

People's Movements in Korea



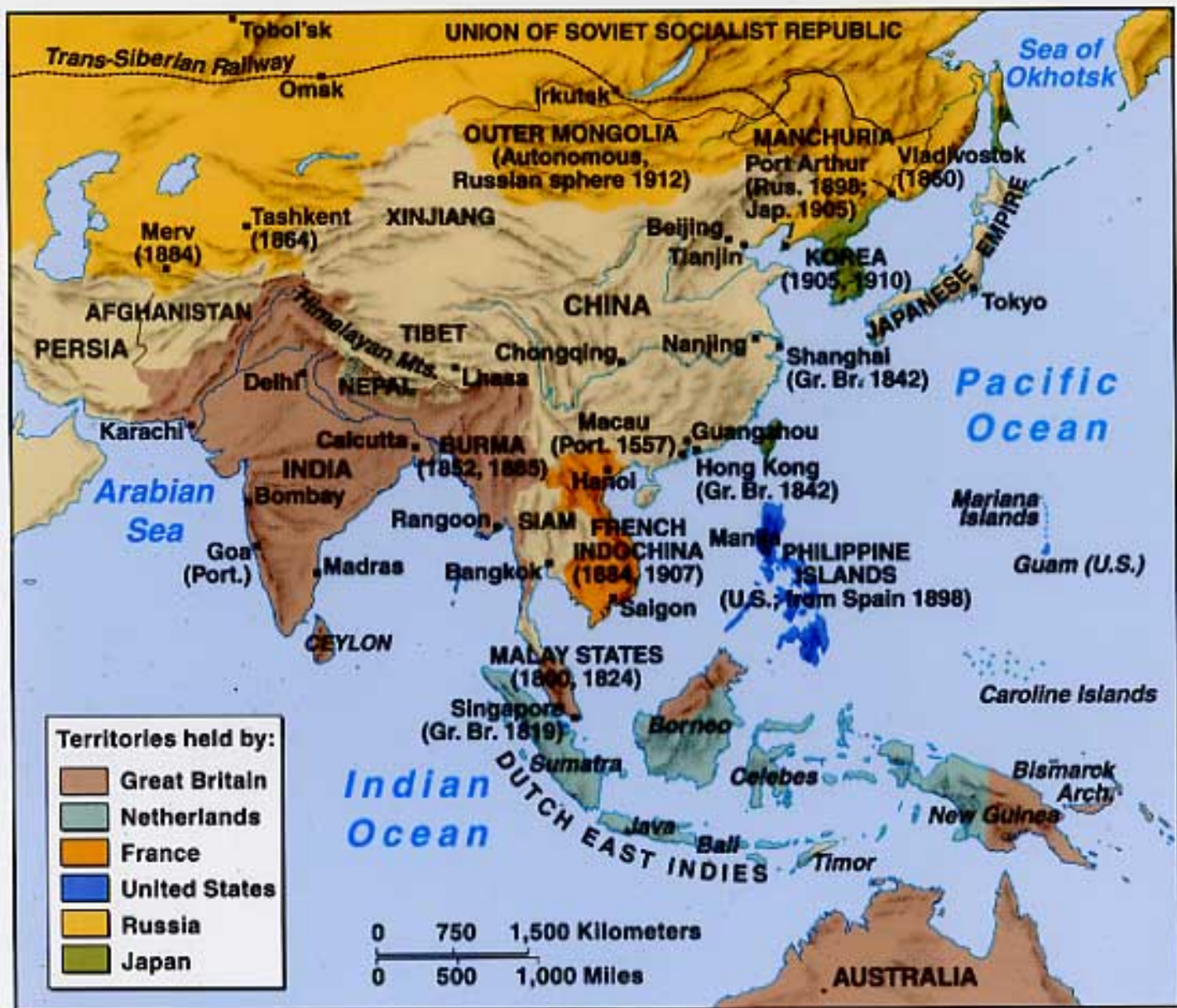
Hong Sung Dam
New "Paradise in Dream" (New Mongudowondo), 2002
oil on canvas, 290 x 900 cm
Image Courtesy of Queens Museum of Art

George Katsiaficas

A Brief History of South Korean Uprisings

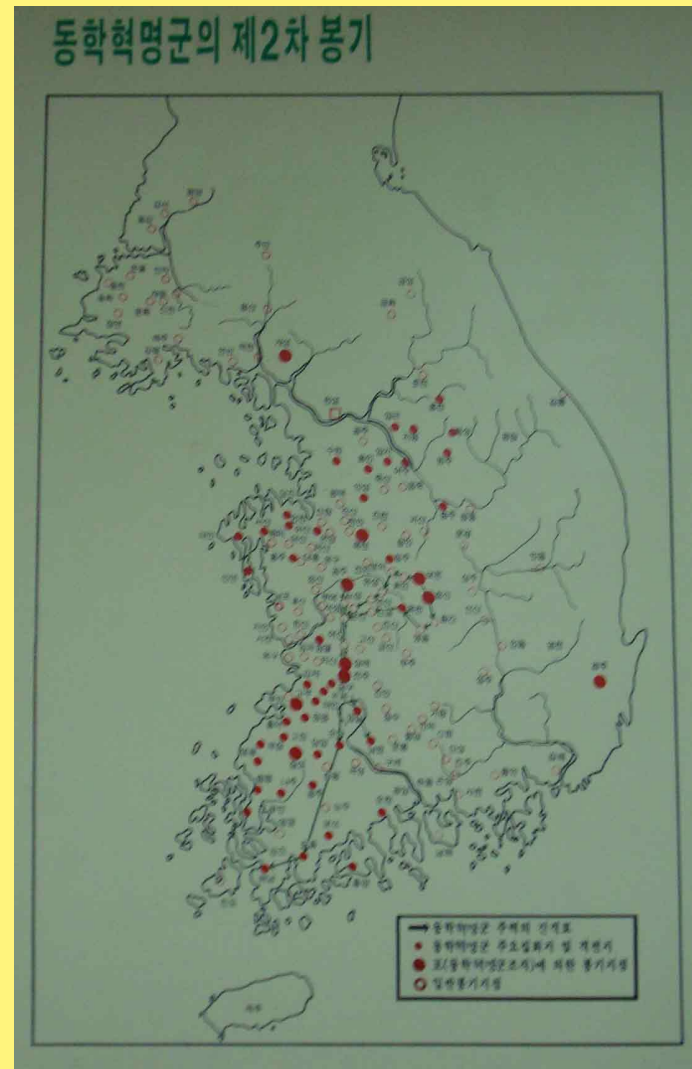
- 1894 Tonghak Uprising
- March 1, 1919
- Jeju April 3, 1948
- April 19, 1960
- Gwangju May 18, 1980
- June 1987
- Labor Movement
- Candlelight Protests 2008





