

## ISC117 – Introduction to Korean Studies

### Summary Notes

#### 1. Confucianism

##### 1.1 Origin

- Introduced by Confucius / Kong Zi / 孔子 (551 BC – 479 BC).
- A Chinese Philosopher in the Spring & Autumn Period (770 BC – 481 BC).
- He mainly shares & teaches **humble origins, minor government posts, and self-exile.**

##### 1.2 Confucianism in 3 Kingdoms Period

- Tangun was mostly agreed by Koreans that he is the origin/ancestor of Koreans, but he did not introduce Confucianism in Korea first.
- Confucianism was first introduced during **the 3 Kingdoms Period (Koguryo, Paekche, Kaya & Silla).**
- 3 Kingdoms Period = **57 BC to 698 AD.**
- Year 372: National Confucian Academy in Koguryo.
- Year 682: National Confucian College in Silla.

##### 1.3 Confucianism in the Choson Dynasty

- Choson Dynasty = **Year 1392 – 1910.**
- China Period: Ming Dynasty & Qing Dynasty
- Japan Period: Sengoku Period & Edo Period
- Yangban Class: Literati Rule Both Civil & Military Functions.
- Focus on Scholarships:
- Sungkyunkwan University in the 1400s focused on Confucian Scholarship, but now it has become a major & modern university.
- Events Related to Confucianism:
- Jongmyo Jerye-ak (宗廟祭禮) ● Seokjeondaeje (釋奠禮)

##### 1.4 Education in Korea

- In ancient times, students tried their best in entrance exams to get into universities to become **scholars in the royal palace/government officials.**
- At present, students want to get a great and high-salary job, so they try to get into **Sky Universities** such as Hanyang University & Korea University.

##### 1.5 Neo-Confucianism

- Rise of **Neo-Confucianism** = Revival of various strands of Confucianism and Political Culture starting from Korea's **Koryo Period (Years 918 – 1392).**
- Neo-Confucianism concerns **metaphysical & proper relationships.**

##### 1.6 Confucian Ethics

- Primarily an ethics of interpersonal interaction, & secondly an ethics of personal moral cultivation.
- Five fundamental moral relationships of Confucianism (All have reciprocal obligations):
  - Ruler > Subject (Loyalty)
  - Elder > Younger (Order)
  - Parent > Child (Closeness)
  - Friend & Friend (Trust)
  - Husband > Wife (Differentiation)
- Harmony is valued over equality.
- Patriarchy was considered natural & hence moral.
- Three key virtues:
  - Sincerity & Integrity
  - Benevolence & Humanity
  - Reverence & Mindfulness

### 1.7 Confucian Etiquette

- Participation in Confucian rituals is believed to stimulate cooperation with the community.
- An individual is defined in terms of his/her roles in society & his/her relationships. There is no “I” apart from those roles & relationships.
- Proper etiquette is necessary to ensure a harmonious society, with everyone playing their assigned role.
- Hierarchy: Systems of ranking society according to relative status/authority, e.g. Status difference between rulers & subjects

### 1.8 Family in Confucianism

- Clan Genealogies:
  - Widespread compilation & publication from the 17<sup>th</sup> century.
  - Individual's relationship with other members in his/her lineage.
- Funerary & Memorial Rituals
  - Family Rituals & Filial Piety
  - Respect for Lineage Relationships
  - Individual Practice & Involvement
- Honoring Royal Ancestors/ Worshipping Ancestors.
- Jongmyo: Confucian Royal Shrine.
- Confucianism & Women
  - Confucian Social Engineering.
  - Slow Process.
  - Ranking order established (Social Status: Men > Women).
  - More concerned about family than the individual.
- Ethical Behavior:
  - 3 Obediences.
  - No remarriage.
  - Separation of Sexes.
- In politics & business, the sons or daughters of the family usually continue the path of being

politicians / succeed in the operation of the company.

- e.g. Politics: Park Chung-hee (3<sup>rd</sup> President of Korea) & Park Geun-hye (11<sup>th</sup> President of Korea) = Father & Daughter
- e.g. Business: Samsung, Hansol, Shinsegae

## 2. Colonial Modernity

### 2.1 Concept of Colonial Modernity

#### 2.1.1 Origin

- Used in the US-based academy as a way to **frame complex histories of East Asia & Korea** before spreading to & being adopted by the Korean academy.
- Colonialism & Modernity are indivisible features of the **history of industrial capitalism**.

#### 2.1.2 Types of Colonies

- 1) **Colonies of Settlement**: **Colonizers eliminated Indigenous people**
  - e.g. Spanish destruction of the Aztec & Inca civilizations.
- 2) **Colonies of Rule**: **Colonial administrators reorganize existing cultures to facilitate their exploitation**
  - E.g. British use of local zamindars to rule the Indian subcontinent.

#### 2.1.3 Reorganization of Colonial Labor

- Non-European societies were fundamentally transformed by **the loss of their resources & craft tradition** as their people became colonial subjects.
- **Laboring in mines, fields & plantations** under the regime of explorative production.
- A great deal of colonial labor was **channeled away from reproducing local, non-European culture** & into sustaining distant European urban & industrial needs.

#### 2.1.4 Development as the Spread of Modernity

- **Science** as the driving force fueling modernization is believed to **provide people with unequivocal & indisputable knowledge**.
- **Universalism** lets science apply to every situation & their principles are the same in every situation.
- **Progress** is when the natural & social conditions of human beings are improved and result in an increased level of happiness, mostly represented by economic growth/growth of GDP.

