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Writers of the Winter Republic: Literature and Resistance in Park Chung Hee s Korea

By Youngju Ryu

University of Hawai i Press, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. In 1975, a young high school teacher took the stage at a prayer meeting in a southwestern Korean city to recite a poem called The Winter Republic. The poem became an anthem against the military dictatorship of Park Chung Hee and his successors; the poet, however, soon found himself in court and then in prison for saddling the authoritarian state with such a memorable moniker. This unique book weaves together literary works, biographical accounts, institutional histories, trial transcripts, and personal interviews to tell the powerful story of how literature became a fierce battleground against authoritarian rule during one of the darkest periods in South Korea s history. Park Chung Hee s military dictatorship was a time of unparalleled political oppression. It was also a time of rapid and unprecedented economic development. Against this backdrop, Youngju Ryu charts the growing activism of Korean writers who interpreted literature s traditional autonomy as a clarion call to action, an imperative to intervene politically in the name of art. Each of the book s four chapters is devoted to a single writer...



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