

The Argus

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Since 1954

THE YOUNG GENERATION DYING ALONE
People Hardly Cared about Them Before the Tragedy
We Are Living in an Era of Isolation and Loneliness



The Argus Investigates Why Lonely Deaths Increase among the Young and How to Prevent Them

The Argus

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Editorial

Narrow the Blind Spots

Recently, I have read a book about death: Leo Tolstoy's "*Master and Man*." Just as Vasili, a powerful and arrogant owner, who realized the fair importance of all life just before his death and sacrificed himself to save his insignificant servant Nikita, humans will finally be able to humbly look back over their footsteps when they face death. They will then realize the greatest value in life. Thinking about death itself, there may not be an effect on me practically from my death – no one may even notice their own death. Then, I have suddenly wondered who would be sad for my death, who would remember me after death, what kind of person I will be remembered as, and what will make me disappear. This curiosity that followed soon led me to the concern of "What kind of life should I live? How would I be satisfied with my life before death?" Ironically, dealing with death makes one reflect on life. There is a saying that just before humans die, their lives pass before their eyes like a panorama. In the pieces of memory that come to mind in the abyss at that second, wouldn't we have a momentary but honest and intense feeling of how we lived and with what values?

In fact, it is embarrassing enough to write a long review of death, when April is a month full of vitality. However, I believe that looking forward to only the bright side of life does not make us cherish it. Of course, there is no contradiction that it is important to enjoy one's life. Yet, paying attention to the story of someone else's life is as important as cherishing oneself. While someone has enough room in one's mind so that one can afford to listen to others' stories, someone else might not be able to afford even his own life and might be desperate for the attention of others. There are sad youth who suffer in loneliness and secretly die. Shin Jun-seo, a reporter from the social section who has a warm heart and is interested in the lives of others, tries to inform everyone by following the death caused by the loneliness of these young people, which has increased significantly in recent years.

The Argus, with reporter Shin and the readers, does not just want to provide information about the case of lonely death and young people with monatophobia, the fear of dying alone. But we would like to emphasize the problem of lonely death among people in their 20s and 30s and discuss how to rescue these young people who are likely to fall straight off the cliff due to indifference. For those who tremble and shiver in solitude, warm attention and affection are needed. In this April issue, The Argus asks you to pay attention to neglected people and neglected problems. ☹

By Park Kun-ha
Editor-in-Chief

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>> There is one vital concept when defining modern society: effective communication among people. Advanced technology such as the Internet and social media enabled people to interact with anyone, even people on the other side of the planet. Ironically, however, we are living in an era where people feel lonelier than ever. People feel more isolated, and tragically, some even take their own lives. What is more serious is that more than a few young people are also being isolated and dying alone. The Argus investigates the youth lonely death problems, an imminent problem that must be discussed seriously.

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HUFS Holds Special Debate on Russia-Ukraine War

On March 6, HUFS said it would hold a special debate on the war between Russia and Ukraine on March 7. The discussion was conducted with the topic “The Implication and impact of the Russia-Ukraine War” by the Department of Ukrainian Studies. The panel discussion dealt with the positions of the world nations including the U.S., Russia, Ukraine and several countries of Eastern Europe and also the international political, economic and security implications caused by the war. It also mentioned the impacts on South Korea and some corresponding solutions. Professors of the Department of Ukrainian Studies of HUFS including Olena Shchegel, Park Ro-byug, the former Russian and Ukrainian Ambassador, Hong Gyu-deok, professor of Politics & International Relations Study of Sookmyung Women’s University, Kim Sin-kyu, the investigator of East European & Balkan Studies of HUFS, and Seo Won-hee, the Secretary of Defense Installations Agency, took part in the discussion. The event was held in the Minerva Complex of Seoul Campus, starting from 1:30 p.m.

In the discussion, Professor Olena pointed out that the responses of the South Korean government and corporations against Russia are too lukewarm. She also decried, “The government's economic counteractions are clearly weaker than other nations.” She added, “Although they know that Ukrainian citizens are being slaughtered and that money flowing to Russia leads to weaponization, companies have not been able to break off the economic cooperation with Russia.” Professor Olena concluded, “I hope the National Assembly of South Korea passes a resolution that criticizes Russia's invasion to Ukraine as soon as possible.” 


By Kim Ye-ji

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HUFS Student Counseling Center Holds Psychology Counseling Program

Students can apply for psychological counseling programs held by the HUFS Student Counseling Center on the Seoul campus, from April 26 to May 4, through the HUFSAbility system. There are two different programs: “Self-care X Communication” and “Stress management.” Both will be carried out in a group, at Student Counseling Center, located in Globeedorm 345.

The “Self-care X Communication” program will take place twice on Wednesdays, May 11 and 18, from 4 to 6 p.m. The program is for solving difficulties in personal relationships that students face in college life. To reach the target, students will make a dictionary with their own definitions of everyday words and share them with others. This process will let students be more conscious of themselves, help them to understand others, and expand their views. Students can apply for this program from April 27 to May 4 through the HUFSAbility system.

The “stress management” program will be carried out four times on May 10, 17, 24, and 31, from 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays. It will focus on finding what stresses students have and the sources of stress. The objective is to discover an effective solution to reduce stress. Regarding the counseling program, Roh Seong-bin, Dept. of Chinese Language and Culture '18, said, “When I have worries, I usually talk to my friends, but it is rare to get practical solutions. I think a psychology consultant will help me more to solve the problems, and I am looking forward to the program in May.” The application is available on the HUFSAbility system from April 26 to May 3. 


By Cho Eun

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HUFS Signs MOU with Suwon Yeongtong Library to Cooperate Regarding the Humanity Programs

On March 2, 2022, HUFS Center for International Area Studies signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Suwon Yeongtong Library regarding the operation of the humanities program related to world culture. In accordance with the agreement, the two institutions agreed to cooperate and support the humanities projects and cultural events of the Yeongtong Library.

Tolerance, a regional humanities center hosted by the HK+ National Strategies Research Project Agency and sponsored by the National Research Foundation of Korea, provides lecture programs, and the Yeongtong Library is in charge of operating programs and gathering participants. As the first collaborative program after the agreement, Yeongtong Library and Tolerance holds "World Cultural Tour Series 1- Understanding Eastern and Balkan European Cultures" every Wednesday from March 16 to May 4.

The class consists of "Serbia and Croatia, characteristics and diversity of historical and cultural history," "Historical and cultural tour to Romania on the Balkans," "Hungary, a remote island in Europe," and "Ukraine and Moldova, an intermediate country in the Black Sea, and the history of conflicts." Due to the prolonged COVID-19 pandemic, classes will be operated online via Zoom. An official from the Yeongtong Library said, "We will cooperate with HUFS Center for International Area Studies to conduct a high-quality humanities program to promote world culture." 


By Kim Jin-seo

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HUFS Participates in the Second Critical Foreign Languages Education Promotion

The Center for Critical Foreign Languages Education at HUFS was re-designated as a specialized educational institution for the second "Critical Foreign Languages Education Promotion," which will be implemented for another five years starting from March 1 of 2022, by the Ministry of Education. This is the second time after participating in the first "Critical Foreign Languages Education Promotion" implemented from 2018 to 2021.

In accordance with the Act on the Promotion of Education of Critical Foreign Languages and the Enforcement Decree of the Act, the Center for Critical Foreign Languages Education was established to foster specialists of critical foreign languages and expand the base of such specialists. In addition, the center provides equal opportunities for learning critical foreign languages and a course of education that can be easily accessed by all citizens. In the first promotion, the center offered 11 languages including Mongolian, Swahili, Uzbek, Farsi, Indonesian/Malaysian, Turkish, Thai, Portuguese/Brazilian, Polish, Hungarian, and Hindi. However, in the second promotion, five languages, Italian, Lao, Dutch, Kazakh, and Swedish, will be offered in addition to the 11 languages.

Lee Eun-koo, president of the Center for Critical Foreign Languages Education, said, "In the second promotion, we will continue to expand opportunities for learning critical foreign languages for the public and strive for an education that can connect and converge with other universities." He also said that he expects collaborations with foreign universities and institutions, which have been contracted due to the COVID-19 situation, to improve the education of critical foreign languages. Leading the Critical Foreign Languages Education Promotion, The Argus hopes that HUFS will grow into a more prestigious university and a leader in the global era. 

By Yang Yu-min

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Welcome Greeting for New HUFS President Park Jeong-Woon: Inauguration Ceremony



©HUFSNEWS

By Cho Eun

Staff Reporter of Culture Section

On February 22, 2022 at 11 a.m., the farewell and inauguration ceremony of the 11th and 12th presidents of HUFS was held in Aekyung Hall, in the International Building at the Seoul Campus. Because of COVID 19 the ceremony was broadcast live through the YouTube channel of the HUFS Office of Administration Support. Kim In-chul, the former president, and Park Jeong-Woon, the new president, entered with great applause. After their entrance, there was a salute to the flag and pledge of allegiance followed by introduction of public figures in attendance. The order of events of the ceremony was as follows: investiture of the new president, farewell ceremony of President Kim, inauguration of President Park, and congratulatory messages and videos. The Argus intends to address the footsteps HUFS has taken and the direction HUFS will travel, by visiting the farewell and inauguration ceremony of the 11th and 12th presidents of HUFS.

The Investiture of the New President Park Jeong-Woon

The inauguration ceremony began with Kim Chong-chul, the chairman of the Dongwon Education Foundation, by presenting the appointment certificate to the new president of HUFS, Park Jeong-Woon. After the appointment, the chairman's appreciation speech followed. He thanked outgoing president Kim for his achievements and expressed his faith and support of incoming President Park, who will serve for the next four

years. The chairman promised that the foundation will provide assistance and support to keep Park's pledges and develop the prosperity of the university. He said, "According to rapid development of technology, the education environment is also changing, so HUFS needs diverse innovation." He asked President Park to make HUFS a global university of diversity and unity that has a cosmopolitan reputation, based on the steppingstones the outgoing president has set down over the past eight years. The President's Key delivery ceremony followed. The former president passed the key to the Chairman who then passed it to President Park. It represented the honor, weight, and responsibility of representing the university, which have been handed over from Kim to Park.

The Farewell Ceremony of President Kim

The event was followed by the outgoing President Kim's farewell speech. He reminisced about the last 34 years he worked at HUFS and thanked all the people who helped him, asking for continuous support for Park. Kim said that he is glad that HUFS was listed as one of the five universities exempt from freshmen quota reductions, and ranked seventh nationally among private universities for three years in a row. However, he regretted passing the unfinished task of developing the Songdo Campus to the new president; although he was able to provide the foundation of the campus' establishment. He said it would be delightful to be recognized as having improved the quality of HUFS and asked for understanding of any task for which he did not reach the expectation. After the speech, he received a plaque of contribution, a memento, and a certificate of his record of accomplishment. The plaque and record of Kim's

achievements, during his incumbency, reminded everyone of the past eight years at HUFS under the leadership of President Kim.

The Inauguration of President Park

The Inaugural address followed, and President Park thanked all the people who attended offline and online and those who sent congratulatory videos. Then he promised to do his best to develop the school, expressing gratitude to President Kim.

President Park announced that HUFS is facing several challenges in the era of the fourth industrial revolution and COVID 19 and claimed that HUFS needs innovation for each campus and to deal with the changes in foreign language demand and education. Therefore, the new president's vision for change and innovation is composed of three components, all of which will make HUFS not only an international education hub that is dynamic and adaptive, but one that cultivates highly creative and talented students. First, Park promised specialization on each campus. He is planning to emphasize the Seoul Campus for literary, social science, and foreign studies; the Global Campus for fusing IT and practical studies; and the Songdo Campus for database management with a single administrative system. Second, he guaranteed to build a platform to foster international experts by opening the way to enter foreign graduate schools. Last, Park assured that he would develop and cultivate programs to raise creative and convergent talents. He said he will reinforce existing convergence education programs, including convergence majors, colleges, the Ingenium college, and double majors, and connect international graduate schools so that students can learn about AI and data processing.

President Park promised to remember where he started and face his duty as president, constantly. He hopes to interact with every member of the school, saying, "When all the school


members are united for HUFS, where students progress and succeed, the school will contribute to the nation and the world." Park's inaugural address, speaking about his aspirations confidently, raised expectations for the school's bright future.

Congratulatory Messages and Videos, Wrapping Up the Ceremony

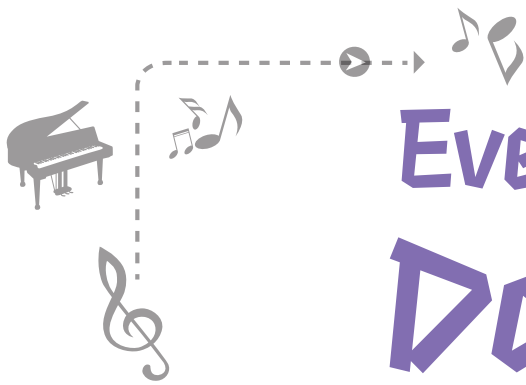
After the new president's opening words, many congratulatory messages followed. Yang In-jip, the chairman of the HUFS Alumni Association gave the first remarks followed by Abdulla Saif Al Nuaimi, Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates; Durmus Ersin Ercin, Ambassador of Turkey; Andrey B. Kulik, Ambassador of Russia; and Francois Bontemps, the Ambassador of Belgium. Each ambassador thanked the former President and congratulated President Park, mentioning their previous cooperation with HUFS. Then 10 different regions of HUFS International Alumni, seven ambassadors, The General Student Council, and each college's students sent congratulatory videos. Many videos from ambassadors and International Alumni exemplified the worldwide position of HUFS, which has worked hard in foreign language education and regional studies. The farewell and inauguration ceremony were capped off by representatives of students and faculty giving bouquets to both presidents. The event closed with singing the school song and many attendees had time to take commemorative photographs with both the former and current president.



▲ The former President (1st from L) and his wife (2nd from L), President Park (1st from R) and his wife (2nd from R) are taking commemorative photographs.

As both presidents said, HUFS is up to the task of facing the many challenges of this changing era. The statement, "The school's development depends in its students' achievements" from President Park's speech arouses sympathy. If the school provides the education that students require and the base to explore careers, through active interaction between school and students, HUFS students will grow to be recognized in society and raise the status of the school. Students should also participate constructively in the school's progress for the school and for their future. When HUFSAans become one through communication, it will be possible to assist everyone's advancement, at various crossroads. The Argus hopes that HUFS will enjoy new progress in the coming four years with President Park Jeong-Woon, building on the foundation of the reforms initiated over the past eight years. 

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Everybody Dance!