#### 2.1.5 Eurocentric Vision

- Growth theory: Structured by Eurocentric Vision development.
- New Nations: Follow the Western model based on a stylized version of Western economic history.
- Unilinear path toward higher Western-style development.

## 2.2 Japanese Colonization of Korea (1910-1945)

### 2.2.1 Japanese Policy (**Colonial Modernity: Exploitation Theory V.S. Modernization Theory**)

- Maintain **landlord-tenant system & class differences**.
- **Incorporation** into the international market.
- Colonial Development of Korea: **Modernization & Economic Development** of Korea under Japanese Control.
- Misuses & abuses of Japan on Koreans:
  - Japanese political repression, Korea's economic exploitation & cultural obliteration (**most movies portray all Japanese are evil just to boost nationalism & patriotism, benefiting the Korean politicians**).
  - Political Repression:  
e.g. Japanese governors control Korea, Pro-Japanese Koreans fight against Koreans themselves, Killing Koreans not obeying the Japanese (from the K-Movie "Assassination" 2015)
  - Economic Exploitation:  
e.g. Control of Mines and Trades, Changing the currency into yen
  - Cultural Obliteration:  
e.g. **Replacing Hangul with the Japanese alphabet after the 1937 mobilization**,  
Speaking/Teaching Hangul will result in prisoning and Changing to Japanese names (from the K-movie "The Secret Mission" 2019)
  - Korean women forced into prostitution during WWII (the 'Comfort Women')

### 2.2.2 Resistance of Koreans

- March 1<sup>st</sup> Movement, 1919
  - Crowds gathered at Pagoda Park & other related events around the country.
  - Peaceful independence movement.
  - **Put down by the Japanese police & army.**
- **Resistance Groups** outside of Korea (China, Manchuria, Russia)
  - Righteous Armies  
e.g. Korean interim government in Shanghai, Syngman Rhee, etc.
  - Communists  
e.g. Kim Il Sung, Kim Jung Il

### 2.2.3 Division of South & North Korea

- Leading to Korean War (1950-1953) & Dividing the South & North Korea
- Both South & North Korea have different modernization & development.
  - Scientific Development of South Korea  
e.g. Electronic Devices: Samsung, LG // Vehicles: Hyundai

- Scientific Development of North Korea  
e.g. Nuclear Missiles, Building Modernization

### 3. Korean War

#### 3.1 End of WWII (15<sup>th</sup> August 1945)

- Different classes of Korean societies are free from Japanese rule:
  - Landlords
  - White-Collar Professionals
  - Tenants
  - Factory Wage Workers
  - Capitalists
  - Landless Peasants
- Forming the Committee for Preparation of Korean Independence (CPKI):
  - Unity
  - Temporary peace-keeping organ
  - Non-violence
- Establishment of the Korean People's Republic on 6<sup>th</sup> September 1945:
  - Established by People's Committees which are branches of the CPKI.
  - Countrywide which is formed by 145 groups of delegates/representatives.

#### 3.2 Interests from the USSR & USA after the defeat of Japan in WWII ⇒ Cold War

- USSR:
  - Shared border
  - Multilateral administration
  - Involvement necessity
- USA:
  - The security of Korea necessary for the security of the Pacific & America
  - Trusteeship Policy (i.e. Sending soldiers to occupy southern Korea & Korean resentment)

#### 3.3 Start & End of the Korean War (1950-1953)

##### 3.3.1 Elections in the South in May 1948

- Establishment of the Republic of Korea but with protests in Pyongyang.
- The first president is Syngman Rhee.

##### 3.3.2 Elections in the North on 25<sup>th</sup> August 1948

- The North held its elections & elected Kim Il Sung premier.
- Establishment of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

##### 3.3.3 Start of the Korean War

- Leftist guerilla war on Cheju Island ⇒ Failed
- Korean veterans of the Chinese Civil War.
- North Korea fears South Korea attack ⇒ 1950 attack.
- Seoul fell on 4<sup>th</sup> January 1951 & the United Nations forces recaptured it in March.
- It became Stalemate & the negotiations lasted for 2 years.

### 3.3.4 End of the Korean War

- The truce was signed on 27<sup>th</sup> July 1953 and **separate regimes along the 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel**.
- Soviet withdrawal from North Korea & US withdrawal from South Korea.

### 3.4 Difference between South & North Korea Afterwards

- South Korea has **more modern clothing, activities, TV shows**, etc than North Korea.
- South Korea has **better life expectancy at birth & child malnutrition** than North Korea.
- South Korea has **a greater population, GDP per capita, life expectancy at birth & military spending**.
- North Korea has more **total military personnel, corruption perceptions index & even death penalty** than South Korea.

## 4. South Korea Democracy

### 4.1 Democracy Around the World

#### 4.1.1 Definition of Democracy

##### 1) Definitions of Democracy in Government

- a. Government by the people especially the **rule of majority**.
  - b. Governments in which the **supreme power is vested in the people** & exercised by them directly or indirectly through a system of representation usually periodically held **free elections**.
- 2) A political unit having a **democratic government**.
  - 3) **Capitalized**.
  - 4) The **common** people especially when constituting the **source of political authority**.
  - 5) The **absence of hereditary/arbitrary** class distinctions/privileges.

