THE
Gangneung Wonju

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NO. 85

# HERALD

SPECIAL

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# Kingsman Terror: The Mossad's "Pager" Attack

Young-Jun KIM

The 2015 film Kingsman: The Secret Service is a British spy action movie in which the protagonist, Eggsy, is recruited by a secret organization called Kingsman. Alongside his mentor, Harry Hart, Eggsy embarks on a mission to save the world from villains. The movie' s climactic scene is especially memorable, with heads exploding like fireworks due to implanted chips, offering a darkly humorous twist on violence that highlights the film's unique style.


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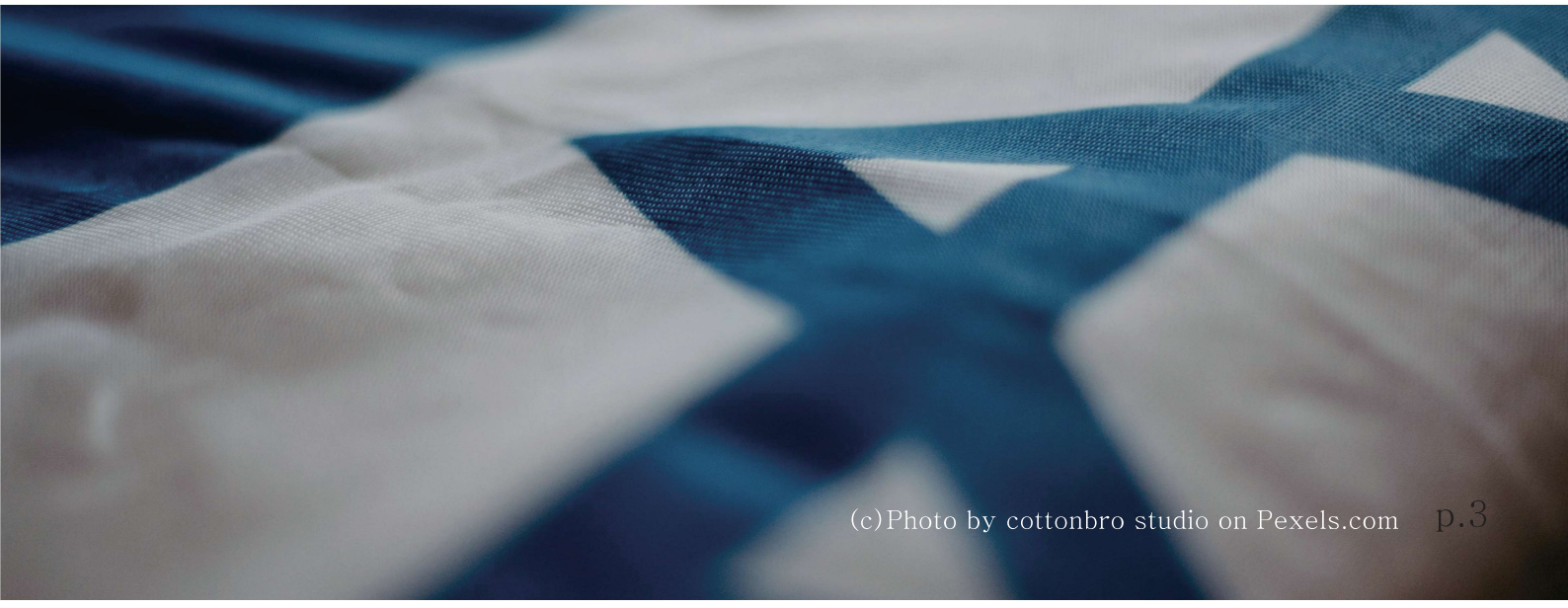
September 17, 2024

A recent terrorist attack occurred that seemed almost fictional. However, it bore none of the glamor of a movie. At around 15:30, thousands of pagers used by the armed group Hezbollah for communication in Lebanon exploded simultaneously, resulting in over 3,000 casualties. But who was responsible, and how was it carried out?

Key Organizations Involved

Hamas and Hezbollah

Hamas is a militant organization based in Palestine, particularly in the Gaza Strip, dedicated to Palestinian independence and the end of Israeli occupation. Hezbollah, operating out of southern Lebanon, functions as both a political force and an armed organization. Both groups engage in armed resistance against Israel.


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Mossad

Mossad, Israel's intelligence agency, is tasked with ensuring national security and is widely recognized for its exceptional intelligence-gathering capabilities and counterterrorism operations. In this recent attack, Mossad has emerged as the prime suspect, and the investigation is now focused on uncovering how such an operation was conducted.

An Operation 15 Years in the Making

Why did Hezbollah choose pagers over mobile phones?

The roots of this operation trace back to a decision by Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, who banned mobile phone use among members after receiving intelligence from allies indicating that Israel could remotely monitor mobile devices. Concerned about breaches from location tracking and intercepted communications, Hezbollah's leadership mandated the use of pagers instead, as mobile phones were described as akin to carrying surveillance devices. Israel, however, recognized an opportunity.

Where did these explosive pagers come from?

Was the culprit in Taiwan?

Hezbollah ordered 3,000 pagers from Taiwan-based Gold Apollo. However, Gold Apollo clarified, "We only authorized the brand name through a trademark license. The actual production was handled by B.A.C. Consulting, based in Budapest, Hungary."

The True Identity of Hungary's B.A.C. Consulting

According to The New York Times, B.A.C. Consulting was, in fact, a front company set up by Israel for covert security operations. Disguised as a pager manufacturing company, this shell entity produced standard pagers for civilian use, concealing its actual purpose. Israel invested millions in developing these pagers, exporting them over the years while waiting for the right moment. Finally, they secured a significant order from Hezbollah, providing specially modified pagers with unique batteries that distinguished them from standard models.


(c)무선호출기를 든 사람-canva

Thousands of Pagers Deployed to Hezbollah in Lebanon.

After receiving the pagers, Hezbollah instructed its officers to carry them at all times and to rely on them for navigation during warfare. Unbeknownst to them, these pagers would later turn into deadly devices attached to their waists. With these

"ticking devices" in Hezbollah's possession, Mossad held a "button" to press at the opportune moment. On September 17, precisely at 3:00 p.m., that button was activated, triggering the devastating explosions.

The Aftermath of the Attack

Immediately following the incident, Israel launched at least 52 large-scale airstrikes targeting Hezbollah positions in southern Lebanon. Although Israel has made no official statement regarding the attack, it is widely presumed to be their operation, as few other entities possess the capability and motivation for such a calculated move.

