

Korean Politics and Society

POLISCI 240L

Tuesdays, 1:15-3:05

Winter 2006

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Office Hours: Tuesday 10-12 or by appointment

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How is Korea as a nation distinctive from others? Is there such a thing as Korean identity? If so, how is Korean identity constructed or dismantled? This course attempts to answer these questions by exploring various areas of Korean studies. Each class will examine modern Korean life through politics and culture, such as economic development, democratization, and a changing society and culture. The Korean peninsula has had geographic importance for politics in Northeast Asia for the past several centuries. Located between Japan and China, Korean domestic politics and international politics have been thoroughly intertwined. This course will present an analytic overview of Korean politics, and will treat three main themes: the historical development of Korean politics, issues concerning politics in Korea, and the political-economy of development in South Korea since 1948.

The course is designed to move chronologically through major historical, political, economic and social moments in the 20th century that inform the formation of modern Korean national identity, such as Japan's colonial rule, liberation, division, economic development and reform, and authoritarian rule and the democracy movement.

We do not expect any prior knowledge of Korea or Korean language. This course is designed to introduce students into Asian and Korean Studies

REQUIREMENTS:

Research paper (80%) Details discussed in class.

In-class participation (20%)

1. September 27: Introduction: what are we explaining?

- Introduction and organization of class
- Discussion of methods and critical thinking

2. October 4: The historical pattern of Northeast Asian international relations

- Thomson et al., *Sentimental Imperialists: the American Experience in East Asia* (NY: Harper and Row, 1981), chs. 1, 2.
- "Hierarchy in Asian International Relations: 1300 to 1900," *Asian Security* 1, no. 1 (2005), pp. 53-79.

- Kirk Larsen, Introduction, *Tradition, Treaties and Trade: Qing Imperialism and Chosôn Korea, 1850-1910* (m.s., George Washington University), pp. 1-37

3. October 11: The Japanese colonial era

- “Japanese Colonialism and Korean Development: a critique,” (with Stephan Haggard and Chung-in Moon), *World Development* 27, no. 6 (June 1997): 867-881.
- Atul Kohli, “Where do High-growth Political Economies come from? The Japanese Lineage in South Korean Development,” *World Development* (September 1994).
- Katharine Moon, “South Korean Movements against Militarized Sexual Labor,” *Asian Survey* 39, no. 2 (March/April 1999), pp. 310-327.
- Hildi Kang, “Under the Black Umbrella,” (Cornell University Press, 1999): selected pages.

4. October 18: Authoritarianism, democratization and regionalism

Questions due at beginning of class

- Jung-en Woo, *Race to the Swift* (Columbia), pp. 73-118.
- Stephan Haggard and Robert Kaufman, “The Political economy of democratic transitions,” *Comparative Politics* (April 1997)
- David Kang, “Electoral Institutions and Regionalism in South Korea,” in Samuel Kim, ed., *Korea’s Democratization* (Cambridge University Press, 2003).

Background

- Sunhyuk Kim, *The Politics of Democratization in Korea* (Pittsburgh, 1999)

5. October 25: Political institutions: the bureaucracy and electoral system

- “Institutions and Economic Growth in Korea and Taiwan: the bureaucracy,” (with Tun-jen Cheng and Stephan Haggard), *Journal of Development Studies* 34, no. 6 (August 1998): 87-111.
- David Kang, *Crony Capitalism* (Cambridge, 2002), chapter 3.
- David Brady and Jongryn Mo, “Electoral Systems and Institutional Choice: A Case study of the 1988 Korean Elections,” *Comparative Political Studies* 24, no. 4 (January 1992): 405-429.

