Diaspora

• Changing Conceptions of Diaspora
  – Scattering of seeds
  – Jewish Diaspora
  – Increasingly, coterminous with human migration
    • Especially in past 25 years or so

https://books.google.com/ngrams/graph?content=diaspora&year_start=1900&year_end=2000&corpus=15&smoothing=3&share=&direct_url=t1%3B%2Cdiaspora%3B%2Cc0
Human Origins

• Human history and movement coeval
• Origins of Homo sapiens
  – Genus *Homo* 2-2.5 million years ago
  – *Homo sapiens sapiens* 200,000 years ago
• Recent origins of human diversity
  – “Out of Africa”: about 100,000 years ago
• Are we all “Africans” (or African Americans)?
The Condition of Possibility

• Modern diasporic identity predicated on the significance of ethnonational identity
• Ethnonational identity in turn dependent on the power of the modern (nation) state
  – Lack of linguistic or cultural integration
• Once modern national identity established, any permanent move out of one’s country becomes an extraordinary act (migration / diaspora)
  – Population surveillance and border patrol
Diaspora and National Language

• German Romantic nationalism
  – Herder: language as the soul of the people
  – One ethnos = one nation = one language

• Premodern linguistic diversity
  – The prevalence of bilingual, multilingual life
    • Friederike Lüpke and Anne Storch, Repertoires and Choices in African Languages (2013)
  – The belatedness of linguistic unification
    • Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie, Montaillou (1975)
    • 이병철
Linguistic Unification

• 1492: Columbus and the beginning of the European domination of the world
  – Also the expulsion of Jews and the beginning of modern nationalism and ethnic cleansing
  – Antonio de Nebrija, Gramática de la lengua castellana
    • Obvious limitations: e.g. Catalunya

• National linguistic unification a product of modernity
  – National system of education, military conscription, commercial development, mass media etc.
Premodern Korea

• Nationalist historiography vs. non-nationalist reality
  – The bestselling textbook begins 2.5 M years ago
  – “5,000 years of Korean history”
  – In spite of proto-national identities in the past, the rise of modern Korean identity from the 19th century

• Movements in/out of the Korean peninsula

• Presentist understanding of the past
  – Linguistic diversity (not unification)
  – Prevalence of diglossia
Diasporic Origins

• Agrarian Exodus
  – A series of famines in the 1860s

• 1860 Convention of Peking
  – Outflow to Soviet Far East

• 1875 end of ban on non-Manchu migration in “Manchuria”
  – Mainly in present-day Jilin Province
Japanese Colonia Rule, i

- Efflux of political radicals, esp. after the Bolshevik Revolution
- Vladivostok as a center of Korean nationalism/radicalism
- Initially favorable minority policies by the Soviet Union
  - Long tradition of Russian Oriental Studies
1937 and Koryo Saram

• Stalin’s ethnic cleansing
  – Suspicion of being spies (“Japanese”)
  – 180,000 to Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and other Central Asian republics

• Assimilation (post-Stalinist minority policy)
  – “model minority”
  – Linguistic assimilation
    • e.g. Uzbek oral history

• The most successful diaspora in the 1970s/1980s?
  – e.g. Anatoli Kim, Viktor Tsoi et al.
Sakhalin

• Japanese colonial policy
  – 45,000 by 1945
• 棄民 (“forgotten” people)
• North Korean labor emigration
• Linguistically, the prevailing Russian/Soviet pattern
Japanese Colonial Rule, ii

• The establishment of Manchukuo and “five races”
  – Agrarian and industrial development
  – 2.1 M in 1940
• Post-1937 shift of Korean nationalists and radicals to Manchuria
• 1945: perhaps half return to the Korean peninsula
Chosonjok (朝鮮族）

• PRC (1949) and cultural policy
  – Land reform
  – 1955 establishment of Yanbian
    • >90% of Koreans in 東北

• PRC minority policy
  – Language and cultural autonomy

• Post-Deng economic reforms
  – 1992 normalization b/w PRC and ROK
    • Return migrants and population dispersal
      – “fake” Koreans
    • Assimilation vs. material benefits of Korean language and identity
Japanese Colonia Rule, iii

- Colonial labor migration
  - >2 M by 1940

- After August 1945, 2/3 return to the Korean peninsula
  - About 600,000 pre-1940 immigrants
  - Rapid language assimilation
    - Part of Japanese rule over Korea
      - 金時鐘
    - The case of Korean War soldiers
Zainichi (在日)

• Systematic disrecognition until the 1970s
  – Recognition struggles from the early 1970s
  – Changing Japanese receptions and prejudices

• Assimilation and Exclusion
  – The dominance of Japanese
  – 総連語

• Paradoxes of exclusionary practices
  – post-WWII stars
  – Business and professional successes
  – Cultural efflorescence (in and as Japanese)
Post-Liberation Emigration

- North Korea?
- South Korea
  - Overpopulation, poverty, instability
  - Government policy (esp. 1962 emigration policy)
    - Adoptees (150,000)
- Destination predicated on host government policies
  - Germany (1962)
  - Brazil (1962), Argentina (1965)
The Age of International Migration

• Labor shortages in the era of economic growth
  – Australia: pro-Asia immigration policy from the 1970s
  – The Middle East: though largely temporary, 800,000 S Koreans in the 1970s
    • 25,000 ‘permanent’ residents in Iran in the late 1970s
U.S.

• Post Hart-Cellar Act (1965)
  – The most desirable destination

• The preponderance of elite emigration until the 1970s
  – e.g. medical doctors
  – The ‘secret’ of the ‘model minority’
  – Assimilationist

• Shift from the 1980s
  – South Korean enrichment; 1992 LA Riots
Demographics

• About 7M of combined Korean population of 70M
• China 2.5M
• US 2M
• Japan 900,000
• Canada 220,000
• Russia 220,000
• Uzbekistan 175,000
• Australia 125,000
• Philippines 115,000
Language Patterns

- Time of departure
  - The earlier the less persistence
  - Age at emigration
- Host country policy
- Assimilation and social status
- Diasporic identity
  - e.g. Zainichi ideology
Master Narrative?

- Viable generalizations?
- Korean tragedy or triumph?
- Meanings of Koreanness
  - Language, culture, identity (including ‘mixed’ marriages)
- Curious persistence of diasporic desires
- The fate of the two Koreas
Learning Korean

• Inevitable decoupling
  – Difficulties of linguistic reproduction over generations

• Generic cultural assimilation
  – Ghettoization undesirable

• Recent resurgence
  – South Korean economic growth
  – Proliferation of language learning opportunities
    • Japanese and US universities until the 1980s
Global Korean?

• The declining significance of the diaspora?
• Economic growth, soft power, and the rise of Korean as a major language
  – Non-heritage speakers
• No longer the soul of the people but an important element of global economy and culture