Through this mission, Israel sought to bolster its reputation as a force operating under "deterrence by fear" and as one "watching from everywhere." In a chilling extension of this strategy, it is reported that additional devices were detonated at the funerals of those killed in the initial attack, causing further casualties.

A Brutal Strategy

This operation underscores the relentlessness of modern warfare. The Mossad's meticulously planned mission took over 15 years to come to fruition, executed with each participant driven by a sense of duty. Such precision and determination in confronting an adversary may command acknowledgment, yet this operation starkly illustrates how warfare can strip away humanity, pushing innovation into increasingly ruthless realms.

This Mossad intelligence operation is labeled as "terror" due to the indiscriminate threat it posed to innocents. Before the explosions, there was no way to know who was holding the pagers, where they were located, or who else might be nearby. Under these conditions, detonating explosives on such a large scale almost inevitably caused civilian casualties. Reports include cases of children killed or gravely injured after picking up their father's ringing pager. In this context, the term "terror" feels more apt than "operation" or "mission," as it crosses the line into massacre.

May this tragedy serve as a reminder of the cost of unchecked aggression and inspire a future built on peace, not fear.

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# Throwing Method, Breaching the Social Safety Net

Hyun-Hee Kwon

The recent evolution of drug trafficking methods has profoundly shocked our society. In particular, the rapid spread of the so-called "throwing method," a new form of drug transaction, poses a serious threat to public safety. This approach is a non-face-to-face method in which the seller places the drugs in a designated location for the buyer to retrieve. This makes it challenging for law enforcement to monitor these transactions, allowing drugs to infiltrate public spaces and increasing the risk of drug-related crimes throughout society.

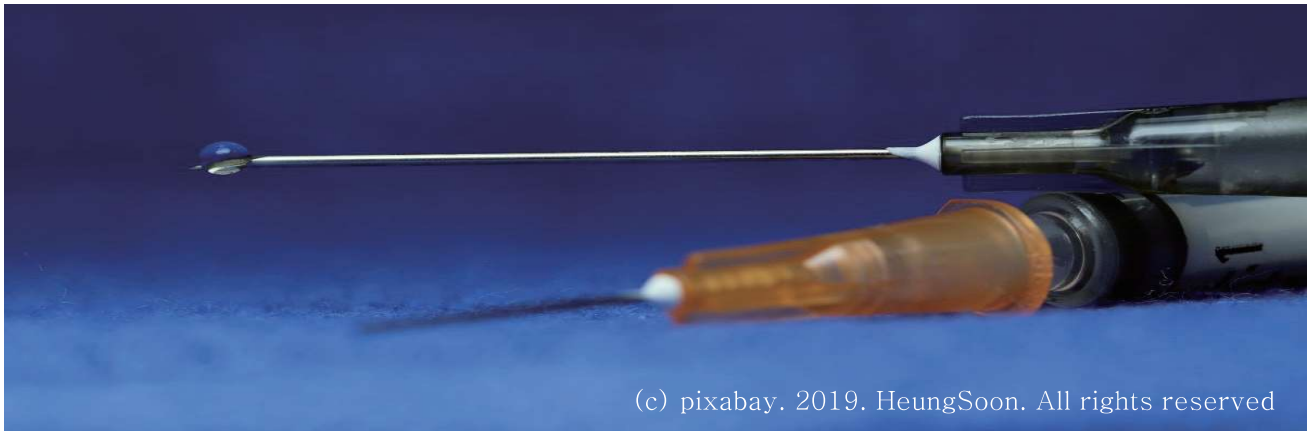
Dr. YANG SEONGGWAN, a family physician, observes, "Drugs are illegal, so even if someone crosses the line just once, they often spiral into more severe issues. Medically, we refer to this phenomenon as the 'gateway theory' or the 'slippery slope theory.'" Drug addiction is a significant problem that extends beyond individual cases and profoundly impacts society as a whole. Once someone becomes addicted, they often struggle to lead a normal life, frequently resorting to crime to sustain their habit. The penalties for drug sales are even harsher than those for drug use, pushing addicts further into despair. Drug addiction damages both the body and mind, isolates individuals socially, and can ultimately lead to death. For instance, sharing needles poses a high risk of transmitting deadly diseases such as AIDS and hepatitis C. Drug addiction is not only a source of personal tragedy but also leaves lasting scars on families and society as a whole.

The prevalence and severity of the "throwing method" have increased significantly, particularly in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to a surge in remote transactions worldwide, including drug trafficking. In this method, sellers do not hand drugs directly to buyers; instead, they conceal or them in designated locations and inform buyers where to retrieve them. These transactions typically take place through social media or messaging apps, ensuring anonymity, as the buyer and seller never meet in person.

This anonymity has attracted young people, especially university students, who, amid academic stress, career uncertainty, and competition, are increasingly tempted to use drugs as a coping mechanism. This anonymity has attracted young people, especially university students, who, amid academic stress, career uncertainty, and competition, are increasingly tempted to use drugs as a coping mechanism. There is a troubling lack of awareness regarding the dangers of drug use, with some individuals perceiving it merely as a recreational activity. Many young people harbor an unfounded belief that "it won't happen to me," underestimating the risks and exposing themselves to hazardous behaviors. Transactions often occur in inconspicuous locations near campuses, such as parks, alleyways, and near building fire hydrants.

The transactions, and because buyers and sellers do not meet in person, it becomes challenging to apprehend those involved in drug-related crimes. The likelihood of capturing faces on CCTV is minimal, and little evidence remains after transactions, complicating law enforcement's tracking efforts. Furthermore, the use of anonymous payment methods, such as cryptocurrencies, poses additional challenges for financial tracking. Middlemen are often involved in retrieving the drugs, which further complicates efforts to reach the actual suppliers. This method obstructs police understanding of drug trafficking patterns and hinders their ability to apprehend traffickers. The fact that drugs are into specific locations means they are infiltrating everyday spaces, putting unsuspecting residents at risk of becoming victims of drug-related crimes. With drugs concealed in parks, apartment complexes, and parking lots in urban areas, anxiety among residents is increasing, along with a heightened awareness of the dangers associated with drug-related crimes.

Addressing the drug problem requires more than simply punishing offenders. It is essential to provide treatment and rehabilitation opportunities for addicts rather than isolating them from society, enabling their reintegration. Many individuals struggling with addiction experience social isolation and mental health challenges, which underscores the necessity of appropriate support programs. In particular, drug prevention education for adolescents and young adults must be enhanced. Schools and local communities should effectively communicate the risks and dangers associated with drug addiction and establish systems to identify and address "early signs" before young people are exposed to drugs. Family discussions are also crucial for closely monitoring potential signs of drug exposure. Furthermore, robust enforcement measures and stringent penalties are necessary to disrupt drug supply chains, alongside intensified efforts to monitor online drug transactions and track dealers, utilizing technology to prevent transactions at their source.


