



What is “Comfort Women” ?

The term “comfort women” refers simply to prostitutes in wartime. Koreans have long been promoting the “Discount Japan campaign” with a false version of history that Japan abducted hundreds of thousands of Korean women and coerced them into sexual services for Japanese soldiers outside of Japan during World War II.

This is, for practical and logical reasons, a fictitious version of history.

The U.S. Military Official Document says...

The U.S. Military official document “Japanese Prisoner of War Interrogation Report No. 49.” exclusively and vividly shows how well comfort women were treated. They were simply not sex slaves.

**UNITED STATES
OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION**
Psychological Warfare Team
Attached to
U.S. Army Forces
India-Burma Theater
APO 689

Japanese Prisoner
of War Interrogation
Report No. 49.

Place interrogated: Ledo Stockade
Date Interrogated: Aug. 20 - Sept. 10, 1944
Date of Report: October 1, 1944
By: T/3 Alex Yorichi

Prisoners: 20 Korean Comfort Girls
Date of Capture: August 10, 1944
Date of Arrival: August 15, 1944
at Stockade

PREFACE

This report is based on the information obtained from the interrogation of twenty Korean "comfort girls" and two Japanese civilians captured around the tenth of August, 1944 in the mopping up operations after the fall of Myitkyin in Burma.

The report shows how the Japanese recruited these Korean "comfort girls", the conditions under which they lived and worked, their relations with and reaction to the Japanese soldier, and their understanding of the military situation.

A "comfort girl" is nothing more than a prostitute or "professional camp follower" attached to the Japanese Army for the benefit of the soldiers. The word "comfort girl" is peculiar to the Japanese. Other reports show the "comfort girls" have been found wherever it was necessary for the Japanese Army to fight. This report however deals only with the Korean "comfort girls" recruited by the Japanese and attached to their Army in Burma. The Japanese are reported to have shipped some 703 of these girls to Burma in 1942.

High Paying Job

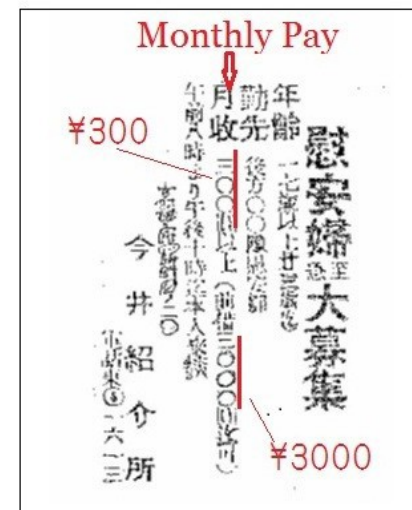
A Korean woman named Moon Ok-ju, a former prostitute who worked in Burma, visited the Shimonoseki post office in Japan to withdraw her savings and found out her original ledger was discovered and confirmed.

In Japan, the post office has several banking functions. She worked in Burma during the period of two years and three months between June 1943 and September 1945, and accumulated a total savings of 26,145 yen in deposits at the military post office. In the 1940s, 5,000 yen would have been enough to purchase a house in Tokyo.

| 年 | 月 | 日 | 種別 | 金額 |
|------|----|----|----|------|
| 1943 | 6 | 2 | 新規 | 500 |
| 1943 | 7 | 10 | 貯蓄 | 700 |
| 1943 | 8 | 15 | 貯蓄 | 550 |
| 1943 | 9 | 18 | 貯蓄 | 900 |
| 1943 | 10 | 2 | 貯蓄 | 780 |
| 1943 | 11 | 6 | 貯蓄 | 820 |
| 1944 | 2 | 12 | 貯蓄 | 950 |
| 1944 | 3 | 10 | 貯蓄 | 850 |
| 1945 | 5 | 18 | 貯蓄 | 250 |
| 1945 | 6 | 21 | 貯蓄 | 200 |
| 1945 | 4 | 4 | 貯蓄 | 5560 |
| 1945 | 4 | 26 | 貯蓄 | 5000 |
| 1945 | 5 | 23 | 貯蓄 | 1000 |
| 1946 | 9 | 29 | 貯蓄 | 300 |
| 1946 | 21 | 1 | 貯蓄 | 640 |
| 1946 | 22 | 1 | 貯蓄 | 680 |
| 1946 | 23 | 1 | 貯蓄 | 220 |
| 1946 | 24 | 1 | 貯蓄 | 250 |
| 1946 | 25 | 1 | 貯蓄 | 220 |
| 1946 | 26 | 1 | 貯蓄 | 80 |
| 1946 | 27 | 1 | 貯蓄 | 80 |
| 1946 | 28 | 1 | 貯蓄 | 215 |