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By Cho Eun
Staff Reporter of Culture Section

From ballet to street dance, people have loved dance throughout history. At the same time, the concept of dance is broadening in many ways. Dance, which used to be considered as the monopoly of experts and nobles, is transforming into a hobby and a sort of sport, becoming a popular element of culture. It is also becoming easier to enjoy dance, as the “show” moves from a theater to a phone under a blanket. Thus, the love of dance is spreading its wings, breaking the limits of time and space through the development of technology. Moreover, we can see more dance, like in K-POP, through Tik Tok, and variety shows, which demonstrates that dance is raising wild enthusiasm in the public. The Argus, celebrating International Dance Day, wants to look for the phenomenon of the dance craze and its source, feeling the human love of dance.

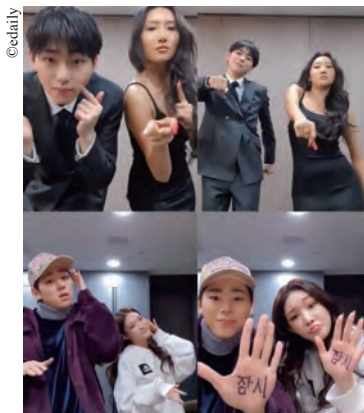


Phenomenon

Never Tried a Tik Tok Challenge?

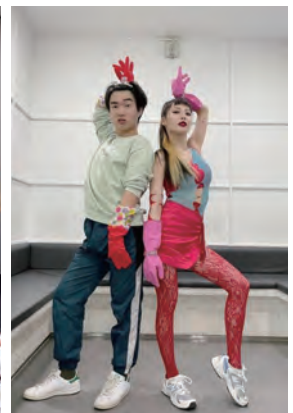
“Why are you feeling so down? What’s the problem, say something...” this is the first lyric of Zico’s song, “Any Song.” It reminds the simple motion poking the cheeks and shaking the arms forward. Zico’s “Any Song” was issued by a short 45-second challenge video. Many celebrities participated in the challenge, and the original video clip recorded more than one hundred million views in 10 days, making people dance when they hear the song. In other words, short-form* videos, from three seconds to seven minutes in length, are in vogue all over the world. “Tik Tok,” a social media platform that provides vertical video, filling the entire phone screen, started in 2016 and progressed rapidly reaching more than a billion users at present. As the Tik Tok format suddenly rises, Meta

which runs Facebook and Instagram is providing a short-form platform named “Reels” and YouTube is providing “Shorts.”



©cedaily

▲ Zico (top, L), Hwa Sa (top, R), and Chung Ha(bottom, R) are doing “Any Song” challenge.



©Instagram, @pactrosbims

▲ Youtuber DanceKang (L) and HyunA (R) are posing the highlight choreography of HyunA’s song, “I’m Not Cool.”

Furthermore, various social media companies are producing short-form platforms, resulting in producing many short and addictive videos.

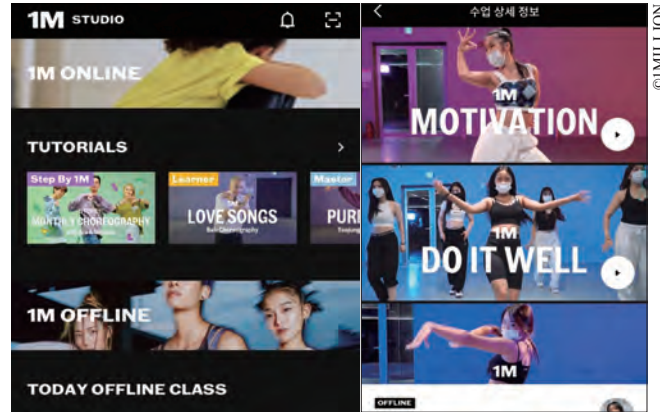
Various types of dance videos are in production. Not only Zico, but also many singers are promoting their new songs with dance challenges, using short-form videos. A great part of new K-POP songs is realized in dance challenges, including the song “Permission to Dance” by BTS, and many cover dance videos, imitating the choreography of famous songs, are also catching on in popularity. A Youtuber “DanceKang,” who has about 5.6 million subscribers, got his fame by uploading cover dance videos of idols on Reels, and well-known singers are now asking for his cover dance video to promote their songs. Songs by famous singers are not the only subject. Dance performances using background music, like the opening song of the animation “Crayon Shin-chan,” and background music from the Netflix series “Squid Game,” are becoming popular. Likewise, videos consisting of splendid performances or simple motions, matching the beat of the music, are becoming new a type of content on social media.

***Short-form:** Short-form video is one of the emerging social media shapes, filling the whole phone monitor with three seconds to seven minutes of short video. Tik Tok, Reels, and Shorts are typical examples.

🎵 Visa for Attendee at Dance Academy

Surprisingly, foreigners can get visas if they enroll in a dance academy in Korea. Recently, the government is planning to give visas to foreigners who want to register for dance academies following the worldwide influence of the Korean wave. However, not only foreigners but also many Korean youths want to take Korean dance classes. They are learning dances through diverse ways like dance academies or school dance clubs. It is hard to find universities and high schools without dance clubs, and dance academies are successfully running classes for hobbyists beyond those classes offered for college admission.

In addition, one-day dance classes, for busy modern people, are also catching on in popularity. Famous dance academy “1Million Dance Studio” is providing a reservation system for one-day classes through their mobile app. Twenty-two year old Kim Ye-jin, who experienced a one-day class by 1Million, said, “It was possible to check the class schedules, song and choreography via the academy’s SNS(social media) accounts or application, and I enjoyed taking the course,” mentioning



▲ People can register for a one-day class, according to their teacher, genre preference, on 1MILLION application.

that there are various versions of classes including individual, group, regular, and one-time classes. Consumers can choose and take the class they want, according to their schedule, teacher, and teaching method they prefer. There are diverse classes with different content, from a class that teaches the basics of dance to a class that teaches the choreography of one particular song. Many dance academies are running classes for hobbyists, and lots of people are paying for these classes. Dance is becoming everyone’s hobby, not just for those with the ability of dancers and singers.

🎵 Win the Olympic Gold Medal with a Head Spin

Winning an Olympic medal with a head spin, when a dancer puts their head on the floor and spins like a teacup ride in an amusement park, will become a reality in the 2024 Paris Olympics. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced that “Breaking,” which is known as “B-boying,” was selected as a new official Olympic event in 2024. The Paris Olympic organizers who saw the success of breaking in the 2018 Buenos Aires Youth Olympic Games suggested breaking as an official Olympic game, and the IOC, who was worrying about the rise in the age range of viewers and decreasing of young audiences, accepted it. Breaking will be run as a type of sports competition in the upcoming Hangzhou Asian Games in 2022, so Korea has also selected a breaking national athletics team. The fact that break dancer “Yell,” who appeared in “Street Woman Fighter,” is selected as one of the four national athletics, was also announced.

The name “Breaking” started in 1973, in the Bronx, New York City in the United States, when DJ Kool Herc repeated the music’s break part, only composed of beats without lyrics,



▲ Breaking consists of toprock (top, L), downrock (top, R), powermoves (bottom, L), and freezes (bottom, R)

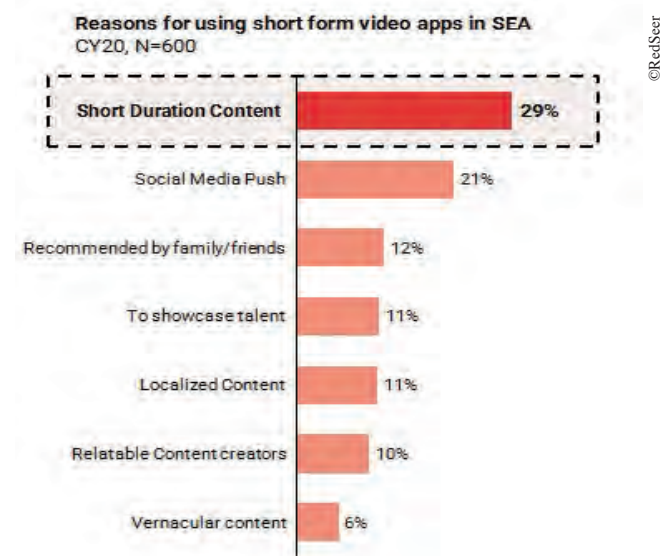
and dancers danced to the beat. Cheon Sung-wook, a professor at the Department of Dance Arts at Seokyeong University, said, “Since then, the word ‘B-boying’ and ‘breaking,’ which means overcoming limits and being awesome, was used.” Breaking, performed near the floor, consists of four motions: *Toprock*, *Downrock*, *Powermoves*, and *Freeze*. Toprock means basic steps, performed standing up, before a powerful technique. On the other hand, *downrock* are connecting steps, done sitting on the floor, supporting the whole body with the arms, and moving the legs. *Powermoves*, followed by *downrock*, are intensive motion that requires muscular strength and techniques. Head spin and windmill, which usually come to mind when thinking about breaking, are the classic *powermoves* motions. Finally, *freeze* literally means a stopped state. It is an advanced technique that requires a stopped state for a certain period while enduring all the weight of the body with a specific part of the body. Consequently, breaking is a performance that requires physical techniques.



Fun to Watch, Fun to Make: Short-Form Dance Video

The reason why short-form dance videos got popular is that its quickness suited the young generation’s taste. Lee Sung-min, a professor of the Department of Media Art and Science

at the Korea National Open University, said, “Short-form videos, which have a short length and recapitulative story, are an advantageous model nowadays, in the circumstance of fierce attention competition that makes it hard to get attention for a long time.” He explained the feature of the MZ generation. “The young generation who are used to a massive media environment through smartphones, from childhood, pursues efficiency, so they prefer short-form videos that provide summarized information and allow fast understanding.” According to “2020 Short-form Content Trends,” investigated by MezzoMedia, a digital marketing solution company, preferred video time for teenagers was 15.5 minutes and 15 minutes for those in their twenties, which shows that MZs want short videos. This means that MZ likes YouTube videos within 15 minutes, rather than one-hour-long TV programs. To fit this taste, short-form dance videos have dramatic development and short running time. A dance video of about 15 seconds starts from the highlight of the music, and only contains the important climax, sniping the young generation’s preference.



▲ The short duration is the most compelling reason for Short-form video usage in Southeast Asia (SEA)

One cannot forget the point that short-form dance videos are popular because they are easy to imitate and produce. The convenience of short-form videos, easily recorded and edited, allows them to be made and shared smoothly. Short and simple dance motions let anyone film straightforwardly. Recording short-form videos are becoming one of the entertainment and

social media cultural products for MZs, who enjoy filming clips of simple movement and participating in challenges with their friends. Moreover, Lee mentioned the reason why dance short-form videos are popular, “corresponding to the characteristic of short-form videos, which need to attract attention in a moment to be competitive; dance motions, which captivate interest visually and are easy to film and are loved.” Besides, participating in a challenge started by an influencer or celebrities one likes, makes fans feel they are interacting with and helping the advertisement of the celebrities they support, functioning as a tempting point in the culture familiar with fan culture.

Love to Dance, Love to Enjoy Hobbies

As Nietzsche said, “Dancing is a human habit,” in his book *The Gay Science*, the human desire to dance is not new. However, not all people were able to dance. Ballet flourished in the 17th to 19th centuries, and was an upper-class activity and entertainment, both expensive to learn and watch, dividing the audience and dancer on the stage. The enjoyed dance varied by social and economic status, and the performer and the audience were separated. From then on, different kinds of dance genres emerged, but still, it was hard for the public to experience dancing directly.



▲ Edgar de Gas, a famous painter who lived from 1834 to 1917, drew “Dancer with a bouquet.”

However, dance can be everyone’s hobby and many people are learning to dance these days. The popularization of dance has come about because hobbies are now considered important. Since work hours have decreased and there is increased attention paid to the value of investigating self-development, the number of people looking for hobbies to fill their leisure time is increasing. Modern people regard hobbies highly. In fact, there are new expressions like “hobbysumer,” a compound of “hobby” and “consumer,” which means people who consume for their hobbies and feel satisfaction. People who make a hobby of dancing and write their name at the dance academy are also a sort of hobbysumer. Because of the

COVID19 pandemic, dance as a hobby is getting more popular. Well-known online class platform, Class 101, revealed that the number of hobby classes opened this year has approximately quadrupled compared to last year and said that dance classes taught by experts have significantly increased. The value of taking hobbies seriously and the human desire to dance are being realized through various methods including academies, clubs, and online classes.

Sportive Properties and an Olympic Spirit in Breaking

It is hard to imagine for people who are unfamiliar with breaking that it can be conducted as an athletic competition. However, breaking has already constructed the method of competition and score calculation through many previous events. Cheon said, “One of the reasons why people feel exuberant in sports is that they divide victory and defeat, which shares the context with breaking, oriented and developed by ‘battles.’” Breaking battles feature competition either individually or in teams, and resemble most sports matches. At the 2024 Paris Olympics, the top 16 men and women each will compete in a tournament battle. According to Kim Heon-jun, a Jinjo Crew dancer who served as a judge in the 2019 Nanjing Breaking World Championship, the grade calculation system will use the “Trivium Value System,” from the World Dance Sports Federation (WDSF). The system judges competitors on three categories: “The Body” evaluating technique and variety; “The Soul” for performativity and musicality, and “The Mind” for creativity and personality.



▲ Breaking is graded by “Trivium Value System,” from the WDSF, which consists of The body (top), The Soul (bottom, L), The Mind (bottom, R).

High level skills and battles are not the only factors that put breaking on the Olympic stage. Kim said, “Breaking looks like a fight but it symbolizes peace,” and explained that breaking battle is a change from an aggressive struggle for power from backstreet gangsters to a peaceful match. It is a sublimation from violence to peace through dance. The dance of peace sprouted from resistance toward discrimination in the late 1970s U.S., which corresponds to the Olympic spirit, that hopes to overcome discrimination and the gap between nations and cultures to achieve world peace.



The New Advertisement Market: Short-Form

The short-form also has captured the hearts of advertisers targeting the young generation. Lee explained, “The history of media transition is a history of the advertisement market’s transition. And short-form has a feature, that the content of the video itself is an advertisement, different from usual, which had its content and advertisement separately.” In other words, since the content of the video including the subject and plot cannot appear separately in a 15-second short video, the content should be an advertisement itself. For example, for a ginseng advertisement, the preexisting TV or newspaper carried the advertisement, “Healthy Ginseng,” on the commercial board between the program or articles, but short-form shows a video, itself is an advertisement, like “Five tasty ways to eat ginseng.” The fact that many clients are looking into this new type of advertisement market, the growth of short-form platforms like Tik Tok, Reels, and Shorts is expected.

