

A Study of the Condition and Situation of Corruption in South Korea and North Korea*

South Korea and North Korea의 부패의 조건과 현상에 관한 연구

Yun, Eun Gee(윤은기)** · Kim, Su Jin(김수진)***

국문초록

부패의 문제는 경제와 정치발전의 과정을 분석하는데 중요한 문제이다. South Korea와 North Korea의 정치적·경제적 부패는 국가의 발전과정의 중요한 장애요인으로 작용하고 있다. 부분적으로 부패와 경제성장과 발전의 관계에서 단기간의 관점에서 전적으로 부정적인 관계는 아니지만 전체적으로 장기적인 견해에서 부패는 경제발전의 장애요인으로 분석되고 있다. 문화적, 경제적, 정치적 요인들의 설명을 통한 South Korea 와 North Korea의 부패의 상황과 조건들을 분석하였고, 정치와 행정의 상호적인 관계의 분석은 부패의 원인과 현상들을 분석하는데 중요한 요소일 것이다. 구체적으로 정치와 행정의 일원론과 이원론의 분석, 개인주의와 집단주의 문화의 분석, 자유주의와 사회주의 경제체제의 분석을 통해 부패의 현상과 정책적 시사점들을 분석하였다.

주제어: 부패, 발전, South Korea, North Korea

* This work was supported by the Dong-A University research fund.

** Lead author and Professor in the Department of Public Administration, Dong-A University

*** Corresponding author, Dong-A University.

I. Introduction

The issue of corruption will be an important matter for analyzing the process of economic and political development. The political and social corruption of South Korea and North Korea in two different economic and political systems shows intermediate-level and high-level respectively. It can be mentioned that the corrupt level of South Korea and North Korea had been increasing on the process of economic growth.

It is necessary to attempt the analysis of cultural, economic, political factors in explaining the high level of corruption in South Korea and North Korea. In addition, it is noteworthy that the analysis of mutual relations between politics and administration will be provided to explain the condition and situation of corruption.

The empirical studies have analyzed a negative correlation between corruption and economic development, although there is a positive relation between corruption and economic growth in a short time. It is at least conceivable that economic development rather than economic growth, including the wide distribution of capital, the decrease of relative poverty, and economic equality” can, in fact, be achieved by clean politics. The implementation of operative anti-corruption policies in order to prevent corruption for attaining economic development is a substantial precondition.

In this paper, main political corruption, corrupt administration system, and main theories in terms of corruption in South Korea and North Korea will be studied and compared. Also, latest conditions and situations about the corruption will be explained. Lastly, the necessity to reduce the corruption in South Korea and North Korea will, as a whole, be emphasized.

II. Theoretical Argument

Heidenheimer’s three-category classification system provides a useful framework for understanding the corrupt categories (He, 2000: 244-245 & Yun, 2018:144-145). The Heidenheimer’s framework includes three categories

First, the corrupt practices of “black corruption” include embezzlement, bribe, fraud, tax evasion, etc., which constitute an important part of economic crimes (He, 2000: 244

& Yun, 2018:144). Second, the key characteristics of “gray corruption” are exercising their institutional power to expand the revenue of their institutions and increase the benefit of their staffs through various legal and illegal means (He, 2000:244 & Yun, 2018:144). The leaders of public institutions are making organizational profit by using their power and authority in the activities of business and administration for providing organizational profit rather than public interest (Yun, 2018:144). Gray corruption includes extravagance and waste by spending public money (He, 2000:245). Third, “white corruption” embraces a kind of ordinary practice of social life, which includes the nepotism and favoritism (He, 2000:245).

