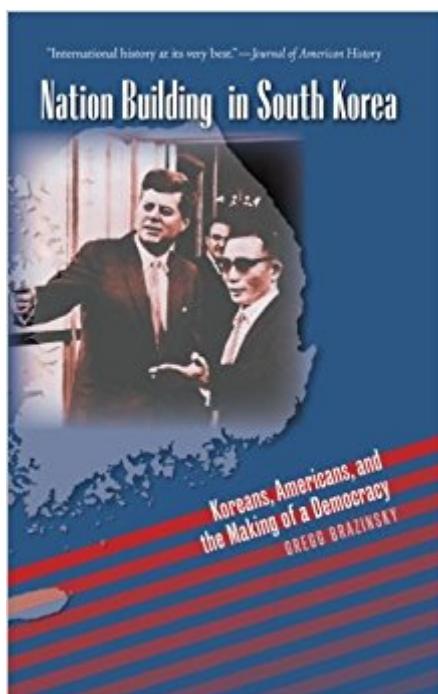


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Nation Building In South Korea: Koreans, Americans, And The Making Of A Democracy (The New Cold War History)



Synopsis

In this ambitious and innovative study Gregg Brazinsky examines American nation building in South Korea during the Cold War. Marshaling a vast array of new American and Korean sources, he explains why South Korea was one of the few postcolonial nations that achieved rapid economic development and democratization by the end of the twentieth century. Brazinsky contends that a distinctive combination of American initiatives and Korean agency enabled South Korea's stunning transformation. On one hand, Americans supported the emergence of a developmental autocracy that spurred economic growth in a highly authoritarian manner. On the other hand, Americans sought to encourage democratization from the bottom up by fashioning new institutions and promoting a dialogue about modernization and development. Expanding the framework of traditional diplomatic history, Brazinsky examines not only state-to-state relations, but also the social and cultural interactions between Americans and South Koreans. He shows how Koreans adapted, resisted, and transformed American influence and promoted socioeconomic change that suited their own aspirations. Ultimately, Brazinsky argues, Koreans' capacity to tailor American institutions and ideas to their own purposes was the most important factor in the making of a democratic South Korea.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Brazinsky, more than anyone else, has provided systematic, in-depth empirical evidence drawn

from both the U.S. and South Korea to illustrate the subtle and changing dynamics of the U.S.-South Korean patron-client relationship. . . . Brazinsky's work will surely be read profitably by all those interested in modern economic development, democratization, and nation-building. Students of U.S. foreign relations will also profit from this in-depth case study of U.S. foreign policy, whereby U.S. intervention has actually led to what is, overall, a successful nation-building exercise.--American Historical Review[One of] the most interesting books about South Korea. . . . For those who wonder how Korea came to be so heavily influenced by the U.S., historian Gregg Brazinsky has some answers. The author presents South Korea as a successful example of American nation building during the Cold War.--Wall Street JournalEven as successive U.S. political administrations prioritized security in [their] high-level dealings with South Korea, other U.S. agencies and organizations helped to build a more diverse and protodemocratic society from below. . . . Illuminates this complex dynamic in U.S.-South Korean relations.--Korean QuarterlyA fine example of the new international history. . . . An excellent analysis of a bilateral relationship.--Register of the Kentucky Historical SocietyOffers a complex and compelling narrative of the multilateral social, cultural and political connections between Americans and South Koreans during South Korea's formative years.--Pacific AffairsA major contribution to the study of a crucial period of South Korean development. . . . A particularly important and timely book, as it not only details the close US-South Korean co-operation and the extent of US assistance in this period, but it also underscores the difficulties that external assistance faces in the process of nation-building.--International History ReviewBrazinsky is at his best, providing engrossing details that add up to a visceral recreation of the South Korean experience. . . . A valuable contribution."--East Asian Science, Technology, and SocietyA refreshing, insightful look at nation building via South Korea. . . . Highly recommended.--ChoiceBrazinsky's fluency in the Korean language and tremendous research efforts allow him to present the voices of the people of the South and the formative role they played in their own evolution in more depth and sophistication than those who have written before him. . . . International history at its very best.--Journal of American History

Gregg Brazinsky's book is one of the finer treatments of the United States' choices and role in democracy building in South Korea in the early postwar years through Park Chung Hee's Yusin system. It is an empirically rich and original piece of work that should be read by all experts in the field as well as generalists of Asia and of politics.--Victor D. Cha, Georgetown UniversityWith the support of extensive multi-archival research and adopting a non-U.S.-centered approach, Brazinsky has produced a highly original and provocative study on the complicated relationships between the

shaping of democracy and a democratic way of life in South Korea and America's changing Korean policies during the Cold War. This is a superb study that anyone who is interested in modern Korean history and international politics across the Pacific and in East Asia would benefit from reading.--Chen Jian, Cornell University This is a pathbreaking book on U.S.-Korean relations and on the 'miracle on the Han.' It is essential reading for all students of nation building and for anyone who doubts the centrality of diplomatic history to the study of the past.--William Stueck, University of Georgia

The author understands how Korea became the economic power it is for a smaller country. How thanks to Park Chung Hee, Korea developed from a poor country depending upon US aid to a relatively wealthy nation and made it possible to have the open democratic country Korea is today. Look where the Philippines and Korea were in 1961 and compare them in 1990's. Korea looked at how Japan became industrialized, Japan looked at Germany and Great Britain, while following the English example of protection of homeland industry and exporting of products paying off loans. Korea also targeted industries to be the drivers of their economy and promoted nationalism to keep the businesses in line with overall goals.

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Great Book!!!!!!!!!!!!

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