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Law enforcement and government agencies must thoroughly understand drug distribution channels and conduct ongoing investigations to swiftly apprehend drug traffickers.

In conclusion, the issue of drug abuse is no longer confined to a small group of criminals. The pervasive threat of drugs looms over the future of younger generations and continues to expand. To address this challenge, society must collectively raise awareness, enhance prevention education, and work towards improving relevant regulations. University students should be encouraged to recognize the dangers of drug use and to seek ways to lead healthy and fulfilling lives. The drug problem is no longer an individual concern; it is a societal issue that impacts everyone. We must now consider how we can protect the health and future of younger generations by increasing awareness of the dangers of drugs and establishing a social system that prioritizes prevention and treatment. This approach will be crucial in ultimately resolving the drug crisis. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Dr. Yang Sung-Gwan, a family physician, for his insightful interview and valuable contributions.



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## Practical Ways to Handle Curiosity About Drugs

How to Respond When Someone You Know Offers You Drugs
Drugs are not just something that appears in extreme situations as shown in TV dramas or movies. They can easily be encountered through close friends or acquaintances.

It often starts with seemingly casual suggestions like, "Want to try this once?" Sometimes, drugs may even be unknowingly consumed when mixed into drinks.

While curiosity or a friend's offer might make trying drugs seem harmless, the consequences are extremely serious. Drugs are as difficult to treat as cancer and can harm not only the individual but also those around them, much like an infectious disease.

Do not be misled by false information about drugs. Be bold in cutting ties with anyone who offers or encourages drug use. Drugs are not just a personal issue—they pose a significant threat to society as a whole.

# The Fear of Fentanyl Sweeping Through American Cities With Mexican Cartels Behind It

Hyun-Hee Kwon

American society is currently facing a crisis due to fentanyl. Mexican cartels, which are central to large-scale fentanyl production and smuggling operations into the United States, are intensifying the dangers associated with this drug. In recent years, deaths related to fentanyl addiction have surged, making it a significant threat to American society. However, this severe crisis extends beyond a simple drug addiction issue; it is part of a complex triangular drug distribution network. Fentanyl, a potent synthetic opioid, is particularly hazardous, as even a minuscule amount can be lethal.

The fentanyl crisis has escalated due to the activities of Mexican cartels, which import chemical precursors from China to manufacture large quantities of fentanyl and smuggle it into the United States for distribution. This process, often referred to as triangular trade, has transformed Mexico into a central hub for fentanyl production and trafficking, positioning it at the heart of an international drug distribution network. The cartels are disseminating this perilous substance throughout the United States, resulting in devastating consequences. Fentanyl is sold both as a standalone product and as an additive mixed into other drugs and prescription medications. This increases the risk of unintentional addiction, particularly among young people, who are increasingly becoming the primary target. Cartels utilize online platforms, including social media and the dark web, to promote and sell fentanyl, making it more accessible than ever before. Furthermore, issues related to opioid misuse within pharmaceutical companies and hospitals are exacerbating the crisis, leading to a significant rise in cases of fentanyl addiction.

The deadly risk of fentanyl becomes even more pronounced when it is mixed with other substances. Counterfeit drugs containing fentanyl have claimed countless lives, particularly among young people. Youth are especially vulnerable to drug exposure due to curiosity and social pressure, and fentanyl-laced drugs can have fatal consequences.



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Dr. Yang Sung-Gwan, a family physician, explains, "Even drugs have trends," emphasizing the risk of drug trends from the United States spreading to countries like South Korea. The collaboration between Mexican cartels and Chinese chemical suppliers in the production and distribution of fentanyl is systematic and highly organized, making it challenging to combat through simple crackdowns or legal measures. Mexican cartels smuggle drugs across the U.S. border using various methods to evade law enforcement, relying on an intricate network that complicates efforts to halt the spread of fentanyl. To address this issue, the U.S. government must establish stronger international cooperation and effectively dismantle distribution networks.


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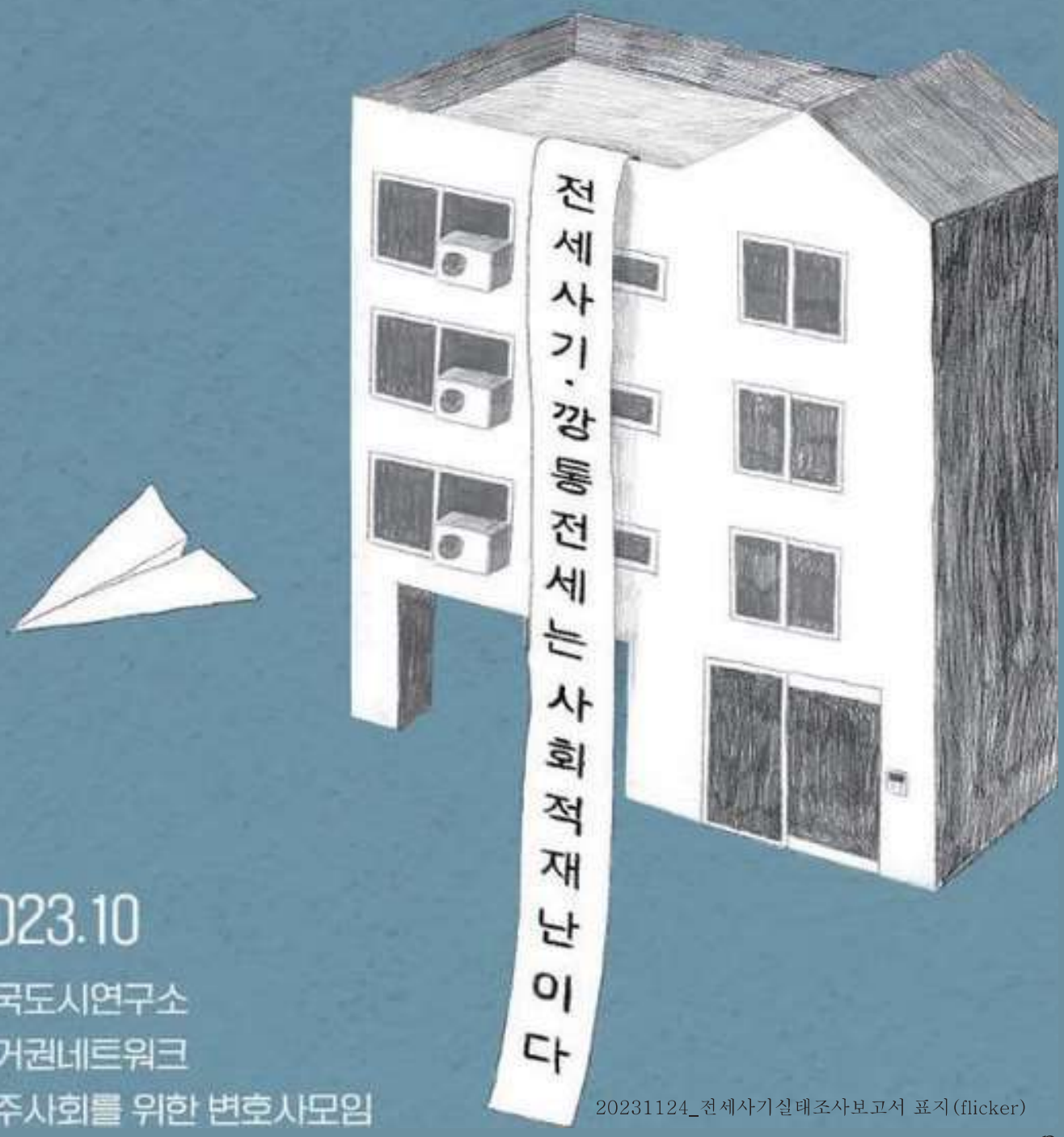
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The United States cannot resolve the fentanyl crisis through legal sanctions and enforcement alone. The fentanyl issue is complex, involving addicts, distributors, and an international triangular drug network. Therefore, a variety of solutions must be implemented simultaneously. The U.S. government needs to enhance addiction treatment and prevention education while developing robust strategies to disrupt international drug networks. Fentanyl has already claimed many lives, and many more are at risk of succumbing to this lethal substance. Delayed responses to this crisis will only exacerbate its impact.