East Asian Colonial Territories, 1840–1940

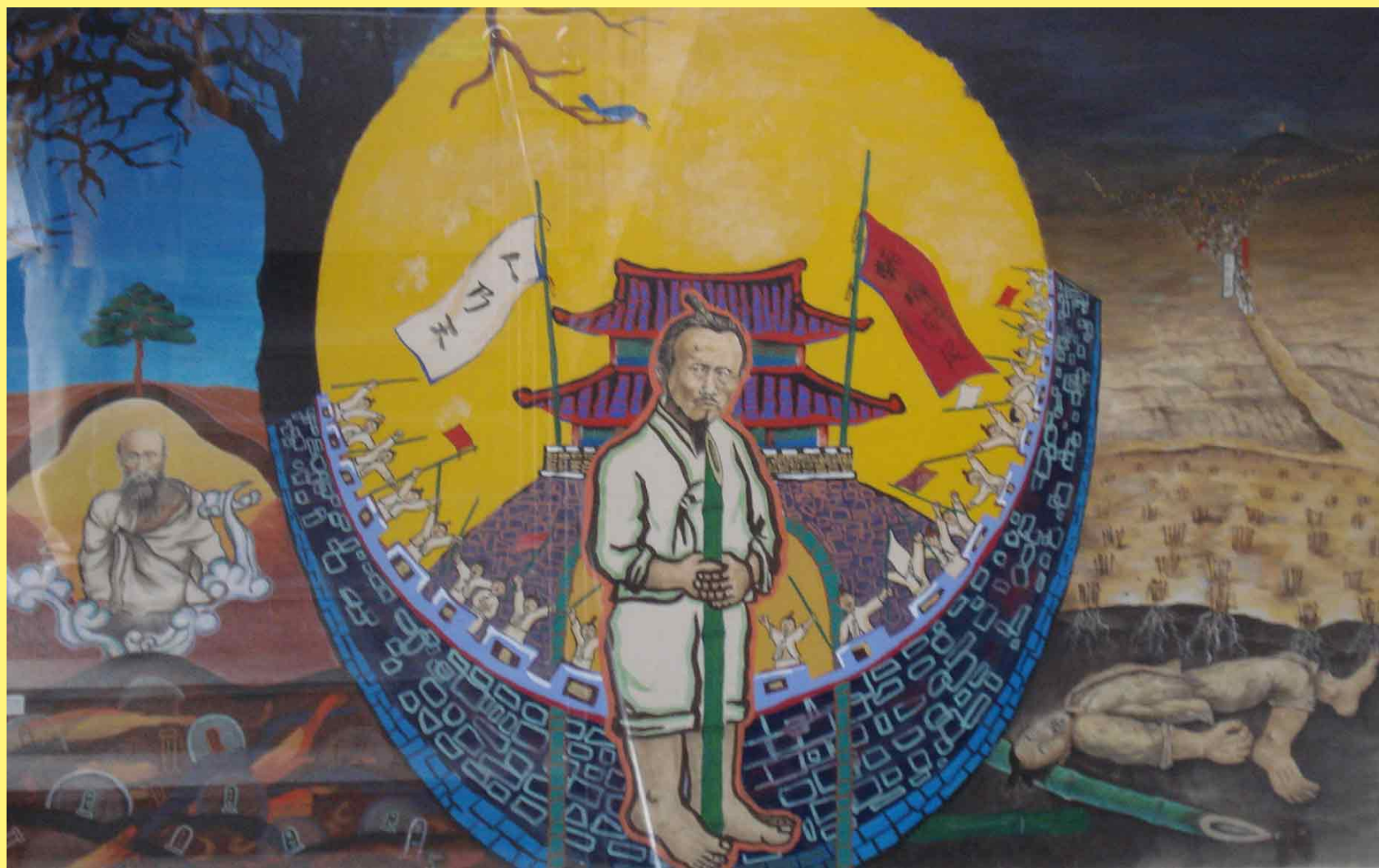
Tonghak 1894



Chun Bong-jun









Japanese troops land



Japan's Imperial Army



Choe Si Hyong arrested



Chun Bong-jun arrested



March 1, 1919



March 1, 1919



March 1, 1919





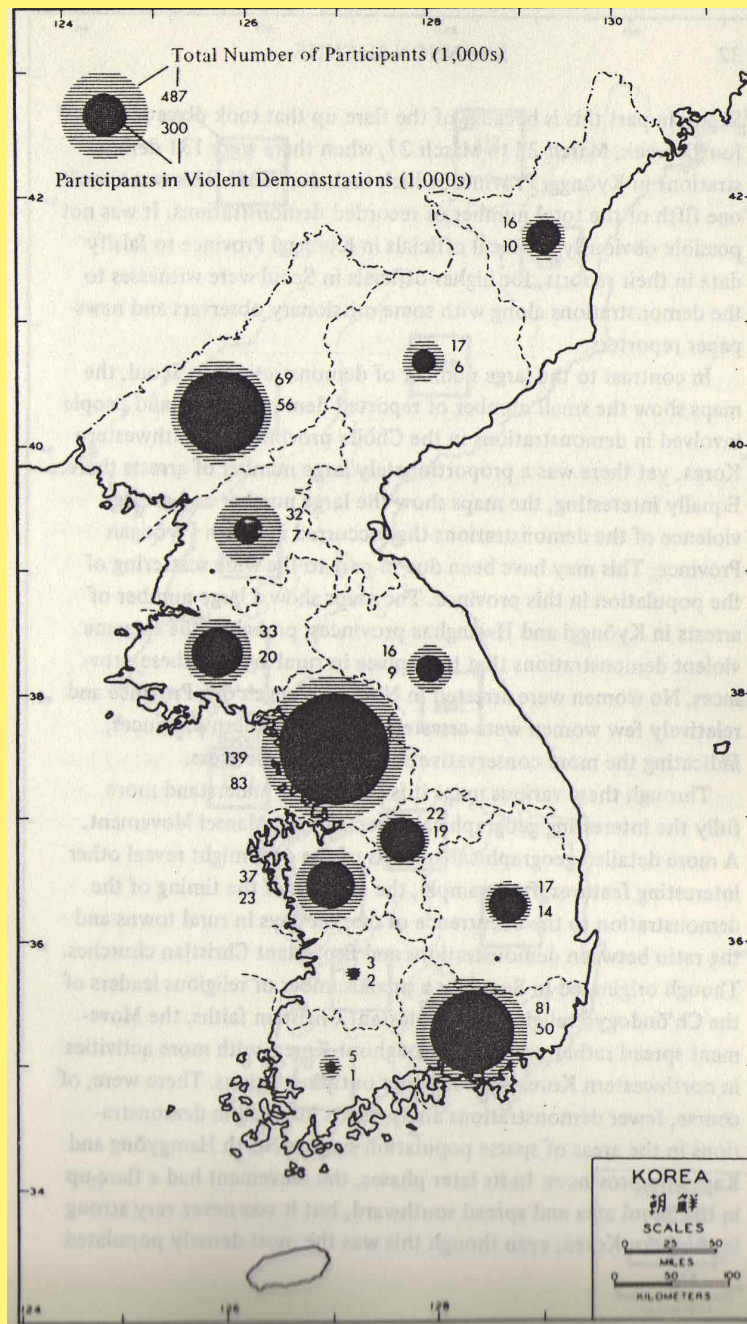
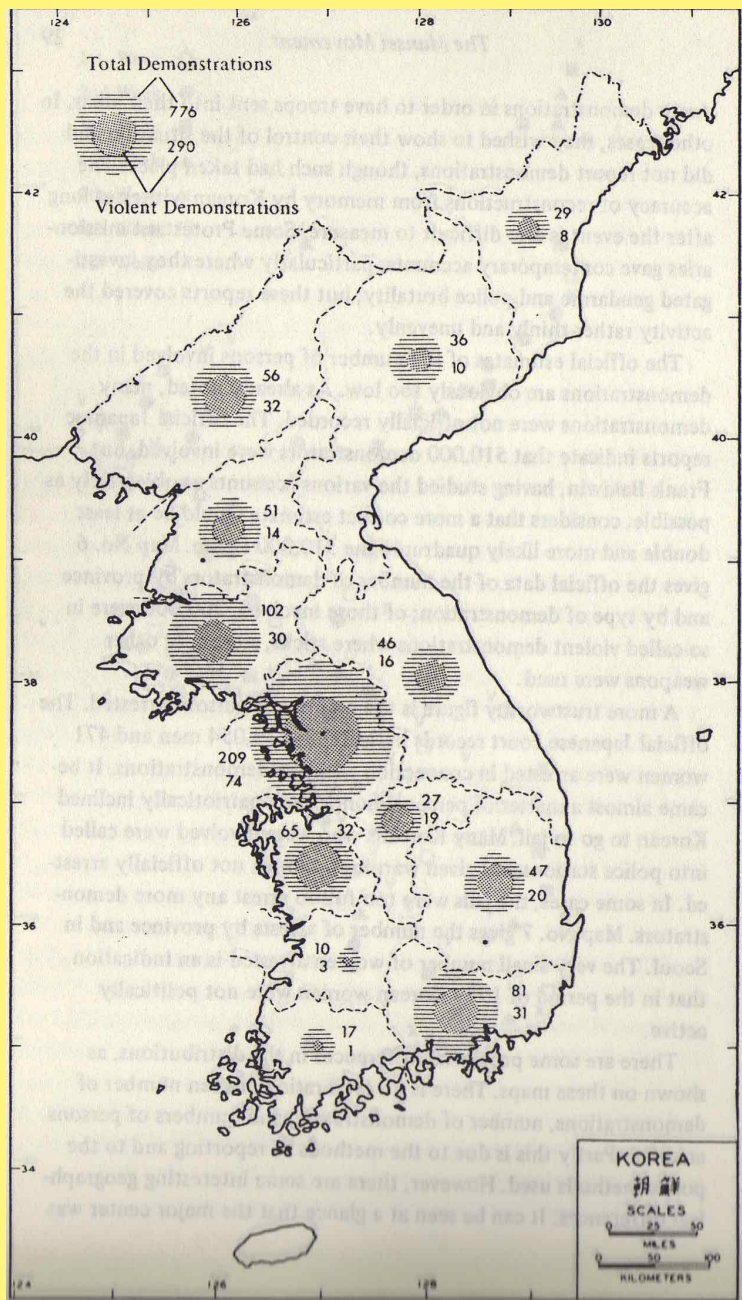
Pagoda Park 1919

