

# The Need for the Study \_\_\_\_\_

## The Cyclic Economic View and the Philosophy of Religion

An Integrative Interpretation of the Modern Economy and Religion  
Centered on Daesoon Thought

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## Research Background and Problem Statement

### The Economic and Spiritual Circulation Problem of Modern People, Inspired by the Myth of Sisyphus

- The spiritual suffering of modern people, who know no satisfaction even amid an extremely developed material civilization.  
A dilemma like that of Sisyphus, who cannot place the boulder atop the mountain without the help of an absolute being.
- The Limits of Libertarianism, Communitarianism, Social Contractarianism, and Utilitarianism  
The problem of circulation, unable to escape the framework of existing economic philosophies.
- The Need to Restore the Relationship Among Religion, Economy, and Ethics  
Seeking "the virtuous cycle of religion and economy, in which religion develops ethics and ethics develops the economy."

*"As Weber stated, religion has overcome the economic crises of its age."*

# The Structure of Modern Economic Problems

The core axes of modern economic problems are divided into four along the two axes of individual–community and ethics–economy.

 Individual–Economy

The Problem of the Collapse of Economic Motivation

The phenomenon in which, despite material abundance, the meaning and motivation of economic activity are lost.

 Individual–Ethics

The Disappearance of Economic Ethics

The phenomenon in which individual economic activity is separated from ethical judgment, resulting in a moral vacuum.

 Community–Economy

The Problem of the Capitalist–Communist Systems

The emerging need to seek a new economic system that transcends ideological confrontation.

 Community–Ethics

The Problem of the Environmental Crisis

The conflict between economic development and environmental conservation, and the need for a sustainable development model.

*"Although the internet has made the world an age of empathy in which all people share feelings, today, conversely, technological development means that a single virus can collapse the entire global network; the economic crisis caused by the paralysis of circulation is growing more serious in scale and repercussion by the day, incomparable to past economic crises."*

# The Historical Relationship Between Religion and Economy

## The Influence of Religion on Economic Development and the Circulation Mechanism

### Max Weber

The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism: religion as the driving force of capitalist development.

Presenting the concept of the 'iron cage' resulting from linear rationalization.

### Karl Marx

"Religion is the opium of the people" — perceiving religion as the superstructure of the economic base.

Interpreting the relationship between religion and economy unidirectionally.

### Friedrich Nietzsche

A cyclic worldview through the concept of 'eternal recurrence' and the 'economy of the emotions.'

Suggesting a shift from "God is dead" to a cyclic view of the divine.

### The Interaction of Eastern and Western Religions and Economic Ethics

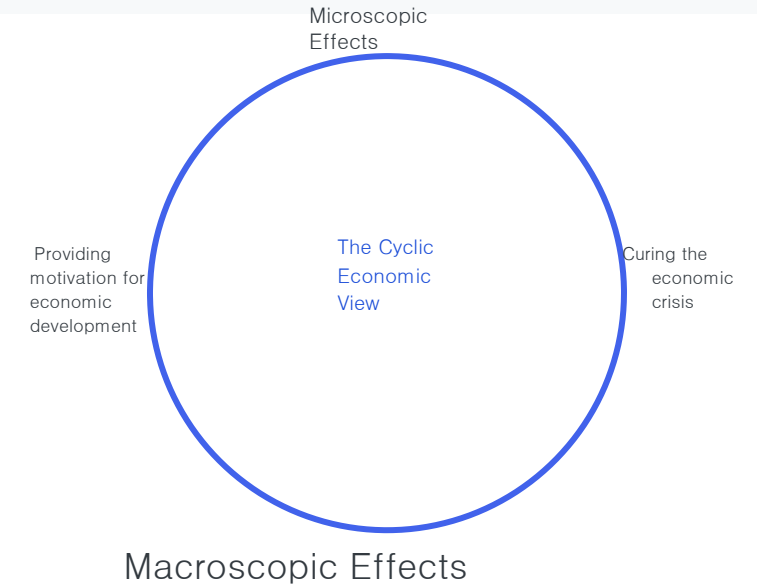
- Confucianism: A communitarian economic view that prioritizes ethics.  
"Economy (經濟)" is an abbreviation of "gyeongse-jemin (經世濟民)" (governing the world and relieving the people).
- Buddhism: The harmony of transcendence of the world and an ethical economy.  
Emphasizing the balance between distribution and production.
- Taoism: A liberal economic view and natural circulation.  
Emphasizing the organic relationship between the individual and the whole.
- Western Religion: The conflict between individual and community, reason and faith.  
The relationship between the doctrine of predestination and the spirit of capitalism.

