An Analysis on the Ideology of State Affairs and
Science-Technology Leadership of Korean Authoritarian Governments

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Abstract

This research is to analyze state affairs’ ideology and science-technology leadership of successive governments from President Lee Seung-man till President Rho Tae-woo in authoritarian period. For this purpose this study performed historical analysis based on literature research. As a result of this analysis, we found that there was correlation between state affairs’ ideology and science-technology leadership of successive governments in authoritarian period. Especially, presidential conception of science and technology influenced the leadership of science and technology directly. To recognize the field of science and technology as the subordinate factor of economy and to focus economic effect through the development of science and technology weakened presidential leadership of science and technology. Strengthening the motor of national growth through the development of science and technology is period stream. Therefore, presidential will and try on the development of science and technology are very important factors in deciding the level of science and technology. President must suggest state affairs’ ideology based on the right conception of science and technology. The presidential leadership of science and technology ought to change according to the transition of period environment. Now the leadership of science and technology which decides policies and pushes ahead with them strongly is not desirable. First of all, we should establish the institution of science and technology systematically in order to show up the leadership of science and technology efficiently.

Keywords: Authoritarian government, State affairs’ ideology, The leadership of science and technology, The policy of science and technology, The institution of science and technology

1. INTRODUCTION

Science and technology(S&T) can influence the development of modern economy and industry. So the growth strategy of economy and industry which successive governments of Korea pushed ahead with such as the acceleration strategy of heavy and chemical industry is related to S&T [1]. Therefore, S&T became great factors which influence the developmental
level of a nation and the quality of individual life. Accordingly, every nation tries to mobilize human and material resources for S&T development. And modern nations go ahead with economic growth through S&T innovation and development as the main task of state affairs’ ideology. Now Every political power and national leader emphasize S&T leadership as the key strategy of state affairs’ ideology.

2. RESEARCH CONTENTS AND METHOD

2.1. Research Contents

This study analyzed state affairs’ ideology and S&T leadership in authoritarian governments. By the way, state affairs’ ideology means basic administrative philosophy of government. And the S&T leadership means presidential policy will and style on S&T development. Authoritarianism is the types of administrative governance. In fact, authoritarianism and democracy are the types of administrative governance. The legitimacy of constitutional procedure influences the division of authoritarianism and democracy largely. So the types of administrative governance such as authoritarianism and democracy influence state affairs’ ideology.

Meanwhile, state affairs’ ideology affects S&T leadership. Therefore, state affairs’ ideology and S&T leadership appear differently in accordance with the types of administrative governance. State affairs’ ideology, S&T leadership, and the type of administrative governance have a tendency to change according to age [2]. Thus, to historically examine state affairs’ ideology and S&T leadership of successive government according to authoritarianism as a type of administrative governance can suggest important implication in surveying changing characteristics and forms of them in each period. Accordingly, this study analyzed state affairs’ ideology and S&T leadership in authoritarian governments and drew changing characteristics and forms of them.

2.2. Research Method

This study applied the analytical method of comparative history based on literature research. This research surveyed yearbook by government agencies, policy reports, and reports by government-funded research institutes in order to analyze state affairs’ ideology and science-technology leadership of successive government in authoritarian period.
Concrete research method is following.
Firstly, this study checked preceding research and theoretical discussion and examined state affairs’ ideology of successive government in authoritarian period.
Secondly, this research considered S&T leadership of successive governments in authoritarian period.
Thirdly, this study analyzed the relationship between state affairs’ ideology and S&T leadership in authoritarian governments.
Fourthly, this research extracted items related to characteristic and change from the contents of state affairs’ ideology and S&T leadership.

3. RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Lee Seung-man Government

3.1.1 the Ideology of State Affairs

Lee Seung-man Government was set up in the context of division between South Korea and North Korea and ideological conflict between conservatism and progressivism after liberation. Lee Seung-man Government neglected historical task to get rid of pro-Japanese group, so it was very difficult to acquire wide supporting base and gather national capacity. And many industrial facilities were located in North Korea, so the economic base of South Korea was very poor.

