



# Global Pulls on the Korean Communities in Sao Paulo and Buenos Aires

By Won K. Yoon

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The Korean communities in Sao Paulo and Buenos Aires were the first overseas Korean communities that the new Republic of Korea initiated and supported. The initiative was taken to relieve the economic suffering of the poverty-stricken country in the 1960s. Among South American countries that were open to Korean immigrants, Brazil and Argentina attracted the most, which included even undocumented Korean migrants from neighboring countries. The two Korean communities (about 45,000 people in Sao Paulo and 20,000 in Buenos Aires) represent almost two thirds of the Korean residents in Latin America. Over the years, global forces emanating mainly from East Asia, North America, and South America have affected the Korean communities. The intensity and directions of the triangular pulls and pushes have varied, reflecting changing global socioeconomic conditions. This has created tension and ambiguity among the Korean migrant and host communities. Looking at the two communities comparatively, the focus will be on the effects of the global pulls on Korean identity formation, community development patterns, integration efforts, social mobility, education for children, remigration, return migration, and relationships with the host communities. Wherever applicable, the experiences of Korean communities are compared with that of other East Asian communities, namely the Chinese and Japanese in Latin America.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

This is a rare and useful study of the “Korean diaspora” in South America that profiles the Korean communities in São Paulo and Buenos Aires. It is a welcome addition to the English literature on Asians in Latin America, which has focused on peoples of Japanese descent and has ignored the Koreans. (Takeyuki Tsuda, Arizona State University)

A strong transnational and comparative study, *Global Pulls* compares not only Korean communities in São Paulo and Buenos Aires, but Koreans in Latin America with those in North America. It also sheds much light on the Korean government’s efforts to accommodate overseas Koreans. (Pyong Gap Min, Queens College and the Graduate Center, CUNY)

This book looks at two Korean communities, one in São Paulo and the other in Buenos Aires, in order to identify the global pulls that have affected Korean identity formation, community development patterns, integration efforts, social mobility, education for children, remigration, return migration, and relationships with the host communities. It is the first book in English on these two Latin American–Korean communities.

#### About the Author

**Won K. Yoon** is professor of sociology at La Sierra University.

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