Newspaper advertisements

Newspaper advertisements recruiting comfort women appeared in the *Keijo Nippo* and *Mainichi Shinpo*, the large Korean daily papers during that era, stating that remuneration was 300 yen per a month, and that advances of up to 3,000 yen might be granted. The monthly salary for a Japanese Army private was 7.5 yen and a sergeant was 30 yen at the time.



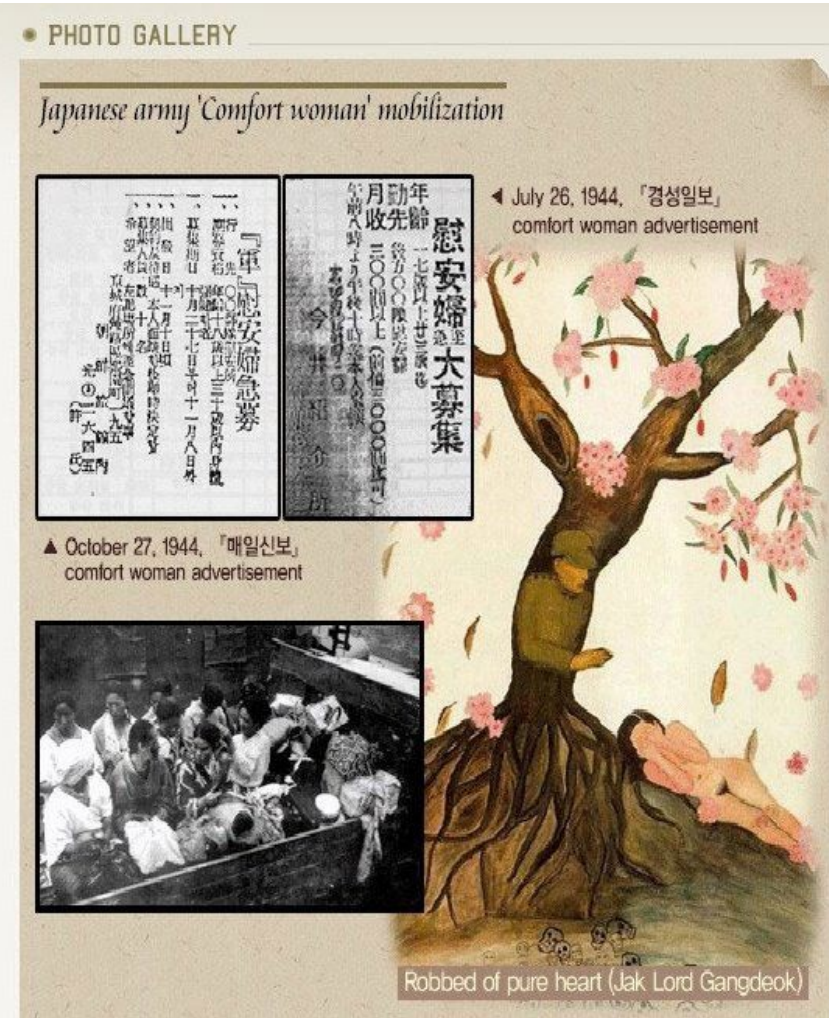
Advertisement in *Mainichi Shinpo* Japanese and Korean-language newspaper published in Korea.