The 3.1 movement originated at Seoul's Tapgol Park, formerly called Pagoda Park and now regarded as an oasis for senior citizens. Just beyond the gate, a huge stone monument engraved with the Proclamation of Korean Independence stands to the right. At the end of the proclamation appear the names of 33 people with the title "representatives of the people." In reality, however, it was a student who actually read the proclamation before citizens who gathered at the park.



Signers





Arrests



Mass Executions



Yu Kwan-sun

1902-1920

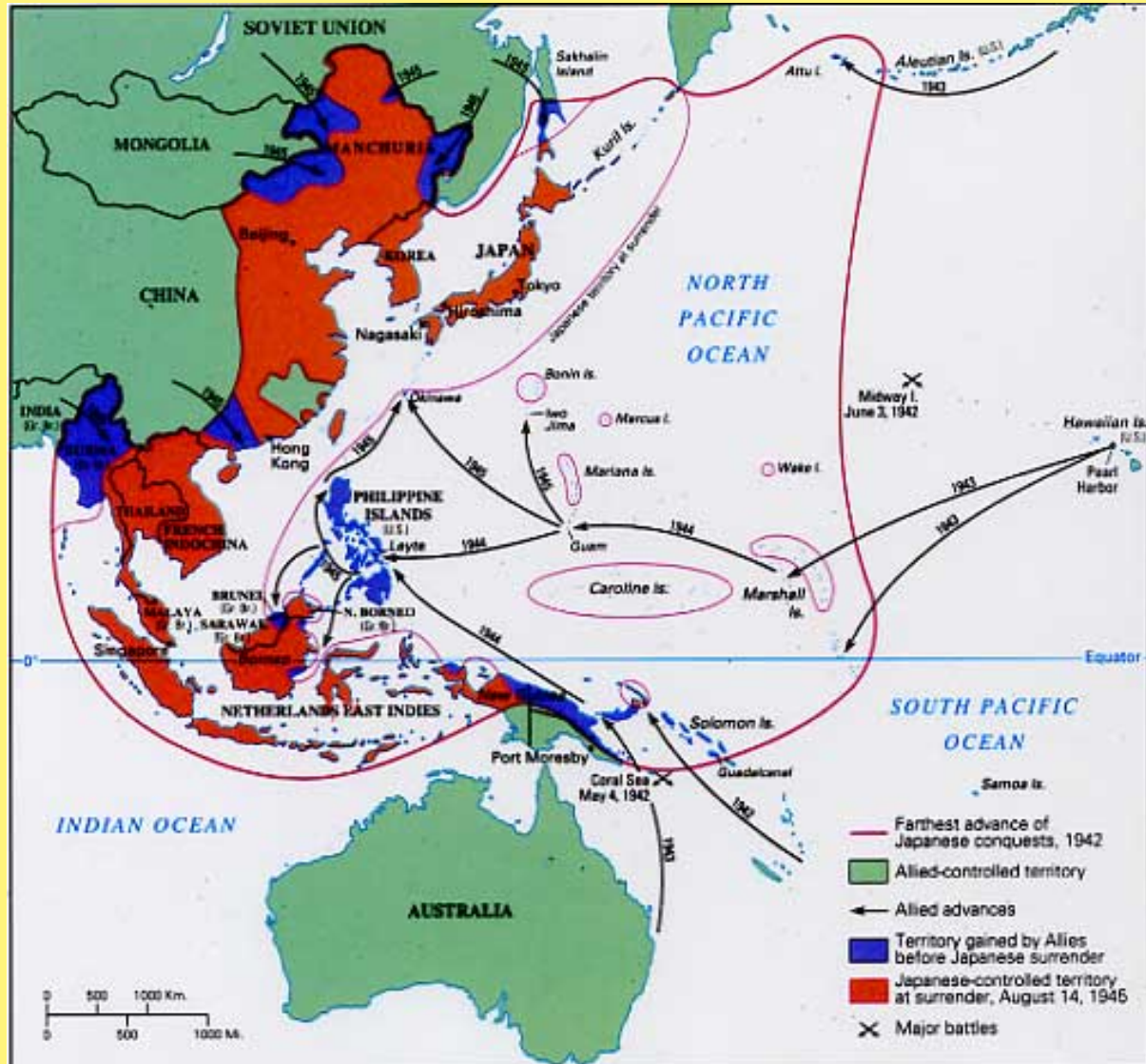


Gwangju Student Movement 1929





World War 2



Japan's Surrender in China

September 9, 1945



Vietnam and Korea divided

The victorious allies divided the spoils of victory. Japan's surrender was accepted by:

- The Chinese in northern Vietnam
- The British in southern Vietnam
- The Russians in northern Korea
- The USA in southern Korea

