providing accurate but shocking tactics of these dictatorships; this investigation will be able to flourish with the provided information on propaganda techniques and said government's mechanisms. In addition, it includes information not only on North Korea but also on its allies, China and Russia, and their state-run media channels. Furthermore, the article provides images and a credible source from a Harvard University Associate Professor and scholar. The diverse information can connect these modern-day dictatorships and their propaganda to continue this investigation. This information helps advance the research and establishes what one can look for as an academic researcher. Overall, the article will guide in creating a diverse and credible investigation.

"Organizational Life"

North Korea's most infamous propaganda technique, "Organizational life," is fundamental to North Koreans' daily lives. All adults must participate in "Organization Life," fulfilling age- and gender-specific standards. People in North Korea are constantly watched over and brainwashed. The purpose of "Organization Life," propaganda, and how it upholds North Korea's supremacy are all discussed in the article. The essay's focus is "Organization Life," the most well-known propaganda device used in North Korea. Here, citizens of North Korea are monitored, indoctrinated, and classified according to their age and gender. The article is divided into three sections. The first portion discusses the organization's history and recruitment, the second segment discusses brainwashing techniques, and the third piece discusses surveillance and monitoring of the average North Korean in OL. The journal written by Lankov, Kwak, and Cho concludes that:

As noted earlier, the OL activities are all conducted within a set of networks run by a particular "organization." Five such centralized nationwide networks coexist in North Korea: those of the Korean Workers' Party (KWP), the Youth Union, the Trade Union, the Farmers' Union, and the Women's Union (one could also add the Children's Union to this list, but it is not usually considered an organization in its own right). In the official terminology, the organizations {kunlo teaching chock} are described by their full name as organizations of the working masses. Every North Korean must belong to one—and only one—of these organizations. This approach prevents ambiguity and makes control more efficient. With the important exception of the KWP, membership in a particular organization is compulsory and bestowed automatically, with exact affiliation defined by age, gender, place of employment, and other variables. People are not recruited to the Trade Union or Women's Union. Instead, their OL affiliations are switched automatically according to a clearly defined and universally known set of rules that assign every North Korean to a particular category. (Lankov et al., 2012)

The importance of this source concerning this investigation is that it was conducted using a survey given to North Korean refugees. To enrich their indoctrination and surveillance of the people of North Korea, the North Korean government established an organization coined "Organization Life." This organization consists of the indoctrination and management of North Koreans, blinding them by disguising the organization as one of community and culture. North Koreans are forced to join the organization by age and gender, establishing what kind of propaganda they will conceive and how they will be watched. For example, if one was a man, joining the men's category and showing loyalty and dedication to the party helped secure a spot in the KWP. Once accepted into the KWP, an example of the illiberal state is that workers must take and pass a written exam twice a year to display their knowledge of North Korea. Another example is the Mutual Criticism Sessions, in which North Koreans would confess to shortcomings or failures committed since the previous meeting; then, the member must be criticized by another member. Overall, the article provides deep knowledge, understanding, and information on North Korea's indoctrination and propagandistic ways, in this case, that of "Organization Life."

The Infamous Regime of the Kim Dynasty

The Kim Dynasty has taken control of North Korea for decades, creating and molding the Hermit Kingdom outsiders known as North Korea. The article's goal is to raise awareness of the reality that North Korea's Kim

government used propaganda to keep control over its citizens. The report examines how North Korea gives the Kim regime complete control over its citizens by using propaganda to repress and control them. The thesis is divided into five sections, each explaining and offering crucial information on the Kim regime, its consequences on North Korea, and its use of propaganda. The strongest ally of the Kim dictatorship is propaganda, which will stop at nothing to indoctrinate North Korea fully. Overall, the thesis concludes that without propaganda, the Kim regime has been able to keep control of North Korea and its citizens for decades. They have trapped them in an endless bubble of lies, never letting them see what the world holds. The Kim regime created the Hermit Kingdom, known as North Korea. Examples of the Hermit Kingdom's propaganda is identified in the following text:

