

California Press, 1981), described by Kenneth Minogue in a cover review in the *Times Literary Supplement* as “an interesting piece of work on a subject of central importance.” This book was a discussion of the spread of Frederick Winslow Taylor’s doctrine of scientific management from the United States, where it inspired Henry Ford’s production lines, to France, Germany, and especially the Soviet Union, where it was warmly embraced, and Great Britain, where it was largely frustrated by cultural barriers. Taylor (1856–1915) was considered the father of scientific management. His principles of measuring productivity outcomes at the bottom and imposing efficiency requirements from the top down still inspire health care and education reformers and draw opposition from the workers directly involved. Professor Merkle’s sympathies were with the workers and the softer, more consultative principles of Mary Parker Follett (1868–1933), who is often described as the mother of scientific management.

By 2000, Professor Merkle’s interests in organizational change focused her attention on the coming crises in the nation’s health care system. With CMC colleague Fred Lynch, she developed and taught a very popular class on health care organization and public policy. They also began collaboration on a long-term study of the growing efforts of mainstream medicine and insurance companies to absorb or “co-opt” the more profitable and scientifically acceptable forms of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM). “The CAM Establishment and the Co-optation Tango” was a well-received conference paper based on initial interviews and field research. The paper served as a pilot study for grant proposals and a possible book—efforts cut short by the onset of her final illness in 2005.

She was born to a family of scientists, mathematicians, and musicians and was a junior Phi Beta Kappa at the University of California, Berkeley. Her great uncle was the major league baseball player, Fred Merkle; her mother was a concert pianist. Her father, Theodore Charles Merkle, ran Project Pluto and was the associate director of the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory. Her brother, Ralph Merkle, is a pioneer in public-key cryptography and molecular nanotechnology. Her father’s Project Pluto aimed to make a nuclear-powered ramjet engine for a cruise missile. After two prototypes were successfully

tested, the project was canceled for fear that it would force the Soviets to copy it and that there would be no way to defend against it.

Professor Merkle received her BA and Ph.D. in political science from Berkeley and her MA from Harvard University. She was in the first class of women admitted to the master’s program at Harvard in Soviet regional studies. She taught at the University of Oregon, where she was director of its Russian and East European Studies Center, and at the University of California, Berkeley. After receiving her master’s degree, she worked for the U.S. Navy as an intelligence analyst.

Between 1988 and 1999, Professor Merkle published six historical novels: *A Vision of Light* (1989); *In Pursuit of the Green Lion* (1990); *The Oracle Glass* (1994); *The Water Devil* (1996/2007); *The Serpent Garden* (1996); and *The Master of All Desires* (1999). The *New York Times Book Review* praised *A Vision of Light* as “rich with the ambiance and flavor of the Middle Ages . . . a 14th-century story told with a 20th-century sensibility.” The *Los Angeles Times* proclaimed the book “fascinating and factual . . . If all chronicles of earthly life were recorded with such drama, flair, and wit, the world would be filled with history majors.” *The Oracle Glass* (currently under option as a motion picture) was described as “intelligent, witty and elegantly written” by the *San Francisco Chronicle*. *The Master of All Desires* was praised as “a tightly woven, suspenseful and fiendishly funny novel” in *Publishers Weekly*. All her novels were meticulously researched for historical accuracy. They were translated into 11 languages, won many prizes, sold by the hundreds of thousands around the world, and gave her a huge worldwide following, inviting comparison to Claremont’s greatest mass-audience authors of her time: Peter Drucker, David Foster Wallace, and Jamaica Kincaid.

She was an accomplished singer and musician and a longtime member of the Claremont Chorale. She also sang in the choir at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church in Upland. But her artistic interests went beyond music. In her younger years, she was a flamenco dancer, and research for one of her novels led to an interest in stained glass art, which she created until recently.

Her deepest passion was teaching. “Teaching is central to my life,” she noted in an article when asked about giving up

teaching to pursue writing full-time. “I enjoy teaching too much to stop now. Teaching is what keeps me going. It’s too much fun.”

Students and colleagues remember her as a supremely gifted storyteller, teacher, and colleague, with penetrating social science insights into the various ways that people arrange their lives. She had an eye for the telling example, especially the odd, outlandish, dramatic, and funny one. She also had a wicked, perceptive sense of humor and a native cheerfulness, curiosity, and zest, which she kept to the end.

Professor Merkle is survived by her daughter Elizabeth and son Marlow; two grandchildren, Graham and Iris Johnson; two brothers, Ralph and Ted Merkle, and generations of her grateful students.

Ward E. Y. Elliott
Claremont McKenna College
Frederick R. Lynch
Claremont McKenna College

JOHN OH

The passing of John Kie-chang Oh is a vivid reminder of how much political science is driven by political responsibility. As a young man in Seoul, John Oh found himself at the center of the great upheaval that was the Korean War. His enrollment in law at the prestigious Seoul National University was cut short, and the prospect of a career in law and politics was put permanently on hold. Even worse, as he recalled, he could not depart from the city, as he was recovering from an appendectomy. The bright optimism of a 20-year-old had been shattered on that September morning in 1950, as he suddenly found himself on the run in his own native land.