If the content itself is an advertisement, wouldn’t the viewers feel repulsion from only watching promotional videos, disregarding the content? Fortunately, the refusal of short-form advertisement is not severe. Kim So-jung, Associate Professor in the Department of Media and Communication at Kyungpook National University, said, “Tik Tok advertisements, which are easy to avoid by scrolling, project a certain feeling of familiarity because they are made by an ordinary person, not a celebrity. This reduces hostility toward advertisements, and diverse campaigns encourage such participation in advertisements.” She further commented on dance short-form videos that, “Advertisements, which put dance as the main subject, give audiovisual stimulus and have strong elements

of entertainment, resulting in a decrease in antipathy.” Accordingly, celebrities’ dance challenges seem essential to promote new songs, movies, and dramas. Lily Collins, starred in Netflix drama “Emily in Paris,” also posted Zico’s “Any Song” challenge on her Instagram to promote the new season of the drama. Many companies unrelated to dance are diving into short-form dance advertisements. SK Telecom

promoted their student discount for the new semester with a short-form dance video by “Sister Yell” who has 12 million subscribers on Tik Tok; and Yanolja, the accommodation application, conducted a challenge through a short-form video introducing a choreography of the logo song. In addition, MLB advertised their product “Big Ball Chunky,” by using an influencer’s dance challenge. Through dance short-form videos, various advertising forms are made, contributing to a new advertisement market.

The New Sight of Dance, the Never Ceasing Dance Craze

How far will the Korean dance craze go? Couldn’t it be just a passing moment? A sudden dance academy boom is affected by the popular TV program “Street Woman Fighter,” which ended in October 2021. The academy, where dancers from “Street Woman Fighter” was recorded, has become hugely popular, and there are many new students in other academies who came to learn dance, after watching the program. Some think that the dance craze is only a passing trend caused by the TV broadcast.

However, the interest in dance was consistently building, produced by social media including cover dance and short-form dance challenges before the TV program. The Ezdance



▲ Lily Collins (L) and Ashley Park (R) are participating in Zico’s “Any Song” challenge to promote their drama.

©Instagram, @lilycollins



▲ The dance crew “Holly Bang,” win the first prize in the “Street Woman Fighter.”

©Twitter, @MnetKR



▲ Teenagers' parents think dancing positively and allow attending dance classes, these days.

Academy, located in Songpa Ward, Seoul, said, "There are many students who visited after watching the TV program, but the trend of increasing public existed before that," and

said that the social perception of adopting dance as a hobby or job has improved. He mentioned, "Unlike middle school students' parents these days who think of dancing positively even as a career, most parents in the past thought negatively about dancing," and observed that there are also attendees who visit to find fresh and fun exercise. Through the dance craze, the social view of getting into dance as a hobby or career is developing and the barriers to entry to dance for the public are dropping. Moreover, dance is treated as a type of exercise and there are increasing numbers of people signing up for dance classes, like ballet, sports dance, and pole dancing, targeting physique and body line management. Dance is becoming many people's hobby through the new vision of dance.

Dance as a Salad Bowl: Various Cultures, Various Appreciation

Figure skating, rhythmic gymnastics, and synchronized swimming are sports having a variety of artistic aspects. Breaking is also a sport that has artistic properties, and there are many positive opinions about art's change into sport. Dancer Kim said, "Recognizing breaking as an official Olympic event will allow this style of dancing to be beloved by the general public, beyond those who were interested in underground culture." Cheon also showed his expectation, saying that "I think the greatest social values of art are imagination and empathy, so that popularization of dance

can contribute to increased sympathy, through diverse ways including sports, which is important."


However, breaking is presenting a new composition art by combining with other genres and fields, not only sports. There was a stage showing breaking keeping the beat for Korean traditional music, "Samulnori" at the 2021 Jeonju Sori Festival, and the musical "Ballerina Who Loved a B-boy" which is in the process of becoming a permanent Broadway, show in New York, shows a new genre combination of breaking with ballet. Genres, which were divided into traditional and modern, major and minor, are associating and producing various new things to see, and many people are enjoying the freshness and mystique of composition arts. Breaking is combined with not only other genres of dances but also with other areas. Artist Seo Ja-hyun cooperated with breakdancers and had an exhibition, "Seeing and Being Seen" in November 2021. Thus, breaking is providing colorful and new cultural product, combined with dance, art, and sports. If the popularization of breaking is realized in every generation by the 2024 Paris Olympics, more and various collaborations will be conducted.



▲ The musical "Ballerina Who Loved a B-boy" is a composition of ballet and breaking.

► Artist Seo Ja-hyun cooperates with a street dance team FRZM Movement.



Dance, which was an exclusive activity for experts and the upper-class and sometimes was treated as a troublemaker's pastime, is now breaking down all the walls and reaching out its hand in an easy and fun form. These days, dance is becoming a seed, pioneering a new media platform and advertisement market through sports events, culture, and hobbies. The fact that dance is one of the methods used to express one's thoughts and emotions through body movements, seems to show that the dance craze comes from honest self-expression and sympathy, which are important values in this era. It does not matter if someone is a bad dancer. How about filming a short-form video with an easy motion, feeling the craze and human love for dance? Play any song and move to the rhythm! 

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Back to the 00s: Y2K Fashion

By Kim Ye-ji
Staff Reporter of Culture Section



For those concerned about their short legs, there is a solution - a fashion style referred to as “high-waisted,” which means a bottom piece where the waistline is more than eight centimeters higher than the belly point. High-waisted fashion was originally prevalent in the 80s but again got the eye of the public after 2010. However, since the last stage of 2021, a new fashion started to rise - the “Low-rise.” It is sometimes called “pelvis jeans,” since the length of the crotch is short so that the wearer must rest the pants on the pelvis. Besides pelvis pants, some fashion items that were frequently used from the 90s to 00s such as velvet jogging suits, colorful beads accessories, round earrings as big as one’s face, and clothes of flashy colors are coming into fashion, and many celebrities and worldwide famous fashion shows are displaying these styles these days. This fashion is referred to as “Y2K fashion,” which is an abbreviation of “Year” and “2000(2K).” Y2K fashion means the fashion that was popular in the 2000s, or the high-teen style of that generation. Why is Y2K fashion, which does not complement most body types and is too unconventional for the public, rising in popularity again? The Argus is going to provide the readers opportunities for intergenerational understanding and empathy by looking at this new fashion trend that brings back memories to middle-aged people and provides curiosity and freshness for young people.

*High-teen: High-teen is a Konglish word indicating teenagers who are at the age of 17 to 19.

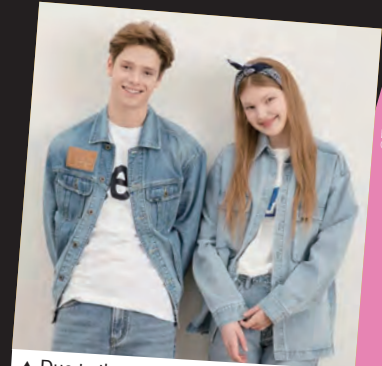




1. Current Status

Brands Joining in the Y2K Fashion

When you think of the fashion which was prevalent at the end of the century in Korea, the first thing that comes to mind is the colorful “North Face padded coat.” The brand was once a trendy status symbol among young students, and they would have begged their parents to buy one for them. As time passed, it seemed to disappear into history, being ridiculed as a “spine breaker” brand, which means it was an economic burden on their parents and eventually broke their parents’ backs over time. However, fashion brands that were popular in the 2000s are delivering news of a new start one after another. Re-launched in 2019, clothes brand “Champion” achieved a rapid increase in sales as vintage photo-print shirts based on old catalog products became popular. The global denim brand “Lee” has also been gaining popularity since its re-launch in 2021, ranking 10th in the sales rankings of Musinsa, an online shopping mall. Storm, a brand that used Korean stars such as So Ji-seop, Song Seung-heon, and Kim Ha-neul as its models, was re-launched in July 2021 with the ambition to target the MZ generation with Y2K style. In addition, Nautica, a representative brand of hip-hop fashion, and True Religion, which was famous for Korean actress Jeon Ji-hyeon wearing its jeans, also participated in the re-launch procession. The re-emergence of these brands is a sign that fashion styles from the 2000s are in a great demand again.



©Th Hankook Hbo

▲ Due to the return of Y2K fashion, denim brand “Lee” which was popular in the 2000s relaunched in 2021.

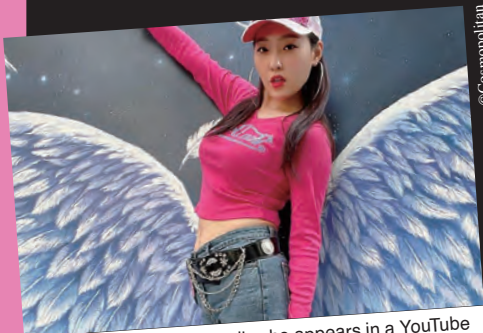


Celebrities Leading Y2K Fashion

In August 2021, a photo posted by Jennie on Instagram, a member of Korean K-pop girl group BLACKPINK, announced the splendid return of Y2K fashion. Jennie’s fashion style, wearing an eye-catching velvet jogging suit with colorful details and sunglasses with orange lenses, recalled the scent of fashion in the early 2000s. The unconventional fashion items were reminiscent of American entertainer “Paris Hilton,” who led domestic and foreign fashion in the past, and Korean dance singer “Gilgun,” who was considered as an idol of young students in Korea. It came as nostalgia for those who experienced the fashion world at that time and also gave freshness to Generation Z.*

On YouTube, videos recalling the emotion of the end of the century became popular. One of the characters featured in the videos, Gil Eun-ji, was greatly loved by the users in the video “Class of 2005 is Back.”

It was presented with the concept of recalling the emotions of the late 1990s to 2000s on the YouTube channel “Pi sik University,” which posts various comedy videos. The contents also sparked public interest in Y2K fashion that the character Gil Eun-ji showed in the videos. Comedian Lee Eun-ji, who acted as Gil Eun-ji, perfectly demonstrated the Y2K style in the video with large round earrings, a velvet jogging suit, baseball caps from popular brands in the past, and colorful belts covering the pelvic line, which sparked MZ generation’s interest in Y2K fashion. Korean dancer Ri.hey, who made herself known to the public through Mnet’s entertainment program Street Woman Fighter, also drew attention by actively displaying the Y2K style. A photo of her wearing a cropped t-shirt showing her waist, wide jogging pants, and a matching small-sized bag was released on Instagram, and her style was also called the essence of Y2K fashion.



©Cosmopolitan

▲ The character Gil Eun-ji, who appears in a YouTube channel “Pi sik University” shows the popular fashion of the 2000s such as a pink jogging suit, ballcap and big round earrings.

*Generation Z: Generation Z is the generation born from the mid-1990s to the late 2010s and is a generation that has been exposed to and freely used information technology since their childhood.



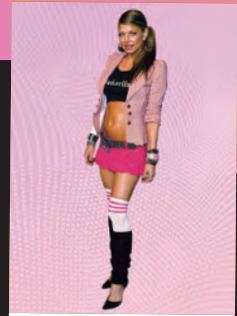
2. Characteristics of Y2K Fashion



Characteristics and Background of Y2K Fashion

The biggest difference between Y2K and existing retro fashion, which has become a hot issue in the fashion world, is that Western high-teen mood is added to Y2K fashion. What is important in Y2K fashion is to use items that show the mood of Western high-teen stars of the 2000s, such as velvet jogging suits, low-rise pants that seem to flow down near the pelvis, accessories that are large in size, and clothes that combine vibrant colors and patterns. Then where did Y2K fashion, which is far from normality, originate? The year 2000 was a historic year that passed from one century to another. As people entered a new generation called the New Millennium at the end of the century, with the mixture of anxiety and hope, an atmosphere of putting value on future-oriented things described as cyber, techno,* and digital has emerged throughout society. That was a time when innovative and unusual songs, videos, and fashion styles that seemed out of this world were released, which some say are memories they want to erase. Thus, what is the reason for the return of late-century fashion, which can seem strange to young people? Professor Kim Gong-sook of the Department of Convergence Contents at Andong National University, said, “Sunny,’ a movie that recalled the memories of the end of the century, is actually clumsy to those who actually lived in that era. However, the reason why this movie attracts many people is that the nostalgia of the era itself feels attractive to the present generation living in difficult times.” Subsequently, she interpreted that the return of contents from the early 2000s is not just for middle-aged people to reminisce, but because of the unique characteristics and charm of the contents themselves. Eventually, the return of Y2K fashion can be seen as a trend created by those of the present generation who were attracted to the culture of the early 2000s.

*Techno: Techno means music played in regular and repetitive rhythms with advanced electronic devices such as computers, or such a style.



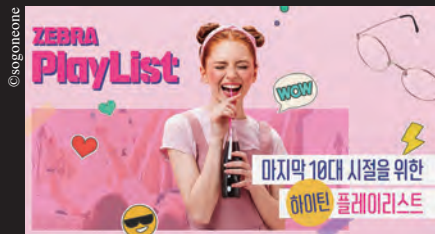
▲ Y2K fashion pursues colorful, fancy moods and includes fashion items like low-rise bottom piece, crop top, knee socks, and big earrings.



▲ Y2K fashion also started to appear in fashion shows as well as caught the eye of celebrities.

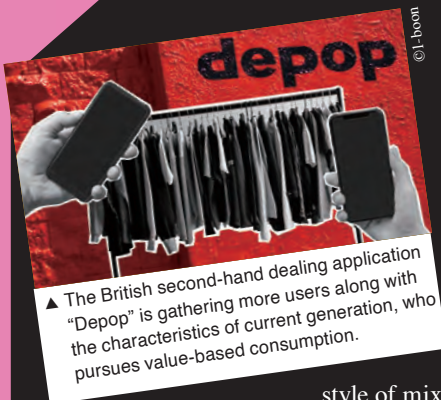
The Birth of a New Retro Culture in the COVID-19 Era

As it is said that “What goes around comes around,” Y2K fashion may simply be regarded as the return of the trend from the early 2000s. However, Professor Kim pointed out that this is not the case and said, “Y2K fashion is not just a return of the style that was popular in the past.” She added, “As young people who suddenly lost social exchanges due to COVID-19 turned their eyes to past contents, a new trend has occurred that turned their current interest to past fashion.” Like Professor Kim’s asserted, Y2K fashion became popular because young people who entered the life of staying at home due to the prolonged COVID-19 situation turned their eyes to various video services such as Netflix, and they, who began to actively use these video services, fell in love with “replaying the classics.” Having spent more time at home, they began to watch high-teen dramas and movies such as “Clueless,” “Mean Girls,” and “Gossip Girl” released around 2000 through OTT platform Netflix. Generation Z’s interest in costumes and accessories at the time became a driving force to the prevalence of Y2K fashion. With the response of the current generation, the “Gossip Girl” series, which attracted attention with colorful fashion, featuring high school students from Manhattan and New York, was also recreated in 2021. In addition to simply enjoying dramas through Netflix, there has also been a culture of enjoying the OST (original soundtrack) inserted into the drama or pop songs with a high-teen mood. For example, searching “High Teen Playlist” on YouTube, results in hundreds of videos which are gaining popularity among many users. The videos, which play a pop song playlist with Western high-



▲ In YouTube, videos named “High-teen playlist” are popular among the young in Korea.

teen drama videos, is full of comments from Korean users admiring Western high-teen, such as “It’s different from the daily lives of monotonous Korean students preparing only for college,” and “I dreamed of such a romantic school life.” In addition, diary decoration and room decoration in high-teen styles are becoming popular, and the atmosphere of admiring the mood and style of the early 2000s is furthering the prevalence of Y2K culture, and the arrival of Y2K fashion is also a trend that revived the nostalgia of the early 2000s.