6. November 1: Family Organization and the roots of Korean society

- Hildi Kang, “The Politics of Ancestors: Korean Family Lineage Records,” *Korean Culture* (Fall 1996): 32-37
- Clifford, Chapters 1 and 2: “Uneasy Alliances,” and “Bone Ranks, Buddhas, and Slaves.”
- Sangmee Bak, “McDonald’s in Seoul,” in James Watson, ed., *Golden Arches East* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1997)
- Kwang-Kyu Lee, “Ancestor Worship and Kinship Structure in Korea,” in Laurel Kendall and Griffin Dix, eds., *Religion and Ritual in Korean Society* (Berkeley: University of California Center for Korean Studies, 1987), 56-70

7. November 8: Economic development in South Korea

****annotated bibliographies due****

- Robert Wade, "East Asia's economic success: conflicting perspectives, partial insights, shaky evidence," *World Politics* 44 (Jan 1992): 270-320
- Stephan Haggard, *Pathways from the Periphery* (Cornell, 1990), Chapter 4
- Paul Krugman, "The Myth of Asia's Miracle," *Foreign Affairs* (November/December 1994): 62-79
- Responses to Krugman, *Foreign Affairs* (March/April 1995)

Background

- Alice Amsden, *Asia's Next Giant* (Oxford, 1989)
- Jung-en Woo, *Race to the Swift* (Columbia)

8. November 15: The IMF era, causes and consequences

- Robert Wade, "The Asian debt-and-development crisis of 1997-? Causes and consequences," *World Development* 26, no. 8 (Aug. '98) p. 1535-53.
- Jeffrey Winters, "The Determinants of Financial Crisis in Asia," in T.J. Pempel, ed., *The Politics of the Asian Economic Crisis* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1999).
- Jongryn Mo, "Political culture and legislative gridlock: politics of economic reform in precrisis Korea," *Comparative Political Studies* 34, no. 5 (June 2001): 467-92.

Background

- Stephan Haggard, *The Political Economy of the Asian Financial Crisis* (Institute for International Economics, 2000)
(http://www.iie.com/publications/bookstore/publication.cfm?Pub_ID=107).

9. November 22, 29: No class. Work on your papers!!

11. December 6: To the future:

- Mee-Hae Kong, "Material Girls: Sexual Perceptions of Korean Teenage Girls who have experienced 'Compensated Dates,'" *Asian Journal of Women's Studies* 9, no. 2 (June 2003), pp. 67-114.
- Bruce Cumings, *Korea's Place in the Sun* (WW Norton, 1997), Ch. 9 "America's Koreans"
- Seung-Kuk Kim "Changing Lifestyle and Consumption Patterns of the South Korean Middle Class and New Generations," in Beng-Hua Chua, ed., *Consumption in Asia: Lifestyle and Identities* (Routledge, 2000), 61-81.

FOR FURTHER READING: BACKGROUND

- Bruce Cumings, *Korea's Place in the Sun* (WW Norton, 1997)
- Mark Clifford, *Troubled Tiger* (New York: M.E. Sharpe, 1996)
- Don Oberdorfer, *The Two Koreas* (Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley, 1997)
- Victor Cha and David Kang, *Nuclear North Korea: A Debate on Engagement Strategies* (Columbia University Press, 2003)
- David Kang, *Crony Capitalism: Corruption and Development in South Korea and the Philippines* (Cambridge University Press, 2002)
- Yuki Tanaka, *Japan's Comfort Women* (London and New York: Routledge, 2002)
- Hildi Kang, *Under the Black Umbrella* (Cornell UP, 2001)
- Laurel Kendall, Ch. 4 and 6, *Getting Married in Korea* (University of California Press, 1996)
- Michael Seth, *Education Fever* (University of Hawaii Press, 2002)
- John Honore and Wolfram Manzenreiter, eds., *Japan, Korea and the 2002 World Cup* (London and New York: Routledge, 2002)
- Derek Mitchell ed., *Strategy and Sentiment: South Korean Views of the United States and the U.S.-ROK Alliance* (Washington, D.C.: Center for Strategic and International Studies, 2004)
- Sheila Jager, *Narratives of Nation Building in Korea* (New York: M.E. Sharpe, 2003)
- Eunmee Kim, *Big business, strong state: collusion and conflict in South Korean development, 1960-1990* (Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 1997)