Also, Bandyopadhyay (2016) explains the types of corruption: systemic, political, individual, and petty corruption. First, systemic corruption is that the main institutions and processes of government can be dominated and used by corrupt individuals and groups (Bandyopadhyay, 2016:181 & Yun, 2018:145). Second, political corruption can be explained by the grand or high level corruption, differentiated from petty corruption because it includes political decision-makers (Bandyopadhyay, 2016:182 & Yun, 2018:145). Political or grand corruption is that politicians and state agents are using the authority to sustain their power, status and wealth (Bandyopadhyay, 2016:182 & Yun, 2018:145). Third, individual or sporadic corruption is the opposite of systematic corruption. Sporadic corruption occurs irregularly, which does not threaten the entire mechanisms of economic control, but it can undermine morale and sap the economy of resources (Bandyopadhyay, 2016:182 & Yun, 2018:145). Fourth, petty corruption is the common corruption, which is bribery occurred on the process of the implementation of existing regulations, rules, and laws (Bandyopadhyay, 2016:182-183 & Yun, 2018). Petty corruption, which is different from grand or political corruption, has been called low level and street level as the corrupt level of small scale in public services such as hospital, school, police, and so on (Bandyopadhyay, 2016:183 & Yun, 2018:145).

III. The Situation and Condition of Corruption in North Korea

The situation of severe corruption in North Korea as the kind of black, gray, white corruption or systemic and political corruption has, in general, been announced by international organizations. Transparency International (TI) evaluates the scale of

corruption and announces the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) based on collecting basic data, among the 180 target states in 2017 CPI. “The index, which ranks 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption, according to experts and business people, uses a scale of 0 to 100, where 0 is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean; the index found that more than two-thirds of countries score below 50, with an average score of 43” (Transparency International, 2017). North Korea gets the lowest score of 17, while South Korea receives the score of 55 in 2017 CPI. The rank of North Korea is 171 among the 180 target states, while that of South Korea is 51 in 2017 CPI.

In diverse views on the types of corrupt acts, corrupt acts based on the UN Convention against corruption which was introduced in the UN General Assembly can be categorized; the first type is bribery (Article 15 and 16), the second is embezzlement (Article 17), the third is trading in influence (Article 18), the fourth is abuse of functions (Article 19), and the last is illicit enrichment (Article 20) (Kim, 2013:12). The corrupt acts of North Korea have included bribery, misappropriation trading in influence, abuse of roles, and illicit enrichment.

The causes of corruption in North Korea can be identified in political and economic aspects; political causes, which is the possibility of corruption due to the regulations required to maintain the regime, include the possibility of power-related corruption based on the monopoly and concentration of power due to the one-party rule led by the great leader and the state system led by the Korea Workers Party, and as economic causes, the possibility of corruption is growing due to economic crises, driven by the malfunctioning socialist planned economy and the public distribution system, a spread of the market system, and the expansion of various regulations caused by one’s own pursuit of subsistence (Kim, 2013:18).

The socialist system of North Korea based on the collectivism and nationalization of production has the different motives of public officials about corrupt act, compared with the merely private motive for corrupt act on the capitalist system. Regarding the motives behind the corruption, two criteria, including organizations or individuals as the beneficiaries of corruption in the economic nature, can be an analytic framework for bureaucratic corruption in North Korea as both “organizational and private gains” (Kim, 2013:13). In North Korea, the motive for gains through corruption has changed since the Arduous March, which is shifting toward a combination of the accomplishment of an organizations production goals and the livelihood of members of

the organization (Kim, 2013:13).

It is necessary to deviate from the traditional viewpoint that corruption occurs merely for private gains, which requires a more comprehensive approach; North Korean bureaucrats seek maximization of their private gains by wielding their public authority based on active markets, and “market-centered corruption” is becoming widespread (Kim, 2013:13). Before the 1990s, “corruption for the livelihood” was the major type of bureaucratic corruption in the North, but since the 1990s, the focus has shifted to the combination of corruption in livelihood and market-centered corruption (Kim, 2013:13).

The situation of “corruption in livelihood” was occurred by economic difficult condition. Economic disasters, such as insufficient food production, were occurred by the failure of economic policy against the process of globalization and “natural disasters like flood or drought catastrophes in the 1990s”. After the decades of economic mismanagement, the DPRK showed the poor overall performance of economic growth, while “continuing to expend resources to maintain an army of 1.2 million”. Excessive military spending had not generated investment in terms of the industry of consumer to improve poor living conditions.

