SOUTH KOREA'S EURASIAN INITIATIVE: A METHOD OF PROMOTING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS IN ASIA

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An ambitious and well-structured economic plan was proposed by the former South Korean President Park Geun-hye at the International Conference on Cooperation in Eurasia, held in Seoul in 2013. This study discusses the situation of economic and social rights within the Asian continent and links the consequences of the proposed initiative. Through the South Korean diplomacy, the “Eurasian Initiative” could be realized. The study concludes with the major economic and social changes that may result from this initiative, which transforms Eurasia into an international economic center and restores its leading role. We refer to the socio-economic situation prevailing Eurasia and examine possible changes after the implementation of the proposed initiative. The study discusses the active role played by the South Korean diplomacy for initiative’s success and strengthening of ties with member states. It is likely that the projects will expand if the set goals succeed.

Keywords: South Korea; Eurasian Initiative; human rights; economic and social rights; Eurasia; development; cooperation

Introduction

Park Geun-hye, a former president of South Korea, gave the keynote address at the opening session of the International Conference on Cooperation in Eurasia, which was held in Seoul on October 18, 2013. During her speech, she suggested an economic strategy that was both ambitious and well-structured (MOFA of ROK, 2013). Because of Korea's astute strategy, well-balanced diplomacy, openness to the international community, and the significant geographic location of South Korea in Asia, the so-called "Eurasia Initiative" has a good chance of being successful. With this effort, Park Geun-hye aspires to promote the principles of the "One Continent," the "Creative Continent," and the "Peaceful Continent". In other words, this initiative seeks to attain social security and further economic prosperity for the Asian continent.

To connect with the countries of Eurasia by constructing a single and unified system of transport, energy, and trade networks, as well as the implementation of economic cooperation and exchanges within the spheres of science, technology, and culture; this includes the level of interpersonal relationships, thus improving inter-Korean relations based on trust. The main concept of the initiative is to connect with the countries of Eurasia through building a single and unified system of transport, energy, and trade networks. In this light, numerous sources suggest that this project may be an effective means of achieving peace between the two Koreas, which is relevant given the background of the situation (Asmolov, 2014).

Establishing a new inter-Korean relationship through the "co-evolution strategy" and actively participating in designing new regional and global governance architecture through "middle power diplomacy" are both goals of South Korea's "symbiotic complex network policy," which is appropriate for a new order in East Asia. This astute policy will result in a situation in which both Korea and its allies come out ahead (Kasulis, 2020).

The so-called "Eurasian Initiative" will facilitate more trade between Korea and both Asia and Europe. As a result of this new policy, North Korea won't be as isolated as it once was since a new era of communication and cooperation will commence. This may pave the way for progress and development. In this light, fundamental problems regarding the status of economic and social rights have surfaced, including the following: What exactly is the character of economic rights in the context of this initiative? In light of this approach, what
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really is the status of social rights? How will this initiative influence social rights, and to what extent will they be affected?

Through the findings that will explain ambiguous topics and demystify crucial points, this study will discuss the consequences of the "Eurasian Initiative" on both economic and social rights. This discussion will be based on the findings of the study. The topic of human rights is discussed in depth in the first chapter, which also includes a brief summary of economic and social rights. The second chapter will present a summary of economic and social rights in Asia for the reader to consider. In the third chapter, we will present a description of South Korean diplomacy as well as its primary traits. In the fourth chapter, we will talk about the "Eurasian Initiative" and its ramifications on both economic and social rights.

An overview of human, economic, and social rights

Everyone, regardless of membership in a particular group or the state, is entitled to a set of economic and social rights (Coicaud et al., 2003). Every individual is endowed with rights by humanity, which are safeguarded by many international laws and agreements. It has its roots in making an appeal to our inherent humanity.

According to (Vincent, 1986: 12-4) human rights are all claims that should have legal and moral protection in order to guarantee that fundamental requirements would be satisfied.

The term "human rights" refers to the fundamental liberties and protections against infringement by the state or other forms of public authority that are accorded to every member of the human race by virtue of his affiliation with the human species.