Advertisement in *Keijo Nippo Seoul Daily*, Japanese language newspaper published in Keijo, the colonial capital of Korea.

October 27th 1944 edition

July 26th 1944 edition

Odd enough to appear in



Source material released by the Korean government in an attempt to demonstrate that Korean women were coerced into serving as comfort women. Strangely enough, it includes newspaper advertisements on page 4.

Credibility of Accusation by Lee Yong-Soo

Lee Yong-Soo is a former comfort woman who lives in Seoul at Nanum House, a home for former comfort women. She visited Japan several times to tell her story.

| | | Date of testimony | Circumstances of kidnapping |
|---|---|-------------------|---|
| 1 | Report submitted to Korean Council for Women Drafted for Sexual Slavery by Japan Akashi Shoten, ed., <i>Shogen: kyosei renko saretta Chosenjin gun ianfutachi (Testimonies of forcibly recruited Korean comfort women)</i> (Tokyo: Akashi Shoten, 1993), pp. 131-143. | 1992 | Delighted to receive a red dress and leather shoes from a man wearing clothing resembling a uniform. Went along with him right away (otherwise, same as 6). |
| 2 | Women's International War Crimes Tribunal on Japan's Military Sexual Slavery | December 2000 | Deceived by Japanese man (comfort station proprietor) |
| 3 | <i>Akahata</i> (Japan Press Weekly, Japanese Communist Party's paper) article | 26 June 2002 | Kidnapped at bayonet point at the age of 14.. |
| 4 | Speech at Kyoto University in Japan | 12 April 2004 | Kidnapped by a man wearing clothing resembling a People's Army uniform. |
| 5 | Community meeting at Koshigaya (Saitama Prefecture, Japan) | 08 March 2005 | Kidnapped by a man wearing clothing resembling a military uniform and brandishing a rifle. |
| 6 | Hearing at U.S. House of Representatives | 15 February 2007 | In the autumn of 1944, when I was 16 years old, my friend, Kim Punsun, and I were collecting shellfish at the riverside when we noticed an elderly man and a Japanese man looking down at us from the hillside. The older man pointed at us with his finger, and the Japanese man started to walk towards us. The older man disappeared, and the Japanese beckoned to us to follow him. |

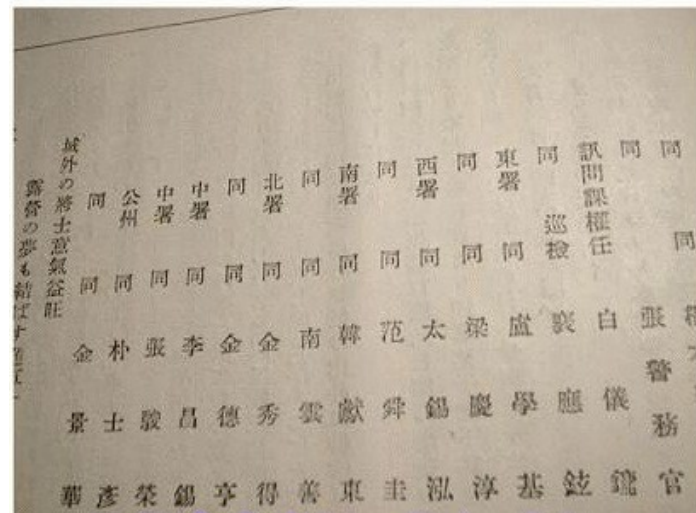
| | | | |
|---|---|------------------------|---|
| | | | I was scared and ran away, not caring about what happened to my friend. A few days later, Punsun knocked on my window early in the morning, and whispered to me to follow her quietly. I tip-toed out of the house after her. I lift without telling my mother. I was wearing a dark skirt, a long cotton blouse buttoned up at the front and slippers on my feet. I followed my friend until we met the same man who had tried to approach us on the riverbank. He looked as if he was in his late thirties and he wore a sort of People's Army uniform with a combat cap. Altogether, there were five girls with him, including myself. |
| 7 | <i>Japan Times</i> article Testimony given at House of Councillors' Building on February 21, 2007. | 22 February 2007 | "On an evening in 1944, Japanese soldiers forced their way into 14-year-old Lee's home and dragged her out by the neck." |
| 8 | Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan Lee's testimony and a taped question-and-answer session | 02 March 2007 | A soldier and a woman entered her house between 2:00 and 3:00 a.m. on a bright moonlit night. [The soldier] pointed a sword at her, covered her mouth and removed her from her house. The three later met up with another soldier accompanied by three women; Lee was then put on a train. |
| 9 | <i>New York Times</i> article Based on testimony given by Lee at the U.S. House of Representatives on February 15, 2007. | 06 March 2007 | "Japanese soldiers had dragged her from her home, covering her mouth so she could not call to her mother." |

