

THE PROLETARIAN GAMBLE: Korean Workers in Interwar Japan. By **Ken C. Kawashima.** Durham and London: Duke University Press, 2009. x, 297 pp. (Tables, figures.) US\$23.95, paper. ISBN 978-0-8223-4417-9.

It can be difficult to prove discrimination in any state through ‘normal’ means of evidence. But, Ken Kawashima successfully confirms the reality of Japanese racial discrimination against Koreans in Japan during the interwar period (1918-1941) by focusing on Japanese landlord-Korean tenant and Japanese boss-Korean worker relations. He examines Korean’s housing insecurity by looking through court records of disputes between Japanese landlords and Korean tenants, a source which had previously not been used. He also explores intermediary exploitation in day labor markets. Kawashima’s most important contribution is in overturning a common belief concerning Korean tenant delinquency in paying rent: he reveals that Japanese were more often delinquent in paying rent than Koreans through a survey of Osaka City Hall data. He also stresses that the racial discrimination originated from structural problems. For instance, Korean tenants were forced to use Japanese names because Japanese landlords refused Koreans who used their own names. This proper name problem frequently brought an action suit by Japanese landlords. There would be very few Japanese landlords who would openly deny a contract with a foreigner these days in Japan; yet, more hidden discrimination and prejudice against tenants on the basis of their names (i.e. Japanese or not) is certainly not a problem that is restricted to the interwar period. This discriminatory structure also existed in colonial Korea, which experienced racial discrimination under colonial rule, and in other countries as well.

I would like to review Kawashima’s analysis of the day labor market and Korean migration patterns to Japan that Kawashima did not examine in his book. The analysis of the day labor market is an efficient strategy to glean the actions of the initial wave of Korean migrants to Japan. But I think Kawashima did not succeed in securing robust evidence of racial discrimination in day labor markets as compared to his housing insecurity analysis. For example, he analyzes the structure of *hamba*-fees, which included room and board, for day workers as a crucial point of racial discrimination in day labor markets. But, I do not see proof of racial discrimination in the *hamba*-fees data (83), since intermediary exploitation was widespread in early industrial relations. As Nimura Kazuo’s study demonstrates (*The Ashio Riot of 1907: A Social History of Mining in Japan*, Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 1997), intermediary exploitation by Japanese bosses of Japanese workers was a common feature of the initial stages of developing industrial relations. In other words, intermediary exploitation was not restricted to relations between Japanese bosses and Korean day workers.

During the interwar period, not only the Korean poor migrated to Japan. Kajimura Hideki (*Zainichi Chōsenjin ron* [A Study of Koreans in

Japan], Tokyo: Akashi Shoten, 1993) argued that it was Korean middle-class peasants who migrated to Japan during the interwar period through a case study of Dal-ri (Ulsan) in South Kyongnam province. Kajimura showed that it was the middle-class Koreans who had the resources to be able to afford the requisite travel and settlement expenses. This migration pattern would help explain the rise of Koreans as entrepreneurs after World War II that Han Chae-hyang has examined (*'Zainichi kigyō' no sangyō keizaishi: sono shakaiteki kiban to dynamism* [An Industrial and Economic History of Korean Companies in Japan: Their Social Bases and Dynamism], Nagoya: Nagoya University Press, 2010).

As a scholar most familiar with the academic landscapes of South Korea and Japan, I am still learning from the methodologies of Asian studies in North America, but this book struck me not only for its stimulating methodologies, but also for its careful empirical observation. This seems to me to be a relatively rare and praiseworthy combination in any academic setting.

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THE DYNAMICS OF CHANGE IN NORTH KOREA: An Institutional Perspective. Edited by **Philip H. Park**. Seoul (Korea): Institute for Far Eastern Studies, Kyungnam University; Boulder (CO): Distributed outside of North and South Korea by Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2009. 311 pp. (Tables, figures.) US\$35.00, paper. ISBN 978-89-8421-294-7.

North Korean economic change has been an important topic in North Korean studies. *The Dynamics of Change in North Korea* is a collection of seven articles dealing with North Korean economic institutional change. Most of the authors are native Koreans and delve into original (North) Korean sources to address the topic. The editor Phillip H. Park contends that North Korea is currently moving away from the socialist planned economy toward a market economy and that the success of North Korean economic reforms depends on the North's own efforts as well as its external relations, particularly those with the United States. Linking them to economic transformation, Dae-Kyu Yoon examines legal reforms and new legal phenomena, but believes that there is still a big gap between the law in print and the law in action in the economic sector.

Bong Dae Choi and Kab Woo Koo provide a good analysis of the development of North Korean markets, usually known as farmers' markets, in three North Korean cities from the 1950s through the 1980s. From the mid-1980s on, farmers' markets, which previously played a minor role, became important to the North Korean economy. The collapse of the public distribution system and the decline of people's anti-market sentiment