
THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK. The developmental idealism paradigm posits that the modern form of family seen in Western Europe and the United States is considered desirable and attainable. Examination of family patterns in Southeast and South Asia must be rooted in the history of the region. Academic journal article Journal of Marriage and Family. The Changing Family in Comparative Perspective: Asia and the United States. By Rao, K. V. Read preview. Academic journal article Journal of Marriage and Family. The volume focuses on Japan, South Korea, and the United States. Several chapters are devoted to various aspects of family in these three countries, although a chapter by Mason discusses other Asian countries as well. The Changing Family is divided into four sections, each containing two or three papers on a particular aspect of family formation and convergence and on changes in the institution of family in South Korea, Japan, and the United States. The first part of this volume is devoted to family-formation patterns. Families are changing throughout the postindustrial world. In the West, marriage is playing a dwindling role in defining sexual behavior, childbirth, cohabitation, and family stability. In Asian societies, sex increasingly occurs before marriage, young people delay getting married or never marry at all, and divorce is on the rise. This volume examines family change in Korea, Japan, and the United States, allowing us to contrast the collective emphasis of a Confucian social heritage with the individualism of the West. Policy makers and demographic and family researchers both in the U.S. and Asia will find this book a vital resource for understanding the dynamics of family life in contrasting modern societies. © University of Hawaii. print.