
Complementary-opposition libertarian view of wealth and Eumyang Hapdeok

This study examines the cyclic economic view of Daesoon Thought, the complementary-opposition (Daedae) libertarian view of wealth, and the principle of Eumyang Hapdeok along with its contemporary significance.

Presentation overview

- 1 The Cyclic Economic View of Daesoon Thought
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- 3 Market-equilibrium theory and economic ethics
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The Cyclic Economic View of Daesoon Thought

Daesoon Thought pursues the harmonious development of economics and ethics through the interaction and circulation of all things and the principle of Eumyang Hapdeok.

The cyclic economic view of Daesoon Thought is well illustrated in the relationship between economics and ethics, emphasizing the mutually complementary circulation of individualism and collectivism, and of theory and practice.

As stated in 'Dosol heomu jeokmyeol ijo' (兜率虛無寂滅以詔), only when one is able to encompass and circulate Confucianism, Buddhism, and Taoism—the origins of libertarianism, social contractarianism, utilitarianism, and communitarianism—like spring, summer, autumn, and winter can the individual and society develop.

Table 3.9 The cyclic structure of the complementary-opposition libertarian view of wealth

Economics and economic ethics stand in a mutually complementary (Daedae) relationship, forming a cyclic structure.

Method \ Value	Individualism		Collectivism	
	The good (善)—order within institutions	The right (正)—the basic structure of institutions	Efficiency	Virtue
Economics (theory)	⑥ Market-equilibrium theory (theoretical economics)			③ Institutional-evolution theory (historical-school economics)
Economic ethics (practice)		① Libertarianism (liberty)	④ Utilitarianism (efficiency)	⑤ Communitarianism (virtue)
		② Social contractarianism (justice)		

Cyclic relationship: libertarianism (①) → social contractarianism (②) → institutional-evolution theory (③) → utilitarianism (④) → communitarianism (⑤) → market-equilibrium theory (⑥)

When the individual and society form a relationship of Fumyang Hapdeok, the market equilibrium that is the ideal of libertarianism can be attained.

The problems and limitations of existing libertarianism

Libertarianism originally began with the aim of reforming the basic structure of institutions, yet it exhibits the following fundamental limitations:

- 1 The turn toward gambling/casino capitalism in the economy caused by excessive deference to liberty
- 2 The limits of realizing a liberty that changes the basic structure of institutions
- 3 Seeking only liberty within the system, given the limits of the market-equilibrium theory of theoretical economics

"When the crux of libertarianism comes down to the question of how far one can expand one's own liberty, the problem is the turn toward gambling/casino capitalism in the economy caused by excessive deference to liberty."

A solution through Eumyang Hapdeok

Libertarianism grounded in the complementary opposition (Daedae) of Eumyang Hapdeok overcomes the limits of gambling capitalism caused by excessive deference to liberty:

- ① Harmony of individual liberty and social responsibility—liberty and responsibility are balanced through the Hapdeok (united virtue) of yin (individual) and yang (society)
- ② Continuous circulation of sound liberty—pursuing the essential expansion of liberty within a system in which all things circulate
- ③ Multidirectional expansion of liberty—soundly expanding the domain of liberty through social contractarianism, utilitarianism, and communitarianism

"In the cyclic economic view of Daesoon, as an alternative to the libertarian view of wealth, a complementary-opposition libertarian view of wealth grounded in Eumyang Hapdeok is proposed, preserving libertarianism's original aim of institutional reform while realizing a sound expansion of liberty."

Complementary-opposition libertarianism develops, through the principle of Eumyang Hapdeok, into a relationship in which individual liberty and social publicness cyclically reinforce each other.

Case analysis from the Jeongyeong (『典經』)

Practical cases of the recovery of liberty through Eumyang Hapdeok

Economic Ethics	The necessity of liberty	Recovery of liberty through Eumyang Hapdeok	Jeongyeong passages related to the recovery of liberty
Libertarianism	Gambling capitalism	Replacing contingency with law	Even gambling at yut succeeds with single-mindedness (Gwonji ch.1, v.18)
Social Contractarianism	Ethical nihilism	Confirming that Eumyang Hapdeok holds even after death	Faring well after death and becoming a magistrate of the Joseon netherworld (Gyobeop ch.1, v.2)
Utilitarianism	Loss of confidence due to winner-take-all	Success through single-mindedness	Do not harbor the thought that it will not work (Gyobeop ch.2, v.5)
Overcoming gambling capitalism	Powerlessness in the face of betrayal by a strong	Overcoming ethical nihilism	Are there only male generals? There are female generals too (Gwonji ch.1, v.18)
By awakening one to the fact that even gambling contains the principle of Eumyang Hapdeok, one relinquishes attachment to gambling and expands a genuine inner liberty		Presenting the method of Eumyang Hapdeok, in which liberty expands even after death, even for those who have fulfilled their duty to the world yet been betrayed	Restoration of community
		Overcoming intensified competition	Even powerless individuals, if they unite by the principle of Eumyang Hapdeok, can overcome unfavorable contracts and recover their liberty
		Emphasizing that even in a winner-take-all society, single-mindedness makes economic success certainly possible, thereby elevating the will to liberty	

Conclusion: The cases in Daesoon Thought show that the regeneration of economic motivation and the recovery of liberty are achieved through the complementary-opposition (Daedae) relationship of Eumyang Hapdeok.

Conclusion and significance

The complementary–opposition libertarian view of wealth presents a cyclic relationship between economics and ethics on the basis of the Eumyang Hapdeok principle of Daesoon Thought.

The harmony of individual and society through Eumyang Hapdeok is the core of the cyclic economic view and serves as an alternative that overcomes the limitations of existing libertarianism.

Principal significance

Proposing a means for the sound expansion of liberty; a theoretical basis for overcoming gambling capitalism; presenting the possibility of the cyclic practice of economic ethics; a fusion approach uniting traditional thought and modern economic theory

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By presenting a new economic paradigm in which individual liberty and social responsibility achieve Eumyang Hapdeok, the complementary–opposition libertarian view of wealth can serve as an alternative solution to the economic problems of contemporary society.

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