

**HSEA G8862**  
**COLLOQUIUM ON MODERN KOREAN HISTORY:**

**Korea's Cold War Fall 2017**

THURSDAYS 2:100 4:00 PM 402 International Affairs Building  
Columbia University

**Instructor:** Charles K. Armstrong  
Office Hours: Thursdays 9:00 – 11:00 AM

**Description:** The Korean Peninsula is often called the “last outpost of the Cold War” because of its continued division and the mutual hostility between its “communist” and “democratic” halves. Yet nearly thirty years after the putative end of the global Cold War, such a description seems increasingly inadequate. The division of Korea and the establishment of two separate states in the late 1940s may have been (in part) a product of the Cold War, but the origins of Korean division had indigenous and complex roots preceding the Cold War, and Korea’s North-South conflict has developed a distinctive dynamic independent of, and long outlasting, the Cold War. In short, “Korea’s Cold War” is connected with but not identical to the Cold War as commonly understood. This course considers the impact of the Cold War on Korea and vice-versa, including the distinctive aspects of the Cold War in Asia generally, with a temporal focus extending back into the Japanese colonial period and forward to the present. The course goes beyond the usual Cold War themes of ideological and military conflict to consider migration, transnational adoption, film and literary representations, and art and propaganda.

**Requirements:**

1. Attendance and active class participation (10%).
2. A written response to each week’s readings on the Courseworks website, due by the Tuesday before class (around 250 – 300 words would be good) (10%)
3. Leading at least one class discussion, including posting of Courseworks questions for that week, due by the Monday night before the seminar. (15%)
4. Three “reaction papers” of 3 – 5 pages (10% each = 30%), due at regular intervals through the semester.
5. Final summary paper, 15 – 20 pages, analyzing at least three texts (35%) due at the end of the semester.

**Required Readings:**

The following books are available for purchase at Book Culture, 536 West 112<sup>th</sup> Street, and on reserve in C.V. Starr East Asian Library, Kent Hall. All other books as well as articles and book excerpts will be in pdf format on Courseworks under Syllabus. Some of the recommended books will also be available at Book Culture.

Wada Haruki, *The Korean War: An International History*

Charles R. Kim, *Youth For Nation: Culture and Protest in Cold War South Korea*

Suk-young Kim, *Illusive Utopia: Theatre, Film, and Everyday Performance in North Korea*

Arisa Oh, *To Save the Children of Korea: The Cold War Origins of Transnational Adoption*

Tessa Morris-Suzuki, *Exodus to North Korea: Shadows from Japan’s Cold War*

Theodore Q. Hughes, *Literature and Film in Cold War South Korea: Freedom’s Frontier*

Han Kang, *Human Acts: A Novel*

## WEEKLY TOPICS AND READINGS

### Part 1: The Cold War in Asia and the World

#### Week 1. Sept. 7. The Cold War in Asian Context

Odd Arne Westad, "The Cold War and the International History of the Twentieth Century," in idem and Melvyn Leffler, eds., *The Cambridge History of the Cold War* (2010), 1:1-19

Heonik Kwon, *The Other Cold War* (Columbia University Press, 2010), pp. 1 - 11

Kuan-Hsing Chen, "De-Cold War: The Im/Possibility of 'Great Reconciliation,'" from *Asia as Method: Toward De-Imperialization* (Duke University Press, 2010)

Immanuel Wallerstein, "What Cold War in Asia? An Interpretive Essay," in Zhang Yangwen et al, *The Cold War in Asia: The Battle for Hearts and Minds* (Brill, 2010)

#### Recommended readings:

Odd Arne Westad, *The Global Cold War: Third World Interventions and the Making of Our Times* (Cambridge University Press, 2007)

Tsuyoshi Hasegawa, ed. *The Cold War in East Asia, 1945 – 1991* (Stanford 2011)

Matthew Connelly, "Taking Off the Cold War Lens: Visions of North-South Conflict during the Algerian War," *American Historical Review* vol. 105, no. 3 (June 2000)

Anders Stephanson, "Fourteen Notes on the Very Concept of the Cold War," H-Diplo 1996  
<https://issforum.org/essays/PDF/stephanson-14notes.pdf>

#### Week 2. Sep. 14. Colonial Modernity: Collaboration/Nationalism/Left/Right

Manela, "Seizing the Moment in Seoul," from *The Wilsonian Moment: Self-Determination and the International Origins of Anti-Colonial Nationalism* (Oxford University Press, 2009)

Nym Wales and Kim San, *Song of Ariran: A Korean Communist in the Chinese Revolution* (1941) (excerpts)

#### Recommended Reading:

Sunyoung Park, *The Proletarian Wave: Literature and Leftist Culture in Colonial Korea, 1910 – 1945* (Harvard East Asian Monographs, 2015)

Nayoung Aimee Kwon, *Intimate Empire: Collaboration and Colonial Modernity in Korea and Japan* (Duke University Press, 2015)

#### Week 3. Sep. 21. Cold War and Division

Wada Haruki, *The Korean War: An International History*, preface, ch. 1

Kim Dong-Choon, *The Unending Korean War: A Social History*, ch. 1 – 2

#### Recommended readings:

Suzy Kim, *Everyday Life in the North Korean Revolution, 1945-1950* (Cornell, 2013)

