

Abstract:

This bachelor's thesis deals with the development of Christianity in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea throughout its history, from its establishment to the present day. It divides this history into three stages corresponding to the periods of rule of Kim Il-sung, Kim Jong-il, and Kim Jong-un. The first part of the thesis provides a historical context for the beginnings of Christianity on the Korean Peninsula. It describes the living conditions of Christian believers and the functioning of Christian churches during the Japanese occupation and later during the Korean War. The following chapter briefly introduces the relationship between religion and the state after the division of the peninsula and the establishment of the DPRK, comparing the North Korean government's different approaches to Christianity versus other religions or ideological concepts. The main part of the thesis then analyzes the situation of Christian believers in the DPRK during the rule of all three Kims, using the same framework, i.e., dividing the information obtained about the given period according to the source type and the author's identity. The thesis aims to create the most comprehensive picture possible of North Korean Christian communities and the development of the North Korean government's relationship with Christianity throughout the history of the DPRK based on available sources.