International media reports mention that there were upwards of 2 million to 3 million deaths in the 1996 - 1999 North Korean famine, but these figures seemed to be exaggerated—the result of biased samples (data were collected largely through refugees, most of whom came from the hardest-hit areas) (Lankov, 2016:4). Also, the numbers manipulated to boost the chances of getting aid, but current estimates put the actual death toll at 500,000 to 600,000; the 1996 - 1999 North Korean famine had been the largest humanitarian disaster to occur in East Asia since the Chinese famine of the early 1960s caused by Mao Zedong’s notorious Great Leap Forward policy (Lankov, 2016:5). To avoid famine, North Korea has to produce approximately 5.2 million to 5.5 million tons of grain annually. The agricultural collapse was exacerbated by catastrophic floods, reduced grain production to 2.5 million to 3 million tons annually. The resulting famine lasted until 2000 (Lankov, 2016:4).

Also, the situation of “market-centered corruption” was caused by the change of the economic system in North Korea. Although corruption was virtually nonexistent in North Korea before the early 1990s, indeed, the massive growth of corruption is one of the major features of the new North Korean economy that emerged in the 1990s (Lankov, 2016:7). In the early days, officials seldom took bribes, not least because the

ill-gotten money could not easily be spent because expensive items, such as apartments, cars, and even refrigerators, could not be purchased with cash in those days, but with the collapse of the state-controlled distribution system, virtually anything could be obtained for a price (Lankov, 2016:7). Strict adherence to all regulations and rules will generate the impossibility of the economic activity of private business, but with “the collapse of the state-controlled distribution system”, public officials are prepared to ignore rules and regulations.

At the same time, as the official income of low-level bureaucrats was often below the subsistence level, so a clerk who lived on the official salary in the 1990s would face a threat of starvation, the temptation to extract bribes often became too strong to resist (Lankov, 2016:7).

Although government officials are prohibited from participating in business activities, and this rule remains one of the few prohibitions consistently enforced in the DPRK, this restriction can be circumvented, and the heads of state run enterprises behave like business executives, finding a way to appropriate revenue for themselves or their families while exercising discretion over the scale and types of production at their place of employment¹⁾ (Lankov, 2016:7).

The business organizations of the military, the party and the state have proliferated and prospered due to their licenses for economic monopolies and corruption (“use of public office for private gain”) in the market expansion; reflecting the hierarchical structure of power in the country, it has been easy for various state entities and individuals closely linked to the regime to benefit from the newly expanding market - both legally and through corruption (Stiftung, 2016:4). Consequently, “regime-sponsored monopoly companies” are the leading actors in the enlargement of markets. The regime of North Korea has propelled the expanding market as a source of income and a means of guaranteeing the privileges of political elite groups with the boost of “internal security organizations as well as the penal system”.

1) As for numerous low-ranking government and law-enforcement officials, they often delegate business management to their wives, who then leverage their husbands’ political and administrative clout; such assistance can be provided in countless ways (Lankov, 2016:7). For example, an official can ensure that his wife’s workshop can safely occupy a foreign property, help her to steal some sellable goods that then appear in her shop, and protect her from being investigated or targeted by the occasional crackdown (Lankov, 2016:7). It is assumed that the groom will continue with his career in the bureaucracy (say, the police or security services) while the bride will participate in her parents’ business (Lankov, 2016:7).

Since the late 1990s, the regime has sent special inspection groups to lower-ranking units to fight “anti-socialist phenomena” including excessive corruption, but these groups have been more interested in taking bribes than in stamping out corruption, and though high-level corruption has been prosecuted, this has been done for the purpose of political purges rather than for law-enforcement aims (Stiftung, 2016:9). In the process of the transfer of power, although many high-ranking bureaucrats were “purged under the pretext of corruption”, the rampant corruption and office abuse were increasing.

Corruption within the state officials who are paid below subsistence-level wages has been used by the regime as a systemic device to extract rents from the populace while simultaneously securing loyalty and revenues for the regime, and anti-corruption campaigns have not been carried out in order to reduce corruption, but for the purposes of enhancing political discipline and regaining control, the supreme leader and higher-level officials who maintain an extensive surveillance capacity have captured a greater part of illicit revenue (Stiftung, 2016:26).