Reference: Hata Ikuhiko, *Maborosino "Jyugun-ianfu" wo netuzousita Kounodanwa ha kounaose!* (Tokyo: Shokun, May 2007); English title: *No organized or forced recruitment misconceptions about comfort women and the Japanese military.* [http://www.sdh-fact.com/CL02_1/31_S4.pdf page10]

From December 1991 to August 1993, the Japanese government conducted careful investigations and examination of the related documents and listened to the testimony of witnesses from both Japanese and Korean. Based on their careful research, the Japanese government officially denied enforceability.

The police officers were Korean

During the annexation of Korea by Japan, all the mayors of the villages in Korea were Korean, and most of the police officers were Korean. The South Koreans insist that 200,000 women were abducted by the Japanese troops from villages. To abduct such a huge number of women would not have been easy. If Japanese troops had abducted them, where were all the village mayors and policemen to guard the women? Why weren't there anti-Japan movements?



Testimonies not backed by provable facts

In 1983, a former Japanese soldier and later writer for *Asahi Shimbun*, Seiji Yoshida, suddenly claimed that Japanese soldiers had hunted for Korean women in Cheju to force them into sex service for Japanese soldiers. However, elderly Korean who were familiar with the situation during that time denied this claim in the Cheju newspaper in 1989. One 85-year old woman at that time said that if 15 women had actually been forcibly taken away from a village with only 250 families, it would have been big news, but she said that did not happen. Yoshida admitted lie in 1995.

After 40 years since war, with agitation from Japanese leftist groups, many Korean women suddenly started speaking out, saying, "I was one of the comfort women" to possibly receive a large compensation from the Japanese government in 1991.

The testimonies of these women simply lacks credibility because their "facts" change with each time of telling. As shown in previous page, it has been documented that some of these women have changed their stories more than ten times. Their testimonies are not backed by provable facts or documentation.

Japanese government's effort against inhumane crimes involving women

The Korean police, then under Japanese control, was ordered to arrest procurers who coerced women into serving as comfort women. The article below concludes by saying that when the police arrested the procurers, there would be full disclosure of the methods used by malicious brokers; for instance, cajoling women into becoming prostitutes by promising extraordinarily high wages. As the article clearly demonstrates, the Japanese government dealt severely with inhumane crimes against women, and the military neither kidnapped nor abducted women.



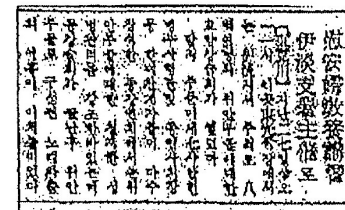
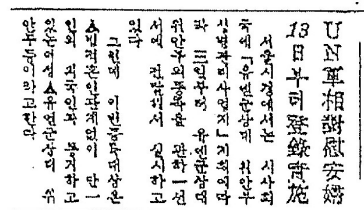
August 31, 1939 edition of the Korean newspaper *Toa Nippo* (East Asian Newspaper)

What were American GIs doing in Korea?

