

Northeast Asia's Difficult Past

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Northeast Asia's Difficult Past

Essays in Collective Memory

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Introduction, selection and editorial matter © Mikyoung Kim and Barry Schwartz 2010
Individual chapters © contributors 2010
Softcover reprint of the hardcover 1st edition 2010 978-0-230-23747-6

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First published 2010 by
PALGRAVE MACMILLAN

Palgrave Macmillan in the UK is an imprint of Macmillan Publishers Limited, registered in England, company number 785998, of Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 6XS.

Palgrave Macmillan in the US is a division of St Martin's Press LLC, 175 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10010.

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ISBN 978-1-349-31485-0 ISBN 978-0-230-27742-7 (eBook)
DOI 10.1057/9780230277427

This book is printed on paper suitable for recycling and made from fully managed and sustained forest sources. Logging, pulping and manufacturing processes are expected to conform to the environmental regulations of the country of origin.

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Northeast Asia's difficult past: essays in collective memory / edited by Mikyoung Kim, Barry Schwartz.

p. cm. — (Palgrave Macmillan memory studies)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

1. Japan—History—20th century.
 2. Collective memory—Japan.
 3. Nationalism and collective memory—Japan.
 4. China—History—20th century.
 5. Collective memory—China.
 6. Nationalism and collective memory—China.
 7. Korea—History—20th century.
 8. Collective memory—Korea.
 9. Nationalism and collective memory—Korea.
 10. Asia—Relations—Case studies.
- I. Kim, Mikyoung, 1963—
II. Schwartz, Barry, 1938—
DS885.2.N67 2010
951.05—dc22

2010002701

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10

*To Sunjung Clara and Jihong Eliote
and
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The cover photo, designed by Tim Liao, consists of three photographs, one each from the three core countries of Northeast Asia: China, Korea and Japan. Each photo forms one layer of the finished design. The first layer is a photo of the Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo, with its iconic *torii*, a Japanese gate at the entrance of the Shinto shrine, and chrysanthemum symbols also used as the imperial seal. The second layer is a 2001 photo showing a South Korean civic group protesting the revision of a Japanese history textbook at the Japanese embassy in Seoul. The angry man in glasses holds protest banners urging a boycott of Japanese products in retaliation for Japan's distortion of history. The third layer of the photo portrays Shanghai protests against 2005 Japanese textbook revisions. The young men in the lower part of the image hold a long white banner urging all to "Protest against Japanese History Textbooks!" Like the three merged photographs, national memory can be multilayered, fused and con-fused, with events from various sources. By capturing this effect, the photo design previews the volume by reflecting Northeast Asia's memory wars. Tim Liao's own contribution to this volume appears in Chapter 6.

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Acknowledgement

With generous funding from the Hiroshima City University—Hiroshima Peace Institute, two workshops were held to produce this volume.

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