*"World religions emerged as a function of justifying the inequality brought about by the economy" — Max Weber*

# The Concept of the Cyclic Economic View

## The Meaning of Circulation (循環) and Its Contemporary Economic Application

- A Postmodern Method of Solution  
A higher-dimensional movement that reconciles mutually opposing linear movements.
- The Circulation Principle of the Economic Ethics of the Three Teachings and Western Religion  
An integrative approach that develops the strengths of each religion's economic thought.
- The Scientific Justification of Circulation  
A principle proven in the natural sciences, just as Einstein relativized Newtonian physics through the circle.



*"Money is a thing created and used through the principle of circulation."*

— Daesoon  
Thought

# The Economic View of Daesoon Thought

"Money is a thing created and used through the principle of circulation."

- A Cyclic Ethic of Distribution

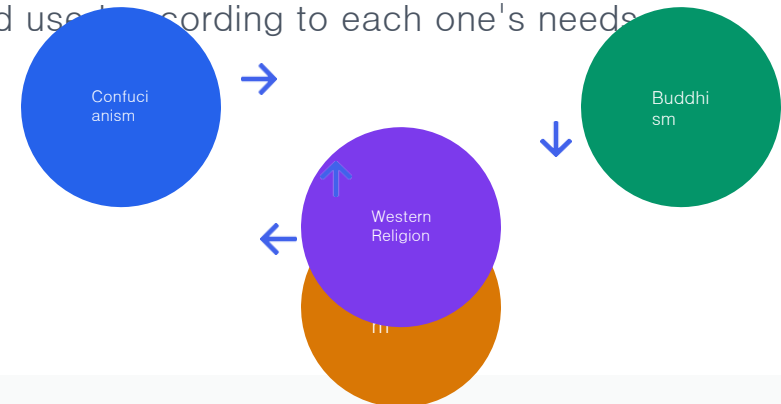
The principle by which all things are created by the Mandate of Heaven (天命) and used according to each one's needs

- The Internal Circulation of the Three Teachings and Western Religion

The Eastern Origins and Integration of Western Thought as Manifested in Daesoon Thought

- The Circulatory Relationship of Individual–Community and Economy–Ethics

An Alternative Economic View for Solving Modern Economic Problems



*"Not only do economy and ethics circulate, but the individual and the community are also in a circulatory relationship; therefore all economic problems arising from the two axes of individual–community and economy–ethics can be solved through the cyclic method."*

## Significance of the Study and Conclusion

### A New Integrative Interpretation of Economy, Ethics, and Religion Based on Circulation

#### ✓ The Integration of the Economic Thought of the Three Teachings and Western Religion

The possibility of solving modern economic problems by establishing the circulatory relationships of individual–community and economy–ethics.

#### ✓ The Cyclic Economic View of Daesoon Thought

#### ✓ Presenting an ethic of distribution and the principle of economic circulation through the view that "money is a thing created and used through the principle of circulation."

#### Implications for Overcoming the Modern Economic Crisis

Presenting an integrative solution to the four problems: the collapse of economic motivation, the disappearance of economic ethics, systemic problems, and the environmental crisis.

#### Future Research Directions

Developing practical measures for the cyclic economic view and models for its

application to modern society; the need for research empirically verifying the economic implications of religious thought.

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