It may seem foreign to Americans that the blatant propaganda used by the Kim regime could be effective today because it appears to be manipulation in its most apparent form. The fact remains that it has been very effective at indoctrinating the country, but why? The answer lies in the fact that propaganda does manipulate the people. Still, they are unaware of that because it has always appealed to the citizens' emotions and offered them plausible explanations for things they did not understand. According to Randal Martin, the psychological influences of propaganda should not be overlooked. He states, "The repetition of emotively charged words, slogans, monuments, and other imagery influences people through prestige and contagion, leading to irrational or not fully rational acceptance of another's power over them." People often accept the opinion repeated in the news or from other putatively authoritative sources as fact, even in the U.S. and other societies where it is relatively easy to locate conflicting information. Additionally, an idea is readily accepted when it makes people feel superior or better about their situation. The constant media barrage, rallies, celebrations, and dedicated songs and phrases used to venerate the regime may seem counterproductive overkill to Americans. (Gill, 2012)

The information presented in this source validates that propaganda helps the rule of the Kim regime to stay in power. Without the use of propaganda, the Kim regime of North Korea would have crumbled entirely, as the use of propaganda aids in controlling the people of North Korea. The article is divided into five parts, illustrating the effects of the Kim regime, its history, the use of propaganda, and its leaders. The first chapter explores the current environment of North Korea and defines what exactly propaganda is. Following chapter one, chapter two depicts its history and cultural influences, like that of Russia, China, and Japan. Chapter three explores the regime's cult for the Kim family. Chapter four continues the talk of the Kim regime, focusing more on Kim Jong Il's ways. Lastly, chapter five concludes with Kim's newest successor, Kim Jung Un, and his impact on North Korea.

North Korea's Racist Rhetoric

North Korea has been brainwashed into a racist rhetoric surrounding those who are not of North Korea. The essay employs propagandistic methods to highlight North Korea's racial mindset. For instance, they portray Americans as violent monsters in music, art, literature, and other media. They consider themselves the epitome of "racial purity" and uniformity. The essay discusses how historical events have made North Korea's racist propaganda obvious. In contrast to people in other nations, they emphasize that they are a pure race and have never been mixed.

Furthermore, they depict Americans as varied, impure, terrible beasts. North Korea uses propaganda through paintings, pictures, and other visuals to portray itself as the purest race. Examples of this racist propaganda and its history are concluded below:

North Korea's race-centric ideology was inspired by the fascist Japanese who ruled the peninsula from 1910 until the end of World War II. Having been taught by their colonizers to regard themselves as part of a

superior Yamato race, the North Koreans in 1945 carried on the same mythmaking in a Koreanized form. This can be summarized in a single sentence: The Korean people are too pure-blooded and virtuous to survive in this evil world without a great parental leader. This paranoid nationalism might sound crude and ignorant. Still, it is only in this ideological context that the country's distinguishing characteristics, which the outside world has long found so baffling, make perfect sense. Up close, North Korea is not Stalinist—it's simply racist. The celebration of racial purity and homogeneity is everywhere in North Korea. For example, the citizens pictured on the country's new currency could pass for members of the same family, which, in a sense, they are. A worker in one painting appears much like a farmer or soldier in another, while the children pictured in schoolbooks are downright identical. White is the dominant color in Pyongyang: White concrete plazas, white or at least blond-stoned buildings, and white statues of virginal maidens in long gowns abound. (Myers, 2010)

The presented information is paramount for the advancement of this investigation because it describes the racist mindset of North Korea and its evident contribution to the North Korean government as a way of propagandistic measures. North Korea's racist attitude is merged in its propaganda, creating conflicts between relations of other countries and loyalty in the KWP. Since the 20th century, North Korea has believed they are the purest race; this comes from Japan's rule in Korea during the early 20th century. North Korea uses its racist attitude to not only create a sense of nationalism but to be racist toward other countries, especially their biggest enemies. For example, North Koreans hate Americans and have described them as monsters and violent 'snowmen.' In addition, they criticize their mixed race, strengthening their hate. Due to North Korea's racist attitude, the improvement of relations between other countries is very much lowered, as North Korea believes they are the best just by their race.