Consequently, Lee Seung-man Government suggested anti-communism in order to advance national legitimacy of South Korean Government in the context of conflict between South Korea and North Korea [2]. President Lee Seung-man operated authoritarian state affairs and mobilized all kinds of illegality and means in order to extend long-term seizure of power. Eventually, President Lee Seung-man resigned through April Democratic Revolution

3.1.2. the Leadership of Science and Technology

There was big conflict between South Korea and North Korea in Lee Seung-man Government period, so South Korea could not gather economic capability of nation. Thus, Korean economy was absolutely dependent on American assistance in Lee Seung-man Government period, so South Korea had very weak structure of economy [3]. Accordingly, the main economic task of Lee Seung-man Government is to escape from dependent economic system and to construct independent economic structure.
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The economic meaning of S&T was very important in order to achieve this period task. But it is analyzed that President Lee Seung-man did not understand S&T importance systematically as a decisive tool to overcome period difficulty. It is evaluated that Presidential weak conception of S&T acted as a decisive limitations in setting up S&T leadership of President Lee Seung-man. Therefore, weak S&T leadership of President Lee Seung-man made it difficult to establish concrete and practical policy for S&T development. Specially, it is interpreted that Presidential policy will related to S&T was more passive than his will related to any other policy sector [1]. Finally, Lee Seung-man Government had limitations not to make comprehensive policy for S&T development and innovation and not to set up integrated administration system for S&T which supported and controlled S&T development and innovation [4].

3.2. Park Jung-hee Government

3.2.1. the Ideology of State Affairs

Park Jung-hee Government was set up through May 16 Military Coup in 1961. Park Jung-hee Government insisted that his Government should overcome the incapacity of Jang Myun Government and social disorder according to it. And Park Jung-hee Government suggested that South Korea should be superior to North Korea in the context of conflict between South Korea and North Korea.

But problem-presenting and negative evaluation of the democratic legitimacy of Park Jung-hee Government continued [5]. Thus, President Park Jung-hee concentrated economic development plan continuously in order to overcome weak legitimacy of democracy and reinforce power base. And Park Jung-hee Government focused on the rapid growth strategy of economy in order to improve productive power of South Korea which was inferior to that of North Korea in the context of conflict between South Korea and North Korea.

In fact, ‘the Modernization of Fatherland’ which President Park Jung-hee presented in front was a slogan that Park Jung-hee Government published as the part of rapid growth strategy. And ‘the Modernization of Fatherland’ displayed the leadership of President Park Jung-hee in the process to carry out state affairs’s task [6]. And the core goal of S&T policy was ‘the Modernization of Fatherland’ through S&T promotion in Park Jung-hee Government period [7].

3.2.2. the Leadership of Science and Technology

There are both affirmative evaluations and negative evaluations of the political leadership of
President Park Jung-hee. There are views that the leadership of President Park Jung-hee was very active and affirmative on the basis of setting up state affairs’ goal through economic development plan, making policy, and driving force [8]. And there are views that the leadership of President Park Jung-hee was affirmative on the basis of active policy enforcement and contribution to economic growth. On the other hand, there are views that the leadership of President Park Jung-hee was negative on the basis of operating state affairs dictatorially like Yushin System [9].

Generally speaking, the leadership of President Park Jung-hee emphasized policy-making through inside organizations. President Park Jung-hee was in direct charge of the task which he was interested in and emphasized strategically, so it is evaluated that he dominated policy environment firmly [10]. And President Park Jung-hee showed result oriented leadership to set up policy goal and check policy outcome by himself.

The main actors of ‘presidential S&T leadership’ in Park Jung-hee Government were president, the Economic Planning Board, Senior Secretary to the President for Economic Policy, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and S&T Ministry. By the way, the main actors of presidential S&T leadership focused economic policy and subordinated S&T policy to economic policy from short-term perspective [11]. Specially, Park Jung-hee Government led S&T policy based on internal organization in the Blue House [4] and set up the development direction of S&T towards economic growth. And Park Jung-hee Government changed system in order to carry out presidential policy directions faithfully [1].