We extend our gratitude to Dr. Yang Sung-Gwan for his valuable insights during the interview.

# 전세사기 깡통전세

## 피해 가구 실태조사 및 피해 회복과 예방을 위한 제도 개선방안




2023.10

한국도시연구소
주거권네트워크
민주사회를 위한 변호사모임

20231124_전세사기실태조사보고서 표지(flicker)

# The increasing number of unsold apartments in Gangneung City... Ultimately, is it ' Jeonse Guarantee Accident' ?

Ji-Won Yeum

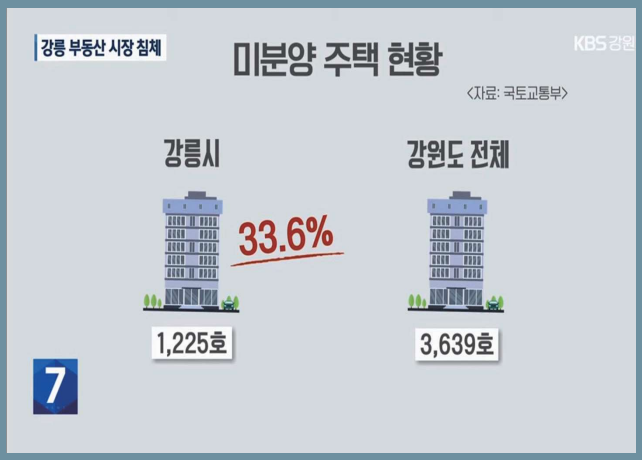
Gangneung City, Gangwon-do, which has been excluded from the unsold management area for the first time in eight months since March, currently represents one-third of all unsold houses in Gangwon-do.
One in ten apartments in Gangwon-do is at the risk of "can lease," similar to one in five thereof in Gangneung, based on household surveys.
According to the "Real Estate Market Trends and Forecasts in Gangwon Province" released by the Bank of Korea's Gangwon headquarters in June, 8.8% (3120 households) of all households in Gangwon-do (35,611) were at risk of making a deposit.
The "can lease" on a deposit basis is a highly dangerous indicator because the sale price is lower than the lease on a deposit basis. This can lead to an "accident of lease on a deposit basis," whereby the landlord cannot pay the deposit on time. The increase in unsold apartments in Gangneung typifies a butterfly effect of a lease guarantee accident.

Usually, if the jeonse price rate exceeds 80%, tenants may be unable to get their deposits back, even if they dispose of their houses, so it is classified as a can jeonse. According to a report by the Gangwon headquarters of the Bank of Korea in June, the proportion of at-risk households in Gangneung is estimated to be 19.3%, which is 2.2 times higher than that in Gangwon (8.8%).

According to the Urban Guarantee Corporation, Gangneung City's accident amount of lease deposit return guarantee insurance from January to April this year was 1.906.2 trillion won, up 76% from the same period last year (1.83 trillion won).
The aforementioned is inconclusive. An additional 3,600 apartments will be supplied to Gangneung's apartment market, which is already oversupplied, this year. Thus the unsold inventory problem in Gangneung's housing market is envisaged to further escalate. In response, a netizen pointed out that "Gangneung-si continued to give permission for sale."




미분양관리 연장에 '깡통전세' 까지…위기의 강릉_ KBS강원 유튜브




(c)미분양관리 연장에 깡통전세' 까지…위기의 강릉_ KBS강원 유튜브




(c)깡통전세문제해결!시민사회대책위출범기자회견(flicker)

An apartment in Gangneung recorded an all-time high in Gangwon Province, with an average sales competition rate of more than 40:1 at the time of sale in 2021, and continued to rise despite the real estate slump during the COVID-19 period. However, this is expected to be a problem due to the high lease price.

A report by the Gangwon headquarters of the Bank of Korea noted that housing lease prices in Gangwon Province have been gradually rebounding, especially recently, but the burden of reverse lease is still low compared to two years ago. However, the fear is that Gangneung will expand its "reverse lease" and "can lease" due to high lease prices two years ago, in addition to the recent rapid decline in sales and lease prices, as well as the large number of expected housing units.

Lee Sung-won, a professor of urban planning and real estate at Gangneung Wonju University, has suggested that this situation may not be disadvantageous in the long run. Regarding the unsold status of the Gangneung housing market, Professor Lee Sung-won said, "Construction companies will not take the risk of continuing to have unsold apartments." Moreover, he added that "If the unsold housing continues, of course, the sale price of apartments will be lowered." Asked if Gangneung City is giving building permission indiscriminately, he replied "Yangyang is currently giving permission indiscriminately, but Gangneung is not that bad." He also noted that "If residential spaces with private facilities come in and the sale price is lowered, the inflow of young people will also increase." Regarding the additional supply of apartments, he noted not only that "rental prices will fall in the long run" but also that "the risk of not dropping the sale price is that the construction company itself will decrease."

