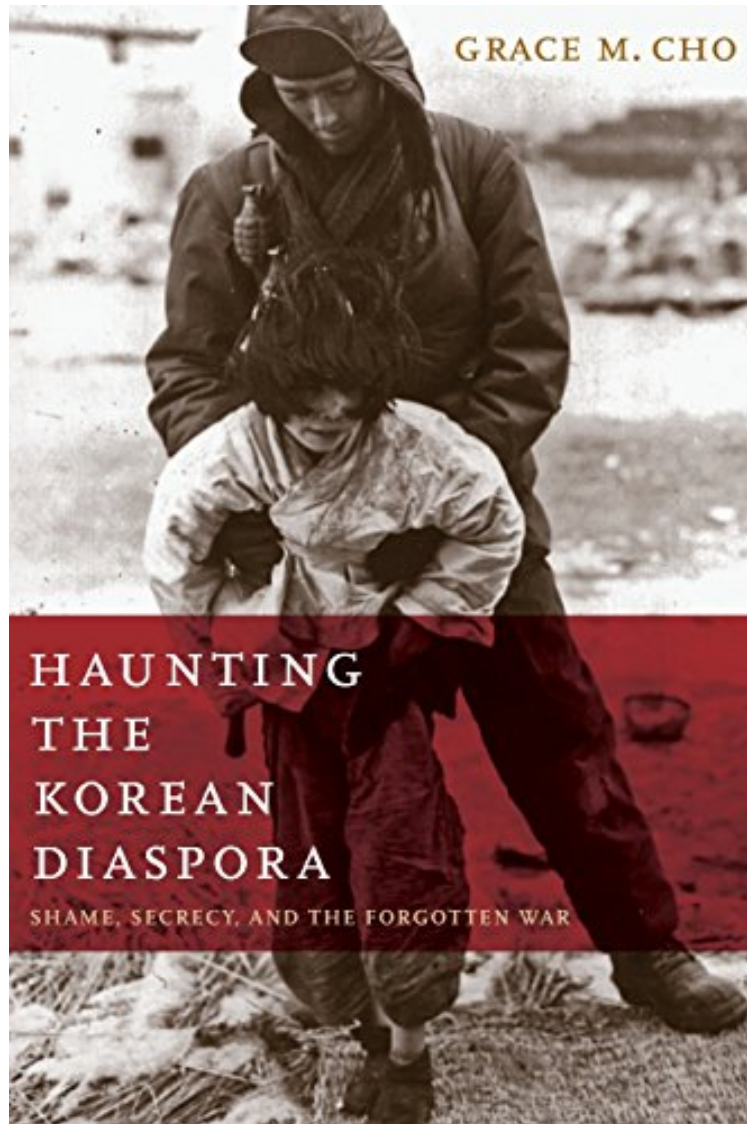


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Haunting the Korean Diaspora: Shame, Secrecy, and the Forgotten War

Grace M. Cho

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Grace M. Cho : Haunting the Korean Diaspora: Shame, Secrecy, and the Forgotten War before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Haunting the Korean Diaspora: Shame, Secrecy, and the Forgotten War:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. An elusive subject By James A. Zoller I like the book, as the stars indicate, but it is important to know that this is an academic study. Cho necessarily works to support her theories after

the manner of academic researchers both to place her work within an ongoing discussion and to give credence to an inherently problematic subject. The subject matter is by nature elusive, given that it rests on silence, absence, and the presence of ghost and transgenerational memories. There is a lot here to stimulate one's thinking and a lot of research for one to pursue as well. So if one is coming to the book with the understanding that it is, in fact, an academic study written in academic language, great. But if one is looking for a book with strong narratives, let's say as one finds in memoir or in fiction, this book will be a tough read. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Important book necessary to appreciate the history of Asian women during war and occupation by foreign troops for past 100 years. By Kermit L. Shields. Well written and presented, fascinating approach to understanding the mostly undocumented history of Asian women's pain and suffering for centuries. 8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. A non-academic reader strongly recommends. By Cynthia Rich. This powerful book is amazing--beautifully written, its creative approach opens up ways of understanding even more than its important subject. What can/do we do when we are faced with social and familial silences--how can those empty spaces be filled? In ways that feminists of the sixties and seventies would welcome, Cho blends the personal and the political, and shows how inextricably they are connected in women's lives. Cho also blends her serious academic research on her subject with the understandings that can come from art and dreams. It's all woven together in a flow that pulls the reader forward. I found this book almost unbearably painful and yet so illuminating. As someone who comes from 50 years of progressive and feminist activism and who was a young woman during the 1950-53 years, Cho's work showed me I didn't begin to know how much I didn't know. I strongly recommend Cho's work, of course to academics, of course to children of the Korean diaspora, but also to any reader who wants to understand her world better and to understand women's place in that world.

Since the Korean War, the forgotten war, more than a million Korean women have acted as sex workers for U.S. servicemen. More than 100,000 women married GIs and moved to the United States. Through intellectual vigor and personal recollection, *Haunting the Korean Diaspora* explores the repressed history of emotional and physical violence between the United States and Korea and the unexamined reverberations of sexual relationships between Korean women and American soldiers. Grace M. Cho exposes how Koreans in the United States have been profoundly affected by the forgotten war and uncovers the silences and secrets that still surround it, arguing that trauma memories have been passed unconsciously through a process psychoanalysts call transgenerational haunting. Tracing how such secrets have turned into ghosts, Cho investigates the mythic figure of the yanggongju, literally the Western princess, who provides sexual favors to American military personnel. She reveals how this figure haunts both the intimate realm of memory and public discourse, in which narratives of U.S. benevolence abroad and assimilation of immigrants at home go unchallenged. Memories of U.S. violence, Cho writes, threaten to undo these narratives and so they have been rendered unspeakable. At once political and deeply personal, Cho's wide-ranging and innovative analysis of U.S. neocolonialism and militarism under contemporary globalization brings forth a new way of understanding and remembering the impact of the Korean War.