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ASIA INSTITUTE



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Comfort women

A Comparison of Japanese and Korean Newspapers Views



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Media System in Japan and South Korea

Referring to the model proposed by E. Rohrhfer

Japanese Media System and South Korean Media System are **quite similar** about **most of the criteria**:

- **Political System** (democracy)
- **Political culture** (ambivalent)
- **Media freedom** (occasional censorship)
- **Media ownership** (private and public)
- **Media funding** (market and state)
- **State control on the media** (medium)
- **Media culture** (ambivalent)

Media System in Japan and South Korea

Referring to the model proposed by E. Rohrhfer

They *differ* about **political parallelism** and **media orientation**.

POLITICAL PARALLELISM

In Japan, the media are oriented to **neutrality** and **objectivity**. Media and parties are **not** connected.

In South Korea, newspapers tend to be **political** and **partial**. Readers choose the newspaper according to their political preferences.

MEDIA ORIENTATION

In Japan, media are strongly **market oriented**.

In South Korea, media are oriented not only to economic success, but also to **public service**.

Media System in Japan and South Korea

Referring to the model proposed by E. Rohrhfer

Other **interesting differences** are:

- **Censorship** in South Korea (National Security Law)
 - **Press club** system in Japan
 - **State control** on the media

Comfort women

A brief introduction on the topic

The Japanese Military “Comfort Women” refer to the **women who were forcibly conscripted to be sex slaves for the Japanese Army at 'comfort stations'**.

Starting **from 1932 to 1945**, Japan built comfort stations in **various parts of Asia and the Pacific** where the Japanese Army was stationed.

The intention was to effectively carry out the war through **preventing the instability of public order caused by sexual violence** against local women.

Comfort women

A brief introduction on the topic

At present, **the total number** of women who had been conscripted as the Japanese Military “Comfort Women” is **unknown**.

The estimates of the number of “Comfort Women” vary, ranging **from at least 20,000 to up to 400,000** people, and **widely differ** from researcher to researcher.

Comfort women

A brief introduction on the topic

The existence of the comfort stations and the Japanese Military Comfort Women has not properly revealed for decades. The Japanese government tried to conceal the existence of the Comfort Women.

It was also not easy for the victims to talk about their experience since it was perceived to be a shameful past in the patriarchal atmosphere of Asia.

The **decisive factor** that enabled the issue to become socially publicized was **the public testimony on August 14, 1991 given by Kim Hak-sun.**

Introduction of Korean and Japanese media

▶ JAPAN

“The largest national daily newspapers”

- **Conservative side:** Sankei Shimbun (産経新聞), Nihon Keizai Shimbun (日本経済新聞), Yomiuri Shimbun (読売新聞)
- **Liberal side:** Asahi Shimbun (朝日新聞), Mainichi Shimbun (毎日新聞)

▶ KOREA

“Three national newspapers dominate the Korean press”

- **Conservative, right wing side:** Chosŏn Ilbo (조선일보), Tong-a Ilbo (동아일보), Chungang Ilbo (중앙일보)
- **Progressive, left wing side:** Hankyoreh (한겨레)

Korean media

Controversial issues: *Were victims forcibly dragged by Japanese soldiers?*
Korean media argument: There was a fact that they were abducted

N 뉴스 한겨레 +구독

주요뉴스 스포츠 정치 경제 사회 생활 세계 IT 사설/칼럼 신문보기 생중계 영창

수행해야 하는 군의 요청과 경찰의 만대를 만족시킬 수 있는 절충안을 찾게 된다. 그 문서가 1938년 1월23일 내무성 경보국장의 통첩 '지나(중국)도항부녀의 취급에 관한 건'이다. 이를 보면, 일본 내무성은 "이미 성매매에 종사한 적이 있고, 만 21살 이상이면 성병 그밖에 전염병이 없는 자"만을 대상으로 해외 도항을 할 수 있는 신분증명서를 발급하고, 이 경우에도 친권자의 동의를 얻어 여성 본인이 직접 경찰서에 출두해야 한다는 엄격한 제한을 가하게 된다.

아베 총리, 한·일 합의해놓고도
"강제연행 직접 기술 자료 없다"
모든 증언, 자료는 한 방향 가리킨다
일본군의 지휘하에 일본·조선에서
사기·협잡으로 강제연행했다는 것

일본에서 모집업자 활동 적발한
경찰 "황군 위신 실추" 공문 올렸고
조선인 위안부 중 미성년자가
절반 넘었다는 미군 자료도 발견
부녀매매 조약도 조선 적용 제외

At 95, a lifetime of scars tell story of survivor of “comfort women” system

Posted on : Mar 5, 2023 10:25 KST Modified on : Mar 5, 2023 10:25 KST

[Photo] Inspired by the public testimony of fellow “comfort woman” survivor Kim Hak-soon in 1991, Park registered herself on the survivors’ list in 1993



Editorial · opinion

[Column] Imagining life in Korea with rocket alerts

Japanese media

Controversial issues: *Were victims forcibly dragged by Japanese soldiers?*
Japanese media argument: There was no fact that they were forcibly abducted

朝日新聞デジタル > 記事

Testimony about 'forcible taking away of women on Jeju Island': Judged to be fabrication because supporting evidence not found

2014年8月22日 10時00分

Question: There was a man who testified in books and meetings that he had used violence to forcibly take away women on the Korean Peninsula, which was Japan's colony, to make them serve as comfort women during the war. The Asahi Shimbun ran articles about the man from the 1980s until the early 1990s. However, some people have pointed out that his testimony was a fabrication.

