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li, qi / 이: principle of material force (pin ying)

i. gi (한국말)

<u>The</u> Eclectic Development of Neo-Confucianism and Statecraft from the eighteenth to the 19th Century

Noh Daehwan

Abstract

Zhu Xi's Neo-Confucian thought, which had held a firm status in Joseon as the dominant ideology, began to reveal its limitations in the second half of the seventeenth century, which were. The limitations were expressed as impracticality. Faced with this problem, the intellectual community of Joseon explored new directions, and with this effort concludinged in by introducing an eclectic method of Neo-Confucianism and statecraft by complementing Neo-Confucianism with practicality, while acknowledging its tuseful? Probe

The eclectic combination of Neo-Confucianism and statecraft <u>meant_was intended</u> to confine the role of i—which had been believed for a long time to govern <u>the</u> order of nature as well <u>as the</u> human mind and human nature—to the <u>purely ethicalrealm of pure ethics</u> and incorporate it with the study of practical outcome, <u>and_U</u>tlimately, <u>the intention was to transform it into a state in which ethical consciousness could work better_fbetter function?!.</u> This was a sort of Neo-Confucian reform in the sense that the Neo-Confucian elements of righteousness and <u>moral</u> principle <u>were atdefined</u> its core.

The eclecticism of Neo-Confucianism and statecraft, which wanted to prevent the possibility of distortion in the direction of socioeconomic development by paying keen attention to it, expanded to include Northern Learning and historical research [bibliographical study] as key subjects of incorporation. H-There seemed to have be no serious problems in the methodology. But because Western studies was an important object of incorporation, the limitations of the eclectic methodology which that had been hidden until then emerged to the surface as the approach of Eastern ways and Western machines was tried. For example, the Western parliamentary system could not go hand in hand with loyalty-based relations between the King and subjects. Now they had to either change the ways to fit the machines or limit the adoption of machines to maintain the ways. In this sense, the theory of "Eastern ways; and Western machines" was the highest and the final stage Neo-Confucian eclecticism could reach.

key word: eclecticism of Neo-Confucianism and statecraft, *i, gi,* Silhak, Bukhak, ways, machines, the theory of Eastern ways and Western machines

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Noh Daehwan (No, Dae-hwan) is an Assistant Professor in the 교양학부, 동양대학교. He received his Ph.D. from Seoul National University in 1999. His publications include Jeongjodae-ui sasang-gwa munhwa (Thoughts and Culture in the King Jeongjo's Reign) (1999) and Gojeon soseolsok yeoksa yeohaeng (Travel Back to History in Classical Novels). E-mail:hwan@dyu.ac.kr

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Introduction

After taking firm roots in Joseon society in the days of Yi Hwang (1501-1570) and Yi I (1536-1584), Neo-Confucianism was established as mainstream thought in the intellectual circles during the seventeenth century. It was so well in place that some even noted, "Whether learned or ignorant, anyone who can read recites only Ch'eng-Chu (정주? 전자(정이 정호 형제)와 주자(주희)를 말함) 's thought, so that we do not know if there is any other thought in this country."

Neo-Confucianism, the main theoretical current of the intellectual community of Joseon, is based on the *i-gi* theory, the philosophical foundation which upon which rests supported the entire thought system, including the notion of universe and ontology in Zhu Xi's philosophy. The core of the *i-gi* theory is reason-principle (*i*). According to Zhu Xi, reason is the ultimate state and principle that is internal in things. Reason is something which that cannot be confirmed by sense but is always recognized as objectively valid. He states that "For everything that exists, there is reason that makes it exist. This law applies to each and every existing thing. Nothing is exists of on its own. It is simply not allowed. This law is from heaven and there is nothing that humans can do about it." Base on this conception of *i*, Neo-Confucianists

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produced the idea of "unity between heaven and man" which meants that human nature, the moral order of society, and the order of nature have had the same origin.

Emphasis of human nature as the basis of social and political ethics was a definitive characteristic and an achievement of Neo-Confucianism that made it distinct from conventional Confucianism. But it had limitations as well. What was particularly problematic was that it defined the ever-changing real world with the fixed idea of *i*. These features of Neo-Confuciansim made it useful in leading the world in an intended direction but at the same time it posed a great danger of making it a tool to regulate reality. Another problem was that it tried to explain what was going on in the world with in terms of the relations between *i* and *gi*, which were purely speculative concepts that were removed from reality. Therefore, without intentionally injecting the notion of statecraft, Neo-Confucianism was in danger of slipping into an empty system of thought separated from reality.

-This possibility became a reality in the second half of the seventeenth century as the Joseon society experienced economic development and turmoil in the class system. Neo-Confucianism was incapable of responding to these changes properly. Seizing power in 1694, Seoin (Western Parties), the political sect of the Song Si-yeol (the legitimate inheritor of the Yi I School) league, drove out Namin (Southerners), and became a dominant force in Joseon. The defeated Namin maintained the conservative line of Zhu Xi's philosophy by continuing to indulge in Yehak (the study of ritual) and engage in the discourse of i, gi, mind and human nature within the boundary of traditional Zhu Xi's thoughts focusing on Neo-Confucianism. Becoming the predominant force after Seoin was divided into Noron (Old Doctrine Faction) and Soron (Young Doctrine Faction) during the reign of King Sukjong, Noron solidified its camp by putting forth Zhu Xi's Neo-Confucian philosophy, 對明義理論 (발음대로 표기해 주세요)(doctrines of righteousness towards Ming) (명에 대한 의리론?) and 北伐大義論 (발음대로 표기해 주세요)(-principles for great cause (반청적 북벌 대의론?) to conquer the north) (북벌대의론), and as well as anti-Qing doctrines to attack Qing. In short, Neo-Confucianism in the eighteenth century Joseon had a strong tendency of internalization anchored on *i*, *gi*, mind and human nature.

