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***UNIVERSITY PRESS BOOKS OFFER RESOURCES AND  
PERSPECTIVE ON NORTH KOREA CRISIS***

***“Books For Understanding” Lists Available Experts and Books  
For Librarians, Journalists, Researchers, and General Public***

**NEW YORK (February 4, 2003)** – Once known as the Hermit Kingdom, Korea has become an increasingly important part of the international order since the mid-twentieth century. Today, with a nuclear crisis brewing on the Korean peninsula, informed dialogue on the history and future of both North and South Korea is a priority. Books from the world’s top scholars and writers on North Korea are available from university presses, and can be found through the online bibliography **Books for Understanding North Korea**.

The free service is only available on the Association of American University Presses (AAUP) web site [www.aaupnet.org/booksforunderstanding.html](http://www.aaupnet.org/booksforunderstanding.html).

“Books For Understanding” launched the month following the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington to help teachers, scholars, journalists, librarians, and booksellers find necessary information. The **September 11, 2001** list eventually grew to include more than 650 books from 64 university presses, and is still available as an archived list on the site. Today, AAUP continues that public service, and offers lists on Iraq, Race Relations in America, and Civil Liberties among other current lists.

“**Journalists’ Resources**”—a section for members of the media—contains detailed contact information for authors available to talk with the press. For many of the books listed, the publishers have also indicated whether the titles are primarily directed to a general reader or to a special interest/scholarly audience. Every book listed is in print or soon to be published, available at bookstores, libraries, online booksellers, or directly from the presses.

“Informed debate on national and world events is essential to active democracy,” said AAUP Executive Director Peter Givler, “and Books for Understanding makes that debate possible for the widest range of readers.”

Among the titles on the new lists are:

- *North Korea through the Looking Glass*, Kongdan Oh and Ralph C. Hassig, Brookings Institution Press.
- *The North Korean Revolution, 1945-1950*, Charles K. Armstrong, Cornell University Press. (Charles Armstrong is also available for interviews.)
- *Cornerstones of Security: Arms Control Treaties in the Nuclear Era*, Thomas Graham Jr. and Damien J. LaVera, University of Washington Press—a special interest title.
- *Korean-American Relations*, Editors Yur-Bok Lee and Wayne Patterson, State University of New York Press—a general interest title.

“**Books for Understanding**” was sparked by Sanford Thatcher, Director of Pennsylvania State University Press. Immediately after September 11, he noticed a surge of requests for two backlist titles on terrorism and approached AAUP with a request to compile a field-wide listing for people looking for information and insight. The Association of American University Presses is the world’s largest organization of not-for-profit scholarly publishers. Formally established in 1937, AAUP promotes the work and influence of its 122 university press members.