IV. Administration System in North Korea

On June 25, 1950, the North Korean people’s army crossed the 38th parallel, and the war continued until July 27, 1953, when the U. N command, the Korean people’s army, and the Chinese people’s volunteer army signed the Korean War armistice agreement (Lagura, 2012:3).

North Korea (DPRK) adopted an ideology of political and economic “self-reliance” under the leader of Kim Il Sung. Kim Jong Il was publicly nominated as his father’s successor in 1980, assuming the role of a growing political leader until the death of Kim Il Sung in 1994. Resulting Kim Jong Il’s demise in 2011, Kim Jong Un, who had studied in Switzerland, has taken political and economic power.

Different administration systems are that one party (WPK) in North Korea and several parties in South Korea are established. An administration system represents central government and local government. The Central government system includes three divisions such as the Executive, the Judiciary, and the Legislature as the separation of power in order to prevent the high level of corruption in South Korea.

On the other hand, North Korea is a socialistic state under the one-man leadership, “chairman of the National Defense Commission (NDC) as the nation’s highest administrative authority”, “supreme commander of the Korean People’s Army (KPA)”, and “general secretary of the Korean Workers’ Party (KWP)”, which is not the formation of separate power in order to prevent the high level of corruption.

The Workers’ Party of Korea is operated by the theory of the socialistic ideological system. The highest body of the WPK is officially the Congress. Although institutions such as “the Central Committee, the Secretariat, the Central Military Commission (CMC), the Politburo and the Presidium” are organized, Kim Jong Un as the chairman of the WPK has a practical power.

The Supreme People’s Assembly (SPA) as the legislative branch is the parliament of North Korea. The legislative body consists of a single chamber with 687 members, who are elected to serve five year terms. As stated by the Constitution of North Korea, it is the supreme organization of state power. The Korean Worker’s Party (KWP) ratifies the list of SPA candidates.

Executive branch “renamed the State Administration Council as the cabinet and reaffirmed the National Defense Commission (NDC) as the highest state body in September 1998, albeit nominally under the Supreme People’s Assembly (SPA)”. The president of the SPA presidium performs the formal duties of the head of state, but the ultimate executive power lies with the chairman of the NDC, Kim-Jong Un. North Korea’s judiciary is directed by the Supreme Court of North Korea. Judges are chosen for three-year periods by the Supreme People’s Assembly. There are also provincial members elected by local people’s assemblies.

There have been major changes in the judiciary since the 1990s. Until the end of the 1980s, the North Korean regime retained control through the political surveillance function of party organizations in all areas of life, but since the late 1990s, the regime strengthened its internal security institutions and sought to reinforce penal law (Stiftung, 2016:9). With the expansion of the market in the 2000s, North Korea created new economic regulatory laws, which has been transitioning from rule by the party to rule of law, enforced by the security agencies and the judiciary, but the major change came with the increase in corruption; judges and prosecutors have been the greatest beneficiaries since the market crackdown in the second half of the 2000s, when bribes became commonplace (Stiftung, 2016:9).

North Korea has three degrees of local government. The first level involves

provinces and province-level municipalities. The second level includes ordinary cities, urban districts, and counties. The third level consists of traditional villages. Local officials directing these several levels of government are chosen by local Korean Workers' Party (KWP) committees, the assemblies of local people, and local administrative committees. Four provincial-level municipalities includes Pyongyang, Kaesong, Nampo and Chongjin; local people's assemblies elect the members of the people's committees in charge of executive obligations involving managing economic strategies and budgets that must be approved by higher authorities (Lee, 2005:12).

There has not been a clear separation of powers in roles and institutions in North Korea; all power is concentrated and centralized in the leader Kim Jong-un, and the unity of power around the leader does not preclude a relatively clear separation of roles and institutional differentiation between the party, the military, the cabinet, the People's Assembly, the judiciary and the security organizations (Stiftung, 2016:8).

It can, as a matter of fact, be claimed that the political system of the central and local government in North Korea is not the separation between politics and administration, which is not the separation of power in combating corruption. The doctrine of dichotomy as the separation of power has been advocated on the grounds that the dichotomous division between the executive branch and assembly has increased the democratic accountability and the capacity of public administrators against the high level of corruption.