According to (Kurlantzick, 2020) human rights are the inherent dignity and inalienable rights of all members of the human race. This definition acknowledges human rights as the cornerstone of freedom, justice, and peace in the world.

According to (Biswal, 2006: 44) a human right is "a conceptual device expressed in linguistic form; it assigns priority to certain human or social attributes that are regarded as essential to the adequate functioning of a human being; it appeals to deliberate action to ensure that such a protection"; it assigns priority to certain human or social attributes that are regarded as essential to the adequate functioning of a human being.

According to (Kumar, 1995) human rights belong to all people and are something that every individual possesses simply due to the fact that they are human.

Because no community or institution has presented a unified vision of economic and social human rights, this issue will continue to be viewed as a theory that cannot be realized. Many of the human rights instruments used today had their written origins in the human rights documents that are now considered to be part of the human rights canon (for example: Magna Carta (1215), English Bill of Rights (1689), French Declaration on the Rights of Man and Citizen (1789), US Constitution and Bill of Right (1791).

However, the majority of these significant landmarks did not include women, a large number of underrepresented races, or members of certain social, religious, economic, or political organizations. None of them reflect the core idea that everyone is entitled to a particular set of rights just by virtue of the fact that they are human (Jaeho, 2015).

Other significant historical origins of human rights can be traced back to efforts made in the 19th century to outlaw the slave trade and lessen the devastation caused by war. As an illustration, the Geneva Convention is the foundation of international humanitarian law; it
outlines the rights that individuals are entitled to during times of conflict and emergency. These laws offer protection to those who are unable to defend themselves, are not participating in the conflict, and those who have surrendered (e.g., the wounded, sick, and shipwrecked troops, prisoners of war).

At the conclusion of the First World War, the League of Nations voiced concern over the safety of some vulnerable groups. Specifically, they were concerned about protecting children (Yeo, 2020).

For instance, the International Labor Organization (ILO, which was a body of the League of Nations in the past but is now connected with the United Nations) has put into effect several significant accords to safeguard the rights of employees (such as Minimum Age Convention (1919), the Forced Labor Convention (1930) and the Forty-hour Week Convention (1935).

The natural rights doctrine had resurgence in popularity in the decades following the end of the Second World War. Prior to the year 1945, the international protection of individual human rights was limited to the treaties that were signed after the Treaty of Versailles that outlawed slave trade, established the laws of war, and guaranteed minority rights (June 28, 1919).

Following the year 1945, the rights of every individual have been incorporated into international law. In the immediate aftermath of the Second World War, the rules governing the behavior of states and the rights pertaining to individuals within states were rewritten in authoritative international documents such as the United Nations Charter of the Human Rights in 1945, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 (UDHR), the Genocide Convention in 1948, the revision of the Geneva Conventions in 1949, the European Convention on Human Rights in 1950, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization in 1950 (Zreik, 2021a).

These conventions, declarations, and conventions were all the need to restore public morals in the wake of the Second World War was the impetus behind the creation of all of these texts. The United Nations Charter of the Human Rights provides value to people by telling states to uphold the rights laid out. The UDHR focused on the human being as an individual (Patil, 2001: 3-5).

No of their race, beliefs, or political leanings, every single human being possesses the same fundamental human rights. Universal, inalienable, indivisible, and interdependent are some of the defining characteristics of human rights. They serve as a reflection of fundamental human needs and as an establishment of fundamental standards; without them, individuals are unable to live with dignity (Sang-Hu, 2021).

Numerous international human rights documents, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, acknowledge the existence of social and economic rights.

The right to an adequate standard of living includes the right to adequate food, clothing, and housing; the right to work; the right of everyone to form trade unions and join a trade union; the right to social protection; the right to the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health; and the right to education.

Social and economic rights also include the right to the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health (Seob et al, 2019: 1-8).
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Economic and Social Rights in Asia

Economic Rights in Asia

The global financial crisis of 2008 and 2009 had no effect on Asia's development, which continued apace. It was the first region to emerge from the crisis as a result of significant and large-scale policy measures taken by the fiscal and monetary authorities. Even more impressive, the rise of several Asian economies' gross domestic products (GDP) in the first half of 2010 was in the double digits. Over the course of almost thirty years, developing Asian economies have demonstrated remarkable growth (Barro & Lee 2010).

