

Wrap-up and conclusion

Peace and Justice in the Democracy Island

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After 2 days of hot discussions it is clearer than ever that geographical naming is multifacial, multidimensional and multifunctional. Now almost all accept geographical naming issues are political, cultural and even philosophical in nature as papers have shown yesterday and today.

We are quite convinced that the more complex issue is more holistic, comprehensive and encompassing the approach that is demanded by all the concerned parties, professionals and the peripheral groups, as defined by prof. Stoltman. I understand that is the reason why justice and peace is coming to this seminar and has been explored so extensively these two days.

I put special significance on the geographical space of Berlin and Germany. We all watched such a moving moment when the Berlin Wall fell down, Nov. 9 of 1989. And the fall of the cold war and the start of the post-cold war. Same day in Canberra, Australia 12 Asia-pacific summit meeting announced officially the establishment of Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, APEC. Berlin and Canberra together conveyed the message of the New hope, New optimism and New peace throughout the world - universal liberal value such as freedom, democracy, equality and republican state are being realized on this planet.

However after 28 years of Berlin Wall fall down we are finding ourselves more embarrassed by counterdirection against the optimism we had in 1989 - The end of post-cold war, The end of 「The End of History」 by F. Fukuyama. We are seeing everyday all kinds of rampant populism and radicalism in Europe and the U.S.A. In Asia now we have a new type of dictatorship like the digital communism of Xi Jinping of China, the extreme reactionary right wing nationalist Abe Shinzo in Japan, the violent Duterte in Philippines and military rule in Thailand. As admiral Feldt, Germany stated Xi's New Silk Road design is modern imperialistic military power projection in reality. One man iron dictatorship of Putin in Russia. In Japan Abe type denial of post-world war repentance and revival of the pre-war Emperor worship polity is coming fast.

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Only democratic Korea progresses on the civic, republic, open and liberal road. It seems Republic of Korea is isolated as a democracy Island surrounded by undemocratic, illiberal leaders like Putin, Xi, Abe and nuclear-mad family kingdom Kim JongUn.

The World Peace Index which is published annually by the World Peace Forum, which I am running, defined peace as a state where a quality of life is guaranteed and values of liberty, equality, justice, environmental protection and prosperity is well respected and a state where structural and institutional violence is uprooted from all sectors of politico-military and socioeconomics. This positive peace concept is also a development of the universal value of peace. We are not only seeking the peace without war or free from peacelessness but peace of justice which Pope Fransisco emphasized.

Here and there it is difficult to define what justice is. Is war justifiable against injustice like genocide and invasion? Is the republican polity by Immanuel. Kant enough to make and keep the peace? What does the peace of justice mean? I sympathize toward the Japanese victims of the 1945 atomic bombing in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. However, it is hard to understand why there is not a signal word of repentance about why there was a war and what Japan did in Korea, China and Asia such a brutality changing family name, geographical name and also 'comfort women', which any other imperialism did not in 20c. In difficulties of defining justice I am reminded of 'Global Ethics' by prof. Hans Küng, German theologian and philosopher. According to Kung's finding all the classical religions have some clear common factors even though their mode of faith are difference. Those are denial of cheating, denial of stealing, denial of discrimination and the compassion for the disabled, the old and the young. Those are exactly the moral foundations of universal liberal value like justice, freedom, equality and human rights. If we are not brave enough to the avant-garde promoting liberal value we are to be sincere enough to get through global ethics. This is the way of education and the way of the professionals to serve in the human community. Through the discussion of justice . injustice and positive peace . negative peace, we find as always liberal human value and liberal social systems are not developing linearly straight forward throughout times. Sometimes forward and sometimes backward. However I am convinced that small and short cycle of back and forwarding are always defeated by the longer cycle of forwarding as human evolve, as Berlin and Germany exemplified.

Berlin is keeping peace overcoming the Great Wars and unity from stronghold of division. Germany is celebrating this year 500 years of Martin Luther's revolution which led the liberal modern age. I. Kant's 「For the Perpetual Peace」 is another celebrating subject of 222 years. Even though such historical tragedies of wars and the holocaust Berlin and Germany is specifically valuable for their rebirth through repentance and reconciliation. Here in Berlin 2017 we are confident in the brave hope for liberal human value and justice. I am not asking you for any favor as a Korean against any other nation, race or religion. I am asking you for denial of cheating, denial of stealing and denial of discrimination. I am sure you will not allow my name Kim JinHyun stealing under Japanese colonial period as Kaneshiro Jinken, nothing congruent by pronouncement or meaning with my original korean name. All Korean family names and first names were forced to change to the Japanese form of the name by imperial order. For geographical naming issue, we are all bound to same direction of justices and peace as united Nation Charter, Human Right Declaration and Durban Declaration 2001.

I will close my remarks quoting 19c American poet Walt Whitman's words. "The world, Breasting time and spree, all the people of the Globe together sail, Sail the same voyage, are bound to the same destination."

Someday after some voyage I hope to have another Berlin meeting and continue the advancement of the peace and justice in geographical naming. And confirm the larger and longer cycle of human history.