Seoul 1945: People's Committees



4.3.1948

Jeju Uprising and Massacre



Yeosun: October 1948



Taejon 1950

1800+ prisoners executed under US orders

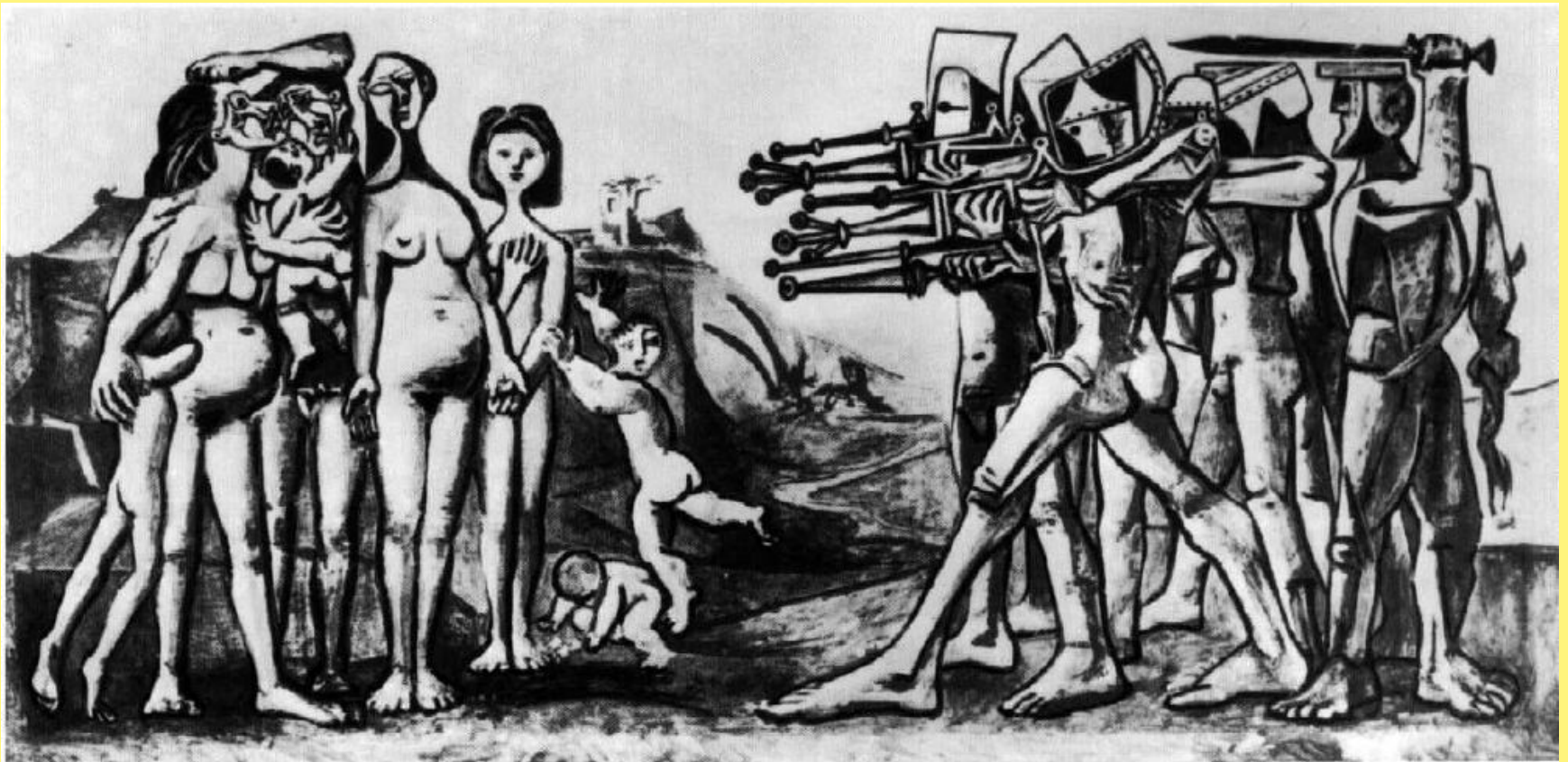




- I saw an original photo in which US soldiers were supervising the executions.
- This photo has been cropped.

Pablo Picasso

“Massacre in Korea” 1951



Korean War

1950-1953

Five million people killed

April 19, 1960



Students led protests to oust corrupt Dictator Syngman Rhee, whose police killed hundreds of youth before Rhee fled the country.

Seoul National University





Demonstration by professors
on April 25, during the Stu-
dent Revolution of April 1960,
under a banner proclaiming
their determination that the
blood shed by protesting stu-
dents a few days earlier must
not have been in vain.





Military Coup

Park Chung-hee 1961-1979



Gwangju: May 18, 1980

Students Broke
Through Police
Lines at Chonnam
National University
and Sparked the
May 18 Uprising



May 21





Although people in Gwangju heroically resisted, they were overwhelmed by the South Korean military with US support.

