

To the extent that the expressed goal of the Park Chung Hee regime was modernization and capitalization of the South Korean economy, it was

actually the grassroots organizations so despised by the Park regime, like kye, that ironically helped instruct the Korean people in the ways of modern capitalism. The regime issued and reinforced detailed prescriptions about the kinds of activities, and even practices of thought, in which Korean citizens must not indulge. The country house was already a space of fantasy for most Koreans, its spaciousness and modern amenities representing a level of luxury that even those who aspired to become apartment owners could not dream of.

Saho Archive

A means of encouraging cohesion within a traditional community, kye were transformed into associations with a primarily economic function in modern times. Their despair is made all the more intensely tangible at the end of the film when they are ejected from the space of the apartment and lose the brief access they had been given to the middle-class stability and modern elegance associated with apartment living during the middle space of the film. The report pointed out three major obstacles to taxation of kye.

Cultures of Yusin : South Korea in the 1970s

By the 1970s, housing shortages and recurrent inflation had reached critical levels as the population density of South Korea grew to become the third highest in the world in 1973.

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