▲ The British second-hand dealing application “Depop” is gathering more users along with the characteristics of current generation, who pursues value-based consumption.

Generation Z Pursuing Value Consumption

The trend of Y2K fashion began among teenagers and people in their 20s in the U.S., and the British secondhand dealing application “Depop” showed a frightening growth with more than 30 million users. According to a consumer survey conducted by the app, 90% of users were Generation Z under the age of 26 who were enthusiastic about vintage clothes.

CEO Lee Jin-gu, who runs the Instagram vintage fashion mall “Vintage Collection,” said, “Originally, fashion using vintage and used clothes was only for a minority of maniacs. However, people interested in fashion these days are showing a

style of mixing and matching vintage items with new clothes. In fact, the number of new customers has increased significantly since the end of last year.”

Y2K fashion also leads to value consumption based on eco-friendly ethics, which is one of Generation Z’s tendencies. The keyword “second-sumer” appeared in “Trend Korea 2021” released by Seoul National University’s Consumer Trend Analysis Center at the end of 2021. Second-sumer is one of the top ten trends in 2021 and refers to the pursuit of sustainable consumption, not just desiring new products. In this regard, Trend Korea 2021 explains that second-hand consumption will continue like a trend with the advent of an eco-friendly era where people also think of disposal when purchasing new goods and the spread of a culture that values experiences, not owning products. In addition, Generation Z has Generation X,* called the “most progressive generation,” as its parent’s generation, which is characterized by pursuing reasonable consumption and practicality rather than existing values such as wealth and honor. In a survey conducted by the second-hand dealing application “Depop” on people in their teens and 20s, 75% of the respondents said they buy second-hand to reduce consumption, which indicates this trend. They are not obsessed with new products because they have the perception that the moment they purchase new items they become old, so they put more weight on purchasing used items at reasonable prices. As a result, Y2K fashion, which was popular only 20 years ago, has become a vintage fashion style that Generation Z can fully enjoy through used consumption. Generation Z’s tendency to pursue individuality with rational consumption and unique expressions can be seen as the driving force behind the revival of Y2K fashion.

*Generation X: Generation X refers to the generation born from the late 1960s to the late 1970s.



3. Prospect

From One-mile Wear to Y2K Fashion

One-mile wear is clothing that can be worn within a mile (1.6 km) from home. As the number of people accustomed to staying at home increased and the popularity of one-mile wear increased, the concept of “two-mile wear” was also created, which is comparable to urban and outdoor clothes. However, with the prolonged COVID-19 crisis, the younger generation began to find new fashion inspiration. Shinsegae International, Shinsegae Group’s fashion distributor, predicted in an interview with The Korea Economic Daily that the one-mile wear trend, which pursues comfortable and fashionable styles such as training suits, jogger pants, and sweatshirts, would be behind this year’s Y2K fashion trend that will gain more popularity. In addition, Shinsegae International predicted a shift in fashion trends, forecasting that one-mile wear, the representative fashion of the COVID-19 era, will disappear, and miniskirts, cropped items, and velvet clothing will

sweep the streets. Just as Shinsegae International has highlighted this year's fashion trend, British fashion brand Stella McCartney has introduced a number of pastel-colored mini dresses such as pink, orange, and yellow aimed at this year's spring season. French fashion brand CELINE, which gained popularity last season by introducing one-mile wear such as jogger pants and hoodies in stylish luxury looks, also returned with an ultra-mini dress on the runway this season.



▲ One-mile wear is a natural fashion style using items including jogging pants, hoodies, sweatshirts and sneakers.




"A Tempo" Towards Revival of Society

The fashion industry, which was in a recession due to the COVID-19 pandemic, had no choice but to be depressed for a while. In fact, Samsung C&T's fashion division recorded a deficit with a loss of 3.6 billion won in 2021. Recently, however, the fashion industry has been aiming for an opportunity to be revived as the COVID-19 crisis is getting better. The Samsung Fashion Research Institute selected "A TEMPO" as a fashion keyword with the intention that the fashion market will recover to its previous growth rate this year. A Tempo is a musical term that means "go back to the previous speed after a slow or fast variation." This is also the abbreviation of various keywords of this year, such as "Across the Fashion," "Taste-commerce," "Encounter Y2K Fashion," "Metaverse is Coming," "Purpose Driven Brand," and "Organic Growth Strategy." These keywords are a starting point for consumers who have become more interested in food and residential environments than clothing since the COVID-19 incident, overcoming the stagnation caused by COVID-19, and opening a new era of fashion. Lim Ji-yeon, head of Samsung Fashion Research Institute, said in an interview with Financial News, "It is time to go forward to get back to the economic level before 2019." She also said, "So we selected 'A Tempo' as a fashion keyword to go back to the previous situation." Fashion experts predict that Y2K fashion, which heated up the 1990s and 2000s, will reappear and continue to strengthen its Newtro fashion, which is an abbreviation of "New" and "Retrospect" meaning a fashion inspired by the old ones but added some modern vibes. The growing popularity of the Newtro style brand Champion, which has been under development by South Korean clothing brand LF since last year, is one such case. Champion is a clothing brand launched in the U.S. in 1919, which gained huge popularity in the 1980s with its bright colors and unique logo design, and sales increased about 100% compared to last year as the MZ generation recently showed interest in Y2K fashion. Like the 2000s, when a new era was opened at the end of a century, the reemergence of Y2K fashion marks the beginning of a new era when the COVID-19 recession is overcome.?



▲ Clothes brand "Champion" is beginning to revive after relaunching with the return of Y2K fashion.

There is a psychological term, "reminiscence bump." People want to overcome their difficulties by recalling the happy memories of the past when conditions in their real lives are difficult and exhausting, and this phenomenon reaches its peak when society is suffering from confusion. The current recurrence of the culture of the early 2000s has its context along with this phenomenon. The indefinite continuation of the unprecedented pandemic has instilled a longing for the past among the public as well as economic damage in various fields. Recalling the past may seem meaningless, but there is a saying that nostalgia plays a role in protecting people from pain. Therefore, Y2K fashion, which evokes the happy past and uses it as new content, can be seen as a nostalgia that has been blowing in society that is suffering more confusion than ever due to COVID-19. Of course, pants worn over the pelvis, colorful accessories, and colors that are likely to stand out from 20 meters away may still feel foreign to the general public. However, The Argus hopes readers will have a chance to live bravely in a chaotic era, reflecting on the nostalgia of the past by looking into the Y2K fashion trend. 



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The Rise of a New Mode of Transportation: Opportunities and Obstacles

By Lim Se-jin

Associate Editor of Theory & Critique Section

Anyone who has been ever stuck in a traffic jam would have imagined, at least once in his lifetime, traveling to the destination in a “flying car” at a high speed. What if this fantasy becomes reality? In January 2020, Hyundai Motor Company along with Uber, a car sharing platform, unveiled the concept model of air taxis at the world’s largest Consumer Electronics Show (CES), revealing the possibility that our dream could soon become a reality. In April 2022, Urban-Air Port, a British mobility company partly owned by Hyundai Motor Group, will introduce Vertiport, the world’s first space for taking off and landing for urban air mobility (UAM). Like the science fiction film *Blade Runner*, released in 1982, the era of flying in the sky through building forests will come. Flying cars, drawn as symbols of the future in the movie, are now in the spotlight as a representative form of future transportation.

However, as all scientific techniques are always double-sided, there is also a dark side to the remarkably developing the UAM industry. This is because the safety of the technology has not yet been guaranteed, and the usage charge is high, as well as legal problems such as urban flight regulations and privacy violations, which have not been resolved. Therefore, The Argus aims to help readers look at scientific techniques through a balanced perspective by highlighting not only the positive aspects that can be obtained through the UAM industry, but also the negative aspects behind it.

Before Reading



Urban Air Mobility (UAM)

UAM is a concept that encompasses all projects related to urban air transportation, from the development of Personal Air Vehicles (PAV) capable of vertical takeoff and landing (VTOL) to manufacturing, sales, constructions of infrastructure, services, and maintenance. It is a system that allows people to fly by using the UAM airfield located in the city's transportation hub without a runway.

Personal Air Vehicle (PAV)

It refers to a private aircraft that can depart from one's home to the destination that one wants like using a car. With the convergence of automobile and airplane performances and IT industry technologies, it is emerging as a future transportation that will drastically reduce travel time downtown.



Opportunities

Sky Road in Downtown Without Traffic Jams

Currently, urbanization is progressing rapidly in Korea. According to the K-UAM roadmap released by the Ministry of Land, the population concentration of metropolitan areas in Korea is 50 percent as of 2019, and the population concentration in large cities nationwide is 77.4 percent as of 2019. Considering that the observation value of the global urban population ratio in 2050 is 68.4 percent, it can be seen that the urbanization of Korea is very serious. Cars filling the city's roads are causing severe traffic congestion, which leads to enormous social and economic losses. This is evident in that the traffic congestion cost* estimated by the Korea Transport Institute (KOTI) reached about 68 trillion won (US\$ 5.50 trillion) as of 2018.

Therefore, an innovative transportation system is required to change the paradigm of the existing transportation system to solve the fundamental problem of traffic congestion, and the UAM, which utilizes the three-dimensional space in the city, that is, the sky, as a new transportation resource for a city, is emerging as an alternative. Since the UAM takes off from the ground, which is a two-dimensional space and is a means of transportation in the sky, a three-dimensional space, it has the biggest advantage in that it can go straight from the starting point to the destination via the shortest route. This advantage consequently leads to a reduction in travel time, providing greater efficiency in mobility. According to the Korea Aerospace Research Institute (KARI), the average travel time of the UAM in Seoul is expected to be about 70 percent shorter than that

of other automobiles. In addition, flexible operation is possible by resolving congestion through flights in dense downtown areas while driving on highways as usual. And, it has the advantage of having very few spatial restrictions compared to conventional transportations in that it can move along routes where road maintenance is incomplete and cross rivers or small canyons without bridges.

*Traffic congestion cost: It is the total loss cost such as the loss of time value and the increase in vehicle operating costs caused by vehicles driving on the road below normal speed due to traffic congestion.

Changes in traffic congestion costs by year in Korea

Classification	Traffic congestion cost (trillion won)	The year-on-year rate of change (%)	Traffic congestion cost to GDP (%)
2009	27.7	3.0	2.30
2010	28.5	2.9	2.26
2011	29.1	2.1	2.09
2012	30.3	4.1	2.11
2013	31.4	3.6	2.09
2014	32.4	3.2	2.07
2015	33.4	2.8	2.01
2016	55.9	-	3.21
2017	59.6	6.6	3.25
2018	67.8	13.7	3.57

©The Korea Transport Institute

▲ In 2018, The cost of traffic congestion to GDP in Korea is 3.6 percent. It is very high compared to 0.9 percent in the United States, 0.4 percent in the United Kingdom, and 0.2 percent in Germany of the same year.

Take a Step Closer to Net Zero

Traffic problems in the city not only cause traffic congestion, but also environmental problems such as

energy waste and environmental pollution. Various forms of eco-friendly mobility such as electric and hydrogen electric vehicles have already emerged to solve the global warming problem caused by greenhouse gas emissions, but the future revolution of mobility is now heading off of the ground and into the sky.

Both airplanes and helicopters, which are existing means of transportation, use internal combustion engines. Therefore, they cannot be used as future means of transportation due to their high carbon emissions. What then is the principle whereby an internal combustion engine emits a large amount of carbon? An internal combustion engine basically operates by burning fossil fuels. And fossil fuels used at this time are generated by burying a body of living things made of carbon in the ground. Therefore, when fossil fuels are dug up and burned, the density of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere increases because carbon trapped in the ground is released into the air. Carbon dioxide generated in this way causes a greenhouse effect and climate change.

In order to solve this problem, what is being developed to reduce carbon emissions as much as possible is the “electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL).” In other words, it is a flying electric vehicle that can take off and land vertically like a helicopter while using electricity. The eVTOL does not emit pollutants because it obtains electric power through batteries instead of internal combustion engines. Jo Yeong-min, an assistant professor at Hanseo University’s Department of Unmanned Aircraft Systems, explained about the eVTOL as follows. “It is easy to understand

when thinking of electric cars. Just as electric cars go to charging stations only for electric vehicles and put the plug in to charge them, the eVTOL is also a method of charging in the form of plugs at stations.”

The background in which eVTOL can be used for UAM is to improve battery performance. Hwang Honyon, a professor at Sejong University’s Department of Aerospace Engineering said, “In the past, batteries could not be used in transportations because it was impossible to fly only with them. However, now, the specific energy, which indicates how much electrical energy can be stored in the battery weight, has risen to more than 500Wh/kg,* enabling a 30-minute flight.” The commercialization of the UAM requires the specific energy of 400Wh/kg or more in a battery. The development of the battery technology that sufficiently surpasses this requirement allows the expansion of UAM operating time.

*Wh: The watt-hour (symbolized Wh) is a unit of energy equivalent to one watt (1W) of power expended for one hour (1h) of time.

More Propellers than Helicopters, the Distributed Propulsion

The reason why the UAM is suitable for urban areas is that it applies distributed propulsion technology that flies using multiple engines. It will be easy to understand considering that the drone has several propellers. In this way, if multiple propellers are attached to promote the distributed propulsion, a stable landing can be ensured because the flight can be continued even if one propeller fails. Yee Kwan-jung, a professor at Seoul National University’s Department of Aerospace Engineering explained the safety of distributed propulsion as follows.



