



## **Imperatives of Culture: Selected Essays on Korean History, Literature, and Society from the Japanese Colonial Era (Korean Classics Library: Philosophy and Religion)**

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## **Imperatives of Culture: Selected Essays on Korean History, Literature, and Society from the Japanese Colonial Era (Korean Classics Library: Philosophy and Religion)**

This volume contains translations--many appearing for the first time in the English language--of major literary, critical, and historical essays from the colonial period (1910-1945) in Korea. Considered representative of the debates among and between Korean and Japanese thinkers of the colonial period, these texts shed light on relatively unexplored aspects of intellectual life and take part in current conversations around the nature of the colonial experience and its effects on post-liberation Korean society and culture. The essays, each preceded by a scholarly introduction giving necessary historical and biographical context, represent a diverse spectrum of ideological positions and showcase the complexity of intellectual life and scholarship in colonial Korea. They allow new perspectives on an important period in Korean history, a period that continues to inform political, social, and cultural life in crucial ways across East Asia. The translations also provide an important counterpoint to the imperial archive from the perspective of the colonized and take part in the ongoing reevaluation of the colonial period and "colonial modernity" in both Western and East Asian scholarship. Imperatives of Culture is intended in part for the increasing number of undergraduate and graduate students in Korean studies as well as for those engaged in the study of East Asia as a whole and a general, educated audience with interests in modern Korea and East Asia. The essays have been carefully selected and introduced in ways that open up avenues for comparison with analyses of colonial literature and history in other national contexts.

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