Now the intellectual community of Joseon had to explore a new direction. The prime question they wrestled with was whether to adhere to Neo-Confucianism and resolve the problems within its boundary or whether to break from Neo-Confucianism and find a new ideology to replace it. What <u>eventually</u> happened <u>eventually</u> was that Joseon did not have the emergence of an intellectual current to reject Neo-Confucianism squarely and find a new ideology. What was regarded as the best way was to recognize the intrinsic value of Neo-Confucianism and remedy its problems, and this took the form of combining Neo-Confucianism and the study of statecraft. Here the main concern was <u>with</u> how to merge the two, and differences in the method of <u>merging doing so</u> resulted in theoretical diversification.

Eclecticism of Neo-Confucianism and Statecraft, and Silhak in the 18th Century

1. Problems Facing Neo-Confucianism in the eighteenth-century Joseon Society

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As I mentioned it above briefly, the greatest weakness of Neo-Confucianism lied lay in the one-and-onlyness singularity and absoluteness endowed on i (reason). Neo-Confucianism took up the idea of i_L which was a value concept as it was often described as the principle of being or pure goodness, and then turned it into an absolute concept, trying At this point, all became a struggle (공허한 논리로 변질될 가능성이 크다?) to understand the ever-changing real world from the fixed perspective of lithis fixed concept. Inevitably, it had a big gap from reality, which made it more vulnerable to degenerate into an empty idea. This is why Seo Gyeong-deok (1489-1546) raised a fundamental question as toregarding the i-gi theory early on, by claiming that i referred to the law of movement of gi rather than a force that created and dominated the material world. Yi Su-gwang (1563-1628) also said thatsaid, "Dao lies in the daily life of people. Wear hemp in summer and wool in winter. Eat when you are hungry and drink when you are thirsty. That is dao. Anyone who says otherwise is wrong." This is a radical claim in that it espouses that dao does did not exist a priori and it should be sought in reality. However, claims like this never became dominant under the shadow of the powerful Neo-Confucian current, but questions and doubts were continuously raised on regarding it.

As intellectual streams were closely associated with the political factions in Joseon, the manner of raising questions about Neo-Confucianism differed between the factionsthem. In the Soron faction, Jeong Je-du (1649-1736) took the lead in the Learning of Yangming? Or study of the teachings of Wang Yangming?, establishing the Ganghwa School, which andopted Wang Yangming's philosophy philosophy as the topic of family education. In the capital faction of Namin, which was based in the vicinities vicinity of Seoul, Heo Mok (1595-1682), Yun Hyu (1617-1680) and Yu Seong-won (1622-1673) systematized the theory, and onlt was on this foundation that Yi Ik (1681-1763) formed a school in the early eighteenth century. In the empowered Noron, some held a critical view of Neo-Confucianism's preoccupation with the studies of human nature, righteousness, and reason, and made an effort to embraced new ideas. An example was the formation of the Bukhakpa (Northern Learning School) led by Hong Dae-yong (1731-1783), Bak Ji-won (1737-1805) and Bak Je-ga (1750-1805). All these endeavors can be grouped under Silhak (Practical Learning). It is difficult to-While trying not to over-generalize ##, but it is safe to say that one thing that they these scholars had in common was that they took issue with the excessive attention Neo-Confucianism given gave to the study of the mind and human nature in Neoconfucianism. Jeong Yak-yong (1762-1836) noted on this tendency of Neo-Confucianism in those days as follows:

""These days Neo-Confucianists say so many things about i_{k} gi, human nature, emotion, body, usage, etc. and they debate whether i is at work, whether gi is at work, whether i has been already at work or it has yet to work ... After some quiet thinking in their foolish mind, with veins on the neck bulging thick with anger, they say this as if they were awakened to the noble, subtle principle of heaven and earth. Striking to the east and banging to the west, holding the knob and burying the head, posting a flag at each door and building a base at each house, they cannot determine what is really important until they die and pass their regrets to the next generation, unable

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to resolve them themselves.² (국문 <u>자체도 이</u>이해가 안<u>갑니다. 번역에 적합하도록 국문을 다시 쉽게 풀어 주시기 바랍니다. 의역.. 풀기가 어려우시면 아예 이 부분을 빼고 그냥 비판했다라고만 처리하는 방안은 어떨지??</u>

오늘날 성리학을 하는 자는 이러 저러한 성리학적 이론을 주장한다. 이 그 시 전 전 제 용이니 하고 본연기질을 말하여 이가 발한다. 기가 발한다 이미 발했다. 발하기 전이다... 그저 머리 속에서 만들어 낸 것일 뿐인데 그리고도 마치 자기가 이 세상의 모든 법칙을 터득하기라도 한 것처럼 의기양양하여 저마다 학파를 하나씩 결성한다. 서로 자기 이론이 맞다고 싸우는데 그 싸움이 후대에까지 이어져 원망이 쌓여간다. 의리석은 마음으로 잠잠히 궁리하고는 성낸 기운으로 목줄기를 붉히며 스스로 천하의 고묘한 이치를 다 깨달았다 하여 동쪽으로 두드리고 서쪽으로 부딪치며 고리만 잡고 머리를 빠뜨린 자가 문마다 旗 하나씩 세우고 집마다 陣 하나씩 쌓아서 세상이 다하도록 그 訟事를 능히 결단하지 못하고 대를 전해가며 그 원망을 능히 풀지못한다.

This is a sharp criticism of the then situation thatleveled against the Neo-Confucianists, who were allegedly preoccupied with mind-and human_nature (심성?) and engaged in empty disputes. Many intellectuals commonly viewed that Neo-Confucianists, wrapped up in the discussion of the mind-naturemind and human nature, ignored real, worldly problems and were unable to respond to them. Bak Ji-won, the mental support of the Northern Learning School, stated that there were only two kinds of reading and studying [learning] — what was useful for practical purposes or what was not; and He criticized the attitude of Neo-Confucianists who indulgeding in the this discourse of about human nature, the debate over i and gi. He believed that the traditional attitude of scholars engaged in the discussion of the leaven (Allegeding) made them ignorant of the leaven of the leaven

The various criticisms leveled against the impracticality of Neo-Confucianism revolved around two main points. One was a critique of Neo-Confucianism itself that the speculative debates of Neo-Confucianism represented by the i_-gi theory were meaningless. As King Jeongjo put it aptly as a prince, "No matter how fully one discusses the i_-gi theory, one can never taste the concrete nature of mind, body and use in daily life." Because debates on i and gi were removed from reality, they were no help with developing the mind-naturehuman mind and body ($\frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{$

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up up as they were in the vain disputes of i, gi, mind, and human nature.