In the long run, apartment construction will improve the residential environment of Gangneung citizens and adjust prices according to the market economy. However, considering the current situation, the risk of leaseon a deposit basis in Gangwon Province is evidently increasing for apartments.
A survey by the Korea Real Estate Agency's Real Estate Tech noted thatas of May, apartment lease rates in Chuncheon (81.6%), Wonju (80.9%), Gangneung (80.8%), and Goseong (85.7%) exceeded 80%. The survey also revealeda high jeonse price rate, exceeding 70%, mainly in the East Sea (74.0%), Sokcho (74.2%), Samcheok (73.4%), Hongcheon (78.3%), and Yangyang (71.6%) areas.




(c)전세사기 특별법좌담회(Flicker)

With the recent increase in the volume of jeonse fraud and non-jeonse returns, especially in new villas, the demand for jeonse has shifted to apartments, raising jeonse prices while maintaining sales prices.

Housing spaces with private facilities should come in and try to address the negative aspects that are currently emerging, along with the positive aspects of improving the residential environment for Gangneung citizens, while considering the influx of young people.

Students at Gangneung Wonju University are also seeing an increasing number of fraud cases after failing to return a deposit similar to a charter fraud or paying one year's monthly rent. As real estate problems can occur anytime and anywhere, it is necessary to be cognizant of the safety of Gangneung Wonju University students' housing problems after graduation. Additionally, stability measures are required for contemporary Gangneung citizens and victims of charter guarantees.




(c)미분양관리 연장에 '깡통전세' 까지…위기의 강릉_ KBS강원 유튜브

# Do you know about the(Self-Designed Major) program?

Su-Jin Shin

Starting from 2025, Kangnung-Wonju National University will establish a new "Self-Designed Major Department." In this department, students will enter without a defined major and will have the opportunity to select their desired major at a certain point as they progress through their studies. So, what exactly is the "Self-Designed Major" department?

Kangnung-Wonju National University introduces the Self-Designed Major Department with the following explanation: "The Self-Designed Major Department aims to cultivate creative individuals who possess self-directed learning abilities." This department fosters the development of students' capabilities to actively engage in learning, with an emphasis on integrated thinking across different fields of knowledge. Students are encouraged to recognize the importance of collaboration and communication while nurturing a passionate spirit of inquiry into various academic disciplines. The Self-Designed Major Department provides students with the opportunity to explore a variety of majors freely and discover their own academic direction. Through this process, students will develop the ability to creatively solve complex societal issues in the future. At the core of this department is the support for students to think innovatively and comprehensively, enabling them to approach problems from interdisciplinary perspectives and cross the boundaries of individual fields.

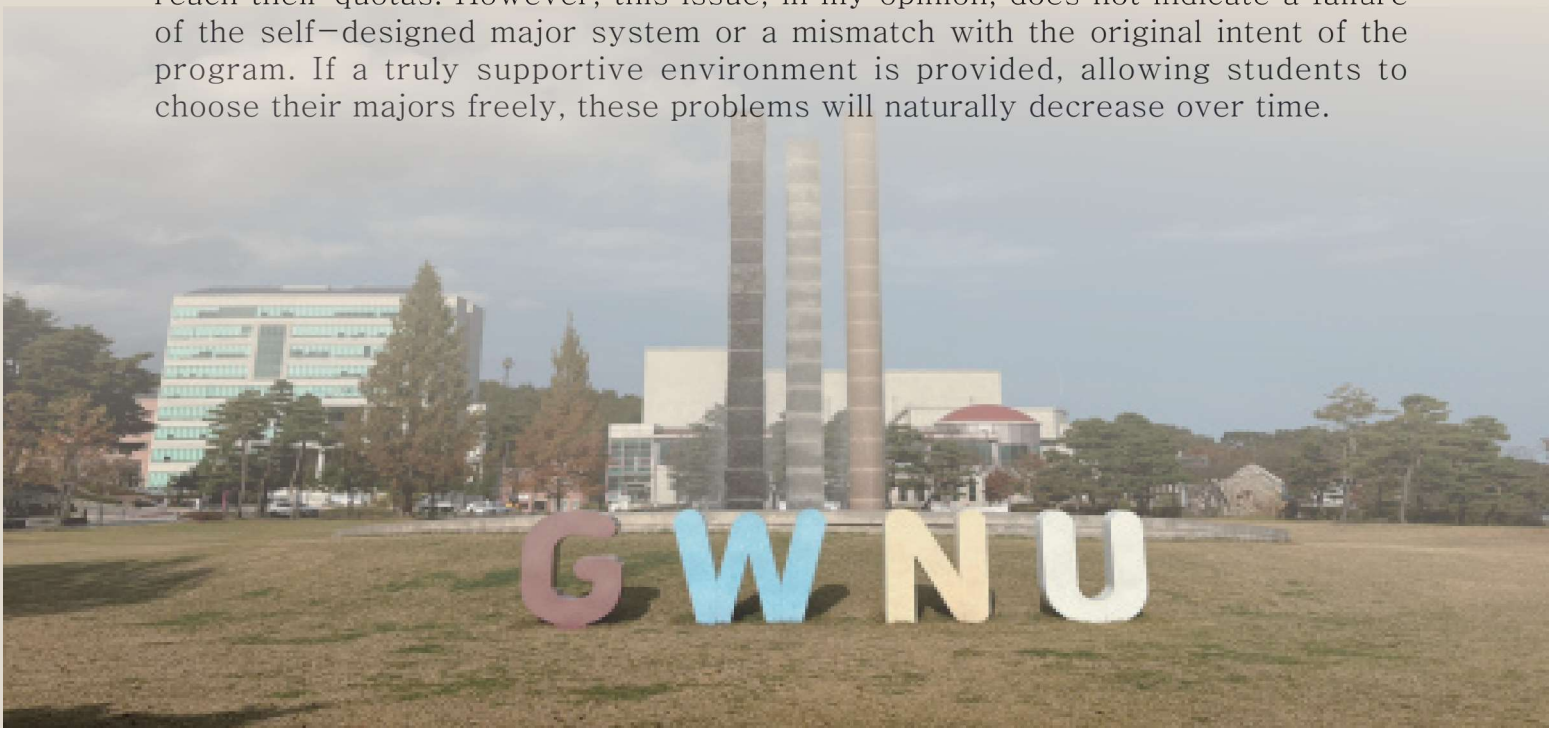
For the class of 2025, the university will admit 62 students into the Self-Designed Major Department. While detailed curricula are not yet available on the official website, it is known that students in their first year will take classes in various departments of interest at the university's Gangneung campus. From the second year onwards, students will choose a major, excluding departments such as the College of Engineering (including the Department of Electronic and Semiconductor Engineering, and the Department of Advanced Materials and Chemical Engineering), the College of Arts, and Physical Education, the School of Dentistry, the College of Nursing, and the Department of Early Childhood Education. Once students choose a major, they will attend classes at the respective campus where that department is located.