North Korea Propaganda: Through a Lens

Through the lens of a camera, North Korea's evident propaganda is displayed in the daily lives and actions of North Koreans. Photographer Carl De Keyzer took the photographs in the article. De Keyzer's images show everyday life in North Korea, propaganda used to indoctrinate kindergarteners there, and more. Propaganda covers a wide range of subjects, including the Kim regime and criminal activity from the Americans. Carl De Keyzer illustrates the propaganda methods with evidence from North Korea's daily lives. Schoolchildren are brainwashed into believing atrocities in museums. These museums show, for example, North Korea's technological advancements and violent crimes committed by Americans. However, all this is manufactured and staged to support the Kim regime and create docile subjects. Carl De Keyzer's photographs are depicted below:

Carl De Keyzer, a photographer based in Belgium, offers a different and more intimate view: a glimpse of the process of indoctrination within North Korea. From their first day in kindergarten, children are spoon-fed propaganda—from lectures about the legendary feats of Kim Il Sung to field trips to a museum that depicts, in gruesome detail, Americans massacring Koreans. What makes the images all the more remarkable is that De Keyzer was subject to the same restrictions imposed on foreign tourists who visit North Korea. During his four trips to the country over the past two years, official minders attended him at all times and had to submit his photos for state approval. As a result, we see only the images the regime wants us to see—a sunny, romantic view of a nation where, in reality, some 70 percent of the people struggle to put food on the table, and most live without running water, heat, or electricity. Yet through his keen eye and careful framing, De Keyzer helps us see beyond the official picture. A mural of children dressed as soldiers wielding rifles looms over an exhibit of colorful toys. A state-produced music video serenades diners with footage of blazing howitzers. (Lee, 2017)

The data extrapolated from this source shows the other side of the coin. The article provides photographs of Carl De Keyzer, which reveal a few of North Korea's propaganda artworks: their lifestyle. De Keyzer captures various moments of daily life filled with propaganda. For example, De Keyzer photographs a painting from a museum of the atrocities that a pair of two American soldiers are doing to a North Korean woman. These

artworks are commonly used to indoctrinate their citizens, starting at five years old. With this painting, the North Korean government desires for its people to become hateful of Americans, bashing their conduct and way of. In addition, another one of De Keyzer's photographs reveals a rehearsed mass rally, which is typically framed for foreign journalists. The article uses De Keyzer's photographs to depict North Korean lives filled with propaganda and indoctrination.

North Korea's Department of Propaganda and Agitation

The Department of Propaganda and Agitation is North Korea's propaganda powerhouse. The main objective of this inquiry is to reveal how North Korea uses propaganda to inspire patriotism and enchant its people, especially the younger generations. By using anti-US, anti-Japanese, and anti-South Korean propaganda, the North Korean leadership—which only has access to outside information—was able to teach a sense of patriotism to its people. Pyongyang's propaganda and agitation bureau has focused on fostering a sense of patriotism among its people. To sow fear and hatred toward these foreign countries, it has also generated propaganda on South Korea, Japan, and the United States. Kim Yo Jong, the sister of Kim Jung Un, has headed the department and produced terrific results. Through the creation of propaganda, such as a virtual video showing Washington, DC, being hit by a nuclear weapon or the founding of a girl band called Moranbong, North Korea's Department of Propaganda and Agitation can inculcate a sense of nationalism and devotion in its people. This article information regarding the Department of Propaganda and Agitation:

The internationally isolated regime of the Democratic Popular Republic of Korea (or North Korea) needs to build consensus around the idea that, under the direction of a young dynamic leader, the nation's living standards have improved amidst vivid economic and technological growth. North Koreans are often forced to contribute their free labour to campaigns, as a way to attest their devotion to the nation and help make it stronger in the face of its external enemies. Kim Jong Un's coming to power has helped modernise the image of the North Korean leadership. His sister, Kim Yo Jong, has been put in charge of Pyongyang's Propaganda and Agitation Department. The regime is building a nationalistic narrative that increasingly targets young people and elites while keeping information under strict control, in a country whose population is today less inclined to believe in propaganda than in the past. The USA, South Korea, and occasionally Japan, are the targets of bellicose North Korean rhetoric that has often had a destabilizing effect on the region. Anti-US propaganda has been a primary theme in Pyongyang's efforts to boost patriotic feeling, while the duel with Seoul often resembles old-fashioned psychological warfare. (D'Ambrogio, 2016)