©Aero Crew News

▲ Many companies cooperate on the research of operational models for charging infrastructure solutions needed for eVOLT aircraft to begin operations.



©Hyundai Motor Group

▲ Distributed propulsion operates multiple independent rotors. Even if one rotor fails, the vehicle still flies safely as the others continue to run.

“The UAM flies at an altitude of 300 to 600 meters. However, a bird strike is likely to occur at this altitude. When a bird strike occurs, in the case of a helicopter with only one propeller, the propeller breaks and falls. However, if there are several propellers like the UAM, it can land safely even if one propeller is broken.”

In addition, noise is an important consideration as it operates in the city center, and thanks to the distributed propulsion system, some noise problems can be solved. Several small propellers are placed throughout the UAM's aircraft, which is significantly smaller than the noise generated by one large propeller. Existing helicopter rotors had to turn very fast because they moved with one large blade. However, because the UAM distributes multiple propellers, the rotational speed of each propeller is relatively slower than that of the helicopter rotor, but it can produce the same power, which reduces the noise. Professor Yee explained that distributed propulsion is an efficient way to solve the noise problem, saying, “The noise is proportional to the magnitude of force a single propeller has to put out. Therefore, helicopters using only one rotor are noisy because this rotor has to bear all the weight. On the other hand, using multiple propellers reduces the noise because it divides the weight.” In fact, the noise of the UAM is 65dB, which is 20 percent lower than the noise of the existing helicopter at 80dB. Moreover, this is lower than the 66dB, the average night noise in Seoul. In other words, by using the distributed propulsion system, the safety of the UAM can be improved, and noise problems can be solved.

Obstacles

I am Scared of Getting on the UAM: Still Insufficient Safety

Safety must be assured above all to establish itself as a new means of transportation after UAM is commercialized. In the case of civilian aircraft, the public's awareness of the risk is sufficient through existing accident cases. However, because the UAM is in the pre-introduction stage, there is no history of accidents. So, the risk of the UAM must be inferred. Then, let's look at the case of a helicopter crash in

downtown Korea. On Nov 16, 2013, a helicopter crashed in dense fog into the upper section of the 38-story apartment in the posh Gangnam-gu district of Seoul and plunged to the ground. The two pilots, Park In-kyu and Koh Jong-jin, died at the scene. The apartment building was also not safe. The collision broke windows and damaged the outer wall of the building spanning the 21st to 27th floors. Through this accident, it can be predicted that UAM crashes in the city center are a high risk, not only for economic losses but also for the loss of lives.

The UAM ultimately aims to fly autonomously using artificial intelligence (AI). However, according to a study on public acceptability published in 2020 by the KOTI, of the 101 respondents, 27 responded positively to unmanned UAM and 25 responded neutral, while 49 responded negatively, the highest proportion among respondents. This shows that citizens have a



▲ Windows on an I'Park apartment in Samseong-dong, southern Seoul, were broken after a helicopter crashed into the building, killing the two pilots onboard.



▲ Vertiport is planned to be built preferentially in four places: Incheon Airport, Gimpo International Airport, Cheongnyangni Station in Seoul, and Convention and Exhibition in Seoul.

negative perception of the UAM's unmanned operation. Considering social acceptability, autonomous navigation without pilots has not yet secured safety reliability.

In addition, it is necessary to develop advanced UAM technologies such as navigation control and communication technology. And when the airframe or motor breaks down, it is necessary to secure safety through self-response ability, collision avoidance technology, and autonomous navigation systems.* Professor Yee said "In Korea, the size of the land is small. Therefore, commercial and residential areas are attached, and there are many semi-residential areas where residential functions and commercial uses are mixed. Consequently, flying in such areas can cause serious damage if a crash occurs. To prevent this, in the early stages of commercialization, it is highly likely that the UAM will move along the Han River or main road." Subsequently he emphasized, "In order to fly at low altitude in the city center, obstacles such as buildings and electric wires must be identified in advance, and systematic safety management and control techniques are required." Like this, although reality is growing with the completion of the latest technologies that will enable UAM, safety devices for commercialization are still insufficient.

*Autonomous navigation system: It means that a vehicle can plan its path and execute its plan without human intervention. In some cases, remote navigation aids are used in the planning process, while at other times the only information available to compute a path is based on input from sensors aboard the vehicle itself.

110,000 won (US\$ 88.90)? The Expensive Charge of UAM

As the UAM is a means of transportation that flies in the sky and combines cutting-edge future technologies, it is different from existing bus, taxi, and subway fees. According to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, based on 40km, the charge for the UAM in the early stages of commercialization is 110,000 won (US\$ 88.90), which is 2.75 times more expensive than the 40,000 won (US\$ 32.30), taxi fare in Korea. Regarding this, in an interview with Money S, a comprehensive economic magazine, Heo Hee-young, a professor at Korea Aerospace University's Department of business management said, "As it is public transportation that flies in the sky with cutting-edge technologies, expensive fees are expected."

However, the basic value of the UAM industry is to make it easy for regular citizens to use, not the exclusive property of the wealthy class, such as personal helicopters and private jets. Therefore, in order for UAM to be quickly commercialized and accepted by the public, it is essential to establish a fee system that can accommodate everyone. Professor Heo emphasized this saying, "The emergence of UAM is an inevitable factor worldwide but establishing a fee system is of paramount importance for rapid establishment. For UAM to become a more popular infrastructure for citizens, the full support of government to back up corporate technology accumulation, development, and operation is more urgent than anything else."

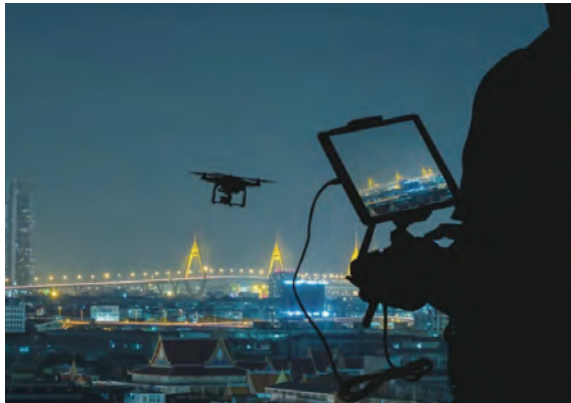
In addition, the UAM must compete with existing transportation services. Professor Yee discussed the conditions for UAM to be activated, saying, "In order for UAM to be activated, the income level of cities must be high, and the population must be large and widely distributed. Also, countries in which public transportation is not developed are more likely to succeed with UAM." However, Seoul is a city with a developed public transportation system. Therefore, Professor Yee stated that the actual demand may be low before service costs are lowered, saying, "People will use UAM only when the usage charge goes down to taxi fees. The UAM will be competitive only when the public can use the UAM service at a reasonable price."

The UAM Technology is Leaping but its System is Taking Steps

Currently, the airspace in downtown Seoul is designated as a no-fly zone due to security issues with military facilities or major industrial infrastructures. Therefore, for the UAM to be commercialized in the city center, problem of the airspace regulation must be solved. Professor Heo expressed frustration as follows. "Although the Korea airspace committee under the Office of the Prime Minister, and the airspace business committee, have been established to solve the airspace problem, it is not easy to discuss due to interdepartmental intertwined interests."

A direction to solve legal problems related to an invasion of privacy should also be presented. Since low flying UAM can film the passing area, the privacy of

citizens living in the area can be violated, and in the worst case, it can be used for crime. Let's guess the danger through a recent case of invasion of personal privacy by small drones. On Oct 7, 2020, those who illegally filmed the privacy of residents of high-rise apartments by flying a high-performance drone in Busan were arrested. As a result of the police checking the recorded footage on a drone camera, in the video



▲ While over 80 percent of all illegal cases of photography resulted in probation, cases of drone-related photography are being punished by prison sentences, indicating the severity of drone crimes.

the bodies of 10 pairs of men and women were filmed. Like this, the UAM users can take pictures with a camera and collect video information without the consent. In addition, personal image information filmed by the UAM camera can be easily disclosed online through a network. And because leaked personal image information is difficult to recover, it can cause mental and material damages to victims. Furthermore, it is possible to collect extensive information of various types such as military and industrial secrets, which can threaten national security. Yoon Yong-hyun, a professor at Kookmin University's Research Center for Unmanned Aerospace Technology explained, "In order to solve these problems, the UAM special act should be enacted." The enactment of this law is an essential procedure to encourage technological growth within the protected system and prevent side effects coming from new technologies. Therefore, at this point in time when various issues about UAM are being raised, it is necessary to preemptively enact and manage legislation, so that it can contribute to the revitalization of the UAM industry.



If the world where cars fly in the sky comes, where do readers want to go first? It is still difficult to purchase a flying car, however, in the near future, roads that are clogged with cars may remain memories. This is because the mobility revolution is taking place "from the ground to the air."

However, there is not only a rosy outlook for the UAM industry. Although many countries and companies are developing UAM for the commercialization, various trials and errors such as building infrastructures related to the technology development and assurance of safety are expected to be needed until the era of flying cars comes. Nevertheless, if efforts to improve these problems continue, flying cars will no longer just stay in our imagination, but become reality. Let's look forward to what kind of world UAM technology will present to us based on infinite imagination. 🚗

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A Death No One Knows



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By Shin Jun-seo
Associate Editor of Social Section

How does the world view solitude? In January 2018, the United Kingdom appointed the world's first Minister of Loneliness. In addition, Japan established a new government department to take measures against solitude and isolation in February 2021.

Both countries recognized solitude as a social problem, not an individual problem, and began to resolve to address solitude at the government level. The Korean government has also carried out the "Act on The Prevention and Management of Lonely Deaths" since April 1, 2021, aiming to prevent lonely deaths and promote welfare at the national level. Therefore, the Korean government has to establish a basic plan for the prevention of lonely deaths every five years and identify the current status by conducting a survey and analyzing statistics.

Recently, the number of single-person households of people in their 20s and 30s has increased. Employment problems and housing deprivation have caused depression, and the corona blues has increased. The number of unrelated deaths of people in their 20s and 30s has increased from 62 in 2017 to 100 in 2020. However, there is no official statistics on lonely deaths, so interest in the lonely death problem is low enough to have to be estimated with cases of unrelated deaths. What is worse, the youth lonely deaths have been obscured by measures against lonely deaths of the elderly. The youth are in a blind spot of lonely deaths. The Argus aims to raise awareness by pointing out the problems, causes, and solutions of youth lonely deaths.



Before Reading

Lonely death: A phenomenon of people dying alone and remaining undiscovered for a long period of time. It happens in single-person households most of the time.

Unrelated death: The case if the dead body is an unknown person or is without a related person; a person without social ties is more likely to die alone, so it is closely related to lonely death.

• Problems •

Lack of Understanding of Youth Lonely Deaths

A man in his 20s hung himself. After losing his job, he committed suicide due to major depression after failing to successfully invest in stocks. His death was one of the cases of lonely deaths and was the most shocking scene selected by Kim Hyun-seop, CEO of Evergreen, a special cleaning company that has handled numerous lonely death scenes.

According to the Ministry of Health and Welfare, a total of 3,159 people are estimated to have died alone in 2021. This is an increase of 57.3 percent compared to the 2,008 cases counted in 2017. In particular, by age, the number of youth lonely deaths under the age of 40 increased 62 percent from 63 in 2017 to 102 in 2020. However, this

is estimated with the cases of unrelated deaths, so that there will be more actual youth lonely deaths. CEO Kim said, "Young people's lonely deaths are increasing in



▲ A special cleaning company handles lonely death scenes.

©eraldcorp

areas with low-income levels and substandard housing, and suicides account for a greater proportion in youth lonely deaths than for other generations.”

The problem is that most of the statistics on lonely deaths so far either do not consider age or are centered on senior citizens who live alone, so it is unclear how grave the youth lonely death problem is. In accordance with the Act on The Prevention and Management of Lonely Deaths, local governments are conducting individual surveys, but even this is not enough to reveal the reality of youth lonely deaths. Accordingly, Guri city, Gyeonggi-do province, conducted a survey of single-person households under the age of 65, at risk of isolation, between January and March this year, while Suncheon city, Jeollanam-do province, conducted a survey of low-income single-person households. However, individual surveys at the local government level are also focused on middle-aged and senior citizens. The problem of youth lonely death is that even statistics are not being properly calculated.

Youth Lonely Deaths Are an Extension of Suicide

The problem is that the lonely deaths of those in their 20s and 30s are mainly due to suicide. According to a report on the risk group of lonely deaths in Seoul, 41 percent of lonely deaths of people in their 20s and 30s are by suicides, which is much higher than for other age groups.

In addition, according to a paper titled “Can suicide resulting from disconnection and alienation be designated as solitude?”, by the Institute of Human, Environment and Future at Inje University, 51.6 percent of deaths of people in their 20s in 2013 were by suicide. In addition, the employment stress of the young generation can lead to negative mental health consequences such as



▲ People living in goshiwon are exposed to lonely death.

depression, anxiety, and hostility, which can induce suicidal thoughts and actions. Like this, problems such as employment failure and the recession can affect young people and make them feel depressed and anxious, which can lead to suicide. Therefore, unemployed youths become the vulnerable social class, at risk of lonely deaths through suicide.

The telling characteristic of youth lonely deaths is that these people die alone after suffering from problems such as employment difficulties, economic problems, and social resignations experienced while living in a studio or goshiwon.* In our society, where the prolonged youth unemployment has not been resolved, young people are under considerable stress and pressure. There are many cases in which this leads to depression and suicide. Therefore, youth lonely deaths should also be discussed alongside poverty issues, social vulnerability, and mental health issues to prevent this from causing suicide.

*goshiwon: A Korean word meaning a very small room specifically designed for students who temporarily live preparing for an important test such as public servant bar exam etc.

Unrelated Society

An unrelated society is a concept that first appeared in Japan in 1990 and refers to a society in which people's connections and relationships are weak. The extreme consequence of this isolated society is lonely death. According to the 2018 Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs research report on “Social Relationships of Young Single-person Households,” single-person households spent an average of only five minutes per day with their families. On the other hand, the time spent interacting with people other than family members was 74 minutes, which was greater. However, this was only 55 percent of the interaction time spent by people in other household types. In addition, as surveyed by the National Statistical Office in 2019, Korea's social isolation rate was 27.7 percent, far above the OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) average of 10 percent. Furthermore, the community spirit in Korean society is decreasing. According to the 2016 Better Life Index survey by the OECD, Korea ranked the lowest among 37 countries, in the community category that measures the quality of social networks. Only 75.8 percent of Koreans answered that they had someone to help them when faced with difficulties, far lower than the OECD average of 88 percent. This is because

individualism has become widespread and “conscience solidaire”^{*} has loosened.