Because Neo-Confucianism was not concerned with practical activity, this element had to be imported from outside. Out of this understanding was attempted eclecticism of of came an attempt to reconcile Neo-Confucianism and with statecraft. The mode of eclecticisz an attempt to take the best of both, [this is the best I could think of] 12 m took different fashions depending on which one of the two was put at the center to but Still, the dominant form was that of Neo-Confucianism, which was at the center and with statecraft was having been added to it.

2. Eclectic Logic for Neo-Confucianism and Statecraft in Silhak

Because the core problems of Neo-Confucianism derived fundamentally from the one and onlynessprimacy and absoluteness of i, Silhak scholars took issue with, among others things, i and gi_{27} and Pparticularly, these scholars were at odds with i, which was conceived as the way of heaven [heavenly way] (친구) Heavenly Principle or the principle of the universe governing all beings and moral norms. They could not accept i as it was. Starting with this conception, they came up with a new logic.

Yu Hyeong-won, who refined the theoretical system of Silhak of followed by the Namin faction, criticized the existing concept of i and put forth his own, more practical theory. of practical i. Unlike the existing concept of i as either the origin of the world or the universal principle applying that could be applied to all physical phenomena, his concept of practical i can could have been be summarized as the "principle of things." which This refers to the principle governing every individual thing on earth, ranging from natural phenomena to social and political institutions. This approach rejecteds the traditional way of understanding things based on speculation and inference deriving from i and gi and endorses suggested instead that one to observe and analyze them based on practical theory of phenomena and essence order to save their phenomena and nature. I hmm...this is a little unclear. In other words, it takes I brings/requires? things and phenomena from the world of thought and speculation to the world of real experience.

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그것은 종래 리와 기의 분개에 의해 사변, 추론 중심으로 이루어지던 사물의 이해방식을 지양하고 實事의 현상과 본질을 실리라는 차원에서 판찰, 분석하는 것으로 말하자면 사물현상을 관념 사변의 세계로부터 현실 경험의 세계로 이끌어 내온 것이다. Meanwhile, Yi Ik negated the concept of *i* as the law of all existing things and produced instead the idea that there was each a principle operating to each individual thing, rejecting a view that marked his rejection of the the world of the body (근원적인 또는 본채의 세계?본질적인 세계를 뜻합니다.) that was separated from the world of experience.

It was not just humans that who had been were liberated from the shackles of *i*. Nature was had been liberated as well. In Zhu Xi's theory, nature was thoroughly bound within the ethical interest of *i*. Now its bondage to *i* broken, nature was at last recognized as an independent world realmat last. Moreover, the independent world realm was had been made a subject of examination by humans, who were had been newly awakened to their subjectivity. Yu Hyeong-won maintained that one can could obtain a clear understanding of the law of things by directly experiencing or studying them. To Hong Dae-yong, to obtain knowledge through concrete experience meant to "advance one's knowledge by experiencing and studying the principle of things."

Even <u>if with tons of ceaseless</u> criticism <u>was-assailing mounted at the *j-gi* theory of Neo-Confucianism, the concepts of i and gi themselves were not discarded. Hong said that "The world is full of gi and i is in it" and Bak uttered that "The world is like a big bowl. It is filled with gi and i is the reason behind it." As revealed in these assertions, i and gi were important concepts to Silhak scholars. What they took issue with was the tendency to explain everything with the notions of gi and gi in terms of these two concepts.</u>

Having rReviewinged the i-gi theory of Neo-Confucianism, Silhak scholars had

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great interest in statecraft. Their interest was closely related to their commitment to the goal to of accurately characterizing (revealing /manifesting 인간의 토디지 (revealing /manifesting /manifesting 인간의 토디지 (revealing /manifesting /manifesting 인간의 토디지 (revealing /manifesting /mani

Yi Ik asserted that <u>Chen Liang Jin Ryang</u> (한자 알려주시기 바랍니다. 중국식 발음으로 표기해야 하므로)'s theory of seeking practical result without trying to cultivate oneself was defective because excessive emphasis on practical result would result in chaos. while <u>He also viewed</u> Zhu Xi's theory was also defective as flawed because it overstressed studying and debating dao and ignored real problems, such as governance of the nation and bringing peace to the world. Then he claimed that these two goals should be put together combined to complement each other.

Bak Ji-won believed that there was much to save in Guan Zhong and Shang Yang's idea of emphasizing practical outcome and interest, which was under severe attack from Neo-Confucianists. Bak asserted that their idea should not be discarded, because—as_it was quite useful for establishing institutions, enforcing the law, strengthening the King's power, preventing powerful families from pursuing private interests, building a rich country, and making providing people with live a comfortable life.8 Saying Proclaiming that Guan Zhong and Shang Yang were had been condemned because the King put practical outcomes over humanity and righteousness in adopting their idea, he—Bak_made it clear that humanity and righteousness should take precedence over practical outcomes. In the same vein, he argued that one must engage in propriety, enjoyment, punishment and governance (administration?) 예약약정경(의례, 음악, 형벌, 정치로 풀면 될 듯 합니다.) on the basis of the certain moral norms, of piety, brotherhood, loyalty and trust saying He said that "filial piety, brotherhood, loyalty and trust are the outcomes of learning, whereas propriety, enjoyment, punishment and governance are the usages of learning9."

The relationship between righteousness and practical outcome becomes clearer in Hong Dae-yong's explanation. According to Hong, without righteousness and principle the study of statecraft emphasizeds practical outcome excessively, whereas the study of righteousness and principle loses-lost its grounds unless it is combined with the study of statecraft. Thus, neither should be discardedwere necessary to discard, but righteousness is was more fundamental. Because the study of righteousness was -concerned with principles to be upheld without fail, and with the study of statecraft defininges the means to practice such principles, he Hong viewed the study of righteousness as more fundamental.

