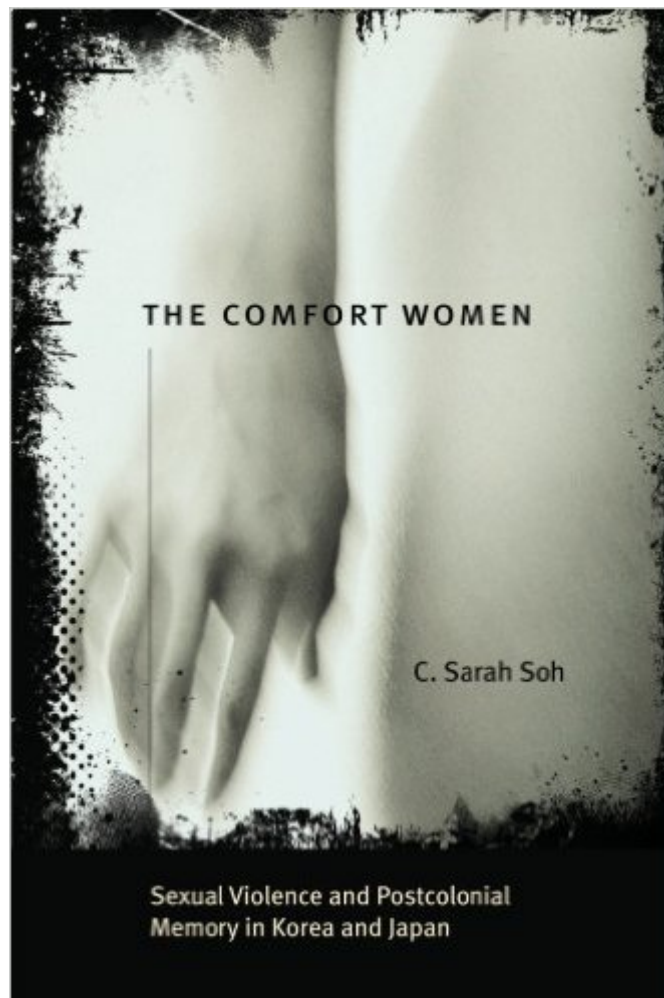


The book was found

The Comfort Women: Sexual Violence And Postcolonial Memory In Korea And Japan (Worlds Of Desire: The Chicago Series On Sexuality, Gender, And Culture)





Synopsis

In an era marked by atrocities perpetrated on a grand scale, the tragedy of the so-called comfort women—mostly Korean women forced into prostitution by the Japanese army—endures as one of the darkest events of World War II. These women have usually been labeled victims of a war crime, a simplistic view that makes it easy to pin blame on the policies of imperial Japan and therefore easier to consign the episode to a war-torn past. In this revelatory study, C. Sarah Soh provocatively disputes this master narrative. Soh reveals that the forces of Japanese colonialism and Korean patriarchy together shaped the fate of Korean comfort women—a double bind made strikingly apparent in the cases of women cast into sexual slavery after fleeing abuse at home. Other victims were press-ganged into prostitution, sometimes with the help of Korean procurers. Drawing on historical research and interviews with survivors, Soh tells the stories of these women from girlhood through their subjugation and beyond to their efforts to overcome the traumas of their past. Finally, Soh examines the array of factors—from South Korean nationalist politics to the aims of the international women's human rights movement—that have contributed to the incomplete view of the tragedy that still dominates today.