The importance of this source concerning this investigation is that the Department of Propaganda and Agitation creates and indoctrinates civilians in order for the Kim regime to continue in power. The Department of Propaganda and Agitation, run by Kim Jung Un's sister, has collected and transformed the North Korean narrative into one of nationalism and patriotism. The image of the North Korean leader Kim Jung Un is very much fabricated with the help of this Department. The North Koreans see him as a clean, intellectual, young, and energetic leader, while the outside world acknowledges his true intentions. To create this nationalistic narrative, the Department of Propaganda and Agitation created propaganda, mostly of their enemies, for example, the United States, Japan, and South Korea. Some examples include a virtual video created by the Department showcasing North Korea sending a nuclear bomb toward Washington, D.C. In addition, not only is there propaganda regarding their enemies, but there is also propaganda to boost morale and the North Korean spirit. A girl group called Moranbong was created to boost patriotic feelings in the hope of captivating the ease of the young and elite with the help of the local artistic scene. The use of propaganda created by the Department of Propaganda and Agitation was to create a patriotic and nationalistic narrative amongst its citizens to create a more robust and loyal regime towards the Kim rule.

Kim Dynasty's Personality Cult

The Kim dynasty has established a personality cult in North Korea. This investigation aims to explore the Kim dynasty's personality cult and how it operates as a form of state religion. This personality cult regulates and influences the daily lives of North Korean citizens and contributes to the regime's strength. The Kim regime has successfully portrayed itself as a state religion to create loyalty and ensure its survival. They have achieved this through propaganda, indoctrination, music, literature, and other rituals. For example, they have used famous North Korean short stories such as "Wolf" and the Day of the Sun ritual to captivate their citizens and instill loyalty towards the government.

Additionally, the regime's religious tendencies have helped to create a strong sense of community and nationhood, making it easy to coerce psychologically vulnerable individuals. However, despite the intelligent construction of the Kim regime's personality cult, it is not morally justifiable. The following investigation reveals examples of propaganda used to fuel the Kim dynasty's personality cult:

Slowly with time, North Korea became less about communism and more about Kim Il Sung himself, evolving into a fanatical cult that appeared bizarre and eccentric even to other communists leaders. Kim's name began to be printed in bold font in all texts; he was officially referred to as *thesuryŏng* ("Great Leader"), a title originally reserved for Stalin; his portraits began to be displayed more prominently in both public and private spaces; and all Party members and eventually citizens were required to wear red flag lapels containing Kim's visage. To this day, these must be worn on the left side of a person's chest, close to their heart. The discursive shift in North Korean culture away from communism towards Kimilsungism was not only a product of Kim Il Sung's desire to consolidate power, but also of internal political rivalries occurring within the state. In the 1960s, Kim Yong Ju appeared to be a prospective successor to Kim Il Sung, since he was educated at Moscow State University and held several high positions in the WPK. However, Yong Ju had no record of contributing to national liberation like his older brother or other members of the Party, so was perceived by many as unqualified. (McNamara et al., 2022)

The information presented in this source validates the fact that the Kim dynasty has created a personality cult in order to rule over North Korean citizens. The Kim dynasty has been able to rule for decades due to the profound creation of its personality cult, mimicking that of a state religion. Literature, rituals, and music have been crucial for the regime in coercing the citizens into being loyal to the government. By creating these unique works and traditions, filled with propaganda, the psychologically vulnerable North Korean citizens are brainwashed into believing everything, as no other outside sources are available. Entirely left hopeless, the Kim regime tries to create a picture of harmony and community to create loyal subjects.

An example is the Ten Principles of the Monolithic Ideological System, a list of ten principles to make the North Korean Worker's Party comply with and respect the leader, Kim Jung Un. In addition to knowing the ten principles, one must memorize them. Many historians and North Korean defectors compare the Ten Principles with the Ten Commandments of Christianity, stating they have similar language and style. Some even go as far as saying that the Kim regime copied it. Slowly, North Korea became less about communism and more about the Kim regime, specifically Kim Jung Un; it evolved into a fanatical cult. Another method of propaganda is the short story "Wolf," which denounces the United States for spreading disease-carrying insects and as murderous savages. At the same time, North Koreans are described as empathetic and resilient. This short story, and others, usually imbed the use of "victim complex," perceiving North Koreans as victims and ones who will strive for revenge and success.