In the 1990s, the rapid economic expansion of Asia was referred to as a "miracle," but various scientific studies were able to identify the factors that led to this phenomenon. They bring attention to the roles that investment, human resources, fertility, as well as institutional and policy variables play.

For instance, Sachs, Radelet and Lee found that East Asia's rapid growth was due to the region's: (i) large potential for catching up; (ii) favorable geography and structural characteristics; (iii) demographic dividend; and (iv) economic policies and strategies that were conducive to growth. All of these factors contributed to the region's overall success. The empirical studies indicate that the influence of economic policies, in particular those linked to openness, played a significant impact in the continued prosperity of the region (cited by: Byung-wook, 2021).

The conditional convergence of income is a phenomenon that is predicted by the standard growth model, such as the extended version of the neoclassical growth model described by Barro & Martin (2003).

This phenomenon states that a nation that has a low level of initial income relative to its long-run or steady-state level of potential income will tend to grow at a faster rate than a nation that is already very close to reaching its potential. This indicates that a country with a lower income level should expand at a faster rate than a country with a higher income level, even after controlling for the factors that influence the long-run or steady-state income level.

This is due to the fact that levels of physical and human capital as well as technological progress are further from their long-run levels in poorer countries.

As a result, these nations are able to amass capital and learn existing technology more quickly than economies that are further along in their economic development. To put it another way, less developed nations have a stronger capacity for playing catch-up, which enables them to expand their economies at a faster rate (Zreik, 2021b).

A comparative analysis of policies for youth employment in Asia and the Pacific that was prepared in the framework of the ILO project titled "Analysis of youth employment policy and dissemination through global database and publications" shows that compared to other regions (ILO, 2015), Asia and the Pacific fare rather well across several indicators: they have the lowest youth unemployment rate (with an estimated average of 11.1 % in 2013), compared to the Middle East (27.8 %), which has the highest youth unemployment rate in the world. In addition, they have the highest (11.9 %).

This implies that there is a vast range of rights in Asia, even though earnings may be less than $2 US per day in some sections of the continent. The various areas of Asia are broken down into their respective employment indicators in Tab. 1, which offers a breakdown of those data (East Asia, South East Asia and the Pacific, and South Asia).
Table 1- Employment indicators in Asia
(Source: GET, 2014)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>East Asia</th>
<th>South East Asia and the Pacific</th>
<th>South Asia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult labor force participation rate</td>
<td>74.3</td>
<td>76.1</td>
<td>62.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth labor force participation rate</td>
<td>55.1</td>
<td>52.4</td>
<td>39.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult unemployment rate</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth unemployment rate</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>13.0</td>
<td>10.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vulnerable unemployment share</td>
<td>45.8</td>
<td>59.0</td>
<td>76.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor worker (US$2 per day) share in total employment</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>30.5</td>
<td>61.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment by sector:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Agriculture</td>
<td>31.2</td>
<td>40.3</td>
<td>47.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Industry</td>
<td>30.2</td>
<td>19.2</td>
<td>22.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Services</td>
<td>38.6</td>
<td>40.5</td>
<td>29.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Social Rights in Asia**

Over the course of the previous two decades, social security programs throughout Asia have undergone significant expansions, both quantitatively and qualitatively. South Korea implemented their version of unemployment insurance in 1995, Taiwan did the same in 1999, Thailand did it in 2004, and Vietnam did it in 2007.

The majority of the research conducted on social security in Asia throughout the 1990s was concentrated on Japan and four other newly industrializing economies (i.e., South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, and Hong Kong). A few of them attempted to provide an explanation for their shared qualities by pointing to the influence of Confucianism and/or family-oriented cultural ideals (Jones, 1990, 446-62; 1993).

Even by academics who researched the same set of Asian nations in the 1990s, such cultural explanations have been challenged for their lack of explanatory power on inter-temporal variations and intra-regional distinctions. This criticism has been leveled against the cultural explanations as a whole (White & Goodman, 1998).