Book Information

Series: Worlds of Desire: The Chicago Series on Sexuality, Gender, and Culture

Paperback: 384 pages

Publisher: University Of Chicago Press (February 15, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0226767779

ISBN-13: 978-0226767772

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1.4 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars See all reviews (8 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #541,848 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #184 in Books > History > Asia >

Korea #188 in Books > History > Military > Korean War #413 in Books > Science & Math >

Earth Sciences > Geography > Regional

Customer Reviews

... and most definitely NOT for casual readers or those who are not willing to re-examine their preconceived ideas and views of the wartime comfort women. This work is likewise ill-suited for those who aren't serious readers of history. C. Sarah Soh, as a native Korean who was fortunate to

receive formal education both in her homeland and abroad, has produced a masterful examination of a controversial issue involving Korea and Japan which people from both countries have long oversimplified. Koreans generally believe that Imperial Japan's leadership ordered, planned, and executed the gunpoint kidnapping of thousands of Korean females and summarily shipped them like chattel to frontline brothels. Japanese people - at least those who know this issue - either agree that the Koreans were largely victimized, or claim that this is a gross fabrication and that the comfort women were essentially willing prostitutes. Professor Soh cites several examples, such as interviews with survivors, to show that the truth is far more complex. Some survivors stated they were not forcibly taken by Japanese troops. Others are shown to have bought their way to freedom with earnings - earnings??? Yes. Hence the question - if the comfort women were slaves, they wouldn't have had wages. Then what were they: slaves or prostitutes or something else? Additionally, Professor Soh does the reader a huge service by detailing the sociocultural contexts of 1930s-1940s Korea and Japan. Information on views on sex, women, and the sexism that characterized pre-modern Korean and Japanese societies is provided, thus presenting the reader with a better understanding of what facilitated the existence of "sex care work" in both societies.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Comfort Women: Sexual Violence and Postcolonial Memory in Korea and Japan (Worlds of Desire: The Chicago Series on Sexuality, Gender, and Culture) Caribbean Pleasure Industry: Tourism, Sexuality, and AIDS in the Dominican Republic (Worlds of Desire: The Chicago Series on Sexuality, Gender, and Culture) North Korea: The Definitive Guide to Understanding the Hermit Kingdom (history of Korea, division of Korea, real north Korea, escape from North Korea, kim jong un, kim jong il, nuclear weapons) Memory Exercises: Memory Exercises Unleashed: Top 12 Memory Exercises To Remember Work And Life In 24 Hours With The Definitive Memory Exercises Guide! (memory exercises, memory, brain training) Fighting Ships of the Far East (2): Japan and Korea AD 612-1639: Japan and Korea AD 612-1639 v. 2 (New Vanguard) Desire and Anxiety: Circulations of Sexuality in Shakespearean Drama (Gender, Culture, Difference) The Seductions of Quantification: Measuring Human Rights, Gender Violence, and Sex Trafficking (Chicago Series in Law and Society) Everyday Revolutionaries: Gender, Violence, and Disillusionment in Postwar El Salvador (Genocide, Political Violence, Human Rights) Re-Visioning Family Therapy, Second Edition: Race, Culture, and Gender in Clinical Practice (Revising Family Therapy: Race, Culture, & Gender in) Desire and Discipline: Sex and Sexuality in the Premodern West (The British Library Studies in Medieval Culture) Counselling Skills for Working with Trauma: Healing From Child Sexual Abuse, Sexual Violence and Domestic Abuse (Essential Skills for Counselling) The Batterer as

Parent: Addressing the Impact of Domestic Violence on Family Dynamics (SAGE Series on Violence against Women) Recasting Red Culture in Proletarian Japan: Childhood, Korea, and the Historical Avant-Garde Japan's Total Empire: Manchuria and the Culture of Wartime Imperialism (Twentieth Century Japan: The Emergence of a World Power) Sexual Fluidity: Understanding Women's Love and Desire The Way of the Superior Man: A Spiritual Guide to Mastering the Challenges of Women, Work, and Sexual Desire Gilbert and Sullivan: Gender, Genre, Parody (Gender and Culture Series) Crimes against Children: Sexual Violence and Legal Culture in New York City, 1880-1960 (Studies in Legal History) The Politics of Passion: Women's Sexual Culture in the Afro-Surinamese Diaspora (Between Men-Between Women: Lesbian and Gay Studies) States and Women's Rights: The Making of Postcolonial Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco

[Dmca](#)