Furthermore, an example of propaganda regarding music is the most recognized medium of indoctrination. For songs or works to be published or performed, they must be evaluated and approved by the Department of Propaganda and Agitation and the Ministry of Culture. Kim Won Gyun, a renowned North Korean musician, created the first North Korean song titled "March of Korea." In addition, he wrote composed by Kim Il Jung, and the national anthem is titled "Patriotic Song." The song "Nothing to Envy" is directed at children, telling them they live in the world's most influential and great nation and ultimately have nothing to envy. With this, they are determined to establish loyalty from a young age. Moving on, the Day of the Sun, a North Korean

ritual, directly celebrates the birthday of the "Eternal Leader" Kim Il Sung. Held every year on April 15, this national holiday is taken very seriously; even historians compare it to the feeling of Christmas in the West. North Koreans mark this occasion with family meals, activities, musical performances, art museum exhibitions, and sports events. These propaganda techniques ultimately helped the Kim regime stay in power by creating a personality cult and state religion.

The Memories of a North Korean Defector: Jan Jin-Sung

Jan Jin-Sung, a North Korean defector, recalls his memories while living in North Korea. In this article, Jang Jin-sung shares his memories of North Korea before he defected. Even though reading prohibited books and failing classes were considered wrong in North Korea, Jang Jin-sung did both as a child. As he grew older, he realized his deep passion for literature, which led him to work for the government in the literature and poetry divisions. At one point, he became famous and even received recognition from Kim Jong Il. The author, Jang Jin-sung, provides his memories of North Korea before he escaped and became a defector. When he was younger, he would read illegal books and fail his classes, which is something coined as wrong in North Korea. The following text elucidates the experience of a North Korean defector and government worker:

Elsewhere in the world and throughout history, the subject of literature has included the human condition. But under the suffocating constraints of North Korean surveillance, where the only concerns permitted in artistic expression are those of the Supreme Leader, I could not produce any writing that allowed me to feel I was accomplishing anything other than a bureaucratic task. Despite this, my colleagues in the propaganda departments envied me. Because I worked under an assumed South Korean identity, I did have some licence to experiment with straying from the legal bounds of North Korean art -- at least in the exercise of style. This provided the "freedom" in which I composed my work; which, paradoxically, stood out from writing by my more careful and devout peers and led to my being admitted into Kim Jong-il's inner circle. In December 1998 I was given the job of writing an epic poem that would promote the notion that the North Korean policy of songun -- the project to unify the entire Korean Peninsula through the superior might of our military force -- had been formulated to protect South Korea. (New Statesman, 2014)

The presented information is paramount for advancing this investigation because it delineates Jang Jin-Sung's experience living and working for the North Korean government. During Jang Jin-Sung's childhood, he grew up alongside Kim Il Sung, learning all about the Great Leader daily at school. Even though he was doing poorly at school, Jang Jin-Sung had to progress rapidly and indulge himself in the Supreme leadership. After finding his father's forbidden book, he began to diversify himself, even crying at the sight of something different from what he had been taught all his life. With this, his muse grew, and he worked for Division 5 (literature) and Division 19 (poetry). With no way of expressing his views or emotions, Jang Jin-Sung was made to write about North Korea, its great leaders, and psychological warfare against the nation's enemies. As time progressed, Jang Jin-Sung was recognized for his works, like "Spring Rests on the Gun Barrel of the Lord," which earned him the position of one of the six laureates. With this nomination, Jang Jin-Sung could have protection, more food rations, and even have dinners with Kim Jong-Il. However, soon after, Jang Jin-Sung lent his friend a restricted book and was caught, making him escape North Korea. Jang Jin-Sung ends his article by stating the political prison and religious cult that the Kim regime has developed and the fact that they have brainwashed their citizens. Overall, Jang Jin-Sung wishes that his fellow citizens realize the true nature of the Kim regime.