Articles appearing in *Dong-a Ilbo*, one of Korea's leading dailies, on January 31 and September 14, 1961 answer the question.

The January 31 article describes a training course for 800 prostitutes conducted by US Army officers and Korean police. Taking strict precautions to prevent the spread of venereal disease was the main focus of the program. The September 14 article states that the police in Seoul had asked municipal authorities to oversee the registration of prostitutes who serviced United Nations Command soldiers, again in an attempt to prevent the spread of venereal disease.

US and UN military personnel procured prostitutes locally with the cooperation of the Korean government. The brothels for many foreign militaries did exist and were not particularly unusual.



Articles from *Dong-a Ilbo* dated January 31, 1961 (left) and September 14 of the same year (right) about Korean government establishing brothels for American GIs



“Hey GI boys! Follow what sign says!”

Yoshihisa Komori of Japan’s *Sankei Shinbun* newspaper was interviewed on the comfort women issue for the PBS series *Foreign Exchange* with Fareed Zakaria on March 29, 2007. This was just when US Congressman Mike Honda’s Resolution 121, which calls on the Japanese government to apologize for having forced young women to become sex slaves during World War II, was discussed in the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

[video: <http://tinyurl.com/bzoq8w6>]

Fareed Zakaria: Japan’s new Prime Minister Shinzo Abe sparked outrage in Asia and beyond when he recently said that there was no evidence that Japan’s Army had forced women to work in military brothels during World War II. The acknowledgement of and apologies for the so-called comfort women has been a stumbling block to better relations with Japan’s powerful neighbors China and South Korea. We are joined by Yoshihisa Komori of Japan’s daily *Sankei Shinbun* for a closer look at this hot topic.

Komori-san, why did Abe feel he had to make that statement?

Yoshihisa Komori : Because he has been asserting that the Japanese military as a matter of policy never coerced the recruitment of young women in Asia.

There have been some isolated cases where



soldiers and officers who are defying the orders from above forcefully taken away some unfortunate ladies, young ladies, China or Indonesia. But again, there’s no proof that the Japanese military as a policy as a whole did such thing.

FZ: But the number of women involved, the scale of it, seems to suggest some kind of systematic effort and the women themselves claim that they were made to, they were almost screened by military authorities so it does seem to have a systemic or institutional aspect to the policy.

YK: Yes, I think Japanese leadership and the people acknowledge that there’s a systematic involvement or systematic running of brothels of prostitution; the systematic way. But again it’s based on a voluntary basis and there were ...

FZ: You mean voluntary by the military officers. Not by the women?

YK: No, by women. They were. You may be surprised to hear this but there are lots of the newspaper ads and some other commercial advertisements for recruitment for those women. Remind you though, sadly the prostitution per se was legal in those days. Not just in Japan. And between women and the Japanese military there’s a huge sort of business people who were running these brothels for the military, maybe at the request

of the military. So yes, the military was involved but the military never as a policy was coercing those women and that's the sort of complexity of the issue.

FZ: But there are certainly women who claim to have been coerced.

YK: There were a few cases coerced by those merchants of prostitution. Sometimes the whole family was in debt and instead the parents decided to pretty much sell, human trafficking in other words the very saddest form, those daughters to prostitution houses in exchange for some money. So, in that case on the individual basis on the part of women, yes, there is a coercion.

FZ: But the military was paying for it. Just to get at this institutional nature of the sex trade. As I understand it the soldiers were not paying for the prostitutes but the military as institution was contracting with the intermediaries, buying the services of these women, and providing them to its soldiers.

YK: But each soldier was paying. Yes, the individuals. There are whole record [of it] and many of the women... Again, I don't want to sound like I'm endorsing those sad obviously wrong acts but the fact remains on one hand that some of the women were making a lot of money on the record. They were sending, remitting their money home to their parents and some of them were making much more money than the Japanese Prime Minister [then].

