

undergraduate, graduate, or law school level, and for activists in any area of human rights.

Mary Rumsey
Foreign, Comparative & International Law Librarian
University of Minnesota Law Library
Minneapolis, MN USA

Law and Society in Korea. Edited by Hyunah Yang. Cheltenham, UK; Northampton, MA, USA: Edward Elgar Publishing Limited, 2013. Pp. xvii, 236. ISBN 978-1-84844-338-9. UK£70.00; US \$120.00

South Korea traces its history back thousands of years, but it only became a constitutional democracy in the late 1980s. This dramatic change in the country's system of government has led to equally dramatic changes throughout Korean society. The essays in *Law and Society in Korea* offer a fascinating glimpse into just a few of these socio-legal changes in particular.

Editor Hyunah Yang has brought together ten essays from leading Korean legal scholars. Four of the essays appeared in legal journals from 2006 to 2009; however, they have each been revised for this publication. The remaining six essays are printed here for the first time. The book is divided into three general areas of study: History and Culture, Theory and Methodological Questions, and Critical Issues in Law and Society in Korea. Within these broad confines, the authors examine a wide range of topics, including the rule of law as viewed through the lens of three forms of power, the impact of patriarchy and tradition on the modern state, the development of public interest law, and Korea's recent legal education reforms.

Each of the essays provide unique insights into Korea's socio-legal environment. Individual essays also tend to complement each other. For instance, Ilhyung Lee's essay details a survey designed to gauge citizens' perceptions of equality and dispute resolution. Respondents were asked to judge whether or not a set of hypothetical facts were discriminatory and/or illegal. While a very high percentage said the situation was discriminatory, far fewer also saw them as illegal. This led the author to conclude, amongst other things, that members of this still-developing legal system are continuing to grow and change in their perceptions of law too. Similarly, Jeong-Oh Kim's essay studies changes in crime rates and comes to a similar conclusion that "[t]here is a considerable gap between citizens' law-abiding behavior and their consciousness of rights."

Extensive notes and references follow each chapter. Some back and forth examination of these two sections is required if the reader wants to know the particular resource being cited, however. In other words, the notes section

tracks with the text and provides a brief reference to an author and year, but the full publication information is only provided in the alphabetically-arranged references section. This is not overly burdensome for the casual reader, but could mean extra work for the scholar interested in a closer examination. Happily, the book's index is not only robust but easy to navigate as well.

Law and Society in Korea is part of a series on the Korean legal system, which Edward Elgar is publishing in association with the Law Research Institute of Seoul National University. Other titles examine litigation, trade law and regulation, and business law. This title in particular is recommended both for those scholars and practitioners interested in Korean society in particular as well as those wanting to take a look at the impact a young, developing legal system is having on a society as a whole.

Deborah Schander
Reference/Student Services Librarian
Georgia State University College of Law Library
Atlanta, GA USA