



Ferry Sewol, records from that day

Written by Truth Foundation Ferry Sewol Record Team

10.MAR.2016

April 16th, 2014, 8:49 AM. That was when the Ferry Sewol, carrying 476 passengers, began to tilt sharply to the right. This book shows what happened during the 101 minutes until 10:30 when the Ferry Sewol sank completely. It heartbreakingly restates what students had done in the emergency situation who followed the instruction to “stay still” to be helplessly trapped in confine spaces. The book vividly illustrates the moment when the Ferry Sewol sank: the Coast Guard kept itself at a distance while fishermen and ordinary passengers struggled to save one more person risking their own lives on the contrast. It lays bare how the Blue House called up for some videos that they could use report to the VIP at such an urgent situation. ‘Truth Foundation Ferry Sewol Record Team’ had analyzed over approximately 150,000 document papers and 3 terabytes of data for 10 months. They answer to commonsensical questions that citizens had asked: why couldn’t we save them, why did it sink, and how did the most dangerous ship in Korea got made. Facts and truths tell that we “could have saved” them. Nominated as the “Book of the Year 2016” by Aladin, Yes24, <The Hankyoreh>, < Kyunghyang Shinmun>, <Sisa IN>.



Walking the Andes

4.DEC.2017

1. About the book

Andean travel exploration of Lawyer Cho Yong Whan. As a lawyer who endeavored to introduce international human rights norms into domestic legal theories and practices, he finds the rocky history of five Andean countries – Colombia, Peru, Bolivia, Chile and Argentina - around the beauty of the Andes from the perspectives of 'human rights.' Just like the saying goes, "the end of all our exploring, will be to arrive we start," at every moment of travel, he goes further from looking back on himself and continuously tries to cross-read with the Korean Peninsula across the Pacific Ocean. <Walking the Andes> is a humanistic essay dedicated to the nature and the history of the Andes. It provides a unique insight on human rights and contemporary history of Korea and Latin America.

2. About the author

Lawyer at the Law Firm Kyong and one of the founding Director of the Truth Foundation. Throughout more than 30 years' practice, he has been a pioneer in the field of international human rights. Particularly, he has defended victims of past human rights violations such as massacre, torture and other state crimes. He helped them to restore the humanity from the position of 'homo sacer'. He laid the legal framework of the National Human Rights Commission and led the process to establish it. He has been successful in persuading the Constitutional Court to declare several laws and practices restricting human rights unconstitutional.

He translated 《States in Disarray, UNRISD》, 《Police interrogation and American Justice, Harvard Univ Press》 into Korean, and published many treatises and essays on various legal issues and human rights. 'Critical Review on the Domestic Effect of International Human Rights Conventions in Korea', 'Victims of History and Law' and 'Critical Review on the Application of the Statute of Limitations by the Korean Supreme Court' are among them.



19 years in prison

3.APR.2018

1. About the book

Records in prison going through the midst of dynamic Korea history from 1971 to 1990.

During the 70s and 80s, survivors had passed the time of death under the brutal violence committed by dictatorships in the name of the state. While individuals' lives were horribly broken and torn apart in the state of national division, a man has kept his hopes and beliefs about people even though his youth and life were trampled by state violence. This book is a record of the history of the national division that he has experienced himself, and of the dignity of human beings who are undaunted by violence and death.

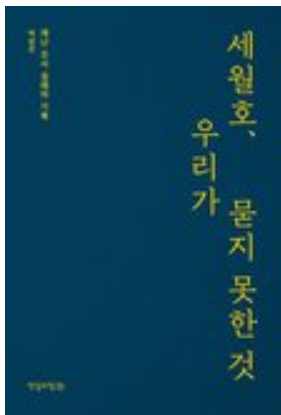
2. About the author

Suh Sung was born in Kyoto, Japan, in 1945 and graduated Tokyo University of Education. When studying in Seoul National University graduate school, he was arrested by an security officers of the Ministry of National Defense in April 1971. While being tortured, he tired to burn himself and suffered serious burns on the body. He was prosecuted with his brother Junsik for being involved in 'Spying of Korean-Japanese Students' and was sentenced to the death penalty in the first trial and life imprisonment in the second trial. He had been in prison for 19 years until February 1990. He was a professor in the Law Department at Ritsumeikan University from 1998 to 2011.