V. Socialism in North Korea and Capitalism in South Korea

In theory, Capitalism is related to the doctrine of liberalism, which emphasizes "individual freedom and the principle of universal citizens" based on the root of individualism. The precondition of the implementation of successful liberalism requires the lowest level of corruption. On the other hand, socialism emphasizes the interests of the society and the state as a whole based on a planned economy, rather than the economic activity of the individuals.

In the West, the theory of democracy can be related to the doctrine of liberalism. The economic activity of individuals is respected based on fair competition, which is the emergence of a liberal democracy. It is necessary to maintain the fairness of the market competition principle with the lowest level of corruption for the successful

system of liberal democracy, which will increase “the standard of living and quality of the whole people”. In short, the lowest level of corruption for fair competition is a precondition for the successful system of liberal democracy.

On the other hand, authoritarianism based on socialism is related to fascism and militarism. The phenomena of authoritarian bureaucratic politics are explained by the monopoly of state power, mass media, and one party which will ultimately induce the high level of corruption. The interest of the state can be hindered by the corrupt acts in socialism.

South Korea was a crony capitalistic system under the system of liberal democracy, and North Korea was a one-party political system under the system of socialism. In the case of South Korea, even if the citizens have the right to vote on the election, which can be regarded as a political system based on liberal democracy in theory, the corrupt acts were practical. On the other hand, North Korea was governed and controlled by a single leader and a political party in the political, economic, and social scope, which eventually lead to the highest level of corruption.

Capitalism in South Korea was established after the liberation as the formation of the liberal economy. The characteristic of capitalism based on private property system is that “the price is established through supply and demand for all goods based on the principle of laissez-faire”. The fair competition without the corruption in the market is necessary. On the other hand, socialism in North Korea is an economic system that “denies private property owned by individuals and realizes a shared property system”. The intervention of the state based on fairness and accountability is required to solve the problem of the inequality. Consequently, the South Korea of a capitalist economic system based on a free economic market system requires the decrease of corruption for achieving sustainable economic and social development. Also, the North Korea of a socialistic economic system based a planned economy needs the decrease of corruption for attaining economic growth under the control of the state.

VI. The Political Ideology and Economic Situation in North Korea and South Korea

Socialism controls the means of production by government agencies. As North Korea

was “a self-reliant, socialist state”. The political ideology of North Korea as a socialistic country is *Juche* idea which means “the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance”. The means of production are controlled by the state through “state-run enterprises and collectivized farms”, and services like “healthcare, education, housing and food production are subsidized or state-funded”.

The DPRK claims that *Juche* is Kim Il Sung’s creative application of Marxist-Leninist principles to the modern political realities in North Korea. Kim Il Sung envisioned three specific applications of *Juche* philosophy: political and ideological independence, especially from the Soviet Union and China; economic self-reliance and self-sufficiency; and a viable national defense system (Jang, 2008).

The economic system of self-reliance and self-sufficiency does not induce economic growth and development. The campaign of “military-first politics” imposes a heavy burden on the economy. The economic reforms of North Korea are not successful because of a corrupt situation and condition based planning socialistic economic system.

On the other hand, South Korea as a capitalistic state is one of the world’s 15 largest economies. Capitalism is economic liberal system based on private ownership. In a capitalist market economy, the prices and distributions of goods and services are essentially determined by competition in the capitalistic markets (Oh, 1999).

Economically, South Korea was one of the poverty-stricken nations after the Korean War in 1953. Politically, South Korea was an authoritarian regime until the mid-1980s. The approximate size of the GDP increased from US\$8 billion in 1970 to US\$1 trillion in 2010. Per Capita Income has topped US\$25,000 in 2017 from US\$254 in 1970. In terms of quality, the South Korean economy was transformed “from a labor-intensive industry to a technological knowledge-intensive industry”. South Korea was regarded as the 15th largest economic nation and the 7th largest exporting country in the rank of the world in 2010. South Korea is a chief manufacturer in the industrial sectors such as “memory and semiconductors, mobile phones, automobiles, steel, and shipbuilding”.

