

Recently, a movie called “Attorney” was released, illustrating the earlier years of the deceased president, Roh Moo-hyun. This movie took place during the Chun Du-hwan presidency in the 1980s and clearly portrayed the torture and corruption of that decade, as well as the just society that many attorneys, such as Roh, sought. Roh was the helpless attorney of university students who were accused of spreading Communist ideals and thereby tortured by government officials and policemen. The attorney in the movie eventually lost the trial and these innocent university students were sentenced to at least two years in jail. These scenes of Roh’s character fighting for justice in the biased court really sparked my interest in Korean history and the ages of dictatorship that came prior to my time. Though Korea today is constantly growing and very advanced I was curious to know about what Korea had been like only approximately 30 years in the past. At first, I researched possible topics pertaining to this decade but later topics having to do with Korea during the Japanese occupation more intriguing. I talked to family members, especially my grandparents, since they experienced Korea during its lows, and asked them to tell me more about certain events and figures in history. The valor and patriotism of Ahn Jeong-geun interested me because it was the first time I had encountered his name and learned about his feats. I decided to go with the topic about Ahn Jeong-geun.

In the beginning, it was difficult to find primary source documents and some essential pieces of information because much of the information about him is kept secret by the Japanese government. However, after buying a book, “Seeing Ahn Jeong-geun”, that puts a documentary into text, I had easier access to all the primary source documents.

The book provided me with many useful pictures, especially those of Ahn in prison. The lack of video and audio primary sources was also frustrating because I wanted to include a various pool of primary sources for viewers to refer to. At the same time, having to translate all the primary sources I found necessary was difficult because even though I was literally translating the Korean text, the actual and figurative meaning of the actual quote or document was not preserved. Despite such challenges, while doing my project, I realized that many of Ahn's quotes were well-documented and very insightful. To add more meaning to my entire website, I chose some of these quotes and used them constantly throughout every website page. Putting my website together was not difficult because I had created an outline of what documents and information I would include on each page. All I had to do was lay all the information and documents logically on each page so that all was easy to see. Though adhering to the 1,200 word limit and therefore having to be concise with all my explanations was slightly frustrating and difficult, in the end I finished with an appropriate word count.

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