#### 4.1.2 Quality of Democracy

- Depends on the three main aspects:
  - 1) **Freedom**: Individual Liberties, Rule of Law, Public Sphere
  - 2) **Control**: Competition, Mutual Constraints, Government Capability
  - 3) **Equality**: Transparency, Participation, Representation
- Democracy Index:
  - Highest: Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Norway, etc.
  - Lowest: North Korea, Turkmenistan, DRC (Democratic Republic of Congo), etc.

### 4.2 Democracy in South Korea

#### 4.2.1 Elections in the South of Korea

- Originally the Koreans established the People's Republic of Korea, but the **US did not recognize it as the government** and hence established a **US Army military government in**

Korea after WWII until 1948 Elections in the South.

- Syngman Rhee was elected as the first president of the Republic of Korea in May 1948 after the UN Temporary Commission on Korea.
- Syngman Rhee stayed in the president's office for 12 years (July 1948 – April 1960), experiencing the Korean War (1950-1953) during his period in the office.

#### 4.2.2 Democratic Progress in South Korea

- Fall of the Presidency of Syngman Rhee (1948-1960):
  - April Revolution from April 11 – 26 1960 due to the oppression of Syngman Rhee's government & electoral fraud.
- Fall of the Presidency of Park Chung-hee (1963-1979):
  - South Korea was still a very poor country before Park Chung-hee became the president.
  - During Park Chung-hee's presidency, there was rapid economic development, producing a lot of well-known companies such as Samsung, LG, Hyundai, etc.
  - However, South Korea became a dictatorial government under Park's Rule such as controlling elections & imprisoning his rivals.
  - Led to the Busan-Masan Uprising between 16 & 20 October 1979 but failed at last.
  - Park Chung-hee was assassinated on 26<sup>th</sup> October 1979 and his presidency ended.
- Fall of the Presidency of Chun Doo-hwan (1980-1988):
  - South Korea remained a dictatorial government under Chun's Rule which led to a lot of protests.
  - Gwangju Uprising happened from May 18 – 27 1980 but was brutally suppressed by the South Korean government, but the footages were captured by German journalist Jürgen Hinzpeter & angered the Koreans afterwards.
  - June Democratic Struggle from June 10 – 29 1987 brought democratic reforms & ended Chun's dictatorship.
- Fall of the Presidency of Park Guen-hye (2013-2017):
  - She was involved in the political scandals of corruption charges with Choi Soon-sil, who was given secret counsel to the president.
  - Candlelight Demonstrations happened from 26 October 2016 to 11 March 2017 which led to the resignation of Park.

#### 4.3 Conclusion of South Korean Democracy

- Historically, the ruler denied a political voice & therefore led to suppression of political opposition.
- The democratization process has been an arduous but successful path.

## 5. North Korea Communism

### 5.1 Images of North Korea from the Internet

- Mass Games
- The Great Leaders Kims
- Extreme Poverty
- Famine
- Lack of Development
- Ideological Control
- Prison Camp

### 5.2 General Structure of Communism

- Vanguard Party
- Centralized top-down administration
- Planned economy
- Collectivization
- Ideology Traced to Marx & Lenin

### 5.3 Establishment of the Korean Workers' Party

- Kim Il-sung solidified position in the party in 1946
- He then had a series of purges starting with Pak Hon-yong, in which he secured power in the first decade among the Yehan group & Korean Soviets.
- Different from the Chinese/Soviet Communist Model (Sickle & Hammer = Farmers & Factory Workers), the Korean Workers' Party was concerned with a 3-class alliance:
  - Hammer = Factory Workers
  - Ink Brush = Experts & Technocrats
  - Sickle = Farmers
- Problem of Succession in North Korea:
  - Since Lenin & Mao had succession problems which led to a total change of the country's communism in the USSR & China, Kim Il-sung needed to decide who was his successor in North Korea.
  - In the 1980s, Kim Il-sung announced his successor in North Korea, who is his son Kim Jong-il.
  - North Korea thus became the first communist monarchy in the world.

### 5.4 Properties of North Korean Communism

- Compared to Chinese/Soviet communism, it concerns Confucian values.
- There is a fatherly leader in North Korea, the Kim family. The family represents the father of the nation.
- Everyone in North Korea needs to show their loyalty & filial piety to the Kim family in any event, otherwise they will face harsh punishments.

### 5.5 History of the North Korean Economy

#### 5.5.1 After 1945

- The Japanese left a heavy industry in North Korea. North Korea operated 5-year plan for land reform, but it was not very successful (e.g. Not many jobs were created).



- Even though the economy was devastated after the Korean War, the North Korean Economy still outperformed South Korea's until 1970 with aid from China and the USSR.

#### 5.5.2 In the 1980s

- The international politics changed since the USSR reduced its aid to North Korea & East European countries in the Cold War.
- North Korea therefore raises a lot of problems without the aid & hence smuggling occurred in the country which negatively impacted the North Korean economy.

#### 5.5.3 In the 1990s

- A serious economic trouble happened after the USSR collapsed.
- North Korea suffered from the loss of 3<sup>rd</sup> world markets.
- The technology in North Korea is far behind the world, leading to the collapse of communism at the end of the 80s.
- During the 90s, the whole nation suffered from droughts & floods, along with a lot of casualties (e.g. People died from hunger & kids were not nutritious).