However, South Korea has also become a high level of corruption under the tenet of capitalism. Even if conglomerates had performed a significant function in the process of economic development and developmental strategy of capitalism, social disharmony as income inequality and polarization in South Korea is appearing now. As Yun (2012 & 2013) has indicated, the financial and economic crisis can be occurred by nepotism,

cronyism, and rigidly hierarchical management system which is an inadequate management of the financial system in South Korea. A typical example of “moral hazard” was a systematic corruption caused by nepotism and favoritism which was “based on the system of management of an authoritarian, hierarchical, and centralized style”. The absence of fair competition in the market has generated “an inefficiency of financial institutions and overall bad governance” in the economic sector in South Korea. In general, the economic crisis was generated by a high level of corruption which shows the incapacity of financial institutions and a weak monitoring system as “the failure of the capacity of financial institutions” in the global financial market, such as the case of the financial crisis.

The annual analytical report on crimes from 1999 to 2004 issued by the Prosecution Office of South Korea shows six relationships between corruption and public officials: first, public officials with low socioeconomic status (SES) might be more likely to commit crimes than those with high SES; second, married officials might be more likely to commit crimes than those of any other marital status; third, public officials in law enforcement departments were more likely to commit job-related crimes than in any other department; fourth, higher-ranked public officials were more likely to commit job-related crimes than were lower-ranking public officials; fifth, arrested public officials were less likely to be convicted than were regular citizens; sixth, most crimes of public officials might be influenced by organizational custom (Korean Corruption-Global Security.org).

Historically, there are 11 presidents in South Korea. Most had their legacies corrupted by scandals and two were put behind bars: first, Chun Doo Hwan(1980-1988) was sentenced to death for his engagement in the 1980 coup, which later was reduced to a life sentence in an appellate court. He was jailed for mutiny and corruption in 1995, but were released two years later through a presidential pardon; second, Roh Tae Woo(1988-1993) was jailed for mutiny and corruption in 1995, but were released two years later through a presidential pardon; third, Kim Young Sam(1993-1998) saw his son get arrested on charges of receiving bribes; fourth, Kim Dae Jung(1998-2003) received the Nobel Peace prize, but also saw his two sons get arrested for bribery; fifth, Roh Moo Hyun(2003-2008), who was embroiled in a corruption scandal, jumped to his death 23 May 2009 after leaving behind a brief suicide note. After his retirement, his family members were related to a bribery scandal. The severe investigation by the prosecution was suspected of being politically

motivated; sixth, Lee Myung Bak(2008–2013), arrested on 23 March 2018, faced at least 14 charges, the most serious of which is receiving ten million U.S. dollars in bribes from businesses and agencies. Other charges include embezzlement, tax evasion, and a violation of election law; seventh, Park Geun-hye(2013–2017) was arrested on 31 March 2017 on serious corruption charges, including bribery and abuse of power. Her trial is coming to a close and prosecutors are demanding she serve 25 years in jail (Korean Corruption-Global Security.org).

In the process of political and administrative transformation, South Korea has adopted New Public Management as an administrative reform model. In relation to the institutional development of the policy of Korean state, NPM has positive and negative policy implications for administrative reform in South Korea.

A first positive implication originates from the concept of “small government” insisted by the notion of the NPM. Although the welfare policies of South Korea in fact require state intervention to solve the social problem of inequality generated by rapid industrialization (Jung Yong-duck, 1999), the administrative reform in South Korea, which is the establishment of political democracy and free market economy, must be pursued against excessive state intervention in the civil society. Second, the idea of employing corporate governance into public administration will provide an opportunity to reduce the excessive bureaucratic mode of governance by underlining the ideas of client orientation or competition. Third, the imposed idea of providing discretion and accountability is appropriate to remedy the problems associated with South Korea’s top-down approach on the procedure of policy decision making and implementation. Such reform measures were not perfectly successful because of the high level of corruption with “the weak institutionalization of representative democracy”. Also, NPM reinforces the discretionary power of the chief executive. The successful implementation of the substantial power of the executive branch over the legislative branch as “Weberian bureaucracy” requires the highlighted assertion of autonomy and discretion in administrative organizations with accountability.

