Service Economies: Militarism, Sex Work, and Migrant Labor in South Korea

Jin-kyung Lee

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The book Service Economies: Militarism, Sex Work, and Migrant Labor in South Korea by Jin-kyung Lee examines how working-class labor occupies a central space in linking the United States and Asia to South Korea's changing global position. The book explores the role of service economies, militarism, sex work, and migrant labor in South Korea, and how these industries are intertwined with the country's relationship with the United States.

The book also examines the impact of these industries on South Korea's growing migrant population, including domestic sex work, sex work for US military in South Korea, and the distinctive experiences of immigrant and migrant labor. The book argues that service economies and militarism have contributed to the rapid economic growth of South Korea, but have also had negative consequences for the well-being of workers and the stability of the country's society.

Through a multi-disciplinary approach, the book considers the historical and cultural contexts of South Korea, including its relationship with the United States during the Cold War, and the ways in which economic policies and military interventions have shaped the country's social and economic development. The book offers an alternative narrative of South Korean modernity, emphasizing the role of working-class labor in shaping the country's identity and economy.

The book concludes that South Korea's economic growth has been fueled by service economies and militarism, but at a cost to the well-being of workers and the community. It calls for a rethinking of the country's economic policies and social structures to ensure that workers are valued and respected, and that the country's modernity is built on a foundation of economic and social justice.

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