

在米の皆様へ

米カリフォルニア州の公立高校が2017年度から導入する歴史・社会科学のカリキュラム改正案に日本軍の慰安婦問題が盛り込まれています。その内容とは
“「慰安婦」は戦前戦中に占領地で日本軍に連れていかれた性奴隷の婉曲的な表現です。「慰安婦」は性奴隷制度の例で、20世紀最大の人身売買の一つです。慰安婦の総数は見方によって違いますが、何十万もの女性が日本占領期間に強制的にこのような状況に置かれたと言われています。”
という事実を著しく歪曲したものです。

このような誤った歴史を学校で子供たちに学ばしてはなりません。また日本人や日系人への差別や偏見の原因となったり、その子弟への嫌がらせやイジメの原因となりかねません。

そこで、皆様へのお願いです。以下の3つの方法によって(できることならすべて)カリフォルニア教育委員会へ歴史授業の内容を変更するよう請願を出して下さいませんか？

<その1> カリフォルニア州教育委員会 のウェブサイトに行き、コメントを残す。改定案への意見受付は2月29日まで。方法と記入例は次ページを参照ください。

<その2>メール を教育委員会へ送る

メアド HSSframework@cde.ca.gov 改定案への意見受付は2月29日まで。例文は<その1>のあと。

<その3>

電子メールを持たないご高齢の方などのために、どなたか署名を集めて下さいませんか？署名用紙はスキャンして truthseekercomfortwomen@gmail.com までお送りください(期限は2月27日)。その後、29日の期限までにまとめて提出します。

署名用紙には住所が記されますので、個人情報であるお名前と住所を見ず知らずの他人に教えるのには抵抗がある、という方がいらっしゃいましたら、署名用紙は、<その2>でメッセージを電子メールを教育委員会へ送る際に添付pdfとしてお送りください。ただ、どれくらいの方が直筆署名にご協力頂けたか把握し、その数をこちらからも教育委員会へ報告したいので、truthseekercomfortwomen@gmail.com へは、住所の部分などを見えなくした形でpdfを送って下されば幸いです。

Change.orgの署名 (<https://goo.gl/pZJXTI>)について

とあるアメリカ人の方から、以下のような貴重な意見を頂きました。

(1) Japanese people must STOP saying, "Comfort Women were well-paid prostitutes." Even though it is in the Office of War Information documents, when Americans read this, Americans will think that Japanese people are insensitive and unsympathetic. And, therefore, some Americans will get upset and not listen. (2) Japanese must avoid writing, "anti-Japan propaganda" by "South Korea and China." Americans do not understand the culture of Koreans and Chinese, so Americans will think that Japanese people are racists against Koreans and Chinese. This will upset Americans.

Change.orgには私も既に署名しその路線で教育委員会へメッセージを伝え、直筆署名を募るつもりでしたが、“Comfort Women sold their service to US Army”と書き入れよとあるので、米国人を怒らせてしまう可能性があります。また、米国人である教育委員会の委員の気持ちを日本側の主張に傾けさせるのは難しくなる可能性がありますので、<その1><その2>そして<その3>の直筆署名では、その方からの助言を真摯に受け止め、少し違う路線で攻めてみようという作戦です。この場合、直筆署名に米国人の署名を求めやすくなります。Change.orgでの署名を否定するものではありませんが、どうか皆様のご理解とご協力をお願い致します。

<その1> カルフォルニア州教育委員会 のウェブサイトに行き、コメントを残す。
改定案への意見受付は2月29日まで。

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/di/cd/ap/mainpage.aspx>

Subjectで School Curriculum を選択し、名前とメールアドレス(必須)を記入する。コメント記入は 1500文字まで
記入例

RE: 2014-2016 Draft History-Social Science Framework

Chapter 15: Grade Ten – World History, Culture, and Geography: The Modern World Chapter of the History-Social Science Framework for California Public Schools

Page 469. Lines 913~919: "Comfort Women," a euphemism for sexual ... into these situations during Japanese occupation."

My comments:

As the education of children is highly important, it is crucial that history be taught in a fair, neutral, and fact-based way. Please consider the following points. Scholars in South Korea and Japan have confirmed the most Korean comfort women were recruited by civilians (not the Japanese Army), indentured for defined terms, and were allowed to return home [Refs at <http://goo.gl/9xM3LL>]. Destitute families sent their daughters in exchange for payment, or poverty-stricken women joined of their own accord, possibly after being deceived about the nature of the work by the civilian recruiters. As such, their situation was very different from slavery of antebellum America.

At schools, please teach accurate history as follows:

"Comfort Women" were women who were indentured to work at civilian-owned brothels that accompanied Japanese military units in occupied territories before and during the war. The women came from poor rural families, and many may have been deceived by civilian recruiters, who promised work at hospitals and factories, but instead took the women to brothels. The women could go home after a defined period of time.

Thank you

以上文字数(スペース込み) 1493文字

<その2-1>メール を教育委員会へ送る

メアド HSSframework@cde.ca.gov

改定案への意見受付は2月29日まで。

メッセージ例文

RE: 2014-2016 Draft History-Social Science Framework for Grade Ten

To : The State Board of Education Members,

The History–Social Science Subject Matter Committee of the Instructional Quality Commission Members

Chapter 15: Grade Ten – World History, Culture, and Geography: The Modern World Chapter of the History-Social Science Framework for California Public Schools. Page 469. Lines 913 ~ 919: “Comfort Women,” a euphemism for sexual ~~~ forced into these situations during Japanese occupation.