While he is in prison, he defied forced ideology conversion by authorities. After being released, he worked as a anti-torture movement activist. He led the international symposium 'The Cold War and State Terrorism in East Asia' from 1995. He is leading East

Asian collective action against Yasukuni Shrine and 'East Asia peace tour' with those who suffered from the history of Okinawa, Taiwan, and Manchuria

He has been a chair-professor at Woosuk University since 2018 and is the Head of WooSuk University East Asia Peace Institute. His books include 『 Suh Sung's East Asia Peace tour – Korea, Taiwan, Okinawa』 and 『 Storms in East Asia-Suh Sung's historical humanitarian tour』.



Ferry Sewol, what we should have to ask - Records of the failure of disaster investigation

5.JUL.2022

1. About the book

Why did the disaster investigation of the Ferry Sewol fail? How can the society be responsible for the disaster? This book aims to answer to these questions.

In 2014, through a petition from over 6 million people, the Special Act on Investigating the Truth of the April 16 Sewol Ferry Disaster and Building a Safe Society was enacted. The investigation of the disaster was carried out under the newly established Special Inquest on 4/16 Sewol Ferry Disaster (hereinafter 'the Special Inquest'), the Sewol Ferry Hull Investigation (hereinafter 'the Hull Investigation'), and the Commission on Humidifier Disinfectant Case and April 16 Sewol Ferry Disaster (hereinafter 'the Commission'). However, the results were disappointing. The Special Inquest was disbanded, and the Hull Investigation and the Commission did not clarify the cause of sinking.

The author, who was part of all three, defines the disaster investigation of the Ferry Sewol as a 'failure' and suggests a new way of finding out the cause and the truth. According to the book, the most important reason for the failure of the investigation lies in the imbalance of judicial investigation and structural investigation. The government was irresponsible at the beginning of the disaster, and the punishment of high-ranking officials was not accomplished. This led to the aspiration for judicial investigation and further encouraged the Special Inquest, the Hull Investigation, and the Commission to concentrate on judicial investigation. Hence, structural investigation slowly dimmed out. This was why the Hull Investigation announced that the cause of the sinking can be explained by both endogenous and external approaches, which can never be compatible theoretically.

Then does the investigation of the Ferry Sewol disaster just end as a failure? The author suggests completely changing the direction of the question. If we ask, 'why did this happen?' instead of 'who was to blame?', we can see the disaster on a broader horizon. This is not just a problem on a single day of April 16, 2014; how people have accumulated trivial mistakes and carelessness led to the disaster. This realization would take us a step closer to the truth of the Ferry Sewol.

2. About the author

Park worked as an investigator in the Special Inquest on 4/16 Sewol Ferry Disaster, and was the writer of comprehensive reports in the Sewol Ferry Hull Investigation and the Commission on Humidifier Disinfectant Case and April 16 Sewol Ferry Disaster. After the Ferry Sewol disaster, she published a book < How does mass-scale disaster repeat itself?>, which provides a case study of mass-scale disasters from a historical context, and a thesis 'Sewol Ferry investigations, state violence, and political history in South Korea.'



From History To Memory – Recalling silenced voices

15.OCT.2022

1. About the book

Why does Japan not apologize to the “comfort women”?

Why do Chun Doo hwan and his group avoid taking charge of the Gwangju Massacre

Why is there still some group of people who avoid Holocaust?

The very essence of ‘historical negationism’, which denies the occurrence of historical events, lies in expunging memories. With perpetrators having the power to monopolize historical records and narratives, the experience, voice, and memory of powerless victims have been excluded. Historical negationists from different countries have united across the border leading to an extreme rightist global trend.

<From History To Memory-Recalling silenced voices> suggests to view history from the perspective of those who have been silenced, not from the perspective of winner’s history and state’s record. It expands the ‘memory-war’ to Korean history, world history, contemporary events, women and so on and attempts to revive the voices of those who have been excluded in the mainstream history so far. This book takes the first step for new People’s History and solidarity of transnational memories.

2. About the author

- **Project director: Sogang University CGSI(Critical Global Studies Institute)**

Critical Global Studies is the political, academic, and ethical orientation in dealing with global inequalities. It rejects the imperial humanities that erases the differences among human lives and the diversity of human experience in the name of “universality,” as well

as the humanities of the nation that essentializes them in the name of "particularity." The vision of humanities must transcend the artificial boundary formations regarding humans such as nation, class, gender, race, culture, civilization, and religion, and ultimately be open to "humankind."

Author: Lim Ji Hyun Et al.

31 scholars from different generations and fields including historical studies (Korean history, Western history, Oriental history), history education, literature, law and other came across and participated in writing the book.