



Chapter II

autogenous modernity and liminality

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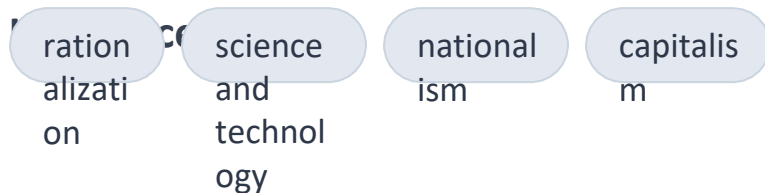
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Concept and definition of modernity

Modernity is a new way of life that emerged through the combination of reason, science, capital, and the state, and is a universal value discovered by mankind since the Middle Ages.

It is defined as a way of life that uses science and technology as the basis for understanding the world, and combines capital and the state to objectify and efficiently manage nature and humans.



The etymology of modernity, 'mode', means "now, here," and can connote both modernity and post-modernity.

Characteristics of Western modernity

Weber condensed and explained modernity as 'rationalization of the entire society.'

Weber's three elements of modernity:

- rational capitalism
- Rational legal-administrative systems
- rational social differentiation

Key features of Western modernity:

Rationalism Principle of Rationality Absoluteness of Truth Scientific Worldview Secularization

Methodological skepticism and rationalism stemming from Descartes' "I think, Therefore I am (Cogito, ergo sum)" form the epistemological foundation of Western modernity.

The Limits of Western modernity

As a result of unbridled desire, modernity brought humanity to an unprecedented crisis of extinction, and the Theory of postmodernism, a critical Theory of modernity, became very popular.

Postmodernist criticism:

- **Problem of rationality:** Rationalism, represented by Descartes' "I think, Therefore I exist," is the core
- **problem of modernity. Narcissistic identity:** Narcissistic modernity that denies Ideas or God and re-
- **establishes all laws from me.**

Exclusion of others: modern thinking that excludes and alienates others in the name of rationality

"Hell is other people (L'enfer, c'est les autres)"

—Jean-Paul Sartre

Background of the emergence of postmodernism:

The debate between existentialism and structuralism began with the French student movement in May 1968, and later developed into post-structuralism, forming a huge trend in modern philosophy today.

Discussion of post-modernity and alternative modernity

post-modernity is a flow of criticism of modernity and exploration of various alternatives to overcome its limitations. It is a movement of thought that recognizes the problems caused by Western modernity and seeks solutions.

reflective modernity

A concept presented by Ulrich Beck, arguing for the reconstruction of modernity through reflection and introspection on modernization.

liquid chard

Zygmunt Bauman's Theory of modernity as characterized by uncertainty and fluidity in modern society.

multiple modernities

A concept advocated by Eisenstadt and others, acknowledging the coexistence of different modernities based on regional and cultural diversity

alternative modernity

Focusing on the independent modernization paths of various civilizations, including the autogenous modernity of the East, beyond the Western model

Key features:

Overcoming the Limitations of modernity

Recognition of regional diversity

Reflection and self-criticism

cultural relativism

multiple modernities and consilience theory

multiple modernities is a concept that acknowledges the emergence of modernity in regions other than the West and emphasizes the diversity of modernity developed by each society on its own.



representative scholars

Comparative historical sociologists such as S. N. Eisenstadt, B. Wittrock, and J. P. Arnason

Consilience theory:

An alternative model to Western modernity centered on Cartesian rationality, an explanation of modernity through rearrangement of the boundaries and relationships between the sacred and the profane.

Consilience 1 After the Axial Age, the saints consilience the secular world.

Consilience 2 Modernity is a transition where the profane overcomes the sacred.

The consilience model is an alternative theory that can explain both Western modernity (the case of Weber's religious reform) and Eastern modernity (the Song Dynasty's Neo-Confucianism).

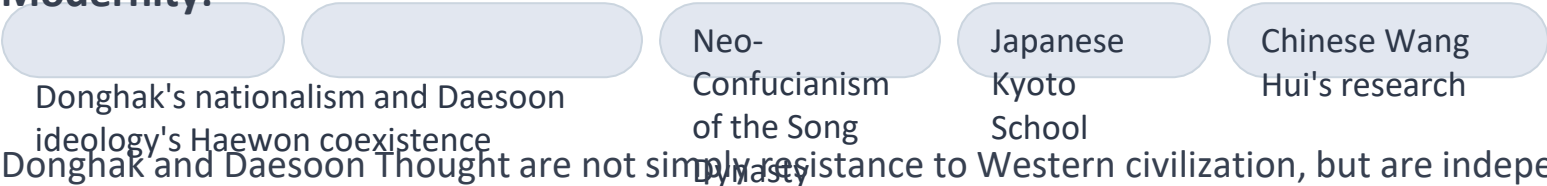
Eastern modernity

autogenous modernity refers to modern elements inherent in our tradition and an autogenous modernity that preserves our tradition in response to Western modernity.