The economic recession has worsened this unrelated society. According to the National Statistical Office, among those aged 25 to 39 as of the end of September 2021, 231,000 were young people without employment experience in 2019, and 56,000 increased from 2019 to 287,000 in 2020. The high unemployment rate and pandemic situation have made it difficult for young people to get a job. High unemployment rates can create unstable job conditions and economic poverty, causing social isolation and loneliness among young people. Lim Myung-ho, a professor of the Department of Psychology at Dankook University, said, “If those in their 20s who start social life experience isolation due to job failure and poverty, they can feel much more isolated and depressed than middle-aged people who have already experienced social life,” warning that young people could be more easily exposed to lonely death in a society where it is hard to find coexistence with others.

^{*}conscience solidaire: Consciousness that supports interdependence between members of society

Causes

Lack of Awareness of the Seriousness of Youth Lonely Deaths

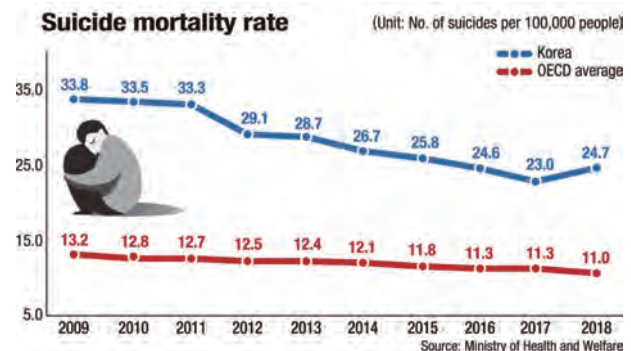
The KBS program “Sisajikgyeok” and the Democratic Party lawmaker Ki Dong-min’s office obtained 104,845 police records of the nationwide unnatural death cases and analyzed 3,704 lonely death cases in 2019 and 4,196 cases in 2020. This means an average of 11 lonely deaths occur per day. In addition, according to data of suicide lonely death rates in Seoul, in 2019, 34.1 percent of those in their 30s and 27.8 percent in their 20s were the highest in all age groups, followed by 41.2 percent in their 30s and 40.3 percent in their 20s in 2020. It clearly shows that the percentage of suicides committed by people in their 20s and 30s has increased significantly over the year.

It is a grave matter that the young generation who must lead the future are ending their lives through suicide and are treated as lonely deaths because they are not easily found. Park Ji-young, professor of Department of Social Welfare at Sangji University also commented, “The

problem of isolation in youth, which is the most active period of expanding social activities and relationships in the life cycle, is a very serious issue.” However, the reality is that despite divisions such as the Ministry of Health and Welfare and the National Statistical Office, it is difficult to grasp the current situation because there is no statistical data related to youth lonely deaths.

As such, the problem of indifference to lonely deaths stands out in the reality that the statistics of lonely deaths must necessarily be estimated with the number of unrelated deaths. However, the two are different since unrelated deaths mean that there is no one to whom the body is delivered in the funeral proceedings, and lonely death means that the body is later discovered after a person dies alone. The two types of deaths seem similar, but they are distinctly different, so it is necessary to establish clear concepts and standards and secure statistical data accordingly.

A Society that Cannot Get Young People Out of Isolation



▲ Korea still tops suicide rate among OECD countries.

How do the depression and isolation felt by young people lead to suicide? Jeon Hong-jin, a professor of psychiatry at Samsung Medical Center at Sungkyunkwan University, conducted a five-year study from 2011 to analyze brain images and BDNF (Brain Derived Neurological Factors) in depressed patients who intended to commit suicide. He found that if depression becomes chronic and not treated, suicidal impulses can occur.

Then why is the suicide rate higher for young people than among other ages? Professor Park said, “In youth, when social activities are most active in the life cycle, expectations for self-role, or self-achievement are higher than for those of other middle-aged and senior citizens.”

The lack of social policies and support services for young people afflicted with such anxiety does not guarantee a safe period for young people to adapt to society, which affects the high suicide rate of young people.

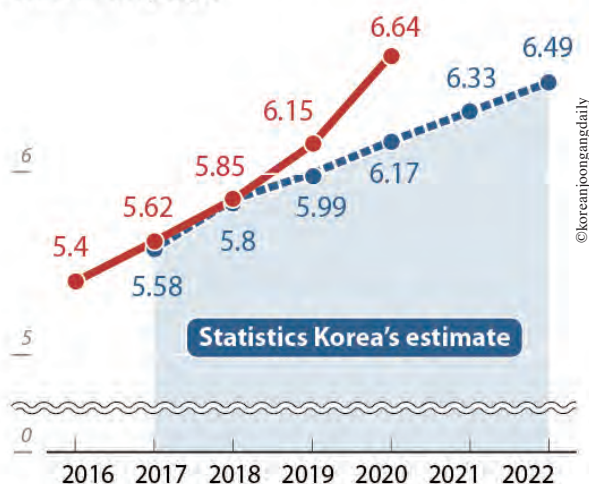
In foreign countries, there are projects and organizations to prevent loneliness, such as Japan's solitude system project and regional comprehensive care, and France's Monalisa organization, a national activity group composed of senior public and private institutions in France. However, these projects are mostly just for senior citizens. Professor Park said, "Similarly, in Korea, measures to prevent lonely deaths are concentrated on the elderly class. This policy concentration phenomenon is due to the vulnerability of the elderly, who are prone to social isolation, but on the other hand, there is a lack of social awareness of youth isolation and statistics to prove its seriousness.

The Growth of Single-Person Households

A major cause of youth lonely death is the increase of single-person households. According to the National Statistical Office, as of 2019, the number of single-person households in Korea was 6.14 million, with three out of 10 households being single-person households. Furthermore, young people account for the largest proportion of these single-person households. However, the statistics show that single-person households are

No. of people living alone

Unit: million people



▲ Number of single-person households rises consistently.

more likely to emerge as a lonely and poor population rather than fancy, rich singles. According to a 2010 report by the HRI (Hyundai Research Institute), in 2010, 53.99 percent of single-person households had an average monthly income less than one million won. Additionally, the occupation groups with the highest proportion of single-person households were the unemployed and unclassifiable (49.3 percent), followed by simple labor workers (14.9 percent). The report determined that poverty becomes serious as single-person households have a low-income average and the gap between the rich and poor tends to get wider. CEO Kim said, "Lonely deaths occur in areas with low-income levels among single-person households such as studio apartments and goshiwons." The number of people living alone is increasing involuntarily due to the economic recession, but if a suitable social safety net is not established, social problems are more likely to occur.

As such, the high proportion of single-person households among young people is the cause of an unrelated society, which implies that it is difficult for young people to form their identity and gain social experience through communication with other people. It also means that young people are in an environment that breeds depression, loneliness, and helplessness due to poverty and high unemployment rates. This psychologically isolated environment amplifies the loneliness of young people, putting them at risk of dying alone.

Solutions

Defining Lonely Death and Analyzing Reality

While the number of youth lonely deaths is increasing, society is indifferent. The unconcern reflects the current situation in which it is difficult to find the concept, standards, and statistical data of lonely deaths. The Act on The Prevention and Management of Lonely Deaths came into force in April 2021, and the definition of solitude was made, but an accurate concept such as the category of lonely death has not yet been established. First, there is no unified regulation on when to designate the type after death. This is because the post-estimation method differs depending on the surrounding environment such as the temperature and humidity of the body as well as the season. Also, suicides are

not included in the category of lonely death because they chose death by their own will. Of course, simple suicide cannot be included in solitude. However, if the disconnection of relationships, deficiency and social isolation, and depression in the single-person household type led to suicide, there is a need for it to be included in the category of lonely death.

Professor Lim said, “In terms of the increase in lonely deaths in the form of suicide in the pandemic situation, which is a social isolation situation, cases of young people who committed suicide alone should also be viewed as lonely death.” Based on these discussions, the definition of lonely death is being revised in various ways, but to solve the current problems, an agreement on the definition of lonely death must precede it. Professor Park also pointed out the difficulty of meeting isolated young people is the reason why it is difficult to study youth isolation. A sample is needed to study youth lonely deaths, but young people who are easy to contact are college students, who are not in the risk group of isolation, making it difficult to obtain statistics, so it is more difficult to figure out the current status. Therefore, it is urgent to quickly understand the situation for research and countermeasures of youth lonely deaths.

Prepare Policies to Prevent Youth Lonely Death



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▲ Seocho district in Seoul introduces a AI robot for the elderly living alone.

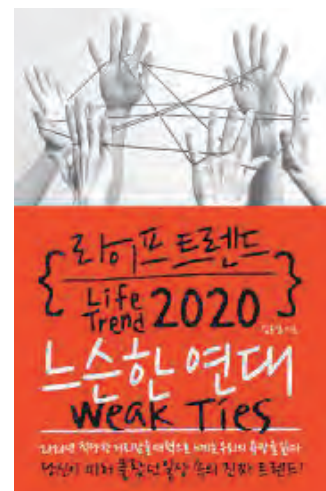
The scene of youth lonely death indicates a young man's solitude. Young people are at an age to actively start their social life by communicating with people. However, many young people are cut off from contact with people due to part-time jobs they take to maintain their livelihoods or because they are busy studying and preparing for employment. In the case of lonely deaths

of senior citizens, several measures are being prepared. Busan City is using city gas meter readings. It is a digital service that prevents lonely deaths by analyzing dangerous signals such as when gas consumption decreases rapidly or the number of openings of refrigerator doors reaches zero. Using AI robots is also one way to prevent lonely death. Seocho district in Seoul introduced a customized “AI robot” for the elderly with dementia living alone, so that the elderly can overcome anxiety and depression and regain their health. A total of 88 robots with customized services that respond to various needs of the elderly will provide care by expanding functions such as cognitive improvement, emotional support, life support, and safety confirmation.

However, it is not effective to apply the same policies for preventing lonely deaths for the elderly and the middle-aged to young people. This is because youth lonely deaths are caused by psychological problems, employment failures, and peer relationships. They are different from those of lonely deaths of other generations. Therefore, it is time to pay attention to youth isolation and devise policies suitable for helping young people. Professor Park said, “Currently, in Korea, measures are being taken to prevent youth loneliness by expanding the amount of youth job search subsidies to young people in their 20s and 30s, strengthening employment success packages, and making them available to young people,” emphasizing that measures to prevent youth lonely deaths are being prepared.

Weak Ties

Trend analyst Kim Yong-seop published a book titled “*Life Trend 2020, Weak Ties*” in 2019 and raised the topic of small solidarity. Weak Ties, which he explains, is a new concept different from strong solidarity, and it includes making relationships connected to social media as they are more comfortable than face-to-face, moving away from marriage,



©naverblog

▲ This book written by trend analyst Kim Yong-seop talks about weak ties.



©maelconomicdaily

▲ Orang is a space freely available to local youth.


childbirth, and family systems, and looking for a shared house.

In order for young people not to be socially isolated, the need for a “third space,” a natural social participation space, emerges so that they can make such weak ties in society. They say that there is a need for space to

establish relationships with others and get out of an “unrelated” state. The third space is a public space where young people from single-person households living in cities, such as senior citizens’ center and village halls, can escape from frustrating single-person spaces and form a local community.

Currently, there is a youth center called “Orang” in Seoul, a space freely available to local youth, which opened in 2020. Although it was difficult to open during COVID-19, young people can gather in public spaces such as shared kitchens and lounges to form their own communities. This space indirectly shows that the local community is always interested and can induce participation without burdening young people in that it does not force them to participate. Professor Lim said, “In order to prevent youth lonely deaths, policies that can connect young people are important,” stressing that a social system that can prevent isolation should be established to ultimately solve the problem of loneliness caused by an unrelated society that has expanded due to the increase of single-person households. If “Weak Ties” strategies also get implemented in online spaces that are frequently used by young people, including third spaces, it will effectively prevent the social isolation of young people.

Lonely death is called the death created by society. This is because it is another problem created by numerous problems in society. In modern society, where communication has become easier than ever, it can be said that it is a very serious issue when someone ends their own life in isolation, and no one even knows about it. Lonely death makes the definition of society, which means an assembly gathered for human communal life, pointless.

Youth lonely death is one of the most urgent social problems in that young people who will create our society in the future are pessimistic about the future and are dying alone. However, there are still no official statistics of lonely deaths. It can be said that it is a very urgent necessity to expand social interest and awareness of youth lonely deaths. Perhaps it is time to consider whether social indifference has driven young people to death. 



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▲ An image of a lonely death scene shows us the seriousness of lonely death.

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IS PUBLIC TRANSPORT REALLY FOR EVERYONE?

By Yang Yu-min
Staff Reporter of Social Section

By Babbit, Lee

“Guarantee the right of mobility for the disabled!” On a cold windy day, the disabled in wheelchairs are holding pickets and marching forward in a line to conduct a protest on the subway during rush hour. They are calling for improvements in the right of mobility for the disabled.

According to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MOLIT) and the Korea Transportation Safety Authority, there are 15.4 million mobility disadvantaged persons,* including the disabled, as of the end of 2020, which is 29.7 percent of the total South Korean population. This means three out of 10 people are mobility disadvantaged persons. However, Korea’s transportation infrastructure for them is not well established. In December 2004, the “Act on Promotion of The Transportation Convenience of Mobility Disadvantaged Persons” was enacted so that they could move safely and conveniently. However, more than ten years later, current public transportation is still far away for the disabled. For this reason, the Solidarity Against Disability Discrimination (SADD), a civic group that protects the human rights of the disabled, started a demonstration calling for the guarantee of the right to move freely from Dec. 3, 2021. On the occasion of the Day of the Disabled on April 20, The Argus intends to examine the current status of the right of mobility in Korea and the Act on Promotion of The Transportation Convenience of Mobility Disadvantaged Persons.

*Mobility disadvantaged persons: Persons who feel inconvenient in mobility in their daily lives, such as persons with disabilities, the aged, pregnant women, persons accompanied by infants, and children.

Low Floor Bus: This is a bus with a low floor and a ramp installed at the entrance instead of stairs so that mobility disadvantaged persons can climb safely and conveniently without the help of others. Due to these characteristics, low floor buses cannot be operated in alleys with steep slopes and narrow roads, as there is a possibility that the devices under the bus may be scratched and ruptured.



©Seoul Metropolitan Government

► Low floor buses are introduced to realize barrier-free.



The Act on Promotion of The Transportation Convenience of Mobility Disadvantaged Persons

©NEWS1



▲ Police officers block the protests in SADD.

