

A Comparative Study on the Indigenous Modernity of Donghak Thought and Daesoon Thought

— Focusing on the View of Heaven (天觀), View of Earth (地觀), and View of Humanity (人間觀) —

Comparative Study on Indigenous Modernity of Donghak Thought and Daesoon Thought

Focusing on Heaven, Earth and Humanity

Academic Advisor: Go Nam-sik (高南植)

Daejin University Graduate School, Department of Daesoon Theology (大巡宗學科)

Choe Won-hyeok (崔原赫) | July 2024

目次 | Table of Contents

I. Introduction

Introduction II. Indigenous Modernity and Liminality

Indigenous Modernity and Liminality III. Donghak: Indigenous Modernity and the Liminality of Disorder (作亂)

Donghak: Indigenous Modernity and the Liminality of Disorder IV. Daesoon: Indigenous Modernity and the Revitalization of Order (治亂)

Daesoon: Indigenous Modernity and the Revitalization of Order V. Comparison of the Indigenous Modernity of Donghak and Daesoon

Comparison of the Indigenous Modernity of Donghak and Daesoon VI. Conclusion

Conclusion

Research Background and Necessity

Academic Tasks

- Donghak Thought has mainly been studied only as a religious thought; the indigenous modernity of the East and the philosophical thinking methodology implied in the name "Donghak (東學)" have not yet been sufficiently illuminated.
- Although Daesoon Thought also claimed to be "True Donghak," research on it as an Eastern philosophical thinking methodology remains insufficient.

Historical Background

- The fact that Western modernity originated from the Eastern civilization that Matteo Ricci transmitted to the West has recently been re-examined.
- Confucianism, identified in the East as an obstacle to modernization, has been shown to have been the origin of modernity in the West.

Contemporary Significance

- As an alternative to the crisis of human extinction brought about by Western modern civilization — nuclear weapons, environmental problems, and the like — indigenous modernity is drawing renewed attention.
- As Western post-modernity (post-modernism) discourse seeks alternatives in the East, a re-examination of Donghak Thought and Daesoon Thought is needed.

A Contemporary Re-evaluation of Donghak Thought and Daesoon Thought

Rediscovering the Eastern Origins of Western Modernity

- Weber claimed the origin of modernity was Calvin's doctrine of predestination, but it in fact began with the Chinese Confucian civilization transmitted by Matteo Ricci.
- Eastern and Western scholars such as Zhu Qianzhi, Frank, and Hobson are conducting research that sheds new light on the Eastern origins of Western Enlightenment.

Open Online Materials and Academic Re-evaluation

- With the development of IT, online platforms such as Google now freely open up materials from the dawn of Western modernity.
- The concealed Eastern origins of Western modernity are being empirically revealed through documentary records.

The New Status of Donghak and Daesoon Thought

- Post-modernity theorists such as François Jullien are conducting research seeking alternatives to Western modernity in the East.
- Amid the crisis of modern civilization, the contemporary value of Donghak Thought and Daesoon Thought — which early on emphasized a religious return as an alternative modernity — comes to the fore.