Meanwhile, S&T Minister as a factor of the main actors of presidential S&T leadership worked for a long time in Park Jung-hee Government period. The personnel policy keynote of President Park Jung-hee contributed to going ahead with S&T policy efficiently.

3.3. Jun Doo-whan Government

3.3.1. the Ideology of State Affairs

Jun Doo-whan Government descended from Park Jung-hee Government [12]. President Jun Doo-whan had strengthened his power in the military through Hanawhoe and seized the military power after December 12 Coup. President Jun Doo-whan put down Gwhangjoo Democratic Movement and dominated state power. President Jun Doo-whan was the political successor of President Park Jung-hee by the medium of Hanawhoe. Therefore, President Jun Doo-whan contained serious weakness in democratic legitimacy from the beginning.

President Jun Doo-whan suggested ‘the Realization of Just Society’ as a state affairs’ ideology
from the beginning of the Fifth Republic in order to overcome this political burden. President Park Jung-hee brought about the concentration of economic power and the wide gap between the rich and the poor owing to the rapid growth strategy of economy based on big company. President Jun Doo-whan tried to find ideological methods to settle the social and economic problems which Park Jung-hee Government brought about. Thus, Jun Doo-whan Government suggested ‘the Realization of Just Society’ and ‘the Construction of Welfare State’ as state affairs’ ideology.

President Jun Doo-whan suggested economic stabilization as core policy ideology in order to overcome economic unstability and relieve the weakness of political legitimacy. Accordingly, Jun Doo-whan Government changed policy directions from growth to stability, from state intervention to private autonomy, and from market protection to market opening contrary to previous government [13]. Therefore, President Jun Doo-whan excluded political logic and performed strong stabilization policy based on solid belief of economy. As the result of firm economic belief, President Jun Doo-whan implemented the Fifth Five-Year Economic Development Plan in 1982 and highlighted economic outcome including price stabilization actively.

3.3.2. the Leadership of Science and Technology

Opinions on the leadership of President Jun Doo-whan vary according to scholars. It is affirmative for Jun Doo-whan Government to implement policy actively and stabilize economy. But it is negative for President Jun Doo-whan to stick to authoritarian attitude [8]. And there is the evaluation that President Jun Doo-whan was confident of policy making and implementing. But there is the evaluation that President Jun Doo-whan was not consistent in policy making and implementing and did not collect public opinion actively [14].

Eventually, the leadership of President Jun Doo-whan preferred authoritarian and downward system in the making process of policy. And it is analyzed that President Jun Doo-whan concentrated on preserving regime and increasing the effectiveness of power system [10]. It is interpreted that the leadership keynote of President Jun Doo-whan is necessary result according to being lacking in legitimacy in the process of seizing power.

It is interpreted that the leadership of President Jun Doo-whan had merits of driving force and resolution in policy making process. But it is evaluated that the leadership of President Jun Doo-whan had dysfunctional aspect according to careless policy making.

As a result, the S&T leadership of President Jun Doo-whan did not attract organic cooperation and support among government department related to S&T, government-funded
research institute, and industrial world [11]. Thus, the systematic connection and discussion between the R&D activity of public sector and that of private industrial sector were not active in Jun Doo-whan Government period. Therefore, the S&T leadership of President Jun Doo-whan implied the risk of policy failure due to weak driving force weakness in the implement process of S&T policy and inactive discussion on policy direction.

Jun Doo-whan Government changed the Presidential Secretariat system and abolished the Second Senior Secretary to the President for Economic Policy. Accordingly, Senior Secretary to the President for Economic Policy influenced S&T policy largely. Afterwards, Senior Secretary to the President for Economic Policy of President Jun Doo-whan pushed ahead with centralized research and development in order to strengthen international competitiveness [11]. President Jun Doo-whan appointed his friend as S&T Minister and allotted science and engineering doctor from the Korea Military Academy in important offices of S&T field. As a result, they influenced S&T policy largely [15].