The man's name was Seiji Yoshida. In his books and on other occasions, he said that he headed the mobilization section at the Shimonoseki branch of the Yamaguchi Prefectural Romu Hokokukai labor organization that was in control of



- Seiji Yoshida, argued that he conducted forcible recruitment of comfort women
- Asahi shimbun reported his argument as a true story.
- But it turned out that his argument was fabrication and no evidence was found.

Korean media

Criticism of the issues



- In 2013, Sejong University prof. Park Yu-ha published a book (Comfort Women of the Empire, 2013)
- Arguing that some women volunteered and shared “comradely” relations with soldiers
- Sued by activists for criminal defamation
- was requested a three-year prison sentence (Kim 2016)
- 2023: the judgment was overturned, Park was declared as innocent
- Question of the limitation of freedom of speech

Media comparison

Apologies and agreements

Apologies: In 2015 comfort women agreement was made by the Foreign Ministers of both (Kishida and Yun). Stated that the issue is resolved finally and irreversibly with this announcement.



トップ 速報 社会 政治 国際 経済 スポーツ エンタメ ライフ

日韓合意検証発表

文在寅大統領「この合意で慰安婦問題は解決できない」 政府に新たな対策指示

2017/12/28 11:39

国際 | 朝鮮半島

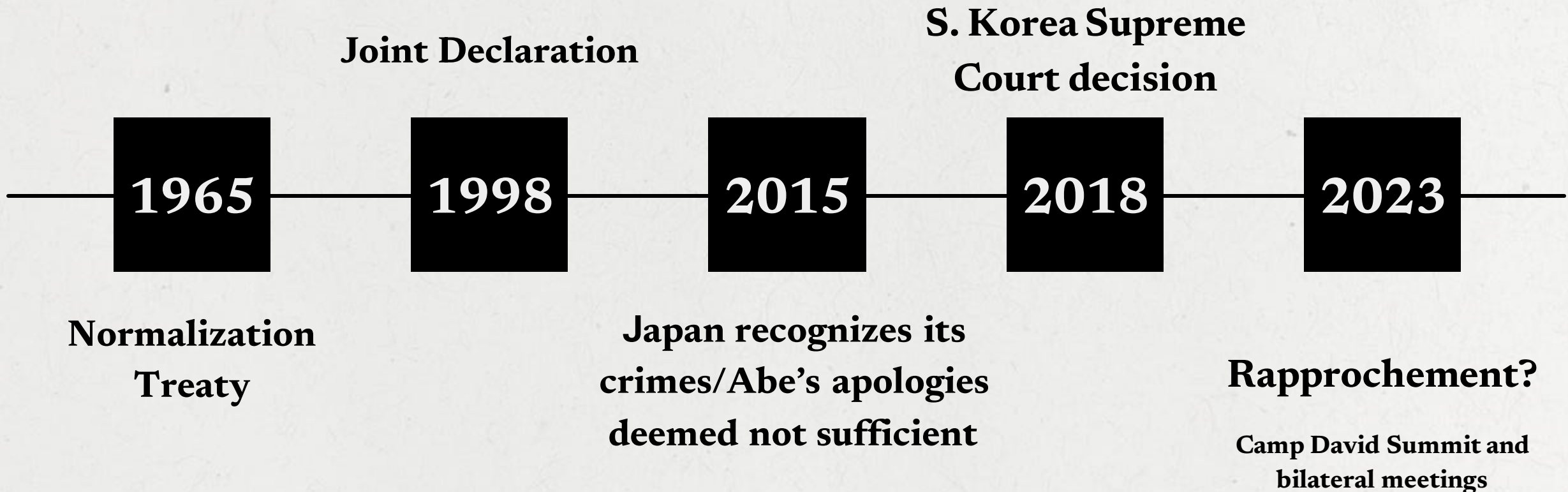
ツイート 反応

【ソウル=名村隆寛】韓国の文在寅（ムン・ジェイン）大統領は28日、慰安婦問題をめぐる2015年12月の日韓合意に対し、韓国外相直属の作業部会が27日に発表した検証結果を受け、「政府間の公の約束であっても、大統領として、この合意で慰安婦問題が解決できないことを改めて明確にする」と表明した。韓国大統領府報道官が明らかにした。

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広告表示設定の

Timeline of the controversy

“Comfort women” issue in bilateral political relations



Kishida and Yoon Suk-Yeol meetings VS public sentiment



CONCLUSIONS



- Shadows of the past on present relations
- Attempts at political compromise and external influences
- Media: reflection of actual public opinion

**Thank you for your time
and attention!**

Do you have any questions?