



Spotlight on...
Crime Fiction in Korea:
Transformation and
Transnationality of the Genre
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Abstract. This essay traces the transnational literary flow and popular imaginations of modernity in colonial Korea (1910–45), the effect of the Korean War and the Cold War, and diverse responses to global neoliberalism in contemporary Korea. It highlights representative themes in each period and notable writers in modern crime fiction.

INTRODUCTION: KOREAN CRIME FICTION
AS A MINOR WORLD LITERATURE

The term *modern Korean literature* generally refers to prose and poetry written in Korean vernacular starting from the turn of the twentieth century. The tumultuous political history of the last century influenced literature tremendously, starting with Japan's colonization of Korea (1910–45), the Korean War (1950–53), and to the military dictatorships in North Korea (1948–) and South Korea (1961–87). The last 70 years of national division since the signing of the Armistice Agreement in 1953 have witnessed two distinctly different paths

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