In the eighteenth century Silhak defined the gist of Neo-Confucian philosophy as the study of righteousness and principle, and-while tryingied to incorporate the idea of statecraft on a_Neo-Confucianthe foundation—of Neoconfucianism. As Neo-Confucianism formed the basis, Silhak can be called a "Neo-Confucian eclecticism." The fact that Neo-Confucianism formed the basis means that Silhak was

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to be realized through statecraft rather than it regulated being that which regulated statecraft. This provided considerable flexibility in the content of statecraft to be incorporated with Neo-Confucianism, and this This flexibility gave them the room to accept the civilization of the Qing dynasty as the subject of adoption. From the Neo-Confucian perspective, it was unthinkable to adopt the civilization of Qing, which had invaded the Joseon dynasty and dismantled the Ming Dynastythat of the Ming. Silhak scholars could were able to have gain the leverage by taking the position that they must had to learn the civilization of Qing in order to truly avenge for the Ming. As a strategy of adoption, they separated science and technology of the Western civilization from Catholicism. As long as the Neo-Confucian norms did not contradict the content of the study of statecraft, the eelecticism of Neo-Confucianism and statecraft could would have been able to function as a useful social ideology.

Eclecticism of Neo-Confucianism and Statecraft and the Theory of Eastern Ways and Western Machines in the 19th Century

1. Expansion of eclecticism in the early 19th century () and the theory of Eastern ways and Western machines [this section heading is pretty much just #2 in reverse! Should we do away with both of them?]

Entering By the beginning of the nineteenth century, Bukhak (Northern Learning) theory became very common becoming the mainstream thought in the intellectual community around the capital. Most Noron officials, who seized power in the early to middle nineteenth century and managed affairs of state, endorsed (accepted?)-Bukhak theory. Unlike in the eighteenth century, the Bukhak of the nineteenth century focused on bibliographical study of Chinese classics, which was had been in mode in the Qing dynasty. (It was also called Han Learning hak (study of Han or the Chinese character (classics?) to differentiate it from the Neo-Confucianism of the Song dynasty.) Developed as a methodology of historical research of Chinese classics during the last days of Ming and the early days of Qing by anti-Qing intellectuals such as Gu Yanwu and Huang Zongxias a methodology of historical research of Chinese classics during the last days of Ming and the early days of Qing, the bibliographical study originally had a strong undercurrent of statecraft originally. But the bibliographic study of Qing which that Bukhak scholars adopted at that time was weak in the element of statecraft. Because of this, it was limited in resolving the problems facing the intellectual community of the late eighteenth century Joseon; however, the significance of the fashionable bibliographical study was not negligible. As demonstrated in the criticism that preoccupation with abstract concepts defying verification_-such as nature of all things in the universe or the principle of ki-led people to think that Neo-Confucianism was empty (prime examples being the debate over the nature of all things in the universe, or the principle of *i-gi*) and bibliographical study impractical (prime examples being the debate over the nature of all things in the universe 만물지성?, or the principle of gi 기질지리 리의 기질? 원리?), --* 성리학은 공허한 반면 고증학은 실용적인 평가를 듣게 되었다는 뜻이어서 and 가 적절한지 모르겠습니다. 11 12 it was believed that the constitution (habitude?) of the

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Neo-Confucian circle was the root cause <u>responsible forof</u> the fad of bibliographical study. The intellectual circle of Joseon was still faced with the task of how to improve its constitution <u>(habitude?)</u>, <u>which an issue that still hadwas</u> yet to be overcome. Movements to wrestle with this task arose in <u>several three distinct</u> groups, <u>which could be divided into three.</u>

The first group belonged to the existing sallim (rustic literati) that—who criticized their own constitution (habitude?) and founded a new scholarly tradition. It was represented by Yu Sin-hwan (1801-1859), a disciple of O Hui-sang (1763-1833) of Giho sallim based in Gyeonggi and Chungcheong provinces, Sin Gi-seon (1851-1909) who studied under Im Heon-hoe (1811-1876) of Giho sallim, and Ha Baek-won (1781-1845), a follower of Song Hwan-gi (1728-1807) of Hoseo sallim covering Jeolla provinces.

As it was well demonstrated in Ha Baek-won's statement that "Those who studied under *sallim* were born after the brothers Cheong Hao, and Cheong Yi, and Zhu Xi, so there is no need to worry that they are not knowledged in i, gi, mind and human nature. All they need to do is just follow what they hear [learn] and do [practice] what they know," they had absolute belief in Zhu Xi's philosophy. Yet they criticized the tendency of overemphasizing Neo-Confucian tenets and called to balance it for it to be balanced with the study of statecraft. Yu Sin-hwan asserted tourged a focus on the four disciplines which that Confucius had stressed 공문사과? 무슨뜻인지공문사과는 공자 문화의 제자들이 주로 종사했던 네 학과라는 뜻입니다.?: virtuous deeds, language, political affairs (public administration) and literature. This was an attempt to embrace various disciplines on the basis of virtuous action, which corresponded to the study of Neo-Confucianism, so it was an extension of the eclectic scholarly tradition of the eighteenth century. Following his emphasis on political practice, many of his disciples entered politics.

The second group was <u>comprised of</u> scholars based in Seoul and <u>the_its</u> vicinit<u>yies</u>, represented by Yi Seo-gu (1754-1825), Seo Yu-gu (1764-1845), Kim Jeong-hui (1786-1856), Bak Gyu-su (1807-1877), Nam Byeong-cheol (1817-1863) and Kim Yeong-jak (1802-1868). Yi Seo-gu and Seo Yu-gu, from powerful families of the Noron line, were avid followers of Bak Ji-won, <u>and</u> Bak Gyu-su was <u>actually</u> a grandson of Bak Ji-won. Nam Byeong-cheol's maternal grand grandfather, Nam Gong-cheol (1760-1840), was also a disciple of Bak Ji-won, so it <u>could_is</u> safe to say that <u>be said that</u> this group was under the influence of Bukhak.

Although it is difficult to put a uniform scholarly tag on them, it can be argued that since because they inherited Bukhak theory, they these scholars followed the scholaticism of Hong Dae-yong and Bak Ji-won, who had respect for the study of Neo-Confucianism in the vein of traditional Zhu Xi's philosophy, and at the same time, they tried to transcend the tendency of focusingto focus on the mind and human nature, and had instead placed the study of statecraft at the core of learning. This is was demonstrated by the accounts of Bak Gyu-su, in his book telling that told of a scholar going who had gone to China to pay attention to practical instruments and books. If think this was the meaning in which "telling" was used. Instead of "telling the scholar to do something" in the book, the book merely "told a tale", right?