FZ: You're saying that the military in its official capacity never paid for these services?

YK: No, they probably paid for the people who are running the prostitution houses but not the sex itself.

FZ: But there was a setup. There were houses in which on military camps. There were

places where this was being done. The military must have been housing these people.

YK: Yes, that's right.

FZ: They created the infrastructure.

YK: They created the infrastructure and for that, the Japanese government and successive Prime Ministers acknowledged the wrongdoing of the past and apologized.

FZ: Why is it that apology if it was made seems to be one that has not been accepted or taken as a real apology in either South Korea or China?



YK: See, there's a certain element outside Japan that would never seem to be willing to accept the Japanese apology. Succession, I mean all the Japanese Prime Ministers in the past 14 years- 15 years individually or collectively apologized but that's not enough. Now they say we have to pass the resolution for apology, you know. A hurdle always has been raised. But remind you, this is a part of the War effort. And the whole War effort conducted by Japan was punished to death. We paid the price. All those War criminals have been tried and executed. The entire of Nations subjected itself to the winners of the, victors of the World War II, resulting in execution and reparation and the San Francisco Peace Treaty and all that, you know. So what more can we do? That's our feeling, you know. They are nitpicking and I think the

essence of this issue from the Japanese perspective is double-jeopardy, double-standards, and a tinge of racism.

Why do we have to be held responsible forever and ever for something that our, the people in the two generations, three generations ago did and [which] we acknowledged that was wrong thing. We apologized for it but again somehow the way we apologized is not enough or the way we paid money was not enough. It just comes again and again and again.

Look at Japan now. It's a purely democratic, sort of, have a lot of faith in the democracy and humanism.

We have been making a very significant contribution to the international humanitarian causes [through] ODA or other forms. Why do we have to be so attacked and put in a sort of inferior position morally, I mean?

FZ: You said racism but the attacks are really coming from South Korea and China. The United States has actually been very quiet on this issue as an official matter.



YK: Look at what's going on at House of Representatives in the US.

FZ: No, I mean the Executive Branch has not been pushing you hard on this. It's China and South Korea that you're facing the most criticism from.

YK: Criticism is now coming from the United States. New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, and Boston Globe. They are bashing Japan and the Japanese leadership as if there is something wrong in the Japanese DNA. None of us was around when these things happened. The comparison between Germany and Japan; what the Nazi Germany did [was] just annihilation, premeditated decision made at the top of the national government to annihilate one entire race, ethnic group that had nothing to do with the War, whereas in Japan there's no such thing even remotely. Everything that Japan has been accused of, happened in the battlefield with the parties, the warring parties.

FZ: You know that it causes problems for Japan in East Asia, particularly with the Chinese and the South Koreans, whatever the merits of the issue.

Why did Abe feel ... why did the Prime Minister feel he had to do something like this now? Is it some people claim that he has been losing ground in the polls [so that] he needed to sure up his support and this was a way of throwing an issue to his nationalistic right-winged base?

YK: No, I really have to turn the table around. Prime Minister Abe only reacted to the bunch of questions raised by the Japanese reporters on the resolution that was brought and about to be voted on in the House of Representatives of the United States. So our question is why do they have to bring up this issue now? We haven't said anything about this. We have not either negatively or positively.

So only because of this House of Representatives resolution did Abe have to say something because the resolution specifically calls for un-equitable, a national apology which Abe said that [we] have apologized, so he doesn't need to apologized anymore.

FZ: But he also said that the military was not involved in an official capacity.

YK: So official capacity or not, that's the policy. I mean, that's pretty much an established fact. You really have to show us [that] the military's top level made a decision. Any proof that they were coercing, they were ordering the coerced recruitment of the young women.

