



South Koreans in the Debt Crisis: The Creation of a Neoliberal Welfare Society

By Jesook Song

Duke University Press. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, South Koreans in the Debt Crisis: The Creation of a Neoliberal Welfare Society, Jesook Song, "South Koreans in the Debt Crisis" is a detailed examination of the logic underlying the neoliberal welfare state that South Korea created in response to the devastating Asian Debt Crisis (1997-2001). Jesook Song argues that while the government proclaimed that it would guarantee all South Koreans a minimum standard of living, it treated as most deserving of assistance those citizens perceived as embodying the neoliberal ideals of employability, flexibility, and self-sufficiency. Song demonstrates that the government was not alone in drawing distinctions between the 'deserving' and the 'undeserving' poor. Progressive intellectuals, activists, and organizations were also drawn into the neoliberal reform project. Song traces the circulation of neoliberal concepts throughout South Korean society, among government officials, the media, intellectuals, NGO members, and educated underemployed people working in public works programs. She analyzes the embrace of partnerships between NGOs and the government, the frequent invocation of a pervasive decline in family values, the resurrection of conservative gender norms and practices, and the promotion of entrepreneurship as the key to survival. Drawing on her experience during the Crisis...



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