



Haewon Sangsaeng and the Harmonization of Economic Ideologies

The Harmonization-Oriented (Junghwa) Utilitarian View of Labor
and Economic Ideology in Daesoon Thought



This examines how Haewon Sangsaeng thought functions as an alternative to the contemporary crisis of economic ideology, and discusses the harmonization of economic ideologies that the harmonization-oriented (Junghwa) utilitarianism of Daesoon Thought presents.

The Junghwa Utilitarian View of Labor and the
Harmonization of Economic Ideologies

The concept of the harmonization-based utilitarian view of labor

A New Paradigm of Economic Ideology Presented by Daesoon Thought



The Union of the Cyclicity of Confucian Capitalism and Utilitarianism

Confucianism, which was established to solve the economic-ideology problem of realizing the initial public good, combined with the active philanthropic spirit of Western Religion and developed into utilitarianisms such as capitalism and communism.

“In Daesoon Thought, labor-production is a result of circulation, so as long as it does not obstruct circulation, the desire for production is strongly emphasized by virtue of harmonization (Junghwa, 中和).”



The Greatest Happiness of the Greatest Number and Care for the Minority

Utilitarianism pursues the greatest happiness of the greatest number, but harmonization-oriented (Junghwa) utilitarianism guards against the sacrifice of the minority and emphasizes an ethics of caring for them.

“If even one person harbors a grievance, the energy of heaven and earth is blocked.” — Jeongyeong, Gongsu Ch. 3, v. 29



The Cyclic Structure of Sangsaeng through Grievance (Won, 婁) and Its Resolution (Haewon, 解婁)

Harm done to the minority by the majority is called grievance (Won, 婁), and the majority's care for the minority is called the resolution of grievance (Haewon, 解婁); through this, a cyclic economic structure of Sangsaeng is formed.

“Harmonization-oriented utilitarianism placed the resolution of grievance (Haewon, 解婁) before grievance (Won, 婁).”

Haewon Sangsaeng and the Crisis of Economic Ideology

The Limits of Contemporary Economic Ideologies and the Search for an Alternative through Haewon Sangsaeng



The Ideological Limits of Capitalism and Communism

Capitalism, having lost the economic ideology of expanding the public good, maximizes the gap between rich and poor, while communism, mired in stagnant growth, brings about a crisis of economic ideology.

“Modern people living under capitalism set aside their ideals, suffer wounds to their human dignity, endure each day of frustrated dreams, and fail to realize any active public good.”



Harmony through Market Cyclicity and Care for the Minority

Unlike Western utilitarianism, which emphasized only political majority rule, the harmonization-oriented utilitarianism of Daesoon presents an alternative to the crisis of economic ideology grounded in enhancing market efficiency and cyclicity.

“In Daesoon Thought, efficiency is the key to economic circulation, so it strongly criticizes utilitarian politics that deny market-internal efficiency and put forward a different political alternative.”



A Philosophy of Distribution and Labor That Prioritizes the Resolution of Grievance (Haewon, 解憂)

Daesoon Thought, which prioritizes the resolution of grievance over innovation, presents a philosophy of distribution and labor that prioritizes care for the minority and emphasizes a continuous cyclic structure through it.

“Whereas utilitarianism, in choosing between care for the minority and the interest of the majority, prioritizes the majority's choice, harmonization-oriented utilitarianism shows Haewon Sangsaeng, which prioritizes an ethics of care for the minority.”

Contemporary Implications and Conclusion

The Harmonization of Economic Ideologies and Practical Measures Presented by Haewon Sangsaeng Thought



Providing a Foundation for Social Stability

The Haewon Sangsaeng of Daesoon Thought goes beyond the ideological opposition of capitalism and communism, providing harmony among economic ideologies and a foundation for social stability.

"In harmonization-oriented utilitarianism, the human ideal of believing that though people may not know one's own sincerity, reverence, and conviction, Heaven will know, and of helping others prosper, harmonizes economic ideologies by embracing libertarianism, social contractarianism, and communitarianism all together."



Establishing a Harmonization-Oriented View of Production and Distribution

By emphasizing a harmonization-oriented view of production and distribution that cares for the interests of both the majority and the minority, it achieves economic circulation and efficiency at once.

"In the harmonization-oriented view of labor, the interests of both the majority and the minority are regarded as one. For me to prosper, I need only give first. Because the universe circulates, the wealth the community has cared for returns again to the community."



An Alternative to the Contemporary Economic Crisis

As an alternative to the crises of the contemporary economy—the wealth gap, growth stagnation, and loss of self-respect—the practical economic ethics of Haewon Sangsaeng is needed.

"Modern people living under capitalism set aside their ideals, suffer wounds to their human dignity, and endure each day of frustrated dreams. Harmonization-oriented utilitarianism presents the revival of the primordial force of the public good—namely, the enhancement of market efficiency—as an alternative to the contemporary crisis of economic ideology."