강릉원주대학교

The Self-Designed Major Department offers two types of programs: Type 1 and Type 2. Type 1 is a truly self-designed major, where students explore a range of disciplines in their first year and select their major in their second year. Type 2 involves self-designed majors within specific colleges. For example, students who apply for a self-designed major in the College of Natural Sciences will eventually choose a major from within the departments of Mathematics, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, etc. In the case of Type 2, students will have to consider the student quotas for each department, as they are often limited to 150% of the department's intake capacity. Thus, it is important to manage one's grades carefully in the first year.

What is the response from students regarding the Self-Designed Major program? According to a survey conducted by the college admissions website *Jinhak.com* among 1,807 senior high school students, 77.4% of respondents expressed interest in a non-declared major. The reasons for this include a lack of clarity in the majors available, the higher acceptance rate due to the larger number of students admitted, and the appeal of being able to choose a major without being confined to a specific academic track.

As more universities establish self-designed major programs, the focus is also shifting towards the significance of liberal arts courses. Since students are exposed to various fields of study, it is important to offer sufficient opportunities through general education courses for them to discover their interests. Additionally, the phenomenon of some departments becoming oversubscribed while others fail to meet their enrollment targets raises concerns. When students reach the point of choosing their major in their second year, popular majors may see applications exceed capacity, while less popular departments may not even reach their quotas. However, this issue, in my opinion, does not indicate a failure of the self-designed major system or a mismatch with the original intent of the program. If a truly supportive environment is provided, allowing students to choose their majors freely, these problems will naturally decrease over time.



# Temu, Bought for Cheap—But Is It Dangerous to Your Health?

Su-Jin Shin

Recently, safety inspections conducted by Gyeonggi Province on products sold through Chinese online platforms like Temu and AliExpress revealed that more than half of these products did not meet domestic safety standards.
As "Temu Ggang," a trend created by domestic influencers, became popular, purchasing products from Temu turned into a fad. As more and more Korean consumers bought products from Temu, the government began conducting safety checks on imported foreign goods.

The results of these safety inspections revealed the presence of harmful substances, microorganisms, lead, and other dangerous materials in products sold through Chinese shopping platforms. The Korea Consumer Agency tested 49 pet products sold on platforms like AliExpress, Temu, and Shein, and found that 37 of them did not meet domestic safety standards.

In Gyeonggi Province, inspections focused on children's products, and the results showed that 57% of the children's products tested did not meet domestic safety standards. Specifically, phthalate plasticizers, which disrupt hormone balance, were found in children's hats. Phthalate plasticizers are chemical additives that make plastics, especially rigid PVC, more flexible. Long-term exposure to phthalates can cause endocrine disruption, negatively affecting reproduction and growth, and is known to increase the risk of cancer.



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Phthalate plasticizers are commonly used in children's toys, but the issue arises from the fact that Chinese-made products exceed the domestic safety limits by a significant margin. While domestic products use phthalates within safe limits (less than 0.1% in total), Chinese products were found to have phthalate levels exceeding the domestic standard by 6.1 to 375.9 times.

In addition to phthalates, lead was also detected in the products. Lead poisoning, depending on the severity, can cause symptoms such as loss of appetite, constipation, abdominal bloating, and if more severe, acute abdominal pain, fatigue, insomnia, and headaches. In children, even small amounts of lead poisoning can result in lowered intelligence, attention deficits, reading and learning difficulties, hearing problems, abnormal irritability, growth delays, and personality changes.



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Lead was found to exceed safety limits in children's accessories such as hair ties, with lead content reaching 304.3 times higher than the domestic limit of 90 mg/kg, and in the adjusting pins of wristwatches, where lead levels surpassed the domestic standard by 191.3 times the limit of 100 mg/kg.

In addition to chemical concerns, there were physical safety issues with Chinese-made products. For example, the waist belt on children's dresses exceeded safety standards, and drawstrings on swimsuits and soccer uniforms were not properly secured with safety locks. Using products that fail physical safety tests (like drawstrings or safety closures) can pose risks such as entanglement in playground equipment, excessive tightening around the waist, abrasions, or lacerations.

Using products that do not meet safety standards can be harmful not only to children but also to adults. Therefore, when purchasing products from Chinese companies, consumers should avoid being lured by ridiculously low prices and instead make wise purchasing decisions by considering safety standards.



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# The Convergence of AI and IoT: Unlocking New Business Opportunities and Enhancing Consumer Experiences I

Hyo-Im Jo




Imagine asking your home to adjust the lighting and temperature to your preferences with a simple voice command, and instantly, itresponds. In Iron Man, Tony Stark instructs his AI assistant, Javis, to, "heat up the penthouse and dim the lights. The house's lighting and temperature adjust instantly, transforming his living environment to meet his needs. Jarvis isn't just a basic assistant but an integral part of his home, controlling various IoT devices and managing the environment based on the owner's lifestyle. This advanced AI-powered setup exemplifies the potential of a smart home, where Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Internet of Things (IoT) come together to make an intuitive, responsive living space.

A few months ago, I experienced my first voice interaction with a generative AI. OpenAI's voice mode had just launched, and I was unsure if it would even respond. But when I asked, "Are you there?" a human-like voice replied, " Yes, I'm here and ready to respond." This unexpected warmth and responsiveness made me feel like I was in a scene from Iron Man, interacting with Jarvis. It was not just a simple voice command; it felt like the start of a new era in human-machine relationships, where interactions with AI go beyond basic instruction and start to fell almost lifelike.

Have you heard of AIoT? This term stands for Artificial Intelligence of Things, a combination of AI and IoT that allows devices to make smart decisions by analyzing the data they collect. AIoT is already used in many areas, including smart farms, factories, and cities.




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For example, smart farms use IoT sensors to monitor temperature, humidity, and soil conditions, helping create the best environment for crops. Smart factories enhance worker safety and detect equipment malfunctions, while smart cities gather data on safety and air quality to address issues like construction pollution. These applications show how AIoT can transform various industries, with the Korea Smart Farm Industry Association supporting local smart farms and Seongnam City developing a smart infrastructure by 2025. Major corporations like Amazon are also actively using smart factory technologies.