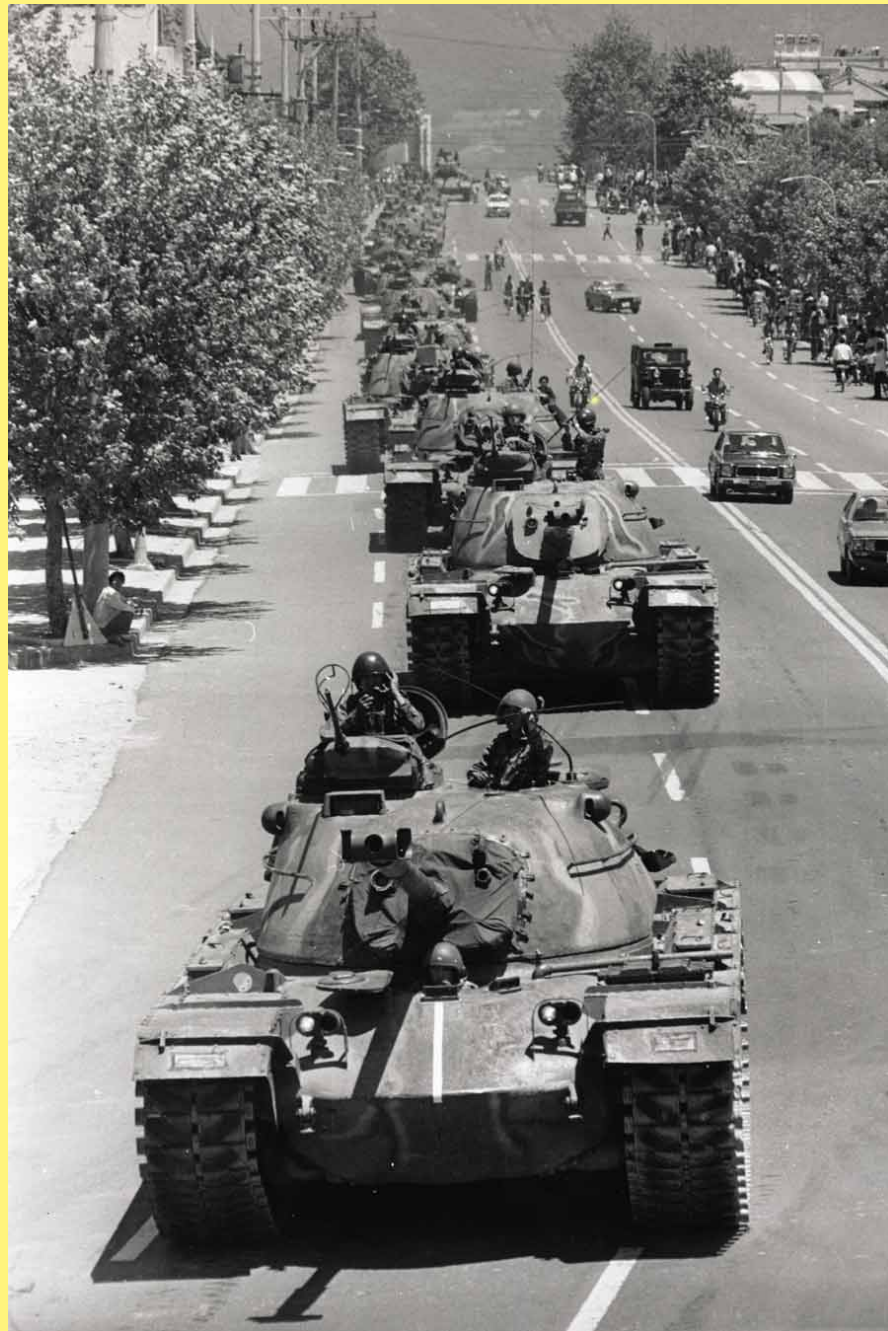


The Beautiful Community



The Union World 1

Woodblock by Hong Sung-dam



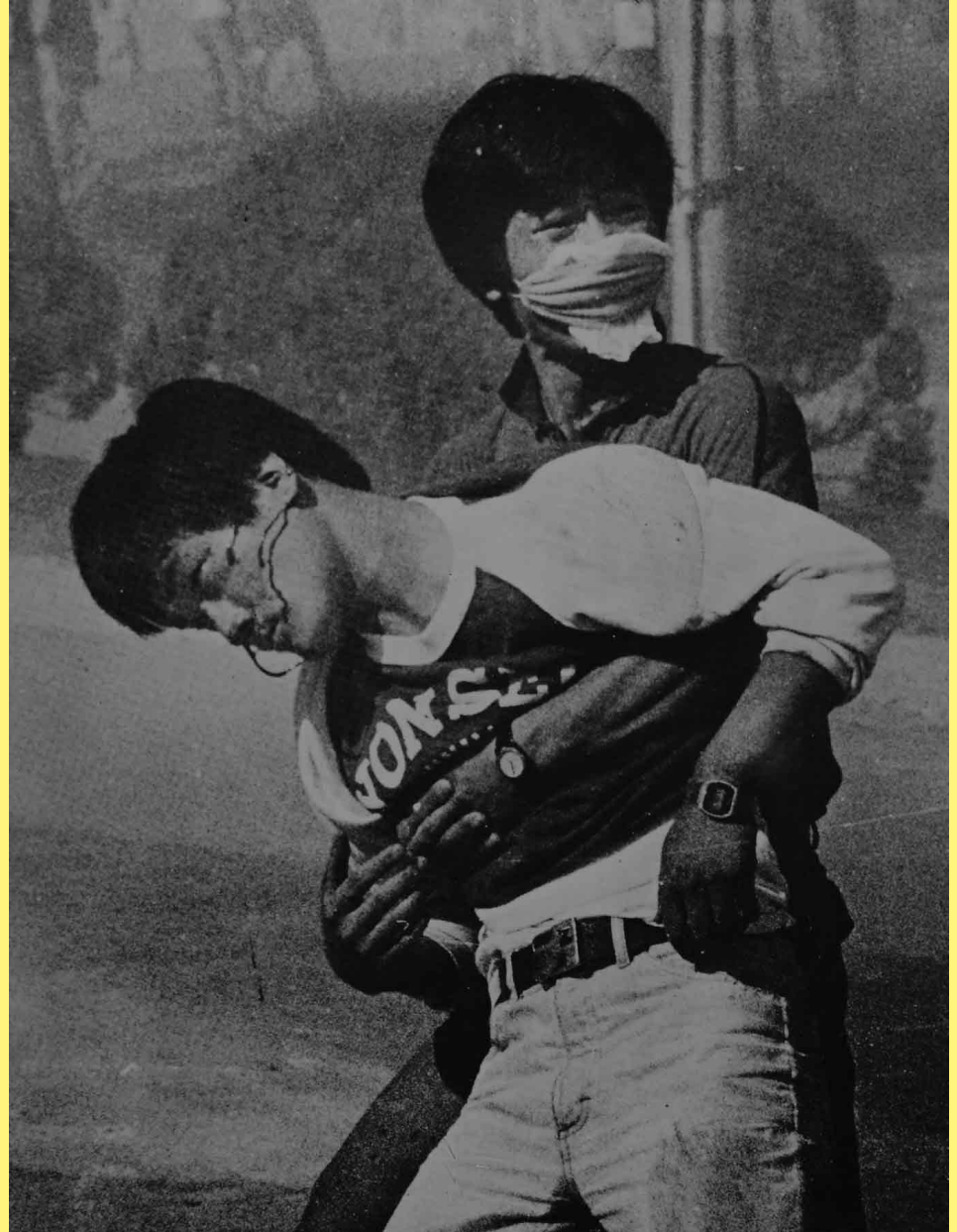
Chun Doo Hwan Dictatorship 1979-1987

The Great June Uprising June 10-29, 1987

Nineteen consecutive days of illegal demonstrations involving more than one million people

June 1987

Student Lee Han-yol
Fatally Wounded
by Tear Gas



From June to September 1987, a nationwide uprising in which “Remember Gwangju!” was one of the most important slogans won democratic reforms and created unions.

June 10-19, 1987:

Nineteen consecutive days of illegal demonstrations involved millions of people

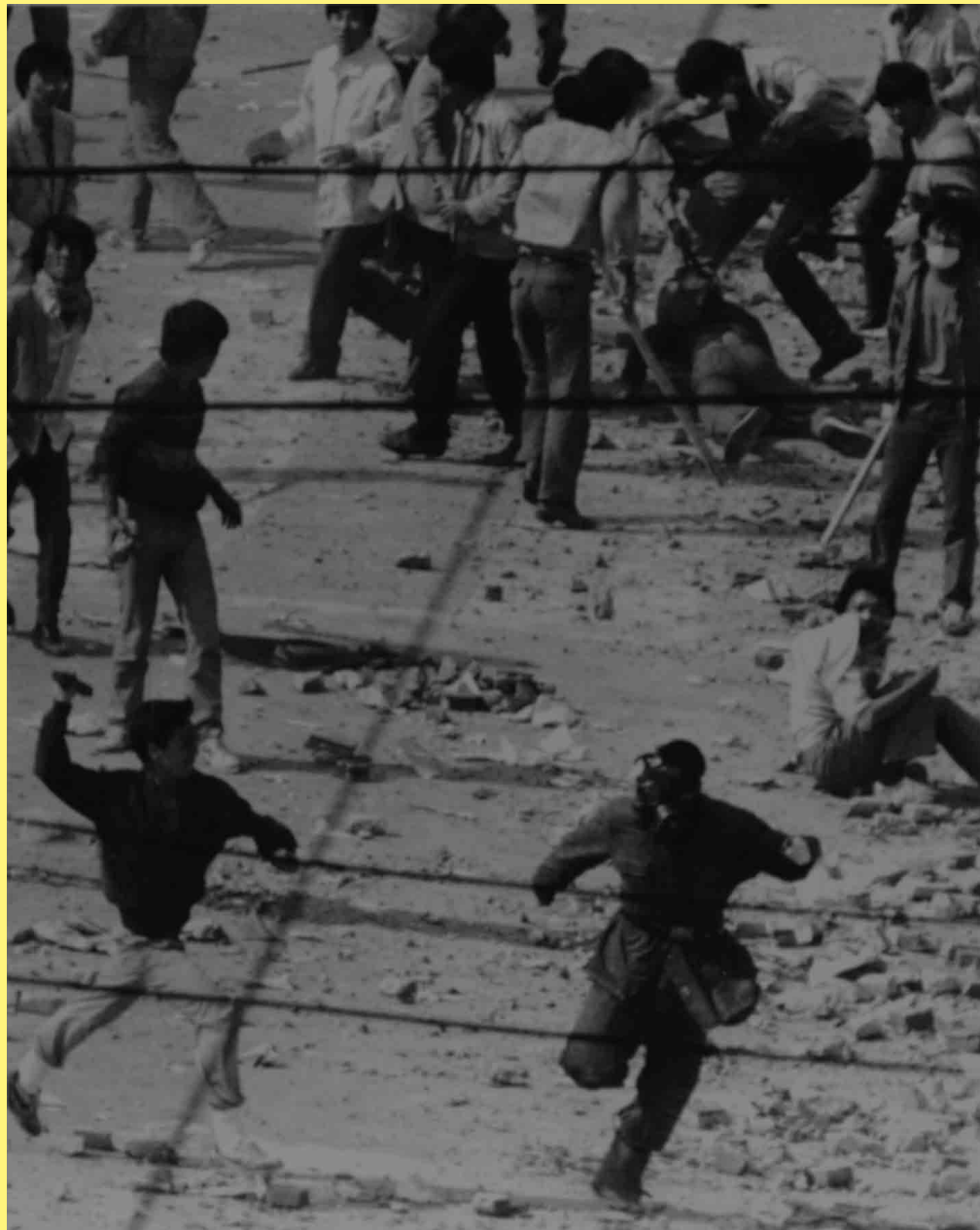
July-September 1987:

