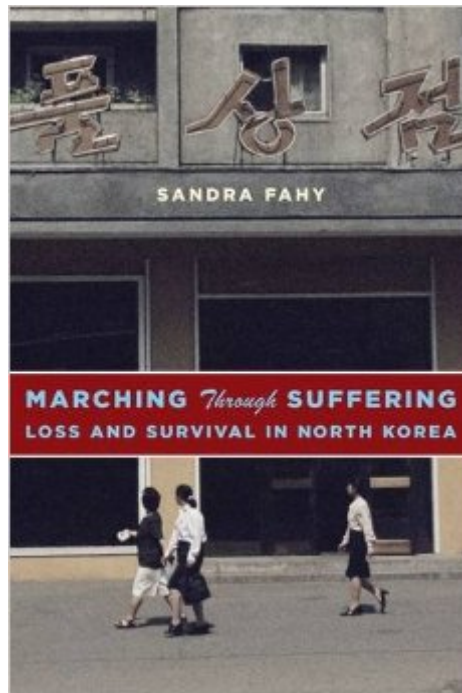


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# Marching Through Suffering: Loss And Survival In North Korea (Contemporary Asia In The World)



## Synopsis

Marching Through Suffering is a deeply personal portrait of the ravages of famine and totalitarian politics in modern North Korea since the 1990s. Featuring interviews with more than thirty North Koreans who defected to Seoul and Tokyo, the book explores the subjective experience of the nation's famine and its citizens' social and psychological strategies for coping with the regime. These oral testimonies show how ordinary North Koreans, from farmers and soldiers to students and diplomats, framed the mounting struggles and deaths surrounding them as the famine progressed. Following the development of the disaster, North Koreans deployed complex discursive strategies to rationalize the horror and hardship in their lives, practices that maintained citizens' loyalty to the regime during the famine and continue to sustain its rule today. Casting North Koreans as a diverse people with a vast capacity for adaptation rather than as a monolithic entity passively enduring oppression, *Marching Through Suffering* positions personal history as key to the interpretation of political violence.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (2 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

Much has been written about the economic and political debacle of the famine that may have killed up to one million North Koreans in the mid-nineties. Fahy's book brings us the voices of those who somehow managed to survive the ordeal. This is a notable achievement in itself, but Fahy also weaves together a philosophical/anthropological analysis of the the North Korean people's experience of the famine. *Marching Through Suffering* is also extremely well-written, with flourishes

that stay in one's mind long after putting it down: "The art of knowing what not to know grew commonplace in North Korea." *Marching Through Suffering* is highly recommended for scholars of North Korea, but also for those who want to understand what people are capable of in the face of incredible challenges.

Her argument is kinda hard to grasp because she's glosses over some of her main points so quickly! :( But otherwise, fantastic anecdotes and updated interviews. Very good insight; definitely recommend!

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