#### 5.5.4 Present

- At present, the North Korean economy is still closed due to Juche Ideology.
- Properties of Juche Ideology:
  - Political Independence
  - Self-Defense
  - Self-Reliant Economy
- China, which has opened the economy for 40 years & become 2<sup>nd</sup> largest economy in the world, urges North Korea to open its economy so that it can allow foreign investment & integrate into the world economy.
- A lot of problems with Juche Ideology:
  - It mainly states that Korea is the center of the world & radiates rays of Juche.
  - Practical Limits.
  - Excessive emphasis on one person.
  - Stifles the creativity of the people.
  - Repressive speech of the public.
  - Isolation from the rest of the world.

### 5.6 North Korean Communist Monarchy

#### 5.6.1 Institutional Coercion

- Tight control of all organizations.
- People's ideological value is evaluated on their loyalty to the Great Leaders, not class.

#### 5.6.2 Dark Side of Kim's Family

- Strong Emphasis on family.
- Family in-fighting.

- **Removal of any threats to power** (e.g. Kim Jong-un & Kim Yo-jong assassinated Kim Jong-nam in Malaysia in 2017).
- **Authoritarian Government.**

### 5.7 Lives of North Korean People

- Though North Korea is an authoritarian country with no freedom, the people still live their own daily lives:  
e.g. Sightseeing, going to Wonsan Beach, having a wedding, Going on a picnic, etc.

## 6. The Miracle on the Han

### 6.1 Postwar South Korea vs North Korea

#### 6.1.1 Postwar North Korea

- **Generous economic & technical assistance** from the “fraternal” socialist countries.
- **Pre-war industrial infrastructure was more developed** than that of South Korea.
- Economic growth rates that **far surpassed South Korea’s** into the 1970s.
- Late 1950s: **Total industrial output** (averaging 39% between 1953 & 1960) was probably the **highest** in the world.

#### 6.1.2 Postwar South Korea

- Following the Korean War, South Korea was one of the **poorest** countries in the world.
- In 1960, its **gross domestic product per capita was lower than that of some sub-Saharan** countries, which was \$79 for South Korea.

### 6.2 South Korean Economic Development under Park Chung-hee from 1961 to 1979

#### 6.2.1 Overview

- Miracle on the Han River = **Top-down industrialization** through Park Chung-hee state’s guided economy.
- Both Deng Xiao Ping (China) & Mahathir (Malaysia) were admired by Park’s process and hence adopted the Korean model of development for their countries.

#### 6.2.2 1961 Coup D’etat

- Park Chung-hee became the president through a **military coup on 16<sup>th</sup> May 1961**.
- Even though he started his military dictatorship & junta afterward, he still proceeded with his **vision of wealth & power through economic development**.

#### 6.2.3 1961 – 1963

- Park ruled through the Supreme Council for National Reconstruction.
- He set up martial law. During this period, a great number of arrests, censorship & absence of political activity happened across the country with the help of the Korean CIA.

#### 6.2.4 1963 – 1972

- 1) Start of Park's Policy on Economic Development
  - Martial law was lifted in 1962.
  - Park started the export-led industrial growth & control over dissent, but the constitution was suspended in 1972.
- 2) **Export-led Industrial Policy**
  - Shifted the focus of manufacturing **from import substitution to exports**.
  - Produced **light industrial products**, e.g. Textiles, Clothing, Footwear & Human hair wigs, etc.
  - Aim = Rise from \$100 million to \$1 billion in 6 years.
- 3) Tension with North Korea
  - Increasing the tensions between the two Koreas, especially in 1968.
  - North Korea attempted to assassinate Park at the Blue House, but South Korea disintegrated the danger.
  - On the other side, the US & South Korea sent a military spy ship, USS Pueblo, to observe North Korea, but it was captured by North Korea & the ship was kept till nowadays.
- 4) "Four Great Core Factories": **Cast iron, Steel, Heavy Machinery & Shipbuilding Plants**
  - Goal = To **build the basic material factories** necessary for producing weapons.
  - Park **mobilized the existing resources & technological capability available** among big businesses, especially the **chaebol**/conglomerates due to the **lack of funding**.
- 5) International Instability
  - Due to the Vietnam War, the **US withdrew one-third of its troops stationed in South Korea** & sent them to Vietnam in January 1971.
  - **Lack of American Support** & US negotiations with North Korea ⇒ **Raised the need for national security, defense & weapons** of South Korea.
- 6) Major Changes
  - Park declared a state of emergency in December 1971.
  - Under **martial law**, he then declared the **Yusin Reform**/Restoration on 17<sup>th</sup> October 1972.

#### 6.2.5 1972 – 1979

- 1) Park's Policy between 1972 & 1979
  - After 1972, Park started the Yusin Constitution and continued his dictatorship & control of the military.
  - He also appointed 1/3 of the National Assembly, to continue holding his power.
  - Park declared the **"Heavy & Chemical Industrialization Policy"** as the top priority of Yusin Reforms in January 1973.
- 2) Heavy & Chemical Industrialization
  - 84 manufacturers in the construction of **6 industrial complexes** each focused on a target industry by late 1979:

- Heavy machinery at Changwon
- Steel at Pohang
- Shipbuilding at Okpo
- Electronics at Kumi
- Petrochemicals at Yochon
- Nonferrous metals at Onsan

3) Defense Industry

- South Korea **produced its light weapons.**
- They mainly purchased advanced technology & military hardware from highly developed countries like France & the US.

