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Cold War brotherhood contested: KATUSAs, slicky boys, American G.I.s, and the Status of Forces Agreement in post-armistice South Korea, 1954–1966 (Article)

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Abstract

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As the largest contingent of Americans in postwar South Korea, the G.I. best represented the United States' Cold War objectives. Their deployment was an emblem of hard power containment, but the G.I. also embodied soft power integration, and through both, G.I.s helped to promote Pax Americana. This article focuses on the militarized masculinity of these ambassadors of America and their people-to-people diplomacy in South Korea between 1954 and 1966. These American G.I.s constructed their militarized masculinity vis-à-vis the Korean male Other, their "lesser" counterparts—the hapless houseboy, the inferior partner soldier, and the menacing slicky boy. At the same time, this liberal imperialism did not go uncontested. Violent imaginaries of the American G.I. from the borderlands were used by Koreans to demand a new bilateral framework—the Status of Forces Agreement in 1966—to replace the outmoded wartime extraterritorial jurisdiction wielded by the American military after cessation of hostilities on the Korean peninsula in 1953. The militarized masculinity practiced in everyday encounters, thus, became the basis of a critique of American liberal imperialism in one of the United States closest Cold War "brother" nations. © 2019, © 2019 BCAS, Inc.

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
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