To understand how the smart home industry is evolving, we can examine the role of IoT and AI. In his video Why IoT Isn't as Great as It Seems, developer and YouTuber OJ Tube explains: "IoT devices easily enable communication among ten wireless devices. But the reason it hasn't gained traction is, first, they use the same network but different protocols, and second, IoT isn't always necessary." This language barrier among IoT devices has slowed progress in the market. However, the universal Matter standard aims to bridge the gap. At the 2023 CES, companies like Google, Amazon, Samsung, and LG introduced Matter-compatible products such as smart bulbs, blinds, thermostats, TVs, and door locks. The Matter logo now indicates universal compatibility, paving



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the way for smarter, more integrated homes.

IoT adoption and satisfaction are still mixed. This trend was also reflected in a survey I recently conducted to assess IoT awareness across various industries, as well as to understand consumer perceptions. The survey, distributed via Google Forms to coding-related Discord channels, university Everytime groups, and open chat rooms for engineering students, gathered responses from 22 to 28 participants per question. While 50% of respondents had a positive view of the IoT market, 81.8% of non-users cited a lack of necessity, and 57.9% felt that IoT products were overpriced or misaligned with consumer needs. The results suggest that, for now, the industry is more focused on showcasing new features than addressing actual consumer demands.
In response, the smart home IoT market is shifting to better align product design with customer needs and enhance device compatibility. At 2023 CES, the emphasis shifted from simply "home IoT" to "lifestyle changes through home IoT." For example, MUI Lab's MUI Board, a multifunctional wooden shelf that controls lights, air conditioning, and speakers, won an innovation awaed. It underscores the industry's shift from prioritizing "essential features" to valuing aesthetics and user experience.

Meanwhile, according to the New York Times, the AI sector encounters intense competition among tech giants, but profitability remains a challenge despite .$330 billion invested over the past three years. To improve efficiency, companies like Google, Meta, and Cohere have joined OpenAI in creating smaller, faster AI models, focusing on streamlined functionality rather than pure performance gains. This trend suggests that AI may be shifting to offer "good enough" solutions rather than maximizing technological growth.

A study from Stanford and Google Research titled Generative Agents:

Interactive Simulacra of Human Behavior demonstrates AI's potential to interact in lifelike ways. In one example, an AI "father" character recalls details about his AI "son's" previous actions, such as taking walks when thinking of new compositions and checking on his music assignment. This type of interaction points to an AI that feels "more human than humans," offering a promising foundation for AI as content.

AI's capabilities may also help solve IoT's challenges, such as tackling "value chain gaps"— where tasks are inefficient. Rather than replacing routines like opening the curtains each morning, AIoT could subtly enhance these moments in ways that feel natural. For example, an interactive assistant with gentle voice could turn a simple wake-up call into a pleasant morning. Additionally, with AI in tangible IoT devices, companies can offer supplementary products, opening up new revenue streams beyond traditional subscription models.

In summary, the convergence of AI and IoT opens up new opportunities to add value, meet consumer demands, and establish sustainable profit models across industries.




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# Where is our ideology and perspective of the nation that is shaken from the foundation?

Jae-Hyuk Lim

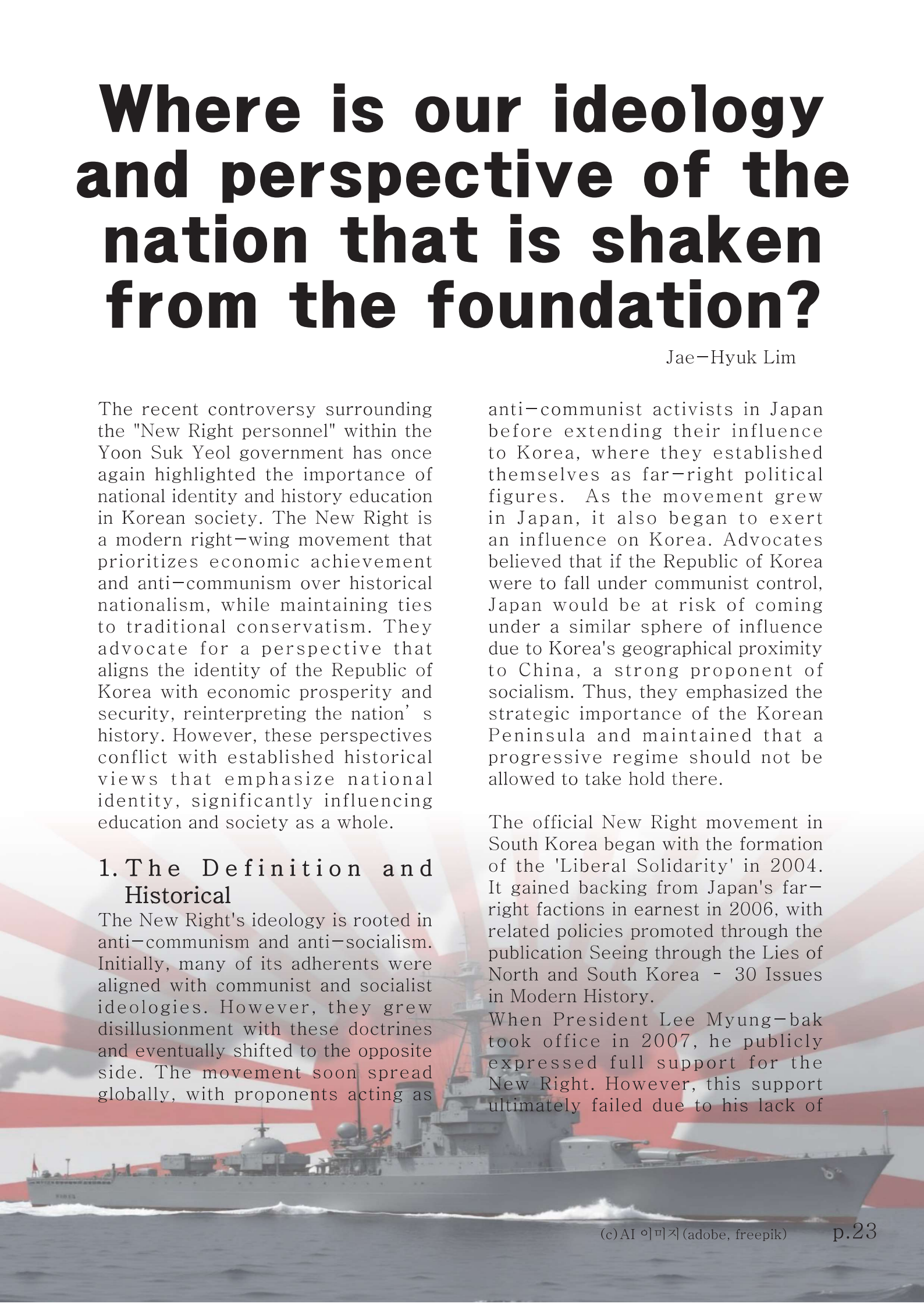
The recent controversy surrounding the "New Right personnel" within the Yoon Suk Yeol government has once again highlighted the importance of national identity and history education in Korean society. The New Right is a modern right-wing movement that prioritizes economic achievement and anti-communism over historical nationalism, while maintaining ties to traditional conservatism. They advocate for a perspective that aligns the identity of the Republic of Korea with economic prosperity and security, reinterpreting the nation's history. However, these perspectives conflict with established historical views that emphasize national identity, significantly influencing education and society as a whole.

