

Abstracts:

For Panel:

Continued in this panel, we will examine the "post-colonial" silencing of East Asian colonial history during the Cold War period. The issues addressed here will include American Cold War politics in East Asia, which have suppressed the debate on colonialism in East Asia and thus foreshadowed neo-colonialism in Asia including Japan's post-colonial imperialism. All of these have contributed to dehumanization of certain peoples in Asia, particularly women, and permanence of hegemonic relationships in this region, whether economic, political or cultural. The two human rights attorneys will particularly illuminate the genealogy of this international power relationships seen through the politics of reparation. In this panel by raising the question of silenced colonial history in Asia, especially through military domination and sexual assault, we are hoping to extend our investigation to the question of women and American military occupation, and perhaps to sex tourism in the post-colonial era.

For Individual Panelist:

1) Kenichi Takagi, "Japanese Post-War Compensation"

The Hague convention of 1907 aimed to apply the international Humanitarian Law to the residents on the occupation areas. Many countries including the USA and Japan ratified it. The fundamental concept of this International law is the "Crime against Humanity." The USA, USSR as well as Germany and Japan violated the International Humanitarian Law during both World Wars. One of the main issues of the international community, especially the UN is to recover the international morality: once violated the International Humanitarian Law, the war crimes must be punished and victims compensated.

Therefore, asked now is Japan, which thoroughly violated the International Humanitarian Law and made numerous victims, to recover this international morality. Recent years, Korean victims of forced transfer and forced labor as well as the Korean comfort women have initially prosecuted Japan. More than ten cases were already brought to the Japanese court. To this now added are the cases of Filipino comfort women cases. The case of comfort women bears the similarity to the ethnic conflict in former Yugoslavia.

Since last December the UN's Human Rights Committee began to pay serious attention to the comfort women cases. It is true also that there are several reactionary opinions within Japan try to legalize the Japanese war crimes. The public poll shows (December, 1992) that 10% saw no need to make policies for the comfort women. But 26% wanted some thing for the comfort women and 36% said that Japan should apologize and compensate.

In this paper I will explore the legal basis of the compensation claim which has different implications between the Korean comfort women and the Filipino victims.

2) Won Soon Park, "Comparison of the Post-War Policy Against Atrocities by Germany and Japan: Some Historical Backgrounds for Understanding of 'Comfort Women' Issue."

'Comfort women' is a new issue which was recently revealed after 50 years of long silence. It seems very unprecedented and even ridiculous that so many individual victims and victimized society have kept their secrecy for so long a time. The revelation of the truth gave undoubtedly a great surprise and impact not only to Korean society, the victimized but also the Japanese society, the perpetrator. However, it is not a surprising if we retrospect the fact that millions of Koreans had suffered from forced labor, mass-killings, tortures and other atrocities which have not yet been revealed and compensated. When we turn to the other Asian countries such as China, the situation is quite similar.

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In this regard, we cannot but admit that the investigation of the atrocities committed by Japan during World War II have been neglected and the issue evaded. It is striking when compared to the process of compensation for all victims and investigation, punishment of NAZI cruelties perpetrated in European theater. However, the fact that tens of Japanese soldiers involved in Dutch Comfort Women case in Indonesia were punished just after the war by the allies and the Netherlands, is sufficient to explain the big contrast in treatment of the issue in the two continents. Even though hundreds of thousands of Asian women suffered the same misery, no one was punished. We can submit countless examples similar to 'comfort women' case. The interest of the victimized countries had widely been dismissed in the process of post-war policy dealing with the atrocities.

Even though Japan succeeded in signing the reparation treaty and normalized diplomatic ties with victimized Asian countries, she failed to console and mitigate the anger, sufferings and hatred of the victims. There must be a number of legal and political approaches in pursuit of justice and reconciliation in the arena of post-war compensation, which has only begun. In this presentation, I will attempt a comparative research of the process, policy and scope of the reparation in post-war Germany and Japan focusing on the comfort women case.

3) Kyung-sik Suh, "Pleasurable Memories, Obliteration of Colonial History and Coerced Remembrance: 'Comfort Women and the Japanese Youth in an Advanced Capitalist Society'"

The murmuring remembrance of the pleasurable experiences with the 'comfort women' among the Japanese male workers or even the publications of such narratives were not uncommon in the post-war Japan. All of these narratives disappeared during the period of Japan's High Economic Growth. During this period Resident Koreans in Japan remained silent due to the unbearable pain that the comments may cause to the victimized comfort women who had to bare

themselves to bring to light something that had been widely known in Japanese society.

However, teaching at Japanese universities, I have had ample opportunity to observe how "manualized" young people's responses are to the comfort woman issue and other related social and political issues: they sound as if they had all read a booklet on the proper response to all questions. The political correctness of the students in this stressful yet luxurious society appears to have been manufactured with no sense of connection to reality.

In this paper I will reflect on the current coverage in the context of the historical obliteration during the US military occupation censorship as well as frenzy for recovery, pleasurable remembrance of colonial domination that was articulated in the form of 'comfort women' and the externally coerced remembrance in the name of US-imported political correctness as a form of commodity, especially its impact on the Japanese youth.

ORGANIZED PANEL PROPOSAL (page 1 of 2 pages, plus ABSTRACTS)
1994 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR ASIAN STUDIES

I SENT
SET #1 OF THIS PROPOSAL
TO THIS MEMBER OF THE
PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Proposal for: ☐ Regular (2-hour panel)

☒ Back-to-Back (2 parts/4 hours)
Use 2 separate proposal forms.
Label them **Part 1** and **Part 2**.

Name of committee person

1. PANEL TITLE
(please type)

War and Sex II: The Erasure of Colonial History and the
Post-war Compensation by Japan

☒ Is this sponsored by an AAS committee or affiliate? If so, which one? NEAC

Major discipline of panel is: (i.e., art history, linguistics, etc.) HISTORY AND LAW

2. PANEL ORGANIZER

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3. PANEL CHAIR Marilyn Young

Discipline History

Institution New York University

4. PAPER GIVERS (3 or 4)

Name Kenichi Takagi

Discipline Law

Institution Takagi Kenichi Horitsu-jimusho

Paper Title Japanese Post-war Compensation

Name Won Soon Park

Discipline Law

Institution Park Won Soon Pomnyul Samuso

Paper Title Comparison of the Post-war Policy Against Atrocities by Germany and Japan:
Some Historical Background for Understanding of 'Comfort Women' Issue

Name Kyung-sik Suh

Discipline History

Institution Hosei University

Paper Title Pleasurable Memories, Obliteration of Colonial History and Coerced Remembrance:
'Comfort Women' and the Japanese Youth in an Advanced Capitalist Society

Name

Discipline

Institution

Paper Title

5. DISCUSSANT(S) (List only 1 if you propose 4 papers: list 1 or 2 if you propose 3 papers)

Name Bruce Cumings

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Institution University of Chicago

Name Norma Field

Discipline Literature

Institution University of Chicago

You Need To Send Two Sets of Proposals - with Abstracts!

Send Set #1 of this form to the appropriate Program Committee member before August 3, 1993.

Send Set #2 of this form to the AAS, 1 Lane Hall, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109.

**ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE LIST (page 2 of 2 pages, plus ABSTRACTS)
AUDIOVISUAL EQUIPMENT / OTHER REQUESTS**

-- Attach to each set: an abstract for the panel *and* an abstract for *each* paper proposed. Please type. --

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Have you personally contacted all proposed participants and secured their consent to participate?

Yes ☒

No ☐

Have you informed each participant of the (pre)registration requirement?

Yes ☒

No ☐

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