SADD has been demonstrating on the subway in Seoul, including Line 5 of Yeouido and Gongdeok Station, and Line 4 of Hyeohwa and Hansung

University Station. In the process, problems such as train delays have occurred, and the Seoul Metro blocked the elevator to prevent protests and even filed criminal charges and civil lawsuits. Some people may be wondering, “Why are SADD protesting in the subway rather than the National Assembly or the Blue House?” However, looking at the reality, SADD had always gone there. Nevertheless, in the unchanging reality, they had no choice but to head directly to the street. Seong Ga-yeon, an activist of SADD, said, “People face the disabled who struggle on the subway and become conscious of the problem. I think this is a great achievement of our demonstration.”

The beginning of their struggle goes back to 2001. On Jan. 22, 2001, a married couple fell from a wheelchair lift at Oido Station in Siheung-si, Gyeonggi-do and passed away. Since then, the disabled have demanded various means of guaranteeing the right of mobility, such as the mandatory introduction of low floor buses, installation of elevators in every subway station, and introduction of call-taxis for the disabled. As a result, the Act on Promotion of The Transportation Convenience of Mobility Disadvantaged Persons was enacted in December 2004 to expand transportation, passenger facilities, and improve the pedestrian environment. This Act applies to all public transportation-related facilities such as buses, subways, trains, aircraft, and ships. In addition, Article 3 states, “In order to be guaranteed the right to pursue the dignity, value, and happiness as a human being, mobility disadvantaged persons shall have the right to use safely, conveniently, and without discrimination, all means of transportation, passenger facilities, and roads used by persons, other than the mobility disadvantaged persons.” Through this act, it can be seen that mobility disadvantaged persons, including

people with disabilities, have the right to feel safe and not experience inconvenience when using transportation, just like non-disabled members of the general public.



“Conflict” between the Non-Disabled General Public and SADD: the Tears of the Disabled Will Not Dry

As the train delays occur, the conflict between the general public and SADD is growing. Moreover, as the story of a citizen who could not close the eyes of his grandmother due to the subway protests was highlighted on YouTube and various media, criticism and ridicule about SADD are growing stronger. On Feb. 16, SADD said, “The day before, an unidentified man in his 20s came to the office in Daehak-ro, Jongno Ward, Seoul and threatened to set it on fire.” They also said, “We are concerned about the public opinion against the disabled, such as ‘Don’t make citizens be inconvenienced’ and ‘Let’s stop the subway protests.’”

Why does SADD not stop their protests despite the arrows of criticism? This is because the right of mobility is the basis of all rights. The right of mobility refers to the right of all Korean citizens to enjoy free and safe movement. According to the “Meaning and Tasks of the Right of Mobility as a Constitutional Fundamental Right” published in 2017 by the National Assembly Research Service, this right of mobility also has the meaning of movement itself, but above all else, it is important in that it becomes a prerequisite for realizing the fundamental rights guaranteed in the constitution, including the right to the retention of human dignity and value, pursuit of personal happiness, and the right to equality. In an interview with Hankyoreh, Professor Kim Min-ah, of the Department of Social Welfare at Sungkyunkwan University, said, “If a person cannot move, he cannot go to the hospital, and he also cannot make any money. For this reason, people with disabilities claim that the right of mobility is the right to live. The government and politicians should have the will to implement policies that prioritize the protection of the right of mobility for the disabled.” As such, the right of mobility is the basis of so many rights, and for this reason, SADD said that the protests would not stop until the right of mobility is fully guaranteed.



Blind Spots of Public Transportation



Buses are the most commonly used form of public transport. However, for the disabled who use wheelchairs, it is not easy to reach their destination on time using the bus. The disabled in wheelchairs have difficulties in getting on and off the general bus because of the stairs. To solve this problem, MOLIT has been establishing the “Plans to Improve Transportation Convenience of Mobility Disadvantaged Persons” every five years since 2007. The MOLIT set the nationwide adoption rate of low floor buses to 31.5 percent by 2011 in the first plan, 41.5 percent for the second plan by 2016, and 42 percent for the third plan by 2021. However, the goals were not always met. The actual adoption rate was only 12.8 percent in 2011, 19 percent in 2016, and 27.8 percent in 2021. Although the introduction rate of low floor buses is increasing year by year, the MOLIT failed to properly fulfill its promise to the disabled.

On Dec. 31, 2021, an amendment to the Act on Promotion of The Transportation Convenience of Mobility Disadvantaged Persons, which included the mandatory introduction of low floor buses when replacing the ordinary intra-city and town shuttle buses, was passed in the National Assembly. However, there is a loophole in the amendment that the bus operator does not have to introduce the low floor bus if it is approved that the road structure and facilities are not suitable for the operation of the low floor bus. In addition, about 10,000 express and intercity buses connecting areas not reached by train were excluded from the compulsory

subject of this amendment. Through this, it can be seen that Korea urgently needs to expand the low floor bus system and improve it.



▲ Disabled people request to guarantee the right of mobility on express buses and intercity buses.



How about the subway, a public transportation system where the ground exit, waiting room, and platform are

all on different floors? Unfortunately, the subway also has high barriers for the disabled. According to the Seoul Metropolitan Government’s Seoul Declaration for the Promotion of the Mobility Rights of the Disabled, “One Station, One Route” will be installed in all subway stations in Seoul by 2022. “One Station, One Route” refers to a route that mobility disadvantaged persons can use the subway from ground exit to the waiting room and platform without any assistance. However, as of Dec. 2021, 21 out of 283 stations still did not have “One Station, One Route.” Moreover, considering that it takes 21 months for construction, it is difficult to expect that the Seoul Metropolitan Government will complete the declaration within this year. As a result, the Seoul Metro postponed the installation of “One Station, One Route” to 2024.



▲ Disabled people must use a wheelchair lift in subway stations that do not have an elevator.

At Hankuk University of Foreign Studies Station, 478m away from HUFs, there is no elevator and instead only a wheelchair lift is installed on the stairs.

It would be possible to use the subway through this, but why are there so many voices about installing an elevator? The reason is the safety of the wheelchair lift. From 1999 to 2008, three disabled people using a wheelchair lift passed away and 10 others were seriously injured. And in 2017, another accident occurred when Han Kyung-deok, who was using a wheelchair lift, fell and passed away at Singil Station in Yeongdeungpo-gu, Seoul. For this reason, many disabled people call it a “killer machine.” With the accident in 2017, SADD held a protest in 2018, but at that time the protest ended without any outcome. And even now, several years later, not much has changed. In the end, protests resumed in 2022.



▲ SADD had required the removal of wheelchair lifts and the installation of elevators in 2018.

Call-Taxi for the Disabled



©The Hankyoreh

▲ Call-taxis for the disabled are in short supply compared to the demand.

Because public transportation cannot be used conveniently, the disabled use call-taxis, which are special means of transportation and relatively more convenient to get on and off. Call-taxis for the disabled were introduced for the Act on Promotion of The Transportation Convenience of Mobility Disadvantaged Persons, and local governments across the country are operating these services on their own. However, compared to the number of users, which is increasing every year, the number of vehicles is insufficient. There are 698 call-taxis for the disabled in Seoul, with 39,000 users, which is actually one in 50 people. Due to this, during the rush hour, it is necessary to invest a lot of time to use the taxi. According to the “Study for the National Integrated System for Call-Taxi for the Disabled” published by the Korea Disabled People’s Development Institute in 2020, an online survey of 301 people found that the average waiting time for a call-taxi reached 48.2 minutes, and the maximum waiting time was a whopping four hours. It also has many restrictions on moving between regions. Since the mobility support center that manages special means of transportation is divided into cities, the range of operation, the documents required to use a taxi, operating regulations, reservation method, and cost are different depending on the region. Therefore, when moving to another region, it is necessary to go through several transfers.

Because public transportation cannot be used conveniently, the disabled use call-taxis, which are special means of transportation and relatively

To solve this, the amendment to the Act on Promotion of The Transportation Convenience of Mobility Disadvantaged Persons includes the mandatory installation of a support center for wide-area mobility to support smooth transfers and linkages between cities. However, in the initial amendment, it was written that the government “must support” the installation and operation costs, but it was changed to “can support” and passed the National Assembly without specifying the justification and duty. This is because the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MOEF) expressed an opinion that it was difficult to accept budget support, saying, “Operating expenses of special means of transportation cannot be supported by the government under the Subsidy Management Act,* and projects related to the disabled are an area that local governments should be responsible for.” In conclusion, as it is a voluntary clause, not a mandatory clause, even if the MOEF does not reflect the relevant budget, there is no legal problem. In response, SADD said, “The government can promote and change the Subsidy Management Act,” demanding compulsory support for special means of transportation.




©Money S

▲ SADD demands compulsory support for a support center for wide-area mobility from MOEF.

*Subsidy Management Act: It is enacted to prevent the subsidy from being used politically or otherwise wasted.

As subway protests during the rush hour and train delays continue, many people, who are often late for work, are pouring out their complaints. Responding to these voices, some headlines from several media sources focus on the inconvenience to the non-disabled general public. Of course, their 30 minutes and one-hour delays are costing them time, and it is also true that they are suffering inconvenience. However, what the media should ask about is the 21-year wait for the disabled, the slight changes, and why the disabled have jumped into these protests.

Public transportation in Korea is not entirely for everyone. The disabled are marginalized in the meaning of “public,” and for this reason, it is rare to find disabled people using public transportation. Now that the protests are continuing, many people are still claiming their right of mobility. The Argus hopes that Korean society will take a high leap toward barrier-free travel, and everyone can come together through public transport. 

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Stop the War in Ukraine



©Emilio Morenatti/AP

▲ Ukrainians crowd under a destroyed bridge as they try to flee across the Irpin river in the outskirts of Kyiv on March 5.



© Alexey Furman/Getty Images

▲ The mother of Ukrainian officer Ivan Skrypnyk cries over his coffin during a funeral ceremony in Lviv, Ukraine, on March 17.



© Anastasia Vlasova/Getty Images

▲ Residents leave the house which got destroyed as a result of a missile strike in a residential area in Kyiv, Ukraine.

By Kim Jin-seo
Staff Reporter of Social Section

On February 24, 2022, a silent war of nerves soon turned into the sounds of guns and cannons. International relations, which had been relatively peaceful since the end of the Cold War, are slowly breaking apart again due to Russia's expansionism.* The Russian invasion of Ukraine began on February 24, 2022, at 4:50 a.m., as Russian President Vladimir Putin declared an order to initiate a special military operation. Russia's threat to Ukraine has continued, but this incident that led to an actual invasion shows the seriousness of the situation. Then why did Russia start the war at the cost of economic sanctions and criticism from the international community? The Argus seeks to increase the reader's understanding by analyzing the causes, backgrounds, and interests of each country.

*Expansionism: A policy or practice of expansion and especially of territorial expansion by a nation.



Historical Background

Before the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine

Euromaidan



©Alexandra Gnatoush

▲ Euromaidan protesters fill central Kyiv on Dec. 1, 2013.

Euromaidan is a wave of demonstrations and civil unrest in Ukraine, which began on November 21, 2013, with large protests in Maidan Nezalezhnosti (Independence Square) in Kyiv. The protests were sparked by the Ukrainian government's sudden decision not to sign the European Union Ukraine Association Agreement, instead choosing closer ties to Russia and the Eurasian Economic Union. As Ukraine's foreign exchange reserves became scarce due to the 2008 Global Financial Crisis,* the pro-Russian Yanukovich administration decided on December 17, 2013, to conclude a 7 December 2013 Russian-Ukrainian action plan to offer a loan of 15 billion dollars. Ukraine's parliament had overwhelmingly approved of concluding the Agreement with the EU,

while Russia had put pressure on the Ukraine government to reject it. The scope of the protests widened, with calls for the resignation of President Viktor Yanukovich, claiming that Ukraine's economy would be completely subordinated to Russia. In response to the continued protests, the Yanukovich government allowed gunfire to stop the protesters. Eventually, on February 18, 2014, a mass protest in Kyiv resulted in 75 deaths and 1,100 injuries. President Yanukovich was overthrown by the angry Ukrainian people, and a new pro-Western president, Petro Poroshenko, took office.

*2008 Global Financial Crisis: A severe worldwide economic crisis that occurred in the late 2000s, due to the sudden decrease in housing prices and excessive mortgage loans in the States.

Annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation

In February and March 2014, Russia invaded and subsequently annexed the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine. Since Russia feared that Ukraine would join NATO* and the pro-Western troops would be placed near Russia, Russia sent armed forces and annexed the Crimean Peninsula, which was originally part of Ukraine. Crimea has a population of 2.4 million, made up mostly of ethnic Russians with significant Ukrainian and Crimean Tatar minorities. Russia argued that the annexation was to protect the Russians on the Crimean Peninsula from the process of the regime change with the Euromaidan. However, since the incident took place while the 2014 Sochi



©Dan Kitwood/Getty Images

▲ After armed forces without insignia took control of the peninsula, Russian passports were issued automatically to Crimea's 2.4 million people.



©BBC

▲ Crimea lies on a peninsula stretching out from the south of Ukraine between the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov.

Winter Olympics, a symbol of peace, was being held in Russia, it shocked international society. With a referendum, the Crimean Peninsula gained independence from Ukraine and was annexed by Russia. After the annexation, pro-Russian protesters in east Ukraine also insisted on the separatist movement, and it escalated into the Donbas War.

*The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO): An intergovernmental military alliance among 28 European countries and 2 North American countries.

War in Donbas



©wordow

▲ The armed conflict in the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine started in 2014.

The Donbas War is an armed conflict between pro-Russian, anti-government separatist rebels and the Ukrainian government forces in the Donbas region of Ukraine, 802.9 km east of Kyiv, that broke out on April 6, 2014.

The purpose of the pro-Russian, anti-government rebels was to achieve independence from Ukraine and have Russia annex the Donbas area. According to the New York Times, unlike the Crimean Peninsula, in which Russia had invaded by directly sending in its troops, the eastern region was carried out in a way that secretly supported the pro-Russian locals and encouraged them to rise up on their own. Some eastern regions, including Odessa and Kharkiv, were eventually

suppressed by Ukrainian government forces, but Donetsk and Luhansk voted for independence on May 12 despite an attack by Ukrainian government forces. The war in Donbas has caused more than 13,000 deaths and large numbers of refugees. The Donbas War is still ongoing and escalated with the outbreak of the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine.

2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine



© Emin Samsar/Anadolu Agency

▲ Civilians and press run for their lives during a Russian attack while they were being evacuated from Irpin on 6 March.