4) **New Village Movement / Saemaul Movement**

- Step 1: Basic Arrangements
  - Three arrangements for the start: People, Seed, Money & Basic Principles.
  - Forming Core Groups: Leaders, Working Groups, Applying the principles to existing organizations & Sectional Organizations
  - Raising Seed Money: Through Sample Cooperative Projects & By Cooperative Works
- Step 2: Operation of the Project (Principles & Standards for Selecting Projects)
  - Planning a Project to let everybody play their part
    - Persuading Villagers: Setting a model for villagers & encouraging the 'you can do it' spirit
    - Collecting Consensus: Small group meetings & General meetings of villagers
  - Preparing & managing public property.
  - Establishing the local Saemaul Movement Center.
  - Encouraging 'we are the one' spirit
  - Cooperating with other communities & the government.
- Step 3: Main Stage of the Project
  - Projects for living environment improvement: Improving the houses, eliminating inconveniences in the village & creating an environment for increasing income.
  - Projects for income increase: Removing the obstacles, launching cooperative projects, commercializing things around you, introducing new ideas, modifying distribution systems & operating a factory.
  - Consolidating Community: Enhancing morals and communalism, providing a cultural center and other facilities & establishing a credit union.
- Step 4: Final Stage of the Project
  - Sharing the results & celebrating the success.
  - Sharing the long-term prospects.
  - Stabilizing joint funds.
  - Encouraging the Activities of Sectional Organizations.
  - Regularizing meetings for technology research.

- Establishing a village hall.
- Publishing a local newspaper.
- Establishing a partnership with other regions & government offices.
- Setting up a sisterhood relationship with foreign countries.
- Conclusion: The average annual GDP Growth Rates always remain positive. During the period 1966-1990, the GDP is over 7%.

#### 5) Problems of the Movement

- Required control of the working people & students.
- Long working hours without compensation.
- Hazardous working conditions.
- Unfair Labor Practices.
- Maximization of profits by exploiting labor.

∴ A lot of protests around the country.

#### 6) Social Discontent

- Demonstrations, Strikes & Oil shocks happened.
- Park had a disagreement with the Korean CIA Chief Secretary Kim Gye-won & therefore Park was assassinated by Kim on 26<sup>th</sup> October 1979.

### 6.3 Present Korea after the Miracle on the Han

#### 6.3.1 Present Korean Economy

- South Korean economy roars.
  - GDP growth averaged 9-10% a year.
  - The manufacturing sector took a greater share of the economy (Close to 30% compared to West Germany).
  - Working in rice puddles ⇒ Building oil tankers & Designing semiconductor chips.
  - The GNI of South Korea was 300-400 times greater than that of North Korea at present.
- K-Drama, K-pop, Korean cosmetics, urbanization & technological development are the outcomes of the Miracle of the Han.

#### 6.3.2 Perils of South Korean Leadership

- A lot of ex-presidents have been questioned, prosecuted, and charged/ who committed suicide, showing the dark side of the South Korean political environment:
  - Chun Doo-hwan (1980-1988): Jailed for 2 years, originally death penalty.
  - Roh Tae-woo (1988-1993): Jailed for 2 years, originally death penalty.
  - Roh Moo-hyun (2003-2008): Committed suicide after questioned in 2009.
  - Lee Myung-bak (2008-2013): Questioned due to corruption charge.
  - Park Geun-hye (2013-2017): Jailed due to abuse of power.

## 7. Korean Nationalism

### 7.1 Definition of Nationalism

- 1) Loyalty & devotion to a nation especially a sense of national consciousness exalting one nation above all others & placing primary emphasis on the promotion of its culture & interests as opposed to those of other nations/supranational groups.

(Intense nationalism was one of the causes of the war.)

- 2) A nationalist movement/government.

### 7.2 Difference between Patriotism & Nationalism

- Patriots are proud of their country for what it does, creating a feeling of responsibility.
  - E.g. Patriotism: Korean Fans' Celebration after Sports Games like World Cup Win, Candlelight Protest in 2017.
- Nationalists are proud of their country no matter what it does, creating a feeling of blind arrogance that leads to war.
  - E.g. Nationalism: Military Marching, Loyalty to the Great Leaders

### 7.3 Development of Modern Nationalistic Culture in Korea

#### 7.3.1 The Independence Club

- Established on 7<sup>th</sup> April 1896.
- Use education to reform & preserve independence.
- 3 Goals of the Club:
  - Protect Korea's independence.
  - Promote self-strengthening.
  - Increase popular participation in the political process.

#### 7.3.2 Other Nationalistic Movements

- 1906: The Korea Self-Strengthening Society
- 1906: The New People's Movement
- 1907: The Association for Redemption for the National Debt
- 1910-1945: Righteous Armies against the Colonial Japan Rule
- 1<sup>st</sup> March 1919: The March First Movement against Japanese rule
  - Although the Japanese brutally suppressed the Korean protestors, they give more freedom to Koreans after the movement.
- Independence Activities Abroad:
  - The Korean Provisional Government was established in Shanghai on 11<sup>th</sup> April 1919, led by Rhee Syngman, Ahn Changho, Park Yongman, Philip Jaisohn, etc.
  - They participated in the First Korean Congress in Philadelphia in Pennsylvania, USA on April 14-16, 1919.