The main Characteristics of autochthonous modernity:

- 1 **Correlational thinking:** Unlike Western dichotomous thinking, a way of thinking that all elements of the world are harmonious in interconnected relationships.
- 2 **Riminality:** An attempt to introspectively overcome the boundary between the sacred and the profane.
- 3 **Intrinsic development:** Eastern societies had their own modernization processes even before Western influence.

Examples of Oriental Modernity:



Donghak and Daesoon Thought are not simply resistance to Western civilization, but are independent modern ideas that creatively integrate Eastern tradition and Western modernity.

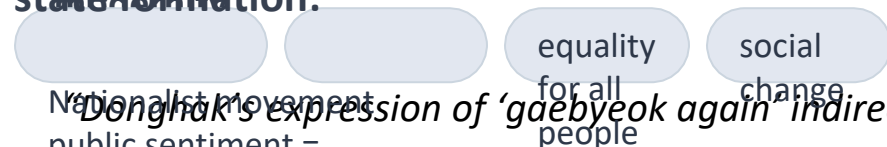
The autogenous modernity of Donghak Thought

Donghak is the definitive version of the Joseon Dynasty's "becoming a nobleman of the whole nation" trend after the Japanese invasions of Korea, and is the ideological foundation on which the Concept of Korea's nation-state was first formed.

Characteristics of Donghak's autogenous modernity:

- Immanent thought: Emphasis on the inherent nature of Eastern thought that “the
 - Principle of the universe is in the body, so the will of the people is the heart of
- heaven” Correlative thought and liminality: Forming a creative tension relationship at the border between the sacred and the profane

Donghwa and nation state formation: Similarity to the Reformation: Shares structural similarities with the Reformation, the first sign of Western state formation:



public sentiment = heavenly sentiment

Donghak presents a unique example of autogenous modernity that encompasses modernity and post-modernity by simultaneously presenting the beginning of a modern nation and critical thinking about modernity.

Modernity presented by Daesoon Thought

Daesoon Thought predicted the Limitations of Western modernity at the time about 120 years ago and presented an alternative modernity that integrated Eastern and Western ideas.

Haewon-

Sangsaeng (解冤相生)

The core Principle of Daesoon Thought that resolves the resentful relationship dominated by opposites and realizes the way of coexistence.

Resolving resentments Mutual coexistence Harmonious relationship

East-West

convergence approach

Pursuing balanced modernity by integrating Western rationality and Eastern morality

합리성과 영성 성(聖)과 속(俗)의 조화 동서 사상의 통섭

The crisis and alternative to modernity predicted by Daesoon Thought:

- Foresaw the crisis of human extinction brought about by the materialism of Western modernity.
- Presenting that the harmonious coexistence of Eastern and Western civilizations is an alternative to new modernity
- A concept similar to reflective modernity was presented more than 120 years ago.

"The Concept of modernity presented by Daesoon Thought by synthesizing Eastern and Western ideas is only now beginning to receive attention as an alternative to overcoming the modern

Oriental origins of Western modernity

Recent studies have revealed that Western modernity was influenced by the East, especially China, and that the 'China craze' in Europe after Matteo Ricci had a significant influence on the development of Western enlightenment.

Influence of Enlightenment thinkers on Eastern thought:

voltai re	China's religion-free morality is highly regarded and used to criticize European religious dogmatism.
adam smith	The Concept of the 'invisible hand' is inspired by Eastern thought, especially the Chinese Concept of natural order.
Rou sse au	'Natural Right' was developed from Chinese civilization and human nature theory.

researcher

- Thomas A. Metzger
- Andre Gunder Frank
- John M. Hobson
- Julien (François Jullien)
- Alexander Woodside

Key Takeaways

- Overcoming European
- mutual exchange of
- Restoration of hidden history
- Recognition of multiple

Conclusion and Implications

Rediscovery of autogenous modernity

Modernity research requires constant reflection in the 'here and now', and it is important to expand alternative perspectives beyond Western-centric modernity.

Modern implications of Eastern thought

Eastern modernity, such as Donghak and Daesoon Thought, is not a simple historical relic but presents a reflective alternative to the problems of modern society.

Convergence and new paradigm

Through the Concept of consilience and liminality between Western and Eastern thought, it is possible to seek a new social paradigm that overcomes the limitations while maintaining the positive aspects of modernity.

“Toward a new
modernity beyond

‘ . . . ’