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The third group of reformer was comprised of the intelligentsia out of office (hermit?) who were different from sallim. Among this group were Yi Gyu-gyong (1788-1860) and Choe Han-gi (1803-1877). As it can be expected from the fact that Yi Gyu-gyeong was a grandson of Yi Deok-mu (1741-1793), a forerunning Bukhak scholar in the second half of the eighteenth century, they were basically baptized basically by in Bukhak theory. Not holding any pubic office, they could express their views freely without the interference of the central power bloc and thus, they had displayed a relatively strong bent streak of critical consciousness. Their critical consciousness came from a sense of crisis that the Joseon society was deteriorating and was incapable of responding to changes in the world, and this had its roots the roots of this problem being in the unsound intellectual climate. Yi Gyu-gyeong viewed that the fundamental cause for Joseon's backwardness lied lay in the sole emphasis of engaging in <u>a</u> discourse on <u>the</u> mind <u>and the</u>_nature of heaven and man (심성론?), and which had resulted in a disregard for practical affairs, which made them unable to address concrete matters. 15 Choe Han-gi held a similar view. Claiming that preoccupation with the theory of mind and human nature resulted in ignoring the study of administration of righteous people, 16 he strongly criticized the prejudice of scholars who approved only of their own school and disapproved the expressed disapproval of others. 17 Firmly grounded on this awareness, they tried to explore ways to improve the scholarly environment of Joseon and overcome its backwardness.

The three groups were different differed in their specific arguments, but their basic attitude was did not. They all had an undiminishing unflagging trust in the study of Neo-Confucianism, or the studythat of human nature and order (that of principle of human nature?), and at the same time, they tried to complement it with other disciplines, such as the study of statecraft. This manner of combination inherited the methodology of Silhak scholars of from the previous eras. The subjects of combination combined into different methodologies were different differed between scholars, but a general consensus was formed around the use of (delete?) on four disciplines—(, i.e., the study of Neo-Confucianism, bibliography (historical research) (bibliographical study?), the study of statecraft, and as well as the study of writing and literature. On top of this Moreover, the adoption of Seohak (Western Learning) became a key issue at this time. Because the Western civilization was entirely different from the that of the Qing, civilization which was the object of adoption among Bukhak scholars, they had different attitudes toward it differed. (diversified?)

Yi Gyu-gyeong attempted to combine Neo-Confucianism with the study of [what materials?] materials and mathematics (명물도수학? 명물학은 뜻 플어주시가 바랍니다사물에 이름을 붙여주는 학문이며 도수학은 수를 가지고 우주현상을 설명하는 학문입니다.), thinking that Western science and technology comprized the core of the study of [???] materials and mathematics. He had great interest in the question how to integrate the two and found the key to the

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logic of integration in the concept of the Way and machine.¹⁸ He viewed that while the East valued the metaphysical "dao" (Way), with stress on while stressing the study of principle, gi, human nature and order (이기성명? I, gi principle of human nature and the mandate of Heaven? : 이기와 성명을 뜻하는데 성명도 이기처럼 표기하면 좋을 듯 합니다. 앞에도 성명이 나오니 거기에서 표기하고 내용은 괄호 안에) , the West attached importance to physical "machines", with focus onemphasizing the study of investigation and measurement. Thusly did the West and thus, developed the material civilization. Believing that Joseon could similarly achieve an advanced material civilization by obtaining advanced knowledge of physical "machines," Yi sought to integrate Eastern ways and Western machines. However, he presented the theory of the "Chinese origin of Western studies", arguing that the West imported astronomy and the study of celestial movement from Chinaastronomy and the study of celestial movement, and claimed that the study on the usage of gi, which helped was to help in the understanding of machines, originated from Daoism. Thus, his eclecticism was, in fact, a breed of the theory of Eastern ways and Eastern machines.

Being critical of Yi Gyu-gyeong's eclecticism, Nam Byeong-cheol presented based his idea of eclecticism on the premise that the Westerners should get the credit for their achievements. In his theory, which was established on the foundation of the four disciplines (the study of poetry and ancient classics, the study of annotation, the study of statecraft, and the study of divine celestial movement and numbers), he had now placed the West's study of astronomy and the study of celestial movement of the West was included ininto the study of study of divine celestial movement and numbers. Yet as the Western forces rapidly made inroads into Joseon rapidly, Western studies was came under his focal attention fincreased scrutiny?]. (he also has keen interest in Western Learning.??). He wrote extensively on our [Korea's?] attitude in the adoption of Western studies, and with his main point was being that practical achievements of the West should needed to be adopted actively, but the study of the wise man Man's wisdom should be the basis. 19 Although he said that Westerners were advanced only in one field ___ astronomy and the study of celestial movement --- his idea that we Korea? should adopt all practical achievements of the West based on the learning of sages was not very all too different from the theory of "Eastern ways and Western machines."

Choe Han-gi was quite unique in the scholarly circles of the nineteenth century. To him, all things could be compared from the standpoint of utility, and every useful thing should be an object of adoption. In his thinking, Neo-Confucianism was not something to be adhered to. However, through the comparison of the Eastern and Western civilizations, he reached a the conclusion that measurement, computing windmills, ships, and cannons were all of particular importance in the civilization of the West in terms of utility, whereas Nevertheless, in that of the worldview [???] of (기계?) Joseon period, morality, humanity and righteousness in Confucian ethics were untradable universal waysaspects of civilized life. So, each had something to adopt from each-the other, making This stance was similar to that of "Eastern ways and Western machines." Yet the distinction of between East and West was actually

meaningless to him, as everything was the object of comparison and selection from the standpoint of utility. and in this From this universalistic point of view, Western ways should not be excluded. His thought transcended the theory of 'Eastern ways and Western machines' and had the potential to develop into a notion that allowed for a changeability a malleability of waysways of life and thinking. 變道論 : 도 자체를 변화시켜야 한다는 논리 무슨뜻?