#### 7.3.3 After Japanese Colonization (End of WWII on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1945)

- 1945-1948: US Army Military Government in Korea
- 1950-1953: Korean War
- 11<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> April 1960: April Revolution
- 18<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> May 1980: Gwangju Uprising
- 10<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> June 1987: June Democratic Struggle
- November 2016 to March 2017: Candlelight Demonstration
- 1945-Present: Japan-South Korea Dispute  
e.g. Trade, Land, History sins, etc.

#### 7.4 Conclusion of Korean Nationalism

- Modern Korean nationalism has about a 100-year history.
- Factors of Korean Nationalism Raising:
  - Denied a political voice.
  - Suppression of political opposition.
  - Defined in opposition to another country (e.g. Japan, North Korea).
  - Necessary to demonstrate en masse.

### 8. Korean Christianity

#### 8.1 The First Missionaries

- On 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1884, Dr. Horace Allen, later the ambassador of the U.S. in Korea, won the favor of the court, hence he became a court physician.
- In 1885, he & five people (Horace G. Underwood, Mr. & Mrs. Henry Appenzeller, Mr. & Mrs. Scranton) went to Korea and carried out the Christian Mission.
- Unfavorable climate for Christianity.
  - Political Upheaval
  - Cautious policies
  - No open evangelization
  - Slow & measured
- Dr. Horace Allen later opened the hospital, named “the House of Extended Grace” in 1885. It was initially financed by the government but later financed by Louis H. Severance (1838-1913).

#### 8.2 Medical Missions

- Indirect Form of Evangelism
- Western Civilization is proportional to Christianity.
- Western Medicine = Cure-all

#### 8.3 Educational Missions

- Education is another indirect form of evangelism.
- Originally there were only 3 schools in Korea, which are Paichai, Ewha & Kyongsin.

- In 1884, the first missionary arrived in Korea, tending to add a greater variety of subjects such as Chinese classics, History, Reading, Geography, Arithmetic Science, etc.
- In 1885, Paichai Hakdang was established. More schools were established such as Kyongsin School.
- In 1886, Mary Scranton opened Ewha which was the first school for girls. However, it had difficulty with recruiting students.
- Early Modern Education: Traditional & Western Learning Combined.
- Growth of Christianity:
  - 1885-1895: Slow & Cautious
  - 1895-1905: Dramatic Increase
  - Post-1905: Great Revival in Pyongyang in 1907, leading to the conversion of thousands under the Japanese protectorate treaty.

#### 8.4 Christianity & Korean Nationalism Relation

- Arousal of National Consciousness.
- Spread of Western Liberal Ideas.
- Christian Organizations Arranged Political Activities.

#### 8.5 Colonial Period Paichai

- More Christian Americans and Europeans come to Korea.
- Have Sunday School, Christmas Concert, Colonial period congregation

#### 8.6 Post Liberation

- Christians take in Korean orphans after the Korean War.
- Onnuri Church Founded in 1986.
- After that at present there are unification churches & mega-churches.

#### 8.7 Christianity & Confucianism

- Shared moral & social values with Confucianism.
- Focus on the family.
  - Filial piety ⇒ The Fifth commandment “Honor your father & your mother”.
- Christian & Korean Women
  - Obedience to one’s parents ⇒ Obedience to one’s mother-in-law. (Story of Ruth)
- Patriarchy.

#### 8.8 Christianity at Present Problems

- Nowadays, there are a lot of cults in South Korea such as Shincheonji & Providence.
- Originally Christianity is concerned with spreading love and peace, but in the cults, it became a tool for the cult leader to do criminal acts like raping and threatening the members.
- Most famous example is Jung Myung-Seok.



## 9. Korean Food

### 9.1 Food as National Symbols

- **Most iconic food: Kimchi**
  - Examples of events related to kimchi: **Students in school learn how to make kimchi, having kimchi-making competitions in society, etc.**
- Other food: Bibimbap, Bulgogi, Tteokbokki, etc.
- Characteristics/Ingredients of Korean Food:
  - Rice, garlic, red pepper, green onion, fermented, soups & side dishes.
- Taste of Korean Food: Mostly Spicy
- Korean food culture is passed by cookbooks nowadays.

### 9.2 History Related to Korean Food

#### 9.2.1 Korean Royal Court Meals

- During the Joseon Dynasty, the King consumes his royal court meal.
- The traditional food in the meal consists of the five main colors: **Green, red, yellow, white & black**. Each of them signifies a direction, natural element & health benefit.

#### 9.2.2 Mourning Rites

- Food was offered to the deceased every morning & evening for 27 months as a means of paying respects.
- The act of filial piety helped the chief mourner to overcome the shock of the death & return to normal life.
- Board of Rites:
  - Foods prepared for ancestor rites.
  - Attaining wines & other beverages.
  - Medicinal foods.

#### 9.2.3 National Mourning (Death of the King/Queen)

- Various food for National Mourning is placed outside the office & in the inner palace.
- Binjeon: A palace where the coffin containing the king/queen was stored during the royal funeral.
- Honjeon: The place where the ancestral tablet was stored until the coffin was moved to the Jongmyo, the royal tomb, after the funeral.

#### 9.2.4 Other Cultures Associated with Korean Food in the Joseon Dynasty

- Treating illness through food.
- Tea culture (associated with Buddhism).
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#### 9.2.5 During Colonial Period

- Japanese food is sweeter than Korean food.