#### **Week 4. Sep. 28. (Post-)Colonialism and Cold War Cultures**

Theodore Hughes, *Literature and Film in Cold War South Korea*, ch. 1 and 2, pp. 1 – 90  
Charles K. Armstrong, “The Cultural Cold War in Korea, 1945 – 1950,” *Journal of Asian Studies* (May 2003)

Recommended readings:

Song Kōn-ho et al, *Haebang chōnhusa ūi insik* (해방 전후사의 인식), 6 volumes (Seoul: Hangilsa, 1979 – 1989)

Jeong-sim Yang, “‘Liberation Space’ and Times of Resistance in Visual Records,” *International Journal of Korean History*, vol. 19, no. 2 (2014)

#### **Week 5. Oct. 5. The Korean War as International History**

Wada Haruki, *The Korean War: An International History* (finish)

Recommended readings:

William Stueck, *The Korean War: An International History* (Princeton University Press, 1995)

Bruce Cumings, *The Korean War: A History* (Modern Library, 2011)

Reaction Paper #1: To what extent was the Korean War of 1950 – 1953 a product of international forces, indigenous Korean forces, or some combination of the two? Would you call the Korean War a civil war? Why or why not? (Due Monday, Oct. 9)

### **Part 2: Making Nations**

#### **Week 6. Oct. 12. Cultures of Protest in South Korea**

Charles Kim, *Youth For Nation* (entire)

Recommended readings:

Paul Chang, *Protest Dialectics: State Repression and South Korea's Democracy Movement, 1970-1979* (Stanford University Press, 2015)

Namhee Lee, *The Making of Minjung: Democracy and the Politics of Representation in South Korea* (Cornell University Press, 2009)

#### **Week 7. Oct. 19. Bifurcated and Competitive Development**

Kim Il Sung writings, TBA

Park Chung Hee writings, TBA

Recommended readings:

Dae-Sook Suh, *Kim Il Sung: The North Korean Leader* (Columbia University Press, 1995)

Byung-Kook Kim and Ezra Vogel, *The Park Chung Hee Era: The Transformation of South Korea* (Harvard University Press, 2013)

Hyung-A Kim and Clark W. Sorensen, *Reassessing the Park Chung Hee Era, 1961-1979: Development, Political Thought, Democracy, and Cultural Influence* (University of Washington Press, 2011)

**Week 8: Oct. 26. Performing the Nation in North Korea**

Suk-young Kim, *Illusive Utopia* (entire)

Recommended readings:

Byung-Ho Chung and Heonik Kwon, *North Korea: Beyond Charismatic Politics* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2012)

Bandi, *The Accusation: Forbidden Stories from Inside North Korea* (Grove Press, 2017)

**Week 9. Nov. 2. Diasporas: “Repatriation” to North Korea**

Tessa Morris-Suzuki, *Exodus to North Korea* (entire)

Recommended readings:

John Lie, *Zainichi (Koreans in Japan): Diasporic Nationalism and Postcolonial Identity* (University of California, 2008)

Sonia Ryang, *Diaspora without Homeland: Koreans in Japan* (University of California, 2009)

**Week 10. Nov. 9. Diasporas: Transnational Adoption to America**

Arisa Oh, *To Save the Children of Korea* (entire)

Recommended readings:

Eleana J. Kim, *Adopted Territory: Transnational Korean Adoptees and the Politics of Belonging* (Duke University Press, 2010)

Reaction paper #2: How did the Cold War, including but not limited to the division of Korea, complicate the notion of a Korean “homeland”? (Due Monday, Nov. 13)

**Part 3: Representing Cold War Korea in Film and Literature**

**Week 11. Nov. 16. Visual Culture**

Hughes, *Literature and Film in Cold War South Korea* (finish)

Recommended readings:

Steven Chung, *Split Screen Korea: Shin Sang-ok and Postwar Cinema* (University of Minnesota Press, 2014)

**Week 12. Nov. 23. THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY**

**Week 13. Nov. 30. Representing Gwangju**

Gi-Wook Shin, “Introduction,” from Shin and Hwang, *Contentious Kwangju*

Han Kang, *Human Acts* (entire)

Recommended readings:

Jae-Eui Lee et al, *Kwangju Diary: Beyond Death, Beyond the Darkness of the Age* (UCLA 1999)

Linda S. Lewis, *Laying Claim to the Memory of May: A Look Back at the 1980 Kwangju Uprising* (University of Hawai'i Press, 2002)

Gi-Wook Shin and Kyung Moon Hwang, eds. *Contentious Kwangju: The May 18<sup>th</sup> Uprising in Korea's Past and Present* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2003)

**Week 14. Dec. 7. Final Discussion: What is/was Korea's Cold War?**

Reaction paper #3: literature and history: literary works as a resource for history (Due Monday, Dec. 11)

**MONDAY, DEC. 18, 5:00 PM: FINAL PAPERS DUE**

**Hard copy delivered to the History Department mailroom (across from 413 Fayerweather)  
AND electronic copy by attachment to [cra10@columbia.edu](mailto:cra10@columbia.edu)**