According to the definition provided by the Asian Development Bank, social protection is "the set of policies and programs designed to reduce poverty and vulnerability by promoting efficient labor markets, diminishing people's exposure to risks, and enhancing their capacity to protect themselves against hazards and the interruption/loss of income" (Ozturk, 2019).

Spending 4.8% of their gross domestic products (GDP) on social protection (also known as Social Protection Expenditure, or SPEXP) (ADB, 2002) allows Asian and Pacific nations to reach an overall coverage level of 35% among the seven primary target demographics (Social Protection Coverage, SPCOV). The average percentage of those living in poverty who are eligible for some form of social protection is 57% (as measured by the Social Protection Distribution, or SPDIST), but the impact that social protection programs have on those living in poverty is relatively small, falling somewhere around 23% below the poverty line (Social Protection Impact Indicator, SPIMP).

This results in significant variances between countries and regions, in addition to Korea and Japan, which has an impact on the total rate. When Korea and Japan are removed from
the equation, the SPEXP rate falls to 4.3 percent, and the SPIMP rate falls to 18 percent. The good performance of the four SPSIs for the nations in Central Asia is a reflection of the existence of robust social protection systems that trace back to the time before the transition. In general, the countries of South Asia have SPSI values that are not dissimilar to those of East Asian countries. The SPSI values of Pacific countries are typically the lowest of any region (Dong-ho 2020).

**South Korean Diplomacy**

Amidst the ongoing shifts in the paradigms of international diplomacy, public diplomacy has evolved as a distinct profession of foreign policy. Diplomacy, in its more conventional sense, refers to conversations that take place between various governmental leaders and authorities. On the other side, public diplomacy is concerned with the manner in which one nation's government communicates with the people of another nation. It is a reference to the concept of "soft power" (Nye, 2004: 5-11) which refers to the efforts made to gain the attention of other nations and accomplish goals through diplomacy that otherwise could not have been done through the use of "hard power" (Batora, 2005; Mellissen, 2006; Nye, 2008).

South Korea's foreign policy towards the year 2020 is based on strategic goals and principles; it aims to construct "symbiotic complex networks" that are appropriate to a new order in East Asia; for establishing a new inter-Korean relationship through the "co-evolution strategy"; and for actively participating in designing a new regional and global governance architecture through "middle power diplomacy. South Korea tends to develop the ROK-U.S. alliance into a complex strategic alliance, in accordance with the global environment changes of the 21st century, and maintains the position of South Korea on the peninsula and in Asia (Chi-hyuck, 2020).

This is done in order to maintain "systemic flexibility" and to manage the power shift in East Asia. In this way, cooperative networks with China are simultaneously expanded through a variety of ways. It substantiates the Korea-China strategic cooperative partnership and strengthens the ROK-U.S. complex alliance while the United States and China work to establish "a new form of great power relationship".

In addition to this, it has a three-step strategy to resolve fundamental disagreements with Japan. In the short term, it depoliticizes historical concerns that are still unresolved; in the medium term, it employs complicated powers to support the growth of bilateral ties; and in the long term, it encourages cooperative institutions and identity-sharing. In addition to this, it strengthens the strategic alliance between the Republic of Korea and Russia, which is centered on Russia's position in East Asia, particularly in the process of establishing a peaceful Korean Peninsula (Hyuk-joo, 2020).

This proposal offers a new regional architecture in addition to establishing intermediary power networks with the governments that make up the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). Additionally, it assists in the resolution of regional maritime issues. By doing so, pending territorial tensions are resolved, and a global agreement is built on unconventional security concerns. These include joint resource development, protecting the marine environment, and securing sea lanes.

The following are put into place in order to pursue the "co-evolution approach" as a new paradigm for the North Korean strategy: First, assistance is provided to North Korea so
that it may make the transition from a system that prioritizes nuclear warfare to one that prioritizes denuclearized security.

Assistance is provided to North Korea so that it can transition into a model that prioritizes the economy and cooperate with the United States, China, and the United Nations in the process of constructing a complex peace system for the Korean Peninsula (So-hyun, 2020). In the second stage of the co-evolution plan, an effort is made to implement a comprehensive assistance program for North Korea.