Entering the 1880s, of the various <u>modes_stances towards_of_adoptingmethods of incorporating</u> Western <u>studiesknowledge</u>, the dominant one was <u>to_that of_adopt</u> Western machines while adhering to Eastern ways. Yet the theory of Eastern ways and Western machines was very unstable due to the mechanical combination of two heterogeneous things.

2. The development of the theory of Eastern ways and Western machines in the late 19th century and the limitations of eclecticism [see above comment – should we just get rid of both section headings?]

Watching With China's defeated to the by Great Britain in two wars, and Japan's succumbing surrender to the pressures from the United States pressure to open up its ports in 1853, and experiencing after the experience with France's invasion of Korea in 1866, the people of Joseon felt a prevailingan [overwhelming] sense of crisis apprehension (crisis?) towards the West. With the French invasion, the intellectual community of Joseon was divided into two-groups, with a the pro-war group called calling for immediate confrontation with the West, whereas theand a pro-peace group wanted that wanted to avoid immediate confrontation and strengthen the nation's power in the long term. These two camps developed contradicting political ideologies, i.e., one advocating a heterodoxicaly rejection of the Westthought vs. that advocating enlightenment thought, (one rejecting heterodoxy thought vs. one advocating enlightment thought?) and had tense confrontations with each other. The heterodoxy rejection camp had a superior position under the regency of Heungseon (1864-1873), father of King Gojong, but the circumstances changed as King Gojong began to rule directly. The King and his confidantes viewed it as inevitable to open up to the West and actively sought state policy to boost national wealth and power for security and protection. The theory of "Eastern ways and Western machines" provided the ideological basis for the policy.

King Gojong stressed the mandate for deploying thiEastern ways and Western machines policy in a royal order written by Kim Yun-sik (1835-1922) in August 1882, by noting thatIn it, he ask "In the situations that in which an difference in power fimbalance of power] is visibly evident, how can we prevent humiliation and protect our nation if we do not adopt their machines?" This passage shows that adoption of Western machines was an inevitable universal trend of the times and the machinesthat machines could be selectively adopted selectively in separationoutside from the realm of Catholicism. Since Western studies had first been imported to Joseon, Tithere had been a long-running controversy over whether it was possible to separate Western law (Western Wways or Western principle??/), and hence, thinking, [thought] from the influence that machines would bring-since Western studies was imported to Joseon. Scholars urging to the rejection of heterodoxy viewed the separation as impossible and asserted to reject the unilaterally rejected Western civilization. King Gojong, who wanted to implement an enlightenment

policy, felt uncomfortable with their view and presented the theory of "Eastern ways and Western machines" as the basis <u>in for</u> adopting the Western civilization.

Sin Gi-seon, a major theorist of "Eastern ways and Western machines" in the second half of the nineteenth century, put forth the a theory in reaction to the movement to reject Western studies. Based on the idea of a "separation of ways and machines," he criticized the view that religion and ways law-were one, arguing that "A great deal of what we know as farming came from the law of the WestWestern knowledge. But some say that the law-way of the Westerners is Catholicism, so learning the law their ways is the same as submitting to their religion.-... They say this as because they do not know that ways and machines are separate." Shin basis for distinguishingdistinguisheded between "ways" and machines was based on whether they were changeable or not the extent to which either was changeable. Ways do-did not change for all times and places, and examples are the Three Bonds and Five Relationsthree basic principles and the five moral disciplines in human relations, piety, brotherhood, loyalty and trust. Machines are things that can change frequently, such as as in the areas of propriety, music, the penal system, clothing (복식, 기용: 복식은 의복과 음식, 기용은 일상적으로 사용하는 기계나 물건들을 뜻합니다.?), and as well as the actual use of machines. For changeable machines, utility is was the only criterion to use to decide whether to adopt it or not. If something is could be beneficial to peoplesociety, it should be actively adopted even if it is foreign actively. Shin takes took up "ways and machines" which arethat were separate, and combinecombining them into the form of 'Eastern ways and Western machines' as follows:

"Generally speaking, the Chinese people have extensive knowledge in metaphysics, so their ways-Way holds sway in the world. Westerns have extensive knowledge in physical science, so their machines have no match in the world. If Western machines are put into-to use in Chinese ways, there is nothing that cannot be achieved on earth. But the Chinese people are not good at combining Western machines with their ways. They are-in-nothing-but-the-name [they are not up to their names] are not living up to their own prior greatness —and are about to crumble and collapse. That is why they cannot fight back to the West even if-after-they-suffering humiliation. If our ways-Way is are-truly put to action, utilizing Western machines will be as easy as flipping the palm. Ways and machines are waiting for each other to avoid separation."

The basic structure of the this eclecticism followed the logic of the tracepting ways and Western machines machines on the basis of ways that is, that is, that is, that is, that is, the principles and machines as their concrete outcomes—and this was justified based on the notion of inseparability of ways and machines. In the sense that Shin started off by separating ways way from machines, he inherited the tradition of the study of statecraft in mode that had been been in fashion in during the second half of the eighteenth century, which was had been characterized by incorporating Neo-Confucianism and the study of economystatecraft.

Advocates of Eastern ways and Western machines made it clear that Eastern

ways were never to change. Shin emphasized this by saying that the Three Bonds and Five Relationsthree basic principles and the five moral disciplines in human relations in human relations, and piety, brotherhood, loyalty, and trust were unchangeable. Later recollecting In later reflections on the Reformist Revolution of 1884, Kim Yun-sik noted that "Enlightenment theorists adored Europe and discredited the ways—Way of King Yao and King Shun of ancient China and of Confucius and Mencius, calling the Wayways of humanity barbarian. They often thought it was—to be enlightenment to change our Wayways with—into Western waysones." This reveals that Gim-Kim viewed the Wayways of King Yao and King Shun, and those of Confucius and Mencius as constant and absolute.

