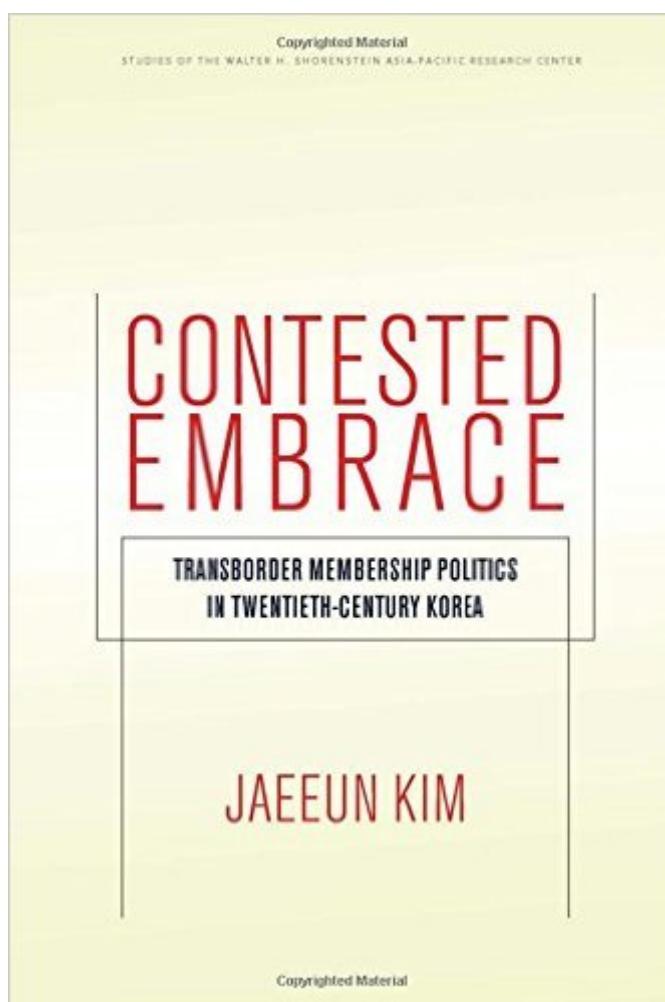


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Contested Embrace: Transborder Membership Politics In Twentieth-Century Korea (Studies Of The Walter H. Shorenstein Asi)



Synopsis

Scholars have long examined the relationship between nation-states and their "internal others," such as immigrants and ethnoracial minorities. Contested Embrace shifts the analytic focus to explore how a state relates to people it views as "external members" such as emigrants and diasporas. Specifically, Jaeeun Kim analyzes disputes over the belonging of Koreans in Japan and China, focusing on their contested relationship with the colonial and postcolonial states in the Korean peninsula. Extending the constructivist approach to nationalisms and the culturalist view of the modern state to a transnational context, Contested Embrace illuminates the political and bureaucratic construction of ethno-national populations beyond the territorial boundary of the state. Through a comparative analysis of transborder membership politics in the colonial, Cold War, and post-Cold War periods, the book shows how the configuration of geopolitics, bureaucratic techniques, and actors' agency shapes the making, unmaking, and remaking of transborder ties. Kim demonstrates that being a "homeland" state or a member of the "transborder nation" is a precarious, arduous, and revocable political achievement.

Book Information

Series: Studies of the Walter H. Shorenstein Asi

Hardcover: 360 pages

Publisher: Stanford University Press (July 20, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0804797625

ISBN-13: 978-0804797627

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1 x 9 inches

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

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Best Sellers Rank: #1,414,957 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #494 in Books > History > Asia > Korea #1299 in Books > Law > Legal Theory & Systems > Non-US Legal Systems #1377 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Political Science > Comparative Politics

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