- Korean food then becomes spicy and sweet, side dishes include miso soup & other Japanese food.

#### 9.2.6 During the Korean War

- American soldiers bring Spam to Korea. Koreanized spam then becomes one of the ingredients added to Korean food nowadays, like Budae-jigae.

#### 9.3 Koreanized Food at Present

- McDonald's Food has combined burgers with Korean national food.
- KFC offers fried chicken combining the flavor of hot & spicy related to kimchi.
- Korean alcohol is promoted across the country with celebrity endorsements.

#### 9.4 International Tensions Related to Korean Food

- EU-SK FTA 2007 Protests.
- 2008 U.S. Beef Protest.

### 10. Gender in Korean Society

#### 10.1 Same-Sex Marriages in Korean Society

- Same-sex marriage events of 2013 & 1970 were not the same thing, nor the firsts happened.
  - Legal same-sex marriage of gender-normative couples, especially men in media v.s. Unofficial same-sex weddings of female couples in paji-ch'ima pairings.
- Despite historical differences, "queer" things were happening before South Korea transitioned to democracy & economic "miracle".
  - Male anxieties about the disruption of heteronormative kinship practices from before the Korean War & later fears of "sexual revolution" (The late 1960s to 1970s).
  - Popular accommodation of female "husbands" & wives" as comprehensible but "eccentric".
- Subcultural contexts of war windows & single mothers after the war and after the 1960s of female migration & public labor and/or deeply felt sense of difference.
  - Same-sex coupling is economically stabilizing, socially dignifying, and/or more.
  - Some religious & familial recognition alongside non-biological families.

#### 10.2 Same-Sex Marriage Post War

- Rarely publicized case of gender non-conforming wo/man partnering with a gender-normative male.
- Social Criminality & Sexual Deviance in Early Post Korean War Accounts.
- Media used negative words describing same-sex couples.
  - Intimate subculture of gynocentrism after the Korean War.
  - Normative pairings of female "husbands" & "wives".
  - Doubts about queer couples & use of question marks.

- “Deviant” & “criminal » actors as social threats, with paji particularly linked to pro-communist infiltrators.

### 10.3 Same-Sex Marriage after the 1960s

- Capitalistic Voyeurism & the Accommodation of Female Same-Sex Weddings in Newspaper Weeklies.
- “Female-Dressed Men” in as Laughable Figure in Popular Culture of Authoritarian South Korea.
- Same-sex marriage is more concern due to the human rights movement in the 1990s. The media then became supportive of it.

### 10.4 Cosmetic Surgery in South Korea

- South Korean females are concerned about their appearance.
- The culture of cosmetic surgery has become popular and most of the girls will do surgery after they become adults.

## 11. Korean Film

### 11.1 Pioneers of Korean Film

#### 1) Park Nam Ok

- Park started her movie career at Chosun Film Company after liberation from Japanese colonization & worked in the Film Crew of the Ministry of National Defense during the Korean War.
- “The Widow (1955)”: The first Korean feature film by a female director about the weary lives & desires of war widows.
  - A box-office flop, but it was an excellent work about women at the crossroads between tradition & modernity, portraying heroines torn between motherhood & sexual desire.

#### 2) Hong Eun Won

- Hong joined the film industry during the same period as Park after working as an assistant director & screenwriter for 15 years.
- She participated in famous films such as “A Woman Judge (1964)”, “The Single Mom (1964)” & “What Misunderstanding Left Behind (1966)”.

#### 3) Choi Eun Hee

- Choi is an actress in the 1960s who directed period films such as “The Girl Raised as a Future Daughter-in-Law (1965)” & “One-Sided Love of Princess (1967)” through Shin Films, her husband Shin Sangok’s company.

#### 4) Hwang Hye Mi (1970s)

- Hwang wrote & directed “First Experience (1970)” challenging the sexual mores of

monogyny.

5) Khai Du Club (1970s)

- Leading female directors (Han Ok-hee, Kim Jeon-sun, Lee Jeong-hee & Han Soon-ae) made & presented experimental films in the mid-1970s.
- They touched off a radical movement in the form of experimental movies, being a feminine challenge in the masculinity & popular movie-dominating Chungmuro.
- They participated in the youth culture in the 1970s with their films.
- They vitalized the Korean movie industry shrunk under censorship & formed a source of the film movement in the 1980s & Korean New Wave in the 1990s.

6) Lee Mi Rye (1980s)

- The only female director of theatrically released fictional features throughout the 1980s.
- Debuted with “My Daughter Rescued from the Swamp” in 1984.

7) Lim Soon Rye (1990s)

- Lim won an award at the Seoul Short Film Festival with “Promenade in the Rain (1994)” & presented her feature film “Three Friends (1996)”, launching a new generation of female directors influenced by the Korean New Wave.
- She acted in “Waikiki Brothers (2003)/If You Were Me (2003)”, an omnibus feature film made as a human rights film project.
- She directed “The ‘Weight’ of Her”, a short black comedy about the brutal social control of women’s appearances.

8) Park Chan-ok (2000s)

- Park won attention with her short films “To Be (1996)” & “Heavy (1998)”.
- She made her feature debut with “Jealousy is My Middle Name (2002)”.

9) Lee Jeong-Hyung (2000s)

- Lee’s films, “Art Museum by the Zoo (1998)” & “The Way Home (2002)” were commercially successful.