Largest strikes in South Korean history



Students Led the June Uprising





June 1987



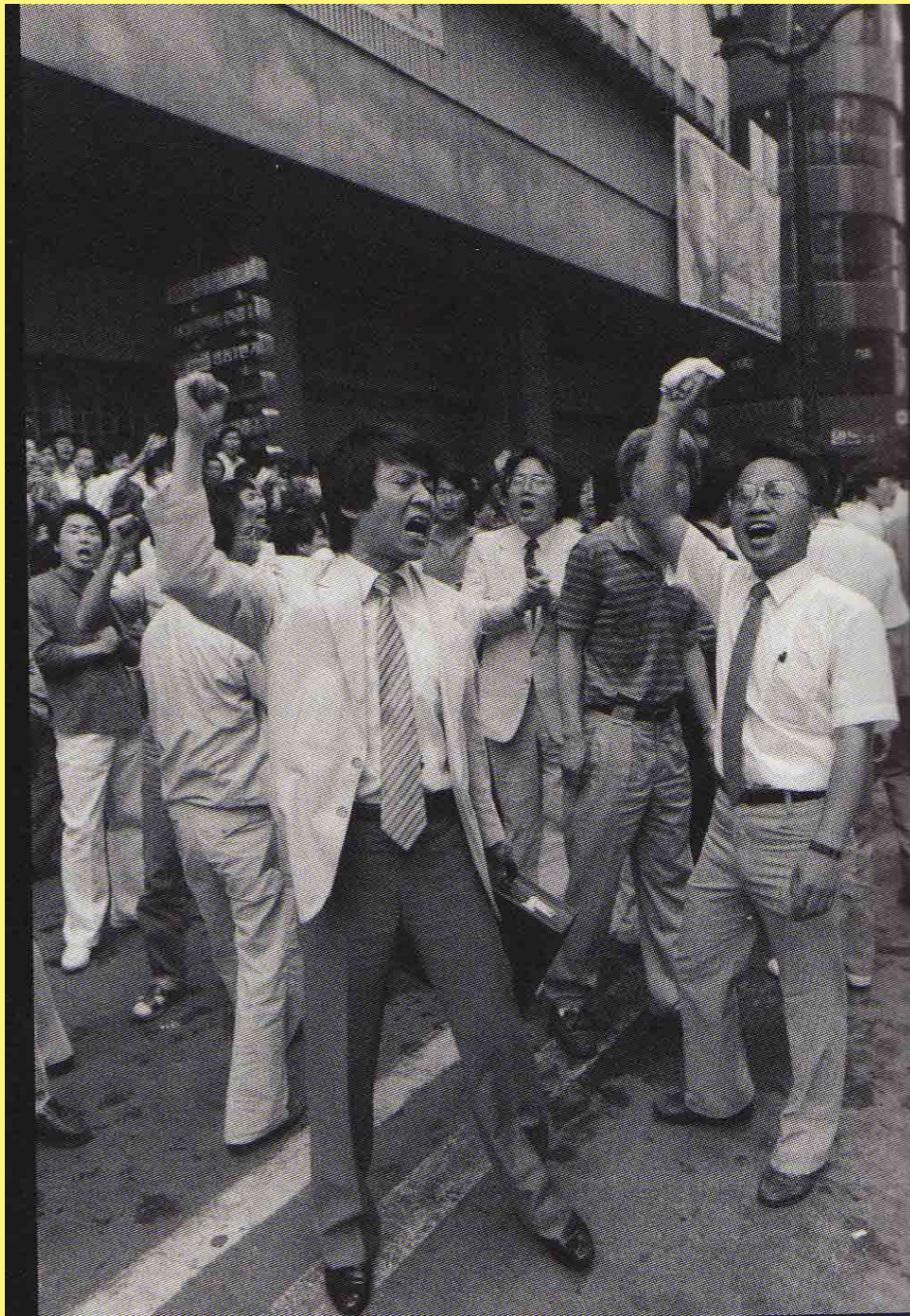




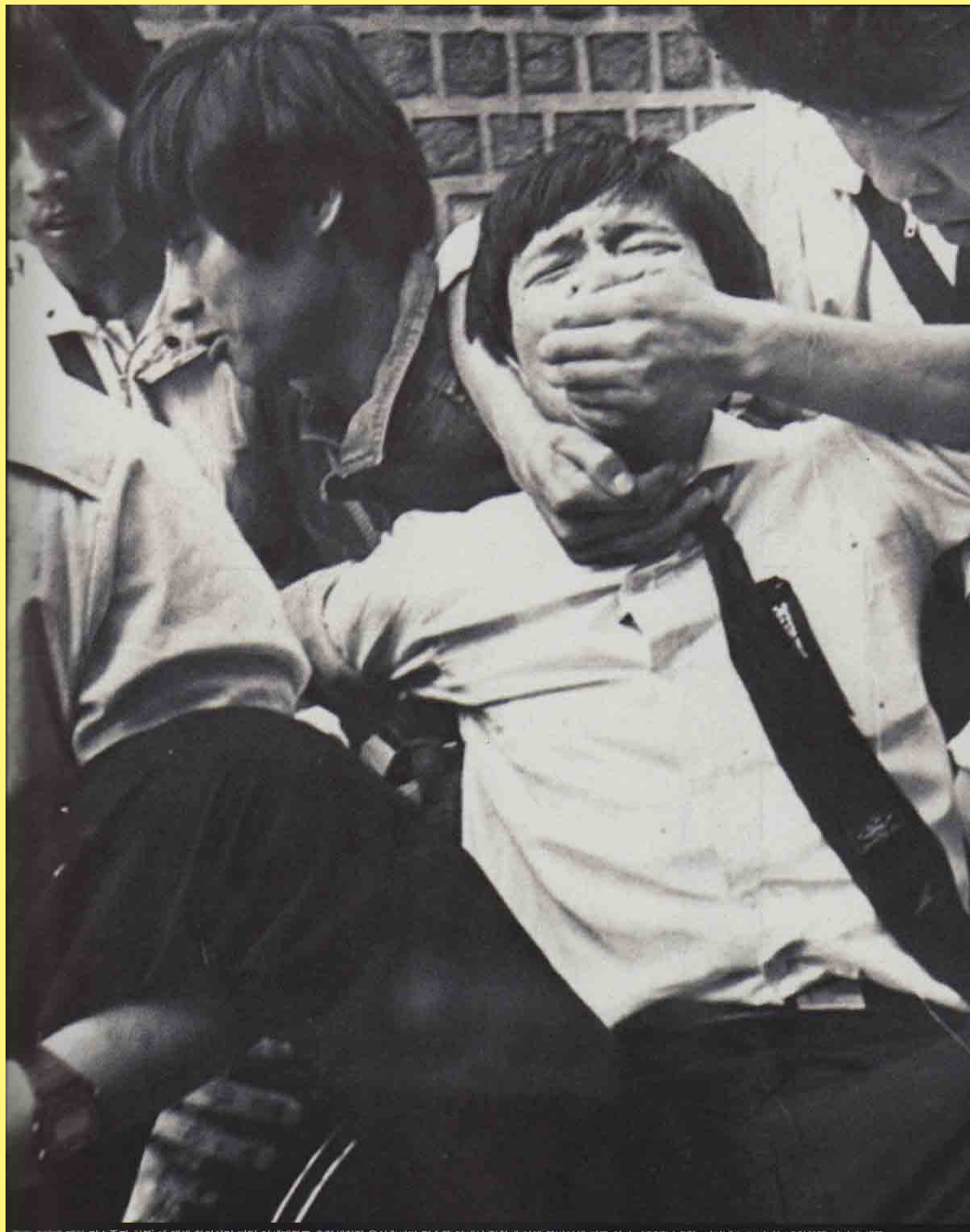








Necktie Brigade