3.4. Rho Tae-woo Government

3.4.1. the Ideology of State Affairs

President Rho Tae-woo led December 12 Coup with President Jun Doo-whan. And President Rho Tae-woo put down Gwangjoo Democratic Movement with violence and established the Fifth Republic. Though President Rho Tae-woo was elected through constitutional change for direct election system, he was the political comrade and successor of President Jun Doo-whan. Especially, Rho Tae-woo Government could not escape from the crisis of legitimacy due to the political succession of the Fifth Republic [16].

Accordingly, President Rho Tae-woo tried to overcome his political limitations. As a result of his try, President Rho Tae-woo held Seoul Olympic Games in 1988. Rho Tae-woo Government tried to escape from the dishonor of military regime and highlighted the image as a democratic government to accomplish the peaceful tranfer of power by the media of Seoul Olympic Games.

President Rho Tae-woo concentrated on maintaining the rapid growth trend of economy which was named maximum boom thanks to three low phenomenon(low dollar, low oil price, and low interest rate), holding Seoul Olympic Games successfully. And President Rho Tae-woo tried being interested in policy field which previous governments neglected such as social welfare and distribution. But the state affairs’ ideology of President Rho Tae-woo contained the basic limitations that his government could not escape from the existing order of dominance.
3.4.2. the Leadership of Science and Technology

President Rho Tae-woo maintained policy focused on science and technology which previous government carried out and tried to make up for S&T policy. But there are negative evaluations that Rho Tae-woo Government did not have consistency in the process to make and implement policy and did not discover new policy agenda actively [8]. And there are indications that President Rho Tae-woo did not manage transitional crisis situation efficiently and performed inactive leadership to be satisfied with reality [14].

President Rho Tae-woo suggested the independent strategy for S&T development. But President Rho Tae-woo adopted the inactive method to entrust S&T policy to Senior Secretary to the President for Economic Policy and ministers related S&T policy instead of supervising actively for himself [1]. Specially, President Rho Tae-woo accepted open and diversified policy-making structure, but this policy-making structure brought about ministry sectionalism, the politicized phenomenon of economic policy and the lack of policy consistency [17][18].

There is the evaluation that the leadership of President Rho Tae-woo was similar to public opinion-collecting type to depend on upward approach method, so the leadership of Rho Tae-woo Government was different from that of Jun Doo-whan Government. But it is analyzed that President Rho Tae-woo collected public opinion within limited channel and decided policy single-handed on the basis of collected public opinion, so the policy outcome of Rho Tae-woo Government was limited.

It is evaluated that President Rho Tae-woo established many kinds of organization which could carry out the role and function as the leader of S&T policy, but Presidential interest, will and passion on S&T policy were weaker than those of any other president [11].

4. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

This research is to analyze state affairs’ ideology and S&T leadership of successive governments from President Lee Seung-man till President Rho Tae-woo in authoritarian period. For this purpose, this study performed historical analysis based on literature research. As a result of this analysis, we found that there was correlation between state affairs’ ideology and S&T leadership of authoritarian governments. Especially, presidential conception of S&T influenced S&T leadership directly.

S&T leadership was closely related to the change of political environment. In authoritarian
government period, minority based on president led the planning and operation of S&T policy and government led S&T R&D. In authoritarian government period, government recognized S&T policy subordinate to economic policy. To recognize S&T field as the subordinate factor of economy and to focus economic effect through S&T development weakened Presidential S&T leadership in authoritarian government period.

Strengthening the motor of national growth through S&T development technology is period stream. Therefore, presidential will and try on S&T development are very important factors in deciding S&T level. President should suggest state affairs’ ideology based on the right conception of S&T.

Presidential leadership of S&T ought to change according to the transition of period environment. Now S&T leadership which decides policies and pushes ahead with them strongly is not desirable. First of all, we must establish S&T institution systematically in order to show up S&T leadership efficiently.

References