## 1. The Definition and Historical

The New Right's ideology is rooted in anti-communism and anti-socialism. Initially, many of its adherents were aligned with communist and socialist ideologies. However, they grew disillusionment with these doctrines and eventually shifted to the opposite side. The movement soon spread globally, with proponents acting as anti-communist activists in Japan before extending their influence to Korea, where they established themselves as far-right political figures. As the movement grew in Japan, it also began to exert an influence on Korea. Advocates believed that if the Republic of Korea were to fall under communist control, Japan would be at risk of coming under a similar sphere of influence due to Korea's geographical proximity to China, a strong proponent of socialism. Thus, they emphasized the strategic importance of the Korean Peninsula and maintained that a progressive regime should not be allowed to take hold there.

The official New Right movement in South Korea began with the formation of the 'Liberal Solidarity' in 2004. It gained backing from Japan's far-right factions in earnest in 2006, with related policies promoted through the publication Seeing through the Lies of North and South Korea - 30 Issues in Modern History.

When President Lee Myung-bak took office in 2007, he publicly expressed full support for the New Right. However, this support ultimately failed due to his lack of



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strong advocacy for South Korea's sovereignty over Dokdo.
During the presidency of Park Geun-hye, numerous New Right figures contributed to the development of state-authored history textbooks. These textbooks reflected the New Right perspective that "the Republic of Korea was founded on August 15, 1945." However, the efforts of the New Right were effectively nullified when Park was impeached and removed from office.

Following this, the progressive Moon Jae-in administration implemented anti-Japan policies. The New Right perceived these policies as a significant threat to their influence and position. Consequently, they intensified their anti-communist and pro-Japanese activities, seeking to align more closely with Japan. Since then, in cooperation with the United States and Japan, the New Right has actively worked to counter North Korea and China, displaying their influence under the current administration.

## 2. The Clash Between the New Right and the National Perspective

The New Right movement has sought to rationalize the anti-Japanese sentiment prevalent in Korea, presenting arguments on why the public should distance themselves from communism and foster closer ties with Japan. They assert that August 15, 1945, should be recognized as National Foundation Day and argue that the Japanese colonial period played a role in modernizing Korea. Additionally, they claim that these historical interpretations provide justification for the experiences of conscription victims and those subjected to Japanese military sexual slavery. The New Right's rhetoric also contends that, because Koreans were subjugated under Japanese rule during the colonial era, independence activists who caused significant harm to the Japanese government were essentially terrorists, thereby ignoring historical realities and promoting Japan's sovereignty over Dokdo. These assertions are employed by the New Right as a logical framework to argue that Koreans possess misconceptions about Japan. Professor Yuji Hosaka of Sejong University has voiced concerns about these distortions, emphasizing that such views undermine Korea's national identity and imply alignment with Japanese far-right ideologies.



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The conflict between the New Right and the mainstream national perspective transcends mere historical interpretation, greatly impacting the identity and pride of the Korean people. This issue undermines the historical foundation of government establishment and the accumulated historical narrative of the Korean people, thereby weakening nationalist discourse.

## 3. The Beginning of the "New Right Appointments" Controversy

On August 6, controversy erupted over the appointment of Kim Hyung-seok, a chair professor at Kosin University known for his New Right view of history, as the director of the Independence Hall of Korea. He sparked debate by stating, "August 15, 1945, is not Gwangbokjeol" and "There were only Japanese people before 1948." Controversy surrounding New Right appointments has existed before. In the past, there was significant public outcry due to the distorted national perspective reflected in history textbooks during the controversy over state-authored textbooks. At that time, it was revealed that Lee Bae-yong, the former head of the Korean Studies Institute, who was appointed as a special advisor by President Yoon Suk Yeol, served as the vice chairman of the National Textbook Compilation Deliberation Committee during the Park Geun-hye administration, raising further debate over the appropriateness of the appointment. Furthermore, when the President delivered his Liberation Day speech on August 15, the limited mention of historical events fueled suspicions that he might be defending New Right forces.

In response, Yuji Hosaka, a professor at Sejong University, attributed the shift in government stance to the influx of New Right figures into key national institutions. He suggested that the only plausible explanation is Japan's influence, considering that individuals with New Right views hold significant national positions. Although the current president's approval rating is notably low, it is anticipated that the New Right

movement may face challenges. Additionally, it has been noted that the more New Right policies are implemented, the greater the public hostility, which is reflected in declining approval ratings.

## 4. Conclusion (What should we do?)

The Republic of Korea is an independent nation established through resistance against Japanese invasion and the establishment of a provisional government, and this historical fact must be accurately communicated to future generations. The New Right's interpretation of history emphasizes pro-Japanese and anti-communist views while advocating for liberal democracy, but it undermines national identity and pride by rejecting the foundational perspective of Korea's history. Therefore, to instill a proper understanding of history in young people and to promote national identity, education based on historical facts must be prioritized so that the national perspective can protect the fundamental identity of the Republic of Korea and help future generations appreciate its proud history.


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Professor Yuji Hosaka states, "We need to think seriously about historical revisionism that seeks to alter the history promoted by the New Right," emphasizing the importance of exploring perspectives different from previously established facts. Furthermore, it is essential to consider the motivations behind historical revisionism and understand how history has been used for political purposes.

As a Korean university student, I believe it is crucial to study historical facts thoroughly and critically evaluate new information as it emerges. Additionally, we must collectively engage to critically assess the government's policies and ensure the country moves in the right direction.

Lastly, I would like to express my gratitude to Professor Yuji Hosaka of Sejong University for his assistance with this article.