

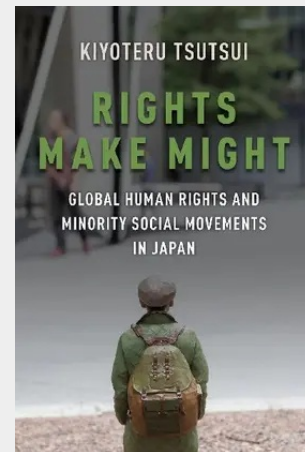
Tsutsui

Rights Make Might

Global Human Rights and Minority Social Movements in Japan

Since the late 1970s, the three most salient minority groups in Japan - the politically dormant Ainu, the active but unsuccessful Koreans, and the former outcaste group of Burakumin - have all expanded their activism despite the unfavorable domestic political environment. In *Rights Make Might*, Kiyoteru Tsutsui examines why, and finds an answer in the galvanizing effects of global human rights on local social movements. Tsutsui chronicles the transformative impact of global human rights ideas and institutions on minority activists, which changed their understandings about their standing in Japanese society and propelled them to new international venues for political claim making. The global forces also changed the public perception and political calculus in Japan over time, catalyzing substantial gains for their movements. Having benefited from global human rights, all three groups repaid their debt by contributing to the consolidation and expansion of human rights principles and instruments outside of Japan. Drawing on interviews and archival data, *Rights Make Might* offers a rich historical comparative analysis of the relationship between international human rights and local politics that contributes to our understanding of international norms and institutions, social movements, human rights, ethnoracial politics, and Japanese society.

Rights Make Might examines why the three most salient minority groups in Japan all expanded their activism since the late 1970s and chronicles the galvanizing effects of global human rights on local social movements. The detailed historical accounts offer insights into the relationship between global human rights and local politics that contributes to our understanding of international norms and institutions, social movements, human rights, and ethno-racial politics.



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