Thinking that waysways were constant and machines were under the control of the ways was grounded on the theory of Eastern ways and Western machines what is the subject here?], Byeon Ok confined the objects of adoption to those that were not against the Wayways of humanity. This is revealed in his remarks that "Catholicism should be banned thoroughly. Machines, medicine and farming and their usefulness and marvelous effects must be learned as long as they do not harm the Wayways of humanity, and are beneficial to people and production."21 Even though the theorists of Eastern ways and Western machines consciously put ondelineated the limits of adopting Western machines, consciously as Byeon Ok did, the scope of adoption was naturally limited naturally by taking the stance of putting machines into use on the basis of ways. So they their thinking was were conservative in thinking, though it was progressive compared with those who rejected heterodoxy. To take an example, Shin Gi-seon accused Yoo Yu Gil-joon jun (1856-1914), who participated in the Reformist Movement of 1895, for of insulting the military, for changing the laws of the deceased King, and embracing foreign law. He also criticized the cabinet system and clauses of the Constitution made in the Reform Measures of 1894, saying claiming that it had stripped the King of his power and converted it to people's powergiven it to the people. Because they viewed the loyalty of subjects to the King subjects as an unchangeable way Way, it was natural that they rejected any institution which that could hurt loyalty-based relations. Kim Yun-sik revealed a conservative tendency in his criticism that adopting the political system of the West was exerting constituted an effort to only learn only the trivial, instead of the core, aspects of the Western civilization.

In fact, Tthe limitations of the theory of Eastern ways and Western machines could be overcome only by acknowledging the changeability malleability of ways, which hinged upon the premise of unity between ways and machines. If the this changeability of ways ways was unacceptable, the universal applicability of the ways across all times and spaces should be provedhave been at least provable at least. Even if it was not easy to expect this of the theorists of "Eastern waysways and Western machines" theorists, who believed that Eastern ways ways could be transfused to the West and were actually in transfusion, they were not completely trapped in by the this theoretical boundary entirely. [please check my logic and let's talk about this paragraph during a discussion.]

Shin Gi-seon was a case in point. In his late years Shin said that "School politics in Europe and America is improving day by day. The main goals and norms of

education are different from those of East Asia, but the focus is on three things: righteousness and virtue, profitable usage [what is the Korean here?], and benefit to people." (1906). This quote shows the he tried to have the leave room to accept even school politics, believing that the West pursued the same goals. In one of his writings published while serving on the writing board of the Giho SocietySchool, he urged to actively adoptthe active adoption of Western Studies, by asserting He asserted the imperativeness—how imperative it was to begine flearning various new studies of fields that existed in the West, such as political science, law, astronomy, geography and mathematics. Particularly, on political science, he implored to study its tressed its importance by saying that the Westerners "adopt views commonly held by the public, govern the world and enact laws in mutual harmony, and interrogate the government on its policy." This sounds—apepars to have been like a great shift of thinking.

In Yeonamjip seo (Preface to the Selected Works of Bak Ji-won) (1902), Kim Yun-sik notes that there are were none of no the good laws of the West which that do did not correspond with to the six Chinese classics. and basedBased on this notion, he puts placed Bak Ji-won's thought on the a par with "New Learning of the West." In Shinhak yukyeseol (New Learning and Six Proper Procedures 육예? : 반드시 배워야 할 여섯 가지 일을 뜻하는데 禮(의례) 樂(음악) 射(활쏘기) 御(말타기) 書(글씨쓰기) 數(산수) 를 뜻합니다.) written in 1907, he expresseds his view that the New Learning of the West has had many things in common with the six proper procedures, claiming that the political science, law, engineering and economics of the New Learning corresponded to the good things of propriety (예의 선물?훌륭한 혹은 본받을 만한 좋은 예의) included in the six proper procedures of the East, and He also asserted that the New Learning of the West could have some freedom from the constraints of Eastern ways by earning the same status as the six proper procedures and the six Chinese classics. Later he showsed a positive view of Western religion, saying that people tended to think that the principle of freedom of religion came from the West. but However, he argued, this principle wasit is also found in the ways asserted by the late Kinglate king, and there is was no need to reject Western religion as long as one can could keep one's own nature and do did not lose fail to [maintain] the usualan original state of mind. He takes took this position based on the belief that machines and ways seek sought the same goals.

Despite this, however, these scholars did not exceed the boundary of the theory of Eastern ways and Western machines in their thinking. Shin Gi-seon created Daedong hakhoe Hakhoe (Korea Educational Association) in an attempt to put new studies into use on the basis of Confucian ways. In the first issue of the <u>Daedong hakhoebo</u> (Monthly monthly Bbulletin of the Korea Educational Association), published in 1908, Kim Yun-sik urged [whom?] people to seek economic enrichment improvement of life through practical utilization on based on the the principles of humanity benevolence, righteousness, morality and virtue and combine the two [which two things?] together. They made clearly defined their position on the theory of Eastern ways and Western machines with the concept of principle and its concrete phenomena. Ultimately, the logical limitations of the theory did not go away entirely. Heterodoxy rejection theorists like Yoo In-seok (1841-1915) retained a critical tone, about them remarking that "Some want to take Chinese ways as

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principle and Western law as its concrete phenomena, but this does not make sense. Principle and concrete phenomena. have one foundation. How can the two mix together to become one?"²²

Conclusion

Neo-Confucianism dominated the intellectual community of the Joseon Dynasty dynasty not only in the eighteenth century, but also for a significant part of the nineteenth century. Joseon intellectuals deeply believed in Neo-Confucianism. Of course, both -the conception of and the-approach to Neo-Confucianism changed somewhat showing a little difference from the then-existing current of Neo-Confucianism. Yet they did not reject Neo-Confucianism per se and thought that it had some use, especially the part of in terms of its constant seeking search for order, righteousness and principle (의리학이<u>지학나, 성명지학적 측면?</u>학 분야). They understood that the ultimate goals of human life, in order to be pursued unconditionally, must needed to be established, and with concrete policies must accompanying these goals in order to attain them. Therefore, the effort to overcome Neo-Confucianism in the eighteenth to the nineteenth century had a the scholarly character of eclecticism combining-that combined Neo-Confucianism and statecraft. The eclectic tendency of to complementing the a Neo-Confucian basis with statecraft expanded to include the study of literature and writing and bibliographical study [historical research] bibliographical study as it evolved. This eclectic mode created no big problems because the content of statecraft basically revolved around the elements of feudal reform basically. However, it revealed limitations as it was transformed into the theory of Eastern ways and Western machines, by as it incorporateding Western studies as a subject of combination.