VII. Collectivism in North Korea and Individualism in South Korea

After World War II, Republic of Korea was a democratic government, while the

DPRK was a communist style government. The social character of South Korea is Individualism, while that of North Korea is based on collectivism. Individualism emphasizes individuals' freedom and right. The importance of individuals over the state or society is a priority. The opposite concept of individualism may be collectivism. A state is a priority over an individual with stressing the values or ideals of the group. The state takes precedence over the individual. Collectivism has been a fundamental principle of the survival of the state in North Korea. Indeed, a representative example of collectivism seems to be totalitarianism or authoritarianism.

South Korea and North Korea are divided into individualism and collectivism after the colonial independence. After the colonial liberation, South Korea established the government of the Republic of Korea, which began to accept the American liberal culture based on individualism. On the contrary, "North Korea firmly established collectivism by accepting Stalin's socialism based on the nationalist philosophy of the Joseon Dynasty"(https://terms.naver.com).

In a liberal state, the officials of government express their intentions directly to the petitioners and reflect the opinions of the citizens, which respect the freedom of the expression of individuals. The government accepts them and reflects them in policy, which respects individual human rights. On the other hand, in an authoritarian state, the expression of an individual is often ignored because the state and society are priorities. The liberal state respects the freedom and rights of individuals reflecting their individualism, and respects the diversity of all individuals. On the other hand, the authoritarian state gives priority to the national and social goals rather than the freedom and the right of individuals to reflect their collectivism.

Collectivism does exist in South Korea. South Korea and North Korea were one nation and had the idea of Confucianism, based on the Joseon Dynasty (Kim & Park 2003). Confucianism has a strong tendency of collectivism, and in the past, collectivism was strong. So, collectivism exists in South Korea. In the modern world, the development of politics, economy, society and culture has strengthened the tendency of individualism. Consequently, the social culture of individualism and collectivism contributes to form the ideas of administrative theory. Most countries are different in the degree of individualism or collectivism. In general, South Korea is based on individualism and North Korea is based on collectivism. The Cheolrima movement, Cheongsan-ri method, the speed movement, and various speed movements are examples of collective labor mobilization, and it is also used as a tool of political

socialization to induce ideological sympathy for the socialist system derived from collectivism (<https://terms.naver.com>). Consequently, it is meaningful to note that the political and social culture of collectivism leads to the formation of white, gray, and white corruption

VIII. Political administration monism as the legacy of Confucianism

Politics and the administration is not separate in North Korea, which sees politics and administration as the same context or perspective, while it may be separate in South Korea. The separation is necessary to solve social problems derived from the corrupt politics in the liberal politics.

South Korea and North Korea have a political corruption. The ideology North Korea is the basis of socialism and communism. The state in North Korea is governed by the administration controlled and directed Kim Jong Un as the monism of political administration in national policy, military policy, cultural policy, and economic policy.

On the contrary, although South Korea adopts the political monism theory in the past, now it is a pluralistic society. South Korea is pursuing the division of the three powers, including politics, administration, and justice, which can be regarded as the form of political administration dualism. Even if the Republic of Korea is adopting the administrative theory and structure of the United States, the concentration of power in the administration, which has generated corrupt acts and behaves, is practical.

The form of democracy based on the liberal democracy against the power authority will be a form of political, administrative dualism, but it seems apparent that the power of the executive, legislative and judicial department are not separate because of the substantial powerful authority of administration. The common sense of South Korea and North Korea will be the monism of political administration influenced by Confucian cultural heritage. Confucianism is a traditional culture of Korean Peninsular as the political and social ideology of the Joseon Dynasty, which has influenced authoritarian political culture of South Korea and North Korea.

In recent years, although it is the tendency of increased cultural transformation, as society has made economic and social progress accepting liberal culture in South

Korea, the tendency toward manners of respect for older and adults has become a part of Confucianism (Eungi Kim & Park, 2003). Today, although it is the process of cultural change due to the influence of cultural individualism, the cultural legacy of Confucianism remains in South and North Korea.