Oh’s remembrance of those traumatic events fifty years later captures the terror and the resolve born within them:

The North Koreans in Seoul now engaged in methodical hunts for able-bodied men to be impressed into their various “volunteer” units. I moved nine times from relatives’ houses to friends’ places to stay a step ahead of the occupation soldiers—who were spreading their dragnets ever wider. We heard rumors about “kangaroo courts” held at city squares where any “reactionaries” were bludgeoned to death. I was undoubtedly a “reactionary” by their definition. For the first time I knew fear and hunger, as food was extremely scarce.

This was the darkest and most helpless period in my life. I was convinced that all the shocking events were caused by the communist aggression. Along with some schoolmates, I decided to do my part in defending my homeland." (Oh 2000)

By November of 1950, Oh had graduated from officer training and was assigned to work at army headquarters. It was there that his career as a political scientist probably began, as his responsibilities included reading and summarizing the main American newspapers for the Ministry of Defense. Later, he found himself tasked with attending the Panmunjom negotiations in order to brief South Korean journalists. It was there that he met John Casserly, an International News Service correspondent who made it possible for him to receive a scholarship to Marquette University after his discharge from the army. From there, he studied at both Columbia and Georgetown, earning a Ph.D. at the latter in international relations. Yet, even then, he might have turned in a different direction.

It was just as Oh was finishing his Ph.D. (1961) that the military coup occurred in South Korea. He was subsequently offered a position with the new regime, but he firmly declined. As a political scientist, he explained, he had made the judgment that the junta would become dictatorial. "I thought that the military rule in Korea would endure for about 10 years—it lasted for 32." During that time and for the remaining two decades of his life, John Oh devoted himself to the study of the larger problems of Korea and of the democratic transitions that have followed the epoch of communist and authoritarian regimes. Serving first on the faculty of political science at Marquette and later at the Catholic University of America, he became a distinguished scholar, not only of Korea, but also of the emblematic changes that Korea has undergone within the East Asian region.

Manuscript

The author of six books and more than 100 articles, Oh is best known for the two books he published with Cornell University Press. *Korea: Democracy on Trial* appeared in 1968, while *Korean Politics: The Quest for Democratization and Economic Development* was published in 1999. It is especially in the latter that Oh developed a synthetic approach that enabled him to weave a compelling

narrative of the trials and triumphs of his native land. But what gave his work a larger significance is that he understood such challenges as not specifically Korean. The interrelationship between economic development and the emergence of robust democratic institutions is the political story of much of the past 50 years. Without neglecting the uniqueness of particular countries, Oh searched for universal implications that might be drawn. His was a life of dedication and service, not only in response to the turmoil that engulfed the Korean peninsula, but also to the needs he saw in the wider world. That generosity of spirit was particularly displayed in his willingness to undertake the administrative responsibilities so indispensable to university life. Oh served in senior positions at Marquette University, where he became dean of the graduate school, and later as academic vice president at Catholic University. A well-liked teacher, he was also a strikingly congenial colleague, as well as a devoted husband and father. He took great pride in his children and grandchildren and was particularly pleased to bask in the academic accomplishments of his wife, Professor Bonnie Oh (retired) of Georgetown University. John Oh gave of himself in exemplary service to his native Korea, the United States, the Church, the academy, the discipline of political science, and all—students, faculty, friends, and admirers—who were fortunate enough to encounter him.

David Walsh

Catholic University of America

REFERENCE

- Oh, John. 2000. "My Korean War." *Naval History* 14 (3): 33–34.

CARL F. STOVER

Carl F. Stover, 79, was a public affairs executive with a long career of managing and leading many nonprofit organizations. He was an admirable example of someone who bridged connections between civic education and civil society.

From 1962 to 1964, Mr. Stover served as a senior political scientist at SRI International and as a director of the Public Affairs Fellowship at Stanford University. From 1964 to 1970, Stover was president of the National Institute of Public Affairs, where he directed fellowships, seminars, and other programs to improve the qual-

ity of the civil service and advance learning and communication among leaders of the private and public sectors.

In 1971 and 1972, he served as president of the National Committee on United States–China Relations, which he helped found in 1966 for the purpose of advancing public understanding of China and the relationship between America and China. In this post, he guided the historic U.S. table tennis tour between the citizens of China and helped foster the beginnings of renewed contact between the two countries.

From 1972 to 1974, he was president of Federalism Seventy-Six, an organization that encouraged civic education and participation in observance of the United State's 200th anniversary.

Before Stover suffered a stroke in 1988 that left him unable to continue working, he led and served on many nonprofit boards such as the Center for World Literature, the Student–Parent Mock Election, the Committee on the Constitutional System, the National Partnership to Prevent Drug and Alcohol Abuse, the American Committee on U.S.–Soviet Relations, and the International Society for Panetics, an organization dedicated to the understanding and reduction of humanly engendered suffering, and in which he was a founding member and chairman emeritus.

With Melville Bell Grosvenor, Stover also founded the Hearing, Education Aid and Research Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preventing hearing impairment, for which he served as trustee, treasurer, and president. He was a volunteer consultant for the National Executive Service Corps. He was a founder and first president of Kinesis, Ltd., an organization for the advancement of poetry-in-dance and other mixed art forms, and a founder and treasurer of the Coordinating Council on Literary Magazines.

Mr. Stover has written and edited many articles and books, such as *The Government of Science* (Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, 1962), *Science and Democratic Government* (Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, 1963), and *The Technological Order* (Wayne State University Press, 1963). He was the founding editor of the *Journal of Law and Education*.

He was an elected member of Phi Beta Kappa and a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Brookings Institution. In 1969, Stover was elected to the National Academy of