My comments are:

The history of comfort women is highly disputed between the nations of S. Korea and Japan. Many facts have become distorted and exaggerated by anti-Japanese activists. Reputable South Korean-born professors, Yu-ha Park (<http://goo.gl/uSWM44>) and C. Sarah Soh (<http://goo.gl/C83b8C>), who interviewed Korean comfort women and researched the subject in great detail, report that most Korean comfort women were recruited by civilians, that most worked at civilian-owned brothels, that many were paid (or their families had been paid), and that the women could return home when they served a certain number of years or fulfilled their indenture. Dishonest civilian recruiters deceived the women. The research by these professors indicate that, in Korea, comfort women were NOT systematically abducted by Japanese Imperial Army. Some instances of forcible recruitment did occur in territory Japan occupied during the war, but were committed by rogue soldiers acting illicitly. Unfortunately, these cases have been inappropriately generalized to all comfort women. Historically, other nations' militaries have used indentured prostitutes, and it is unfair to target just Japan. When only one group is selectively targeted, it is "profiling" and, thus, wrong.

I humbly request that educators carefully investigate the facts before teaching inaccurate history in public schools. Historical evidence indicates: In the early 1900s, many people in Korea and Japan lived in dire poverty. The vast majority of Korean comfort women had been sent by their parents in exchange for advance payment or joined on their own, driven by poverty and the patriarchal nature of Korean society, where daughters were often under-appreciated and given little autonomy. The brokers who recruited Korean comfort women were civilians, and many were Korean men; dishonest brokers deceived the women. The Japanese military did NOT systematically dragoon young Korean girls and women.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Author

<その2-2>メールを教育委員会へ送る

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メッセージ例文

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The history of comfort women is highly disputed between the nations of S. Korea and Japan, and hyperboles abound. As the education of children is important, it is essential that all claims are carefully confirmed before teaching them as uncontested facts. Please consider the following points:

(1) Lines 917-919: "most argue that hundreds of thousands of women were forced into these situations during Japanese occupation." EVIDENCE BASED FINDINGS: All historians and scholars agree that the exact number of comfort women is uncertain [Refs. 1,2]. However, estimates by scholars who conduct research on this topic range typically in the tens of thousands [Refs. 1,3]. Although "most" activists and politically-based groups claim the number is "hundreds of thousands," reputable scholars generally do not state such a high number.

(2) Lines 913-915. "'Comfort Women,' a euphemism for sexual slaves, were taken by the Japanese Army in occupied territories before and during the war." FINDINGS: Scholars and researchers have confirmed the most Korean comfort women were recruited by civilians (not the Japanese Army), served for defined periods of time, were often paid (or their families paid), and were allowed to return home. [Refs 1-4] As such, many scholars explicitly do not use the expression "sexual slavery", as it would be misleading. The expression "sexual slaves" was popularized by, inter alia, lawyers filing lawsuits, activists, politicians, and journalists conveying what others said, and thus now permeates the Internet and media.

(3) Lines 915-917. "'Comfort Women' can be taught as an example of institutionalized sexual slavery, and one of the largest cases of human trafficking in the twentieth century." EVIDENCE BASED FINDINGS: As the number of comfort women is uncertain (see above), it would be inappropriate to claim outright that it is "one of the largest cases of human trafficking" of the last century. Again, many neutral scholars explicitly avoid the expression "sexual slavery", as it would be misleading. A small fraction of comfort women in territories Japan occupied during the war (e.g., Indonesia) were forcibly acquired by local military personnel, but this was done by soldiers acting independently [Ref. 1]. The women were freed after about two months when a higher ranking officer discovered the situation, and the personnel responsible were later punished.

Few things are more important than children's education, and it is crucial that history be taught in a fair, neutral, and fact-based way. The tragic results of history being taught in a biased way can be seen in the Middle East, where past misdeeds are often exaggerated and only one side's version of events is presented. We urge that the proposed additions (lines 913-919) be shelved until their veracity is confirmed/disproved in a neutral and unbiased way, e.g., by consulting scholars who have conducted in-person research in this field, such as Prof. C. Sarah Soh (San Francisco State University), and Prof. Yuha Park (Sejong University, S. Korea), and Prof. George Akita (University of Hawaii).

References: [1] C. Sarah Soh, "The Comfort Women," University of Chicago Press, Chicago (2008). [2] Yuha Park, "Comfort Women of the Empire," Asahi Shimbun Publications (2014). [3] Ikuhito Hata, "No Organized or Forced Recruitment: Misconceptions about Comfort Women and the Japanese Military," Professor Emeritus, Nihon University. [4] United States Office of War Information Report No. 49, 1944 (All Refs at <http://goo.gl/9xM3LL>)

Thank you for your time and consideration,

We are strongly against the teaching of inaccurate history at schools in California.

RE: 2014-2016 Draft History-Social Science Framework for Grade Ten, Chapter 15: Grade Ten — World History, Culture, and Geography: The Modern World Chapter of the History-Social Science Framework for California Public Schools. Page 469. Lines 913 ~ 919 about "Comfort Women"

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Printed Name	Address	signature