This program will provide humanitarian aid in addition to measures that will promote the country's ongoing political transformations. It is important for Seoul to work for the normalization of relations with North Korea and the establishment of new ones with the South. In order to contribute to the maintenance of steady and well-balanced growth in both the global and Korean economies, the field of knowledge-based network diplomacy should be applied around the areas of trade, finance, and development cooperation (Page & Shah, 2018).

They have an obligation to take an active part in the process of developing an efficient global governance structure to address emerging problems relating to the environment, energy, population, culture, and information or knowledge. In the 21st century, public diplomacy needs to be practiced by creating a communication channel that can go in both directions with a wide variety of actors. It is important to make use of Korea's soft power resources in order to advance global public goods and increase Korea's diplomatic leverage.

These resources include Korea's experience with economic development, the Korean wave, and their knowledge base. In order to achieve a national consensus that is able to move beyond entrenched social and ideological divides, it is necessary to develop a diplomatic culture that is commensurate with the stature of middle powers (EAI NSP Report, 2012).

The “Eurasian Initiative” and its implications on economic and social rights

The Eurasian Initiative

The "Eurasia Initiative" was initially suggested in 2013 by Park Geun-hye, who had previously served as President of South Korea. The "Eurasia Initiative" is widely considered as an ambitious strategy to transform the basics of the global economy, diplomacy, and the geography of national security.

The goal of the program proposed by Park Geun-hye is to lend support to the concepts of "One Continent," "Creative Continent," and "Peaceful Continent".

This corresponds to the policy that South Korea intends to pursue with Eurasia through a single and unified system of transport, energy, and trade networks, along with the implementation of economic cooperation and exchanges within the spheres of science, technology, and culture, which is included at the level of interpersonal relationships, and thus improving inter-Korean relations that are based on trust. This will improve inter-Korean relations based on mutual respect (Salmon, 2020).

The proposal put forward by the South Korean government aims to re-create a new dynamic, multicultural, and deeply interconnected Eurasia. This would be a region in which an increase in the number of exchanges between different countries would create an environment of trust and a shared commitment to stability, peace, and prosperity. The idea was inspired by the concept of reviving a single geographic continent.
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By implementing this comprehensive national plan, Korea intends to strengthen the economic and strategic ties that exist between the two continents. This will be done with the goal of encouraging public and private sectors to work together to overcome divisions, tensions, and conflicts in order to foster peaceful dialogue and shared prosperity.

The Eurasia Initiative is not an idealistic resurgence of geopolitical theories from the 19th century; rather, it proposes the realization of a trans-Eurasian corridor that includes energy, transportation, and distribution networks, so that it forms the backbone of one continent and regional cooperation. In other words, the Eurasia Initiative is not a utopian revival of 19th century geopolitical theories.

In point of fact, the program intends to allow deeper and more integrated linkages between the nations that are located along the corridors by means of the transportation and logistics networks. This will stimulate the interchange of both material resources and encounters between individuals. In order to accomplish these objectives, the Eurasia Initiative is built upon three pillars: the reconnection of logistic networks to facilitate the development of more efficient trans-regional transportation routes; the modernization of energy infrastructures throughout the entire region; and the encouragement of investments in accordance with the idea of a creative economy (Huynh, 2021).

This plan is based on a network of transportation, communication, energy, and joint policy coordination. With regard to the transportation routes, the project envisions the launch of the so-called Silk Road Express (SRX), which is a railroad system stretching from South Korea's southern port city of Busan all the way to Western Europe. The two Koreas, Russia, China, Mongolia, Central Asia, and Europe are all on the list of countries whose railroads would be connected by this plan (Dongwoo, 2021).

The SRX aspires to be an efficient, risk-free, and swift multimodal railway logistics network that spans the continent. The Trans-Siberian Railway (TSR), the Trans-China Railway (TCR), and the Trans-Mongolian Railway would all be potential destinations for the new railway line, which would attempt to connect them all (TMGR). The first demonstration of passenger transportation using the SRX was carried out as part of the Eurasia Friendship Express project in 2015, which marked the beginning of the first step in this general direction. Around 300 people participated in the expedition, which was cosponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea and the national railroad operator Korea Railroad (KORAIL).