This was because Western machines, the objects of new incorporation, were heterogeneous coming came from a heterogeneous historical tradition which was different from the East. According to the logic of ways and machines, if there were had been Western machines, there must surely would have been Western ways that went with them. SoThus, combining the combination of Western machines with Eastern ways ways was unnatural thought to be — unreasonable]. The limitations of the eclectic theory of Eastern ways and Western machines became concrete in such situations as introducing the parliamentary system. The parliamentary system, a Western machine, contradicted relations based on loyalty, an Eastern ways.

There were only two ways to resolve such problems: to-acknowledginge the changeability of Eastern ways, or to stopmaking the choice to not adopting Western machines. The first option was to transcend Neo-Confucian eclecticism, and the second was the, to return to conservative Neo-Confucianism, which they were critical of which they had been critical. In this sense, the theory of Eastern ways and Western machines was the highest and the last stage of Neo-Confucian eclecticism.

Foot notes

1) Jang Yoo, *Gyegok manpil* (Essays of Jang Yoo), <u>j</u>, <u>gwon</u>vol. 1.

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2) Jeong Yak-yong, Yeoyudang jeonjip (Full Collection of Yeoyudang's Works) Complete Works of Jeong Yak-yong), Set 1 jip Vol., gwon 11-, Ohaknon (five Five dD isciplines to Hearn:다섯 가지 학문에 대한 이론이라는 뜻입니다).

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- 3) Hong Dae-yong, *Damheonseo* (Works of Hong Dae-yong), *gwon*—Set 1 2, Vol. 2, Gyebang ilgi (Diary of the Crown Prince's Quarters), 18 February 18, 1774.
- 4) Nam Gong-cheol, *Yeongonggo* (Manuscripts of Nam Gong-cheol), *gwon* 2 Vol. 2, <u>Poongsokgi Pungsokgi</u> (On Customs).
- 5) Yi Beom-hak, 1989, "Formation and Development of Zhu Xi's Philosophy in the Song Dynasty," Gangjwa Joongguksa (Lectures on Chinese History). Vol 3, (Seoul: Jisik sanupsa, 1989), pp. 226-231. aneupsa: Seoul, pp. 226-231.
- 6) Hong Dae-yong, *Damheonseo* (Works of Hong Dae-yong), gwon 2Set 2 Vol. 1, Yeojo eumseo (Love phrases Phrases and like Like books Books).
- 7) Bak Ji-won, Yeonamjip (Works of Park Ji-won), gwon Vol 20, Dabjeonghyung Daiphyeong oron weondoseo (Five theories Theories on original Original daoDao: 임형오라는 라는 사람에게 본질적인 도에 대한 논의를 담아 보낸 편지 답글이라는 뜻입니다.).
- 8) Bak Jong-chae, Gwajeongrok (A Bibliography of Bak Ji-won), gwon Vol-4.
- 10) Hong Dae-yong, *Damheonseo* (Works of Hong Dae-yong), *gwon* Set 2 Vol. 7, Oh-paeng mundap (Dialogue between Oh and Paeng : 홍대용이 오씨와 팽씨와 나는 이야기??).
- 11) Hong Seok-joo, Hakgangsanpil (Essays of Hong Seok-joo), gwon Vol. 1.
- 12) Ha Baek-won, *Gyunam munjip* (Selected Works of Ha Baek-won), *gwon*—Vol. 3, Dapisa Gang Woo-jeong (Answers to Gang Woo-jeong), (-1843).
- 13) Bak Gyu-soosu, Jangam mun-go (Selected Works of Jangam??: 문고는 그냥 글이라는 뜻이고 장암은 호이니 그냥 박규수의 문집이라고 하면 될 듯합니다.), gwon Vol. 7, Yeohongil Yeohunng il neungryang hooseohuseo (일능은 호이고 이름은 양후 그러니까 일능 호양후라는 사람에게 보낸 글이라는 뜻여흥일능양후서 영문풀이).
- 14) Yi Gyu-gyeong, Oju-yeon_mun-jang_jeon-san-go (Yi Gyu-gyeong's Encyclopedia), gwon ___ Vol _ 41, ___ Chunso _ sipilwon ___ byeonjeungseol(춘소라는 사람이 쓴 십일원이라는 글에 대해 자신의 생각을 적은 글) and gwon 14, Chuncho sipilwon byunjungseol ___ and ___ Vol ___ 14, __ Seupyuk ___ yugyeongk ___ youngjae byunjungseolbyeonjeungseol.(육예를 익혀 영재를 길러내는 방법에 대한 생각을 적은 글)

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15) Choe Han-gi, *Injeong* (Governance of People), *gwon* Vol. 16, (선인문 3 은 삭제했습니다.) Cheonin<u>mungan</u> sam("Wootanseongeo Wutanseon-geo.:사람들이 걱정하고 한탄하는 선거제도"

16) Choe Han-gi, *Chuchgukrok* (Inference), *gwon* <u>Vol</u> 6, Jeong<u>son won</u>ikhak y<u>eonoung</u>hyeok.: 정치의 손익과 학문의 연혁

- 17) The concept of <u>'ways "ways</u> and <u>machines' machines"</u> is mentioned in the <u>Book of Change</u>, section of Gyesa, <u>Book of Change</u>, which says that "what is metaphysical is called a way and what is physical is called a machine."
- 18) Nam Byeong-cheol, *Gyujae Seonsaeng seonsaeng munjipgo* (Selected Works of Nam Byeong-cheol), *gwon* Vol. 5, Seo-chu_bo-sok_hae-hoou. :추보속해라는 책의 뒤에 쓴 후기
- 19) An Jong-su, <u>"Sigang-won munhak dongyang sin-gi seonseo,"</u> Nongjeong shinpyeon (New Methods of Farming), Sigangwon munhak dongyang shingiseon seo, (1881).
- 20) Seungjeongwon ilgi (Diaries of the Royal Secretariat), 7 October 1882 (19th year of King Gojong).
- 21) Yoo In-seok, Woojoo-Wuju mundap (Dialogue on the Universe).

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