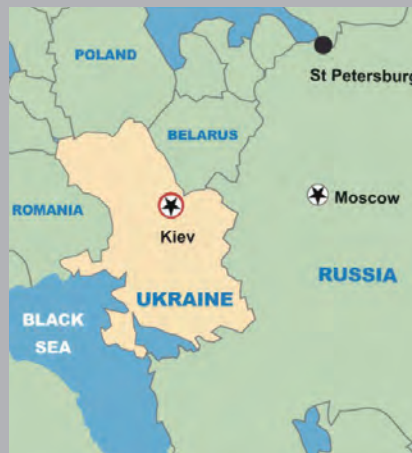
Since October 2021, Russia has applied military pressure on Ukraine by gathering about 130,000 Russian troops near the Ukrainian border. As Russia escalated tensions by showing troop gathering, Ukraine also raised an army and deployed troops to the border to prepare for war. Then, from the end of January 2022, tensions between the two sides reached a peak. The situation became more serious as NATO deployed troops, the US set an invasion date of February 16, and repeated statements predicted that an invasion would occur within days. In fact, US ambassador to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Michael Carpenter said at the OSCE meeting on February 18, “The number of Russian troops gathered at the border with Ukraine increased from about 100,000 on January 30 to 169,000 to 190,000 now.” In the end, despite the diplomatic intervention efforts of Germany and France, at the dawn of February 22, 2022, Russian President Vladimir Putin authorized the Russian invasion of Ukraine, condemning Ukraine, the

United States, and NATO. The Ukrainian government has declared martial law and enacted curfews, and Russia has launched missiles across Ukraine, including the capital Kyiv. In response, when Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov began a speech at a high-level meeting of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland, diplomats from around the world held an “exit protest” to criticize Russia. As such, the international community is pouring out criticism for the Russian invasion.



Cause of Invasion

Geopolitical Factors and Russian Expansionism

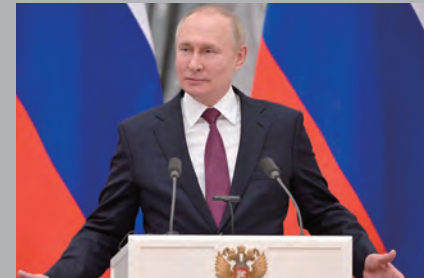


© TravelBlog

▲ The distance between Kyiv and the Moscow is close.

The biggest reason Russia is obsessed with Ukraine is that the distance between Kyiv and Moscow is too close. The straight-line distance between Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine and Moscow, the capital of Russia is about 750 km, and it is about 500 km from the northernmost point of Ukraine. This is much shorter than the distance between Beijing and Seoul, and it is a huge security burden for Russia. Contrary to the pre-Euromaidan regime, the majority of Ukraine post-Euromaidan are anti-Russian and pro-Western regimes. If the

anti-Russian regime joins NATO and places short-range ballistic missiles and cruise missiles in Kyiv with support from the West, Russia will immediately face a huge military threat. The desperate reason Russia wants to occupy Ukraine lies in geopolitical factors.



© Mikhail Klimentyev / AFP/Getty Images

▲ President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia declared the start of a “special military operation” in Ukraine.

In addition to geopolitical factors, Russia’s attempt to expand its influence into neighboring countries is interpreted as expansionism. Putin, for example, has denied that Ukraine is an independent country. In Putin’s speech to the public on February 21, 2022, Putin called Ukraine “a colony led by a puppet regime” and called Ukrainians “Russians,” denying the sovereignty of Ukraine. As the anti-Russian government implemented pro-Western policies, Russia tried to suppress Ukraine by force. Some hard-line Russians claim that Ukraine is an inseparable border region of Russia, which is “Little Russia.” However, Olena Shchegel, a professor of the Department of Ukrainian studies at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (HUFS), said, “The expression ‘Little Russia’ was coined during the Russian Empire, and Ukrainians never called themselves ‘Little Russians.’ Ukrainians get angry when they hear about Little Russia.” As a result, Russia is using nationalism to expand its power and protect the nation from the West.

Insufficient support from the international community

©VoxUkraine



▲ U.S. President Clinton, Russian President Yeltsin, and Ukrainian President Kravchuk after signing the Trilateral Statement in Moscow on January 14, 1994.

Ukraine, which gained independence from the Soviet Union on August 24, 1991, was with a nuclear power with 1,900 nuclear warheads and 2,500 tactical nuclear weapons. The international community thought of the nuclear weapons in an internally unstable nation like Ukraine as a major threat. In compensation for giving up its nuclear missiles, Ukraine has demanded economic assistance and security guarantees from the international community. In December 1994, in Budapest, Hungary, Russia, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Ukraine signed a “Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances” stipulating that international society would ensure the safety of Ukraine in exchange for giving up its nuclear weapons. The problem, however, was that this was only a memorandum, not a binding agreement. Contrary to the contents of the memorandum, the international community prioritizes its own interests and does not actively support Ukraine. Europe receives natural gas and petroleum from Russia through the Yamal-Europe Gas Pipeline* and the EU depends on Russia for more than 40% of its natural gas imports. The United States also sent troops only to NATO member states, not the mainland of Ukraine, to avoid an all-out war with Russia. If the Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances had been a binding security agreement, it would have been



▲ Europe still remains tied to Russia's gas pipeline network.

difficult for Russia to annex the Crimean Peninsula in 2014 or invade Ukraine in 2022. As a result, Ukraine, which was placed in an awkward position between Russia and the West without any security measures, suffered political chaos and became a target of Russia.

*The Yamal-Europe pipeline: A natural gas distribution system running across four countries including Russia, Belarus, Poland, and Germany.



Why should we care about this issue?

Russia's violation of international law

One of the most important principles

of international law is the prohibition against the use of force. This rule is codified in Article 2(4) of the United Nations Charter. Russia's invasion of Ukraine is a violation of Article 2(4) of the United Nations Charter, which states that “All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations.” Also, this invasion violates the “Minsk Agreements,” in which Russia promised to the international community including Ukraine in 2014 to end the conflict in the Donbas region and acknowledge the autonomy of Ukraine. In fact, the International Criminal Court (ICC) has launched an investigation into war crimes related to the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

There are also allegations that Russia has used thermobaric weapons* during the invasion of Ukraine, which are banned under international law. On February 28, U.S. broadcast television networks CBS and NBC reported that the Ukrainian ambassador to the United States, Oksana Markarova, said at a parliamentary session on the same day that “Russia used vacuum bombs today and these are prohibited by the Geneva Conventions*.” Since international law and international agreements exist to maintain order in the international



▲ A picture shows damaged apartment buildings in a residential area after shelling in Kyiv.

©Aris Messinis/AFP via Getty Images

community and to protect the safety of all, these international treaties must be observed under any circumstance. In particular, since Republic of Korea received support from the international community, such as receiving the first UN forces dispatched from the UN during the Korean War in 1950, it should pay attention to what is happening in Ukraine and continue to promote humanitarian aid, including emergency medical supplies.

*Thermobaric weapons: Sometimes called "vacuum bombs," these are weapons that basically suck in oxygen from the surrounding air to generate a more high-temperature explosion than conventional bombs, causing mass destruction.

*Geneva Conventions: Conventions establishing international legal standards for humanitarian treatment in war.

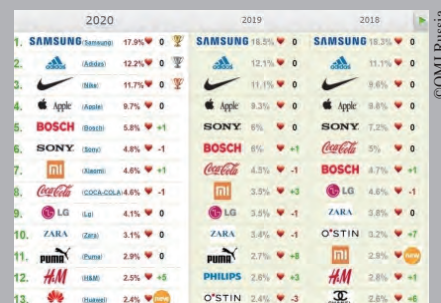
Energy Hegemony and Diplomatic Relations



▲ Russia has become a global economic pariah after it attacked Ukraine, the US has claimed.

On February 27, 2022, Svitlana Krakovska, director of the Ukrainian Hydrometeorological Institute, said at the 55th meeting of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that "Western powers such as Germany

and the United States, which are highly dependent on fossil fuels from Russia, are hesitant to respond to the Russian invasion of Ukraine for fear that the international oil price rises." According to the World Fact Book, published annually by the CIA, Russia exports tremendous amounts of fossil fuels. Russia ranks first in the world in natural gas exports, second for oil, and third for coal. Therefore, Russia was able to face the negotiating table with Western countries regarding the resources such as natural gas and oil as weapons. In fact, on March 2, the EU announced that it is pushing to block the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT)* of Russian financial institutions as economic sanctions against Russia. However, major Russian banks involved in energy trading, such as Gazprombank owned by Gazprom, a Russian state-owned multinational energy corporation, were exempted from sanctions. Exclusion from SWIFT means that Russian companies and individuals will be blocked from paying for imports and exports, as well as overseas loans and investments. If the payment network for raw materials with Russia is cut off due to the SWIFT sanctions, the European economy, which is highly dependent on imports, will also suffer greatly, so they are responding passively to the economic sanctions toward Russia.



▲ South Korean tech giant Samsung named most preferred brand in Russia for 10 years in a row.

South Korea is a country that actively trades with Russia. Korea and Russia have an interest in inter-Korean economic cooperation projects such as railroads and gas pipelines that will further link the two countries. As Russia launches a large-scale attack, Korea will be primarily impacted by disruptions in global supply chains, as well as Korean business activities in Russia and Ukraine. An agile and comprehensive response is needed, including support for the New Northern Policy, since Russia was a key partner in the peace process on the Korean Peninsula, and support for more than 200 Korean companies operating in Russia and Ukraine. Furthermore, it is necessary to understand that the North Korea-China-Russia solidarity and North Korea's dependence on Russia, which have stopped at an ambiguous level, can be significantly different from those in the past.

*Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT): An international organization facilitating transactions between banks.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022 is a serious crisis, with some analysts predicting that it could lead to World War III under the worst-case scenario. In particular, this war has a huge impact on the world in that it is not an ideological or religious conflict, but a war of aggression in which a powerful country invaded a neighboring sovereign country where democracy has settled. Many people have become aware of the tragedy of war, which had been forgotten since World War II. Unilateral aggression by a powerful country on a weak country cannot be justified under any circumstance. Both The Argus and HUF Sans wish for peace in Ukraine and the end of the war as soon as possible.

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I Feel Bloom

Lim Se-jin

Spring, the season of love, has come. In this season, lovely flowers of various colors are prevalent, so the desire to love surges up. I think the peony that I want to introduce is an indispensable messenger of spring. A peony, which is often used as a wedding bouquet, is a very attractive flower with a noble figure and aroma that no one can imitate. It has different flower languages by color, and among them, the pink peony means shyness. Is there someone you like, but you haven't expressed your feelings yet? Or do you want to express your feelings to your lover? Then let's get the energy of spring and confess with pink peonies! If you know the flower languages and present a bouquet of flowers to another person, it will be a more meaningful and special gift in their normal daily life.

Shin Jun-seo

My favorite flower is primrose. When I see those adorable petals, my tensions are lessened. The meaning of the primrose is "the key to happiness." We all want to be happy, and we live to be happy, so I guess nobody will refuse the key to happiness. The primrose has other meanings, too. It also means "the youthful days and worries." I am young and have my own worries, but looking at primrose, I think my worries will lead to my happiness. If you want to be happy, I recommend you go and see some primroses.

Kim Ye-ji

Unlike humans who start their days in the morning and rest at night, there is a flower that spreads its petals in the evening and eventually rests when the sun rises. The flower is called "an afternoon lady" or a "4 o'clock flower," as it shows its face in the afternoon. Seeing that the flower hides its inside in the daytime, its floral language is "timidity, coward, shyness." In the old days when the clock was not invented, people guessed the time from when 4 o'clock flowers opened their petals. Again, it is time to focus on studying, having monotonous and repetitive daily lives. How about meditating over the romance of the old days, when people could know the time without watching the clock or their cell phones?



Yang Yu-min

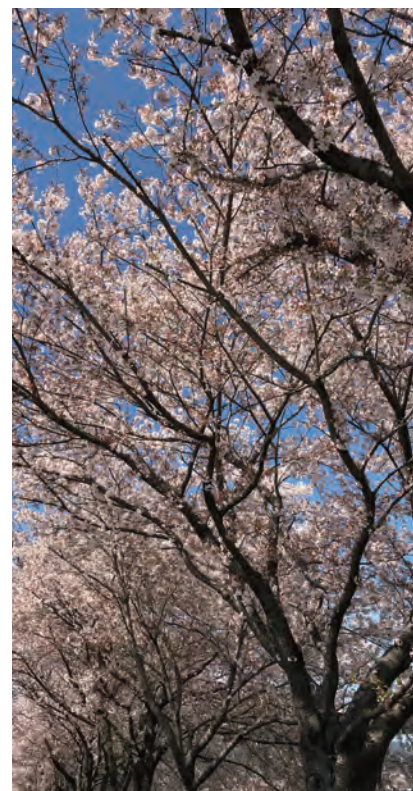
On a cold winter day, my mother bought me some seeds of pink tulip to make flowers bloom. In the beginning, I was passionate about growing tulips, but after exactly five days, I didn't pay much attention to them. As a result, 20 tulip seeds rotted and returned to the soil without flowering. So, I can't even see the tulip stems, which are in full bloom in April. My mother, who saw this, told me to look for the language of pink tulips, and I obeyed her words without knowing why. The flower language of pink tulips is "love." As soon as I saw this, I realized why my mother had asked me to do so. I didn't give my affection to even a single little tulip. After this, I often think "I couldn't love such a small life properly, so did I really give love to other people like my parents?" and try to get myself back on course.

Cho Eun

Blow dandelion seeds with gratitude for the past and hope for the future. The yellow dandelion on the street corner reminds me of the arrival of spring. When I was young my mother made me a ring with a dandelion, saying, "Now there is a bright sun in your hand, and remember it always will be." I can't forget the moment and the feeling of holding gratitude, happiness, nostalgia, and hope in my hand. When I find a little yellow flower between a crack, I still feel like I'm finding a little star. The small dandelion in the wild sometimes looks so weak, but when it grows and lets the winds carry its seeds, it looks so mature that it motivates me not to give up in any circumstance. I find this memory every April, on an old familiar street, which makes me feel the gratitude and happiness that dandelions represent.

Kim Jin-seo

Spring is a season that people spend more time outside looking around the blooming flowers. Blooming flowers in spring make people feel refreshed and happy. My favorite flower in spring is the lily of the valley. Lily of the valley is the birth flower of May. Since my birthday is in May, I love the lily of the valley the most. Lily of the valley is a woodland flowering plant with a sweet scent. In the language of flowers, lily of the valley signifies the return of happiness. Due to global warming and climate change, spring is getting shorter in Korea. Come out and feel the beauty of the lily of the valley and the warmth of the daylight of spring!





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