The participants traveled from Seoul to Vladivostok and Beijing for two different itineraries, covering a combined total distance of 14,400 kilometers. The main route, which carried 200 people, traveled from Vladivostok to Berlin through five other towns in Russia and Warsaw (Kei, 2018: 633-60).

Meanwhile, a second train brought another 50 passengers from Beijing to the Russian city of Irkutsk, where they connected with the main line (via Ulan Bator).

In addition to the passenger service, the project intends to establish a trans-regional freight service spanning China, Russia, and Central Asia. This service, which would ideally hasten the transfer of commodities and raw materials, would be created in conjunction with the passenger service. In addition to this, it would reduce the costs of transportation, encourage the reduction of trade barriers, and help to build economic unity in the region. However, in light of the current tensions that are plaguing the Korean Peninsula, the successful completion of such an enormous project confronts a number of challenges (Sung-hyun & Hyo-jin, 2021).
The Trans-Korean Railways (TKR) were supposed to be repaired in order to reestablish a connection between the Korean Peninsula and the TSR and TCR. In 2015, the government of South Korea revealed its intention to develop a comprehensive strategy for repairing the Gyeongwon railway line, which connects Seoul with Wonsan in North Korea. The line between Baengmagoji and the Woljeong Village (near the Southern Limit Line) was supposed to be upgraded so that it would connect the Woljeong Village to the Military Demarcation Line and then to Pyonggang (in North Korea); from Wonsan, it will continue to Rajin before linking up with the Trans-Siberian Railroad. This was the original plan. If construction had continued, a Keumgangsan branch line between Baengmagoji and the Woljeong Village would have also connected with the Naegumgang line (Kyu-won, 2015).

The government of the Republic of Korea (ROK) made the decision to put the process of restoring the line on hold after North Korea continued to breach the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council by conducting nuclear tests and launching ballistic missiles. When it comes to rejuvenating the corridor that connects Northeast Asia and Europe, there are a lot of different choices available to choose from. The establishment of ferry lines between the ports of South Korea and the coast of China, and then further from there to the trans-regional trains and Europe, is one of the options that could be considered.

The Eurasia Initiative places a significant emphasis not only on the development of land corridors but also on the expansion of maritime corridors, including the construction of the Northern Sea Route. When compared to the traditional marine routes that connect the Far East and Europe via the Suez Canal, the North Sea Route would cut the amount of time it takes for freight to travel from Northeast Asia to Rotterdam to just 18 days, down from the current total of 26 days. As a result, it will result in the creation of huge new potential to further increase trade between the two regions.

**Implications for Economic and Social Rights**

As a concept of South Korea's "network" or middle power diplomacy in this new era (Snyder, 2016), the Eurasia Initiative is anticipated to increase economic integration and peaceful coalitions in Eurasia through energy cooperation and infrastructure building. This initiative was evaluated as a new form of Nordpolitik (Kim, 2015).

First, the goal of the Park administration was to increase economic cooperation with Eurasia in order to broaden South Korea's market and provide new job opportunities. This was to be accomplished through increased bilateral trade. It is a massive area that is home to a large number of both natural and human resources. The Park government maintained that the "Eurasia Initiative" would open up fresh chances for South Korea and speed up the economic expansion of the nation. Second, the Park administration had the goal of reducing the level of military competition between neighboring countries and eventually easing the tensions that were plaguing the Korean Peninsula by fostering more economic interdependence among the countries of the region.

The "Eurasia Initiative" that Park proposed also had a significant historical precedence. Reaching the transcontinental gas pipelines and becoming a regional hub for the gas trade market in Northeast Asia was a concept that had been kicking around for a long time. Regardless of their ideological leanings, policymakers, political leaders, and policy experts in South Korea have been discussing these issues over the course of the previous few decades.

In addition, plans have been conceived for additional infrastructure developments including the construction of railroads and power grids. In the case of electric power
networks connecting the nations of Northeast Asia, for example, there is the potential to reduce the costs of power generation, lessen the impact on the environment, and diversify the risks of power shortages (Yun & Zhang, 2005: 4-5).

