

HISTORY 231/ASIAN STUDIES 236
Crimes Against Humanity and Their Aftermath:
20th Century East Asia
Spring 2005
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According to the definition employed by the recently-formed International Criminal Court, crimes against humanity are “acts [-such as murder, extermination, enslavement, deportation, torture, rape, sexual slavery...] when committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population, with knowledge of the attack.” In this course, we will explore this broad category in the 20th-century East Asian context, by taking up several of its possible variations: “crimes against humanity” committed by armies in war, by governments against their own citizens, and by a colonial power against those it has colonized.

Cases we will investigate include the Japanese Army’s rape and massacre of civilians in the Chinese city of Nanking, abuse of Korean women as sex slaves (the so-called “comfort women”) during World War II, the U.S. use of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the end of World War II, the Chinese Nationalist Party’s suppression of the Taiwan Uprising of February 28, 1947, the American Army’s killing of civilians during the Korean War at No Gun Ri, and the South Korean Army’s massacre of civilians in the course of putting down the Kwangju Uprising of 1980. In addition to reading about and discussing these events in as factual and accurate a manner as possible, we will explore the ways in which victims and their representatives have remembered their experiences, sought redress, and demanded reparations; we will also consider the issues that arise when later democratic governments seek to try and punish their predecessors for crimes against their own citizens. Overall, the course is designed to enhance critical understanding of “crimes against humanity” as a legal, political and moral concept, and provide experience in assessing its applicability and implications in specific cases.

INSTRUCTORS: Michael Shin: Asian Studies; 342 Rockefeller Hall; 4-6588; [ms329](#)
Victor Koschmann: History; 453 McGraw Hall; 5-6749; [jvk1](#)

READINGS: The following books are available for purchase at the Campus Store:
Brook, *Documents on the Rape of Nanking*
Hanley, *The Bridge at No Gun Ri*
Hogan, *Hiroshima in History and Memory*
Lai, *A Tragic Beginning*, Lee, *Kwangju Diary*,
Yoshimi, *Comfort Women*.
Other readings will be made available by electronic reserve or hard copy.

SCHEDULE:

1/25 Introduction

History and General Concepts

- 1/27 Video: “Calling the Ghosts” (63 minutes)
 Discussion
 Readings: TBA
- 2/1 Lecture/Discussion: Crimes Against Humanity: History and Definition
 Readings: Minow, Between Vengeance and Forgiveness: Facing History after Genocide and Mass Violence, 1-24.
- 2/3 Lecture/Discussion: Japanese imperialism and the Pacific War, 1931-45
 Readings:
- 2/8 Guest Lecture: Professor Mark Selden, SUNY, Binghamton and Cornell
 Readings: Selden and So, “The United States and Japan in Twentieth Century Asian Wars,” and Mark Selden, “State Terror versus Humanitarian Law,” in Selden and So, eds., War and State Terrorism.

Nanking Massacre (1937)

- 2/10 Video: “In the Name of the Emperor” (52 min.)
 Discussion
 Readings: “Introduction: Documenting the Rape of Nanking,” in Brook, Timothy, Documents on the Rape of Nanking, 1-33.
- 2/15 Discussion: Nanking Massacre and the Safety Zone
 Readings: *Documents of the Nanking Safety Zone*, ed. Hsu Shuhsi, in Brook, Documents on the Rape of Nanking, 1-167.
- 2/17 Lecture/Discussion: Historical Controversy
 Readings: Judgment of the International Military Tribunal for the Far East,” and “The Dissenting Opinion of Radhabinod Pal,” in Brook, 257-97 + TBA.

PAPER ONE DUE IN CLASS ON FEBRUARY 22

Comfort Women (1930s and 40s)

- 2/22 Video: “Silence Broken” (50 minutes)
 Discussion
 Reading: Yoshimi Yoshiaki, *Comfort Women*, chapter 1.
- 2/24 Lecture on Korean colonial experience/Discussion
 Reading: Yoshimi Yoshiaki, *Comfort Women*, chapters 3-5.
- 3/1 Video: “Habitual Sadness” (70 minutes) or
 “Breaking the History of Silence” (video; 68 minutes)
 Reading: Gavan McCormack, “The Japanese Movement to ‘Correct’ History” in Hein and Selden, *Censoring History*, pp. 53-73 (available online through library website)

- 3/3 Discussion
Reading: testimonies of comfort women (handout or electronic reserve)
Giorgio Agamben, "The Witness" in *Remnants of Auschwitz*.