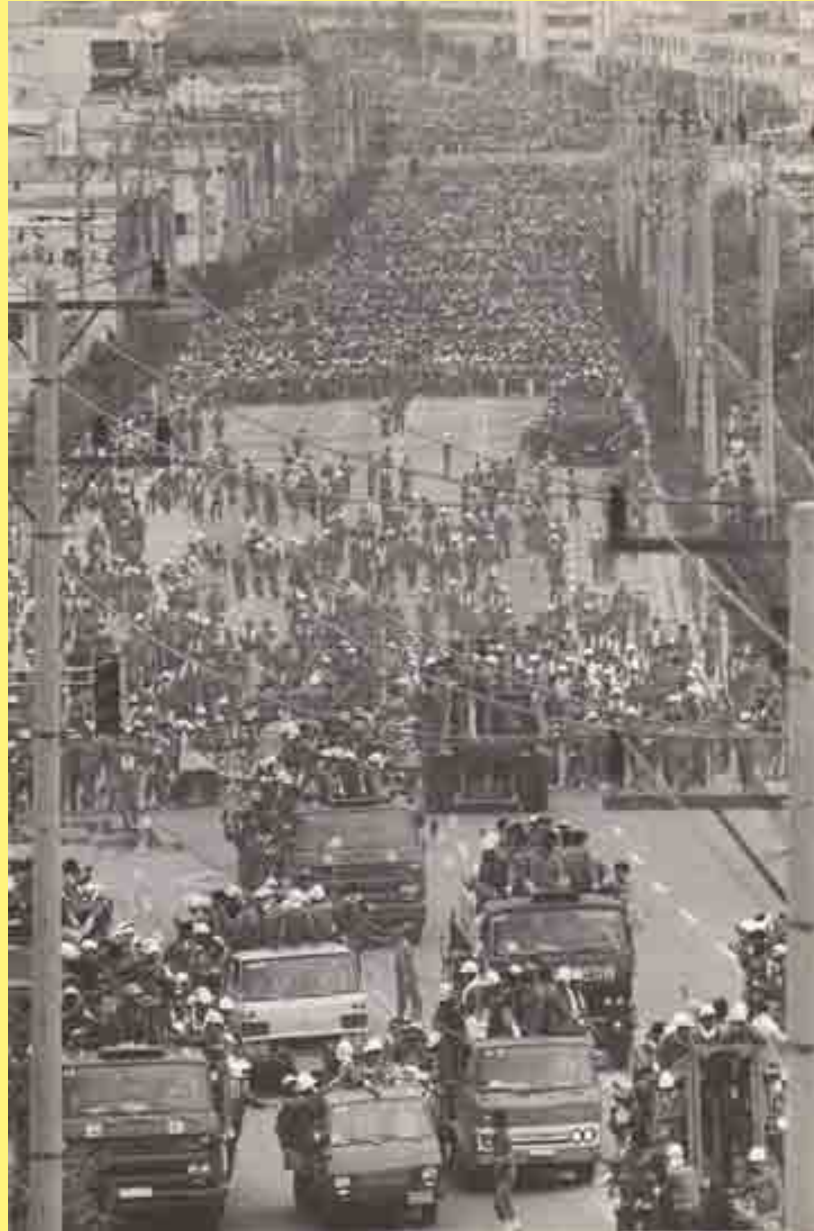
More than 1 million people attended
Lee Han-yol's funeral in Seoul July 5, 1987



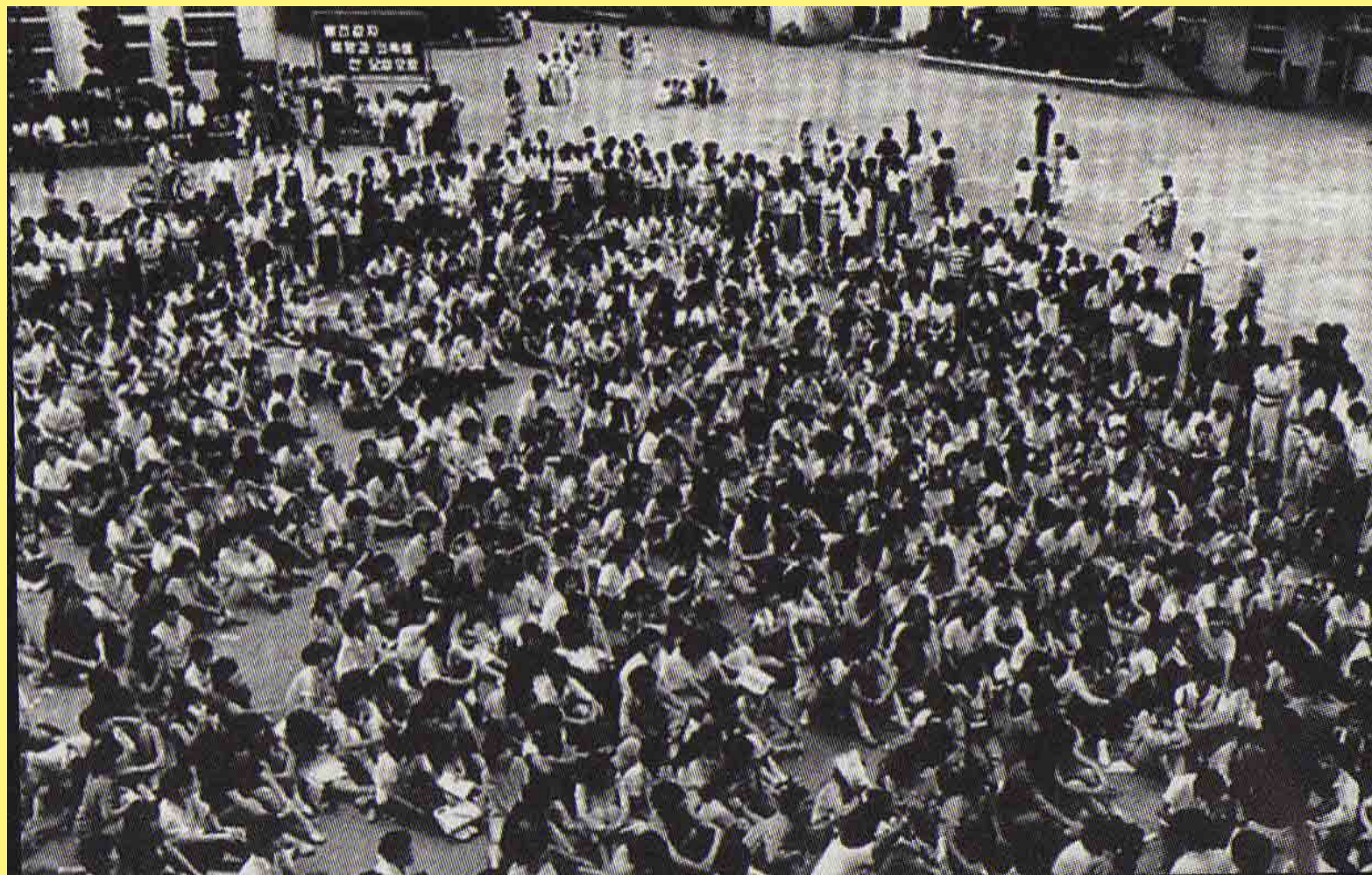
He was buried in old Mangwoldong Cemetery in Gwangju.