The majority of the world's top 10 economies are located in Europe and Asia, which together make up the continent known as Eurasia. These countries include the European Union, China, Russia, and India. At the same time, Eurasia accounts for 40% of the earth's land area, 70% of its population (four point nine billion people), and 60% of the world's gross domestic product (Institute for Foreign Economic Policy, 2013).

The Eurasian initiative as a novel concept of interconnectedness

South Korea has made a smart and strategic move, which may create international attention for the Korean peninsula and strengthen the Eurasian bond. However, although there is insufficient data available for this initiative as a research topic, this study presents unique and advanced ideas related to this initiative from an economic and social viewpoint, which adds value to this sphere.

This study highlights many benefits that this initiative may bring; to name a few, it creates a state of peace and dialogue on the Korean Peninsula and establishes an Asia-Europe economic alliance, the outcome of which will be the largest human, economic, and geographic bloc. Communication between Eurasian people and governments will lead to economic development and prosperity, which will enhance the social situation in these societies (Novotná, 2021).

The possibility of failure for this regional initiative remains small because all member states benefit from active participation, so it is possible that the scope of this initiative will expand to include new countries and regions if the initial objectives are achieved. The author mainly focused on Korean-distinguished diplomacy and soft power as a tool to achieve Korea's foreign policy goals. Korean diplomacy will be the engine of this initiative and a key source of its success, despite international tensions and regional disputes in East Asia, but South Korea has maintained its peace and has not slipped into any regional conflict.

The successful Korean economic experience and wise diplomacy in the balanced relationship between the East and West increases the chances of success for the Eurasian initiative (Öztürk, 2019).

This Eurasian Initiative was presented in this study from an economic and social viewpoint within the geographical scope of the initiative. The authors believe that the social situation in Eurasia will not develop without significant economic progress. Based on the data provided, this initiative will create broad economic growth. Eurasian societies suffer from disparities in economic and social growth. This initiative is an innovative method to bridge gaps and create a state of integration between those societies. The author refers to this initiative as a powerful and effective means of making peace, creating economic growth, and achieving the common destiny of the Eurasian community by agreement between the member states.

Conclusion

In this study, the author made a detailed presentation on economic and social rights, and then undertook a case study on the state of economic and social rights in Asia. The Eurasian initiative is analyzed, which links a strategic and vital area in international trade and
may have a tremendous impact on international relations and the economy of member states, thus enhancing Eurasian’s standing.

The study concluded that this initiative has a direct economic benefit to South Korea, as Korea will expand economically and be an effective economic partner for many regional and international countries. In addition, this initiative will create Eurasian economic cooperation and integration. It will reduce tension on the Korean peninsula, which could establish new political alliances in the region. This initiative is based on connectivity and integration ideas, such as trans-continental gas pipelines and the transformation of Eurasia into a hub for international trade. It will also promote social justice and equal opportunities in Asia. Eurasian integration will have a positive impact on the Asian society, raise the quality of life for people, and reduce poverty and unemployment.

The Eurasian initiative will create tremendous economic power within a strategic region, as it includes the strongest economies, such as European, Chinese, Indian, and Russian economies, in addition to the demographic and geographical representation of Eurasia. Thus, in 2013, former South Korean President Park Geun-hye launched an ambitious initiative that carried many economic and social goals for the Eurasian region, which will have an impact on the global economy, diplomacy, and geography of national security. Moreover, this initiative will be considered as a turning point in South Korean diplomacy. We can bear in mind that the South Korean diplomacy is attempting to construct “symbiotic complex networks” that are appropriate for a new order in East Asia, establish a new inter-Korean relationship through the “co-evolution strategy,” and actively participate in designing new regional and global governance architecture through “middle power diplomacy.”

The economic and social rights in Asia are in a favorable situation compared to other regions globally. However, the differences are stark between countries. Through this initiative, a new era of development will begin, and economic and social rights conditions are expected to improve. The “Eurasian Initiative” is not only related to economic cooperation, but will benefit the Asian population in terms of human rights, specifically economic and social rights.

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