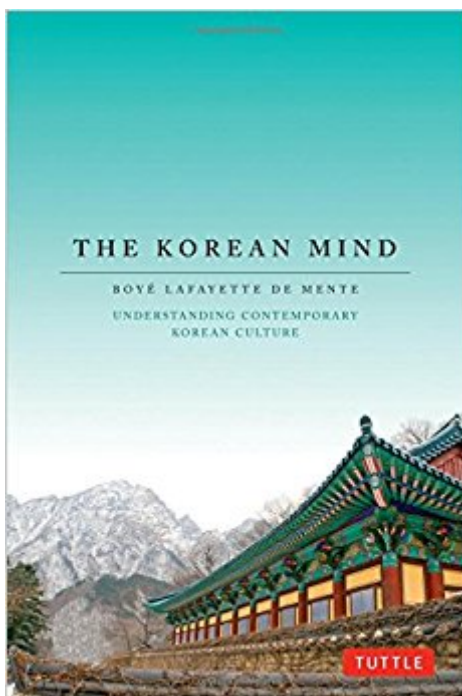


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The Korean Mind: Understanding Contemporary Korean Culture



Synopsis

The Koreans: understanding a people and their culture through key words and language. Koreans have a unique character and personality that sets them apart from all other Asians. And although Korean attitudes and behavior may be influenced by the modern world, the Korean mindset is still very much shaped by ancient culture and traditions. As is the case with all ancient cultures created within highly refined and meticulously structured social systems over thousands of years, one of the keys to understanding traditional Korean attitudes and behavior is the language of the people—or more precisely, key words in the language. These key words provide access to the Korean mind—to core concepts and emotions, the attitudes and feelings that make up the Korean psyche. These key terms reveal both the heart and soul of Koreans and provide bridges for communicating and interacting with Koreans on the most fundamental level. In *The Korean Mind*, Boye Lafayette De Mente explores the meanings and cultural context of the most important "code words" of the Korean language, terms whose significance goes well beyond their literal definitions, providing an insight into Korean culture and the personality of the Korean people. Keywords include: Aboji, Ah-boh-jee • The "Father Culture" Anae, Ah-negh • Wives: The Inside People Han Yak, Hahn Yahk • The Herbal Way to Health Innae, Een-nay • A Culture of Enduring Katun Sosuy Pap, Kaht-unn Soh-suut Pahp • Eating from the Same Rice Bowl And over 200 more

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Boye Lafayette De Mente has been involved with Japan, China, and Korea since the late 1940s as

a member of a U.S. intelligence agency, student, trade journalist, editor, and author working out of Tokyo, Seoul, Hong Kong, and Singapore. He is a graduate of Jochi University in Tokyo and The American Institute for Foreign Trade (now Thunderbird: The School of Global Management). His 70-plus books include Japan's Cultural Code Words, Business Guide to Japan, and Japan Unmasked.

Excellent summation of Korean cultural behavior. A very thorough description of Korean cultural behavior organized in alphabetical order. Each description puts the topic in historical perspective and develops the concept up to current day use. This book helps Westerners understand the Korean culture as it is today and how it arrived at it's current status. Useful background for Westerners who deal with Koreans. Recommended reading. Just plan to take your time digesting the topics of this large book and you will have a practical understanding of the "Korean Mind".

I started watching Korean dramas about three years ago and I'm hooked. But there is a lot about the Korean culture in these shows so I wanted to learn more about it. I found this book very useful. It's quite inclusive with relatively short explanations so I was able to pick it up and read just a bit at night. I went through it systematically from beginning to end but it can easily be read randomly or by subject. Highly recommend.

The book ordered: The Korean Mind: Understanding Contemporary Culture is a winner. De Mente took the time to be thorough in his findings with research on the subject and added historical significances which I really appreciate. The book is also very useful in my interpersonal relations and employment encounters with the Korean people. Thank you for clearing up any misunderstood facts and I'm currently incorporating the Korean mindset into a novel currently composing. Thank you again/Kamsa Hamnida! -KN Mirikitani

There is doubtlessly a bounty of research here, but because it's organised alphabetically and in small sections, there is a lot of repetition. What I was most disappointed about with this book was that the Hangeul is mostly incorrect, which I think is just unfathomably bad editing (or did someone play a joke on the writer?), and i can't help feel that this detracts from the book's credibility.

Not worth the money. Check first if your university/ local public library has it available. Korean alphabets are all spelled wrong. Not very well edited. The book isn't organized by theme-centered

chapters, and rather in alphabetical order of Korean words (which are spelled wrong in the first place, as aforementioned), which makes it difficult to read.

This was a book that I read between flights. The organization is very good for that sort of purpose. It is somewhat repetitive about the group think that drives individual Koreans -- I did get that idea. Its strength is the wide range of topics and anecdotes that it covers. I particularly liked the extensive bibliography that the book contains. I would recommend as a light book for others to read.

Fascinating read-I enjoyed the way the book was divided into sections by "behaviors"...

A large collection of phrases and concepts are explained in detail to educate Westerners on the attitudes and underpinnings of the Korean psyche. Text is long and rather repetitive but is meant to be dipped into depending on the reader's immediate concern. No need to read from beginning to end. Open to any concept and the background and historical dates needed will be there. I wish it were a bit more current as the rapid and dramatic changes to society since 2000 aren't included. Not for the casual tourist, but an excellent resource for Westerners moving to or conducting business in Korea.

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