FZ: How does Japan get out of this situation? When Japan tried to get permanent seat in the UN Security Council, it was stunning how little support it had. I mean in all of Asia the only country that gave it its qualified support was Singapore.

Despite the fact that Japan has given tens of billions of dollars of aid to all of these countries, I think it's almost \$30 billion to China alone. How does Japan get out of this trap where its image seems tied to what happened during World War II? And its reaction and its handling of that past?

YK: The past 50 years or so, I think the Japanese attitude as well as government policy was to say nothing against any charges. Just showing our democratic nature and the humanitarian policy but by these policies. But certainly that didn't work so I think what you may be seeing from now is the Japanese leadership or Japanese people are speaking out. For instance, there's no such thing as a military top decision or policy decision to coerce women even though there are people who say there was.

But so now I think people more and more need to be speaking out and engaged in a dialogue, a discussion or a debate. I think quietly accepting any charges and by doing all those good things just doesn't work. There's a profound disappointment, sadness, and resentment on the part of many people in Japan now. You may be seeing a new Japan. This is seriously beginning to erode the Japanese American alliance. Because the kind of people whose pride and other feelings are hurt by this incessant accusation against

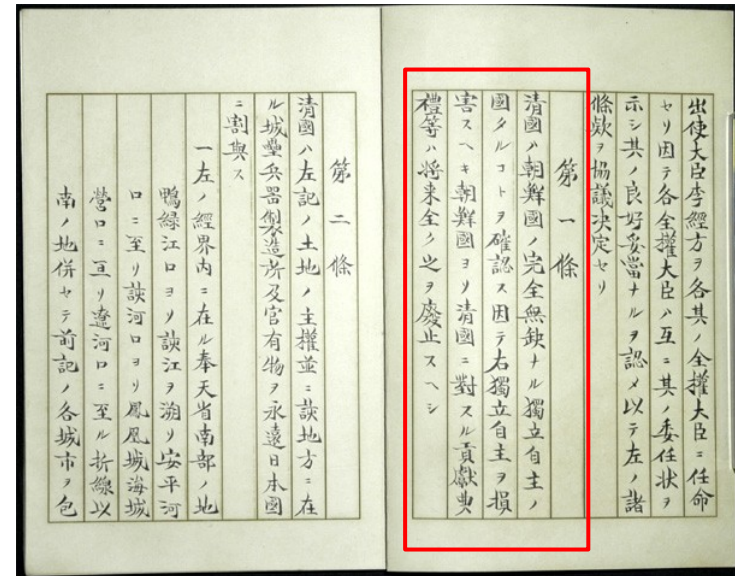
Japan are the people who most vigorously supported the alliance. They're more based on democracy with the United States while countries like India or Australia, Britain or France. But somehow they take something because there's a even behind this current move against Japan.

There is a Chinese move. Congressman Mike Honda of California has been receiving a huge amount of political donations from the Chinese activists who are associated with the Chinese organization. Interestingly there's very little supportive activists from Korea.

So I see this as a diplomatic maneuver on the part of certain countries to keep Japan in a emasculated way or inferior way just portraying Japan as if the country or the people who are sort of genetically wrong or something inferior. That's how strongly I feel.

FZ: Well, it's always a pleasure to talk to you Komori San. Thank you.

Shimonoseki treaty signed after the First Sino-Japanese War (1894–1895)



In Article 1, it reads "China recognizes definitively the full and complete independence and autonomy of Korea, and, in consequence, the payment of tribute and the performance of ceremonies and formalities by Korea to China, that are in derogation of such independence and autonomy, shall wholly cease for the future." This shows that Japan helped Korea to gain its independence which eliminated danger for daughters who were sent against their will to China as a tribute .

Japanese military sexual slavery is completely at odds with historical truth. Wide-spread misconceptions by Korean are a violation of our country's dignity and honor.

This could negatively affect our relationship with all nations. Japanese are distressed by this situation and wish to resolve global misinterpretations and misinformation about the comfort women.