## 11.2 Rise of Feminism in South Korea

- In 1989, an independent film production group “Bariteo” was established for feminist films.
  - Byun Young-joo participated & acted as cinematographer
- The Women’s Film Festival in Seoul in 1997: “See the world through women’s eyes”.
- Notable figure: Byun Young-joo
  - Graduated from Ehwa Women’s University with a major in Law.
  - Directed 12 films including shorts & documentaries.
  - Started producing documentaries about women who had been forced to become sex slaves for Japanese soldiers during the Second World War after directing “Women Being in Asia (1993)” which was a documentary about the sex trade in Asia.

- “The Murmuring (1995)” was planned from the beginning as a 16mm film for theatrical release. The sequels “Habitual Sadness (1997)” & “Habitual Sadness 2 – My Own Breathing (2000)” were produced later.
- Started to make feature films from 2002: Directing “Ardor (2002)” & “Flying Boys (2004)”.
- Famous Film Example from Byun: “Helpless (2012)”
  - A mystery drama adapted based on Miyabe Miyuki’s novel.
  - We
- Increase of female force in genre films
  - E.g. “Missing (Lee Eon Hee, 2016)”: Thriller,  
“Bluebeard (Lee Soo Yeon, 2017)”: Thriller & Murder Mystery  
“Glass Garden (Shin-Soo Won, 2017)”: Fantasy

### 11.3 Korean Women Filmmakers Present

- Films about women & Films directed by women receive less international exposure than male-centered films.
- In every country, male directors far outnumber female directors.

## 12. K-pop & Globalization

### 12.1 Origin Point of K-pop

- Seo Tae-ji & the Kids: Consensus origin of contemporary K-pop.
- They started the trend of “visual singers”, wherein fashion, choreography & performance became integral parts of their performance.
- They aggressively mixed & matched influences from metal, rock and roll, gangsta hip-hop & traditional Korean folk music.
- Their “snowboarder” look was a rip-off of hip-hop fashion, hiding lethal weapons under their thick jackets, etc., but they were mostly criticized for their lyrics.
- They started with conventional romantic-angst songs but soon moved to “Classroom Idea” & “It’s My Business”, in which the hierarchical education system received their most severe criticism.

### 12.2 K-pop in the 1990s & in the 2000s

- Many groups with similar dance-centered, aggressively eclectic music styles emerged, the dance duo Clon, Sechs Kies, H.O.T., G.O.D., TVXQ & Big Bang.
- However, the boy bands were subject to hobbling due to mandatory military service. From the 2000s on production companies put much effort into developing girls’ groups.

### 12.3 K-pop and Japan

- Fin. K.L., S.E.S., and BoA, a multilingual teenage singer in the mold of Janet Jackson “designed” to appeal to the Japanese and English-language market.
- The Korean Wave succeed without its spread in the Asian Market, especially Japan.
  - e.g. PSY’s Gangnam Style is the most popular song on YouTube and other platforms, but not in Japan.
- The majority of Hallyu fans in Japan preferred “cuteness” or “gentle machismo” as seen by the huge success of the TV star Bae Yong-joon in early 2000s Japan.
- Some Japanese argued that K-pop, their sales figure in one estimate showing 40% dependency on Japanese consumers would collapse once the Japanese rejected their products.
- The deterioration of the relationship between the Japanese & Korean governments did not affect the surge of the Hallyu boom in Japan in the mid-2010s & again in the late 2010s.
- The younger generation of Japanese consumers “like” Korean pop culture any less due to these diplomatic strains.
- Among sales figures of foreign language textbook for Japanese, 1<sup>st</sup> is English, 2 is Korean & 3<sup>rd</sup> is Chinese.
- Not only Japan but other international fandoms to K-pop groups are economically & even politically significant.
  - e.g. BTS’s concert in Saudi Arabia, Chinese fans of BTS spent upwards of \$2 million for the celebration of Jungkook’s birthday.

#### 12.4 Downsides of K-pop

- K-pop’s problems, scandals, corruption & exploitation are not unique to the entertainment industry.
- K-pop leaves a large chunk of its society suffocatingly hierarchical & exploitative.
- The mental & physical abilities of the young artists are stretched to the limit, lacking in structural protection.
- Consumers like social media service users can get extremely jealous & hostile to them. (e.g. Tajinyo, targeting Epic High’s Tablo)
- K-pop has always sought to transcend its national boundaries, becoming the dangers of the “national sports” model.
  - e.g. Experimenting with adding Chinese, Japanese & Thai members in the K-pop groups.
- The most significant event in K-pop, even more so than BTS’s nomination in the Grammy Awards and the other stateside success: JYP’s “exportation” of K-pop modality of Japan.

#### 12.5 Conclusion

- Diversity is one of the determining characteristics of contemporary Korean culture, despite

its strong mono-ethnic nationalist ideology. It is impossible to “essentialize” Korean culture, & this is born not just from contemporary culture such as K-pop & Korean cinema, but the history of Korea itself.

- South Korean culture can claim its “distinctiveness” by aggressively, voraciously absorbing the “foreign” influences.
  - A contradiction that the “modernizing” generation born between the colonial period & the late 1980s has not been addressed.
- The younger generation of Koreans faces the new challenge of redefining their “Korean” identity as sth. that goes beyond the survival of its ethnic markers, but one that reaches out to universal values, common aspirations & dreams of humanity.