

BOLD Ideas, ESSENTIAL Reading

Korean “Comfort Women”

Military Brothels, Brutality, and the Redress Movement

PYONG GAP MIN

"This book provides the most complete account yet of the historical situation of Korean 'comfort women' and of current efforts to seek redress for the survivors. Drawing upon a vast trove of first-person evidence and displaying a rigorous commitment to factual evidence, the author creates an invaluable record of past war crimes and present-day activism."

—Margaret D. Stetz, author of *Legacies of the Comfort Women of World War I*

Arguably the most brutal crime committed by the Japanese military during the Asia-Pacific war was the forced mobilization of 50,000 to 200,000 Asian women to military brothels to sexually serve Japanese soldiers. The majority of these women died of physical abuse, malnutrition, sexually transmitted diseases, injuries from bombings or other military attacks, or other tragic circumstances. Korean survivors kept silent about their brutal experiences in military brothels for about fifty years. In the late 1980s, the women's movement in South Korea helped to start the redress movement for the victims. It helped many survivors come forward to tell what happened to them. The redress movement with their testimonies gained strong support from the U.N., the U.S., and other Western countries.

Korean “Comfort Women” synthesizes the previous major findings about Japanese military sexual slavery and legal recommendations, and provides new findings about the issues “comfort women” faced for an English-language audience. It also examines the transnational redress movement, revealing that the Japanese government has tried to conceal the crime of sexual slavery and to resolve the women's human rights issue with diplomacy and economic power.

PYONG GAP MIN is a distinguished professor of sociology at Queens College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, as well as the director of the Research Center for Korean Community. He is the author of five books and the editor or co-editor of fourteen books, including the award-winning *Caught in the Middle: Korean Communities in New York and Los Angeles* and *Preserving Ethnicity through Religion in America: Korean Protestants and Indian Hindus across Generations*.

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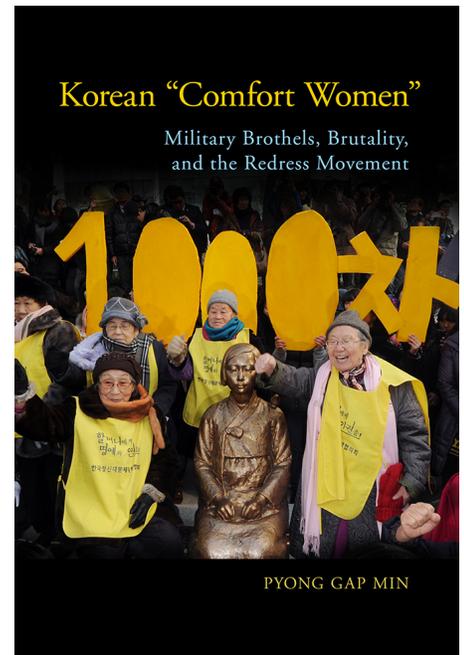
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324 pp 16 b/w images, 28 tables
978-1-9788-1496-7 paper \$44.95 **\$31.46**
978-1-9788-1497-4 cloth \$130.00 **\$91.00**
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