Communitarianism is the idea that the identity of an individual belongs to the members of family, class, community, and nation. The strong tendency of communitarianism has contributed to generate the formation of a dictatorship, socialism, authoritarianism, and nationalism. Although communitarianism emphasizes an important value of virtue, more or less, it is not similar to the theory of individualism. Communitarianism derived from Confucianism remains in South and North Korea. The communitarian culture appears as “the administrative theory of the state” in South Korea and North Korea. Although Communitarian idea is presented as the norm of normative society as human moral values, the sound principal ideology of liberalism, democracy, and socialism was not operated. South Korea and North Korea are included in the unsound political culture of Confucianism in the historical context which can contribute to induce the situation of corruption.

The relationship between politics and administration may be depicted as the administrative theory of the state in South Korea and North Korea. According to Svava (2001), If political control is strong and the administration’s independence is weak, the political perspective will predominate. There are serious disadvantages: such a situation can lead to a loss of professional competence on the part of the administration and may generate political corruption on the social and economic field. Conversely, if the administration enjoys too much independence and the politicians exercise too little control, this results in so-called “bureaucratic autonomy”. It is a shift of power away from the politics to the administration, which would lead to a deficit of democratic control. The condition and situation of the state can lead to distorted relations with the occurrence of corruption when one power dominates the other. If both variables are weak, this usually results in laissez-faire conditions. It must be assumed that relations between the administration and politics in western countries are based on the principle of complementary idea between the administration and politics, which will induce the low level of corruption.

IX. Conclusion

The administrative theories represent the pursuing philosophy of the state and the government. Several administrative theories show the structure and function of the government of the state, which can evaluate the level of corruption. Therefore, this study compares the level of corruption of North Korea and South Korea through administrative theories that reflect the structure and function of the state.

The political system of North Korea has represented a high level of corruption. Also, South Korea as the industrialized country shows political and economic corruption, even if South Korea had achieved rapid economic growth and development. The individual culture of South Korea leads to the establishment of the liberal state, while the collective culture of North Korea generates the formation of socialistic state. The analysis of conception between individualism and collectivism in North Korea and South Korea is provided. In liberalism, individual freedom is respected and socialism emphasizes changes in the state and society rather than the enlightenment of individual freedom. It may be remarked that socialism rather than liberalism is related to the high level of corruption.

The corrupt level of South Korea and North Korea, including the formation of black, gray, and white corruption, may be explained by the political, economic, and cultural difference and process. South Korea may be regarded as the kind of individual and petty corruption, compared with North Korea. On the contrary, the corrupt formation of North Korea can be regarded as the kind of systemic and political corruption in comparison to South Korea.

It is mentioned that economic development in the capitalist country of South Korea and the socialist country of North Korea can be correlated with corruption index. As a matter of fact, the indicators of good governance such as “the rule of law, institutional reliability, and responsibility” are related to the process of economic and social development. Like the case of South Korea and North Korea, the corruption can be an enormous obstacle in the process of economic and social development. Corruption is regarded as a negative effect of economic and political development. It is recognized that the higher level of corruption in the developing countries as the systemic type may, as a matter of fact, be regarded as an obstacle factor for attaining economic, cultural, and social development.

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투고일자 : 2018. 09. 10

수정일자 : 2018. 09. 21

게재일자 : 2018. 09. 30

<Abstract>

A Study of the Condition and Situation of Corruption in South Korea and North Korea

Yun, Eun Gee · Kim, Su Jin

The matter of corruption will be a significant issue for exploring the course of economic and political development. The economic and political corruption of South Korea and North Korea can be regarded as the impediment of development. Although there is a positive relation between corruption and economic growth for a short time in the case of South Korea, the high level of corruption may seriously be considered as the obstacle of economic and political development. It is vital to attempt the analysis of economic, political, cultural factors in explicating the high level of corruption in South Korea and North Korea. Also, it is crucial to remark that the inquiry of reciprocal relations between politics and administration is required to explain the condition and situation of corruption. It is mentioned that the process of economic and political development rather than quantitative economic growth may, as a matter of fact, be accomplished by good governance. The implementation of effective anti-corruption policies for achieving the process of substantial development can, in essence, be necessary.

Key words: Corruption, Development, South Korea, North Korea