Hiroshima and Nagasaki (August 1945)

- 3/8 Video: "Hiroshima: Why the Bomb was Dropped" (70 minutes)
Lecture/Discussion
Reading: TBA
- 3/10 Lecture/Discussion: Decision to Drop the Bombs
Reading: Hogan, "Hiroshima in History and Memory: An Introduction;"
Walker, "The Decision to Use the Bomb: A Historiographical Update;" and
Bernstein, "Understanding the Atomic Bomb and the Japanese Surrender:
Missed Opportunities, Little-Known Near Disasters, and Modern Memory," in
Michael J. Hogan, Hiroshima in History and Memory, 1-79.
- 3/15 Video: "No More Hiroshima!" (26 minutes)
Discussion: History and Memory
Reading: Dower, "The Bombed: Hiroshimas and Nagasakis in Japanese Memory;"
Boyer, "Exotic Resonances: Hiroshima in American Memory;" Tachibana, "The
Quest for a Peace Culture: The A-Bomb Survivors' Long Struggle and the New
Movement for Redressing Foreign Victims of Japan's War;" Walker, "History,
Collective Memory, and the Decision to Use the Bomb;" and Hogan, "The
Enola Gay Controversy: History, Memory, and the Politics of Presentation," in
Hogan, ed., 116-232.

PAPER TWO DUE IN CLASS ON MARCH 17.

- 3/17 Discussion: The Atomic Bombings as a War Crime
Reading: TBA

3/20 & 3/22 SPRING BREAK

Taiwan Uprising (1947)

- 3/29 Lecture/Discussion: Chinese Revolution and Nationalist Move to Taiwan
Reading: Lai, Myers and Wou, A Tragic Beginning: The Taiwan Uprising of February
28, 1947, 99-167.
- 3/31 Aftermath
Reading: Lai, Myers and Wou, 168-93; and Robert Edmundson, "The February 28
Incident and National Identity," in Stephane Corcuff, ed., Memories of the
Future: National Identity Issues and the Search for a New Taiwan, 25-46.

No Gun Ri (1950)

- 4/5 Video: "Korea: The Unknown War" Part 1 (50 minutes)
Short Lecture
Readings: Hanley, Choe, and Mendoza, *The Bridge at No Gun Ri*, Part I.
- 4/7 Discussion on the Hanley, Choe, and Mendoza book
Readings: Hanley, Choe, and Mendoza, *The Bridge at No Gun Ri*, Part II.
- 4/12 Video: "The Truth Behind the Nogunri Massacre"
Readings: Hanley, Choe, and Mendoza, *The Bridge at No Gun Ri*, Part III, chapters 8+9.
- 4/14 Discussion
Readings: Bruce Cumings, "Occurrence at Nogun-Ri Bridge: An Inquiry into the History and Memory of a Civil War." *Critical Asian Studies* 33, no. 4 (2001).
(available online through library website)

Kwangju Democratic Uprising (May 1980)

- 4/19 Lecture/Discussion: Military Dictatorship + US foreign policy
Guest lecturer: Prof. Jae-Jung Suh, Dept. of Government
Readings: Lee Jae-Eui, *Kwangju Diary*, Introduction and chapters 1+2.
- 4/21 Discussion
Readings: Lee Jae-Eui, *Kwangju Diary*, chapters 3+4, "The View from Washington"
- 4/26 Discussion
Readings: Keun-sik Jung, "Has Kwangju Been Realized?" *Contentious Kwangju*, 43-52.
Yea, Sallie. "Rewriting Rebellion and Mapping Memory in South Korea: The (Re)presentation of the 1980 Kwangju Uprising Through Mangwol-dong Cemetery" Victoria University of Wellington, Asian Studies Institute, Working Paper #13.

PAPER THREE DUE IN CLASS ON APRIL 28.

- 4/28 TBA
- 5/3 Lecture/Discussion: The International Criminal Court
Readings: Giorgio Agamben,
- 5/5 Discussion
Reading: Agamben,