

Soldiers on the Cultural Front: Developments in the Early History of North Korean Literature and Literary Policy.

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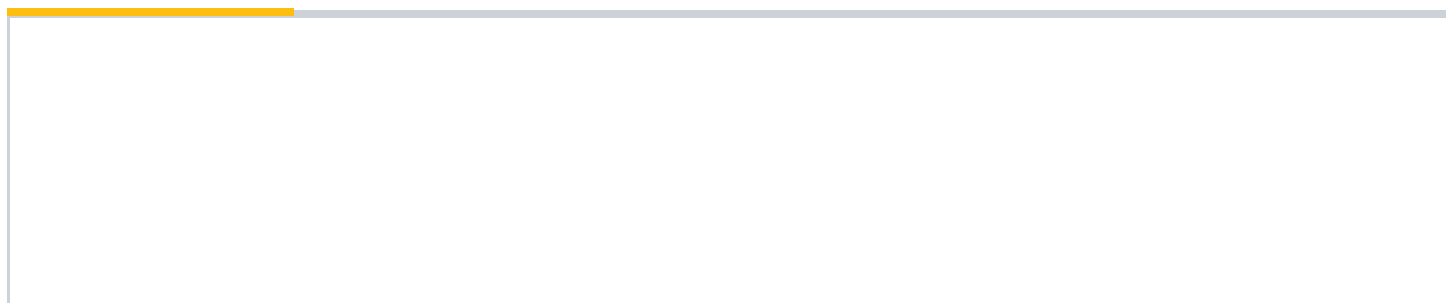
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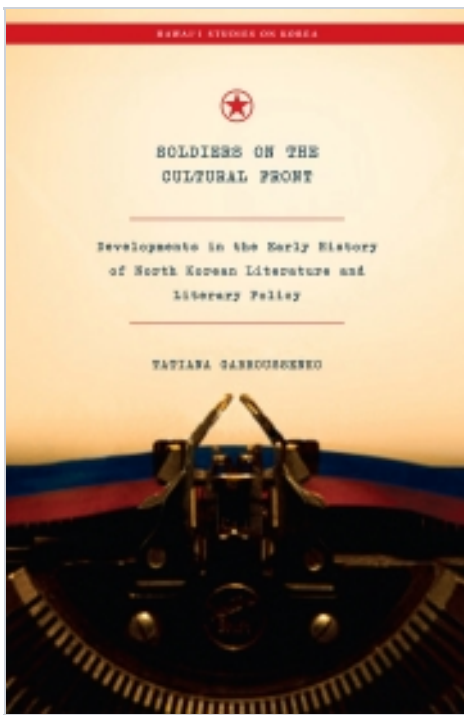


Soldiers on the Cultural
Front: Developments in
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North Korean Literature
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In this Book





Soldiers on the Cultural Front: Developments in the Early History of North Korean Literature and Literary Policy

Tatiana Gabroussenko

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SUMMARY

An understanding of contemporary North Korea's literature is virtually impossible without an investigation of its formative period, 1945–1960, which saw a gradual transformation from the initial "Soviet era" to a Korean version of "national Stalinism." This turbulent epoch established a long-lasting framework for North Korean literature and set up an elaborate system of political control over literary matters, as well as over the people who served in this field. In 1946 Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) leader Kim Il Sung described the country's writers as "soldiers on the cultural front," thus clearly defining what the nascent Communist regime expected from its intellectuals. As a result, many literary nonentities were rewarded with fame and success (often only to be relegated once again to obscurity within a few years) while many outstanding luminaries of the past were erased from the pages of



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