Norko Realism

Norko Realism is a term coined by outsiders to classify North Korean art. The article delves into the role of art and artists in North Korea, particularly in creating propaganda. The Kim family's reign utilized art to showcase their power and the loyalty of North Korean citizens through various propagandistic paintings and sculptures. The article provides insight into the North Korean art scene, highlighting North Korean artists, their focus on

Juche (North Korea's political ideology), Norko Realism, and the power of symbols. It also includes examples of Norko Realism art, complete with titles and pictures. Propaganda is a prevalent feature of North Korean art, an old-fashioned but effective way of coercing and brainwashing people as a way to create propaganda. The reign of the Kim family has been able to showcase power and loyalty by coercing the citizens of North Korea with various propagandistic paintings and sculptures. The article elaborates on North Korean artists, how art circles Juche (North Korea's political ideology), Norko Realism, and the power of symbols. In addition, the article also provides title names and pictures of examples of Norko Realism art. Overall, the use of propaganda is prominent in the North Korean art scene, as it is a trendy and old-fashioned way of coercing and brainwashing people. The article strived to describe how art and artists are vital to the creation of North Korean propaganda:

Education is free at all levels. Artists are scouted from a young age, officially on the basis of talent and unofficially on the basis of songbun, the pervasive but unacknowledged class system that reflects each family's sociopolitical past and current influence. After training for at least five years at one of the country's art academies, graduates are assigned to one of the professional organizations, the most prestigious of which is Mansudae Art Studio in Pyongyang, boasting some 1,000 artists and 4,000 assistants and administrative staff workers. Once employed there, artists are permitted to paint or sculpt "anything they want," since they have already undergone a rigorous ideological training that results in only "correct" images. Their quotas are purely quantitative, unless a special commission has come in. Certain practitioners—especially those officially designated Merit Artists or People's Artists—may receive individual commissions; otherwise, requests go to the studio as a whole, prompting collaborative production. As workers in a key part of the national propaganda machinery, artists are paid relatively well by the state. Salary numbers are closely guarded, however, so it is unclear just how much they typically earn. While no one is supposed to be "well off" in this theoretically classless society, the most handsomely compensated citizens—including many artists—reside in Pyongyang. In addition, trade on the country's black markets has burgeoned in the past decade, and a large part of a family's income is often generated by the "side job" of at least one spouse—usually female, as women are permitted to take up the occupation of "housewife," which affords them more free time than most men enjoy. Upon retirement, artists are permitted to join the Songhwa Art Studio, which holds its own exhibitions. (Jeppesen, 2014)

The relevant data within this source outlines the fact that North Korea has created a unique art style called Norko Realism in order to create false history as well as indoctrinate its civilians. North Korea has created its art style, coined Norko Realism. Norko Realism is a mixture of three elements: communism, the work of man art, and the glorification of a regime. These three things form what Norko Realism is and are the things that help the Kim regime coerce and indoctrinate their society with the guidance of art. From an early age, North Koreans are quickly scouted to become artists. These artists are indoctrinated and forced to create artwork, not retaining their personal feelings but the feelings of the regime. Instead of creating heartfelt and unique works, they must create memorable paintings of the Kim Regime and its leaders. One example is Kim Myong-un's *Night in Pyongyang*, which depicts the city of Pyongyang being filled with color by the city lights reflecting in a nearby river. However, this is the opposite, as the city looks completely different, filled with power outages and pitch darkness. Norko Realism is created to showcase greatness, power, and truth, while in reality, it just proves how propagandistic and false is the North Korean regime.

Anti-American Propaganda in North Korea: House of Horrors

North Korean museums are filled with anti-American propaganda. The article discusses the US and North Korean relationship, focusing on the North Korean propagandistic narrative towards Americans. The article delves into the relationship between the US and North Korea, with a focus on North Korean propaganda aimed at Americans. North Korea has identified the United States as its primary adversary to instill loyalty and devotion among North Koreans. The Sinchon Museum is a prime example of North Korean anti-American propaganda.

