

## PhD Viva

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This dissertation is the first to comprehensively investigate how North Korea's penal code-especially the parts on economic crimes-have changed throughout North Korean history and what the political and economic reasons for the changes and the implications of these changes are. The North Korean penal code is the first substantive law of North Korea other than its constitution and known to be the most frequently revised legal code in North Korea. This suggests that the penal code has been one of the most important laws in the socialist country. By analyzing the provisions on economic crimes in the North Korean penal code, this dissertation establishes the following: First, the clear distinction between crimes against state property and private property and harsher punishment for the former has been maintained, unlike in the penal codes of Russia and China. Second, many non-property, economic crimes originate from ostensibly strict adherence to a socialist economic model, including a planned economy. Third, definitions of economic crimes are often vague and leave room for arbitrary interpretation and implementation of the penal code. These traits lead to huge discrepancies between the written penal code and the ongoing, but informal, marketization in North Korea, contributing to the growth of the black market. This dissertation contributes to the literature by establishing how North Korea has tried to control its economy by the penal code and what such attempts imply for the future of the economy of the most secretive country in the world.