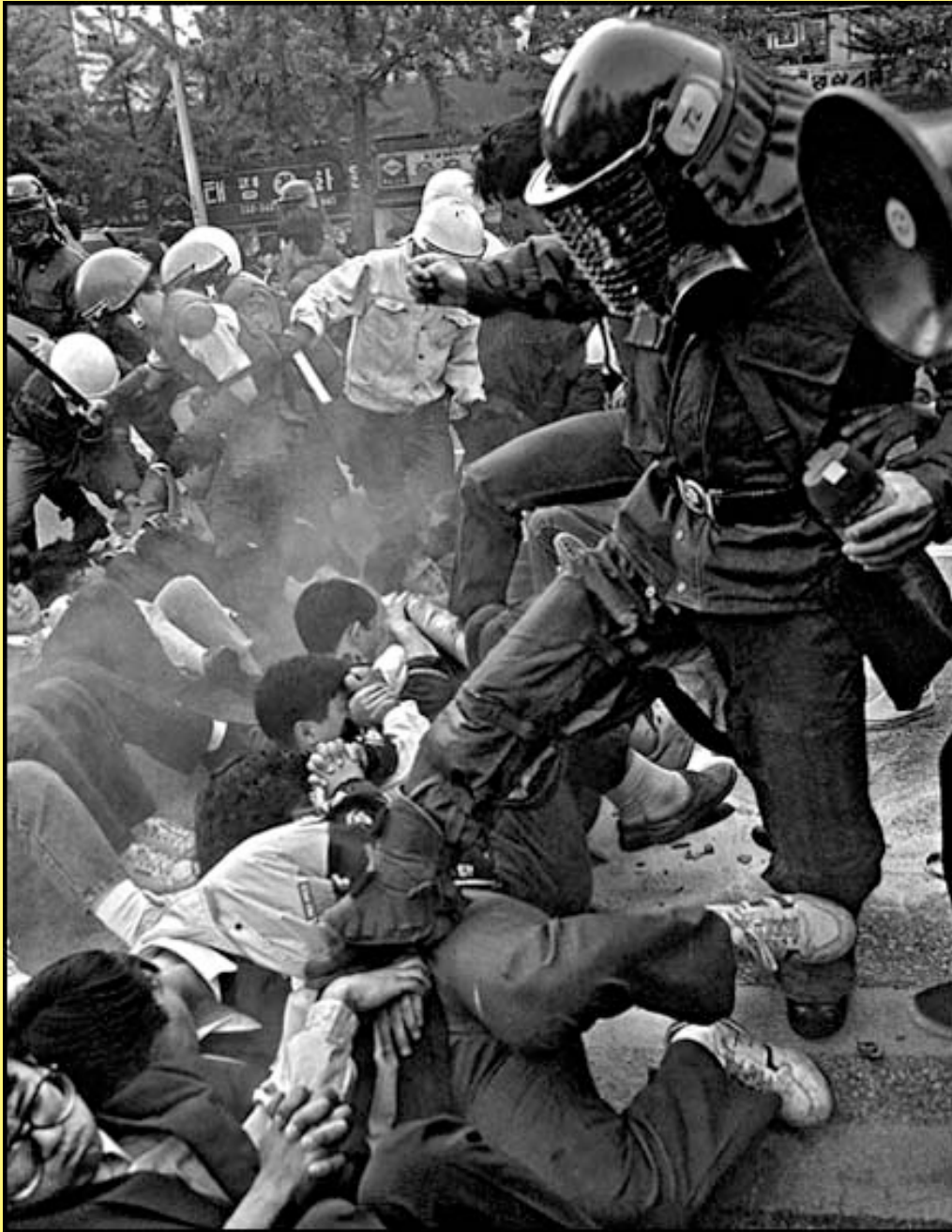
Ulsan 1987











Riot police
attack students
May 1990

November 1991 Seoul



Chun Tae-il remembered



IMF Crisis 1997



Jobless 1997



Today more than half of all Korean workers are part-time employees with no benefits and low wages.



Bank workers strike 2000

French buy
Samsung Motors
December 2000



Candlelight Protests in 2008



2008 South Korea

Recent protests against American beef began with high school and middle-school students.



Beginning on May 2, a new wave of youth protests have swept South Korea.

On May 2, 10,000 people gathered at Cheonggye Stream to protest against the importing of American beef to South Korea



An anonymous high school student called for the impeachment of Lee MB



The protests quickly led to an on-line petition to impeach newly-inaugurated president Lee Myung-bak. More than one million people signed the petition in the first week.

- Youth protests expanded to include their harsh conditions of compulsory education lasting long into the night, a system that robs young people of their childhoods and free time.
- President Lee Myung-bak has already intensified the severe conditions of everyday life for young people in South Korea
- The families of many youth joined the protests
- Complaints against President Lee include:
 - Making poor people suffer more
 - The huge canal project he wants industry to profit from
 - Giving more privileges to the rich
 - Educational reforms that enhance competition and stress



The struggle against Mad Cow Beef questions neoliberalism. Neoliberalism is the opening of nations' economies to penetration by large corporations and banks in the name of "free markets."













June 13









June 10







June 13 Seoul













June 30 Catholics against



June 30



June 30





<http://cafe.daum.net/candlegirls>



<http://cafe.daum.net/candlegirls>



<http://cafe.daum.net/candlegirls>





In the 20th century, candlights
became the symbol of protests in
South Korea

Noh Moo Hyun Impeachment



In the 20th century, candlelights became the symbol of protests in South Korea.

July 8 MBC eyes prosecution



August 5 Bush



AND NOW...

- In the 21st Century, youth and students will lead the effort to create a better world.
- The struggle against neoliberalism will be a crucial struggle for Planet Earth's survival.