Its objective is to showcase the atrocities committed by Americans against North Koreans. North Korea has pinpointed the United States as its main enemy to create devotion and coerce North Koreans into loyalty. The prime example of North Korean anti-American propaganda is the museum in Sinchon. This museum's purpose is to display American atrocities committed toward North Koreans. This article provides examples of North Korean Anti-American propaganda in museums:

North Korea needs an enemy. The regime needs a villain for its people to hate. There is no indication that the regime will let go of that hatred anytime soon. The museum in Sinchon is a prime example. Tucked down a street in south Hwanghae Province, the original museum was created to serve as a repository of alleged American atrocities. Plain and unassuming, the old building housing the relics was flanked by massive mosaics that hinted at the anger contained within: a grandmother in traditional dress, hair askew, shaking her fist at the "wily Americans" and calling on fellow North Koreans to seek "a thousandfold revenge." Inside, room after room catalogued the alleged war crimes committed by Americans, from the Presbyterian missionaries accused of seeking to brainwash Koreans with religion to the "Hitlerite" American soldiers they claim systematically tried to exterminate the townspeople in the early months of the Korean War. Display cases offered what they called proof: some 3,000 artifacts dug up from the soil, including skulls, bones, ID cards, simple woven shoes. (Lee, 2017)

The salient and summarized information within this source indicates that the North Korean government has used propaganda in order to indoctrinate its citizens, focusing primarily on targeting a state enemy. The North Korean regime has created a public enemy to successfully create propaganda, which intake makes loyal North Korean subjects. The museum in Sinchon is a prime example of this, as its purpose of creation is to portray the United States as evil, murderous, and bastards. Room after room, this museum alleged various war crimes committed by Americans. An example of this is the Presbyterian missionaries seeking to brainwash Koreans with religions to the "Hitlerite" American soldiers who tried to exterminate the townspeople in the early days of the Korean War. To justify these claims, they include skulls, bones, ID cards, and other things to prove that people were massacred, just like those in the Holocaust. In 2014, Kim Jong Un called for an upgrade; now, the museum is considered a house of horrors, with each room graphically displaying the gruesome atrocities committed by Americans, so they claim. Walking through these rooms, one can smell the scent of blood and can even hear screams. The museum is covered with paintings and images of these atrocities, like one of an American yanking the hair of a woman who is tied to a tree while another soldier stabs her in the heart. In another room, American soldiers drive nails into the head of a Korean woman while having gleeful faces. The Museum of American Atrocities was created to create a public enemy and to create loyalty and patriotic feelings in North Korean citizens.

Methods

The investigation was conducted using a computer with internet access and Safari browser. Google search engine was instrumental in finding the necessary sources to answer the research question. Despite occasional internet connectivity issues, all the required tasks were completed. The investigation mentor approved some sources, while others were reviewed and validated before being approved. The combination of all these factors provided the optimal conditions for the successful completion of the project.

The research utilized a Historical documentary analysis design, where the purpose of each of the ten sources was specified, and their design methodology, approach, target audience, limitations, recommendations, and findings were identified. An analytical component was developed to outline the significance of the data presented in the inquiry, so to accomplish this, a descriptive content analysis methodology was employed throughout the investigation.

Results

The utilized search engine (Ebsco Host) proved most beneficial for the selected sources of this investigation. These results will be organized by publication date (oldest to most recent); however, the number assigned to each will depend on the order in which they are placed in the Literature Review (i.e., first source, second source, third source). The fourth source is not recent (2010). It discussed information regarding North Korea's racist attitude, which is conveyed through propaganda. Sources two and three were not recent since they were published in (2012). Respectively, they dealt with the use of mass manipulation with "Organizational Life," a propaganda tactic created by North Korea, and the search for recognition that North Korea's Kim regime uses propaganda to secure its robust standing. Sources eight and nine were not recent since they were published in (2014). Respectively, they dealt with a personal memoir of a North Korean defector, who describes what it was like living in North Korea as well as working in the government and the role of artists and art in North Korea, used as a way to fabricate propaganda. Sources one and six were not recent (2016). Source one dealt with information regarding the prominent role of propaganda and media censorship in the North Korean government.

In contrast, source six described that the use of North Korean propaganda is to create a nationalistic narrative and captivate North Korean citizens in order to create loyal servants. The fifth and tenth sources were not recent (2017). The fifth source indicated that the daily lives of North Koreans are exposed to propaganda every second; in order to showcase this, Carl De Keyzer, a photographer, took various images of the daily lives of North Koreans. Source ten clarified the relationship between North Korea and the United States, focusing on the use of anti-American sentiment in museums, which comes from a propagandistic narrative. Finally, the seventh source was recent (2022), and it delved into the fact that the Kim dynasty has established a personality cult, how it functions as a type of state religion, and how it psychologically affects North Korean citizens.

During the early stages of the investigation the main question was:

1. What is the importance of acknowledging North Korea's propaganda and censorship techniques?
 - a. The section "The Infamous Regime of the Kim Dynasty" offers a detailed response to the abovementioned question. The Kim Dynasty has used its power to secure a long-standing rule over the Northern peninsula of Korea. Using propaganda and indoctrination, the Kim regime formulated specific propaganda in order to coerce their citizens into loyalty. The article mentioned above recognizes and acknowledges this by elucidating various techniques and the family history and ranking of the Kim family.

As more evidence was gathered, one more question was generated to define further information regarding the topic of this investigation (propaganda, indoctrination, psychological manipulation):

2. How can one identify specific propaganda techniques, unique to North Korea?
 - a. The "Kim Dynasty's Personality Cult" section elaborates and provides a detailed response to the above question. The Kim dynasty has created a personality cult in order to indoctrinate and coerce their citizens successfully; to do so, the Kim dynasty has been able to manufacture and furbish specific and unique tactics and propaganda. Examples include short stories and museums depicting American atrocities, creating a list of Ten Commandments similar to the Bible's, and celebrating Kim's family members' birthdays as national holidays. Propaganda techniques used in North Korea are distinctively effective due to the nationalistic and 'cultural' messages towards their citizens.

Such a situation led to the final situation:

3. What psychological effects can North Korean propaganda and its monitored lifestyle, inflict upon citizens and defectors?
 - a. The section labeled "The Memories of a North Korean Defector: Jang Jin-Sun" directly provides the necessary information to answer the question above. Jang Jinsun, a North Korean defector, shares his childhood memories, as well as working in a literature position in the Kim

regime. Jang shares his traumatic experience living in North Korea, as well as the evident indoctrination his fellow peers and him were exposed to.

Discussion & Conclusion

The presented sources could provide insight into the overall scope of propaganda in North Korea and “Organization Life.” Moreover, this investigation delineated the infamous regime of the Kim Dynasty and how they have controlled North Korea for decades through propaganda. Additionally, evidence was provided that North Korea has an immense racist rhetoric, which they have implemented in society to indoctrinate its citizens. Notwithstanding this, further data supported the study through various photographs, displaying how the propaganda in North Korea has affected citizens’ daily lives.

The process revealed some limitations, which might be resolved by more research. Generally, it would have been beneficial if the sources could outline more information surrounding propaganda techniques and the North Korean lifestyle. The authorities could present a vignette on North Korea’s propaganda techniques and censorship, which are used to fulfill a successful dictatorship under the Kim regime.

For upcoming continuing research and data analysis, recommendations include securing more years of data and requesting more study resources. In addition to this, the use of interviews and surveys of North Korean refugees would help identify more evidence and information on the types of indoctrination and propagandistic tactics used by the Kim regime.

Ultimately, this investigation aimed to answer North Korea’s propaganda and censorship techniques to ensure successful control. Sources converged to provide an answer: the evident use of North Korean daily lives, museums, culture, and media are used as propagandistic measures to ensure the Kim regime stays in power. Without this use of propaganda, North Korea would not have been able to flourish into such an illiberal and hermit republic. The North Korean citizens are entirely isolated from the outside world; due to this, they are completely unaware of the dangers their country holds, as well as what the global world holds.

Even though there are significant security threats, conducting a qualitative field research documentary analysis design with observations, unstructured interviews, and descriptive analysis will aid in further research. There were particular sources with better and more striking information, such as “Kim Dynasty’s Personality Cult,” which delineated and provided excellent and unique examples of North Korean propaganda.

Limitations

To ensure the investigation's success, it was necessary to broaden the scope of the research question to gather more information; this allowed for optimal conditions to answer the research question effectively. If the original research question had remained unchanged, the essay would have been challenging to complete because the question was too narrow. To maintain the internal validity of the investigation, various internal threats were mitigated, such as replacing sources that did not meet quality standards. Additionally, external threats were addressed to preserve the inquiry's validity, such as the institution's unstable internet connection, limited database, and the need to switch primary investigative devices.

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