Political Challenge of BI Movement in Korea



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BI Movement and Politics

Questions that BI Movement faces

First, is it possible for BI to build Utopia without the role of Politics?

Second, then how can we combine BI movement and politics?

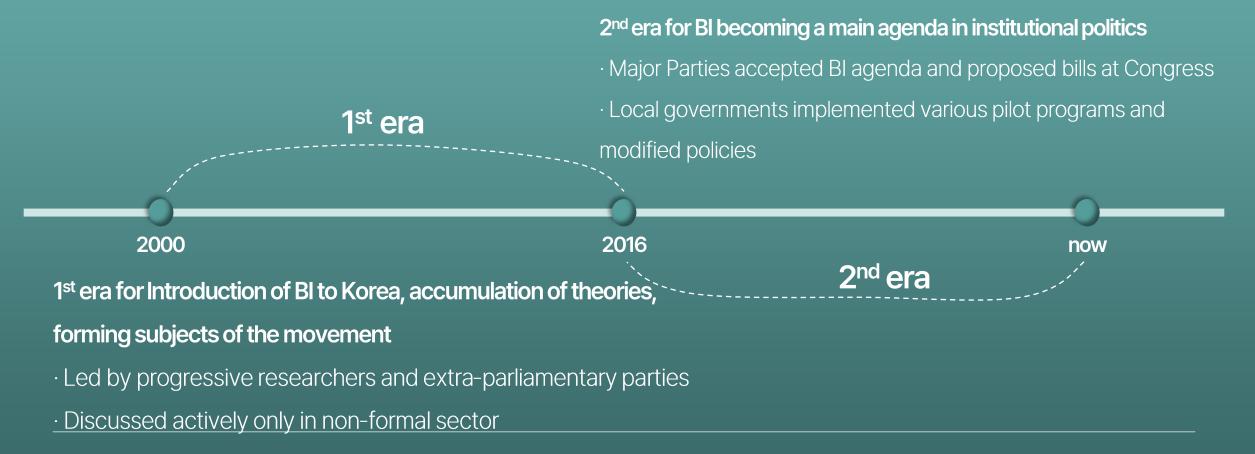
- $\cdot\,$ Suggesting BI as a practical solution for socioeconomic problems
- $\cdot\,$ Intervening other political issues based on BI philosophy

Today's Discussion

Part 1. Political Challenges of BI Movement in Korea Part 2. Political Challenges of BI Party

Part 1. Political Challenges of BI Movement in Korea

Period Division of BI Movement in Korea



1st era of BI Movement



The 16th BIEN Congress hosted by BIKN on July 2016, Seoul



Socialist Party members requiring basic income, Mayday 2009 "Basic income for Everyone"

What happened in 2016

O Looming of Job Destruction by AI
· '4th Industrial Revolution' discourse spread
(The Davos Forum)
· AlphaGo won Lee Se-Dol at the Baduk match
O Referendum on BI was held in Switzerland
O The 16th BIEN Congress was held in Seoul
O Seongnam-si began giving Youth-BI(Youth Dividend)



2nd era of BI Movement



Gyeonggi-do(Governor, Lee Jae-Myung) started to give 'Youth BI' to 24 year-olds In 2019



Yong Hye-In, the executive representative of BI Party, succeeded to enter the National Assembly in 2020

How has BI emerged as main agenda in politics

First, 'Welfare politics' has made the ground for BI since 2000's

- Welfare system in Korea selective so that resources are concentrated on poor class. Middle class is very discontent with it
- In 2010, left wings won the Local Election on a 'free school meals' pledge. Since then, political movements have become active. (for free education, child allowance, basic pension)
- BI was suggested as 'Policy that completes Universal welfare'

How has BI emerged as main agenda in politics

Second, Synergy from **'reviving local economy' approach** combined with local currency

 Korea has a high proportion of self-employed people. Supports for BI had grown when local government distributed local currencies for BI that increased profits of local business.

How has BI emerged as main agenda in politics

Third, Stimulus check payment in response to COVID-19

- Under the absence of a labor protection and welfare safety net, COVID-19 caused critical damage to precariats and self-employed people
- While there's no room to select those eligible for relief, the Moon Jae-In government accepted civil society's demand for 'Universal Stimulus Check' and paid it for the whole nation.
- Public opinion that supports BI has increased since the implementation of 'Universal Stimulus Check'.
- The central government paid 'Universal Stimulus Check' only once. However, individual local governments provided 'Universal Stimulus Check' several times during the COVID-19 period.

2010 to 2020



Opposition parties agreed on a joint pledge of 'free school meals' ahead of the local elections in the June 2010



In May 2020, the government decided to pay 'Universal Stimulus Check' as a countermeasure against COVID-19

2020-22 Ups and Downs of BI Politics

Distribution-friendly parliament was formed in General Election 2020

- The center-liberal(Democratic Party) and the progressive oppositions won (180/300 seats)
- BIP got into Parliament (Congress member, Yong Hye-In)
- Bills related to basic income were proposed (BI bill, Carbon tax bill)

However, even with this advantages Government and rulling party failed to make overall reforms

- Resistance of Financial Officials who prioritize National Debt Management
- Supporters fled because of rising in real estate prices

The 20th Presidential Election 2022 Election that distribution pledges poured including Bl

- Rulling party(Democratic) candidate, Lee Jae-Myung pledged 'Basic Society' and 'BI 1,00,000 KRW per year'
- BIP candidate, Oh Jun-Ho pledged 'BI 650,000 KRW per month'



The 20th Presidential Election 2022



The conservative right-wing government elected as a reaction of the former government's failure to reform



BI political groups should prepare for **the 3rd term BI politics** It needs to persuade that BI is the solution to social problems which people are concerned with

Part 2. Political Challenge of the BIP

Forming and growing up of the BIP

Promoting the party by running important election after getting into Parliament

• Seoul Mayor Election 2021, Presidential and Local Election 2022

Increase of attention and support for Yong Hye-In and BIP from Citizens and growth in new membership

• About 20,000 currently, dozens of new members every week

How is BIP's campaign so effective?

BIP's campaign 1. Misson-Oriented BI

BI as a countermeasure against climate crisis 'BI and Carbon Tax Acts' that implement carbon tax and pay the revenue to all ______ citizens BI as a solution to real estate inequality

Henry George's Land Tax that distribute the revenue to all as universal housing allowances BI for just industry transformation

Large scale of public investment for innovation and industrial transition that distribute benefits to all citizens

BIP's campaign 1.





'BI with Carbon Tax' Yong Hye-In, Congress member of BIP delivering speech at campaign



'BI with Land Tax' Oh Jun-Ho, BIP presidential candidate explaining the pledge

BIP's campaign 2.

Efforts to form a broad political alliances based on the basic income agenda

Form BI policy alliance for Presidential and Local Election <u>--2022</u> 'BI Political Joint Action (2021)', 'BI Joint Declaration (2022)' Collaborate with BI movement organizations(ex. Agrarian BI, Senior ______BI)_____

Co-proposing an Agrarian BI bill Call for make BI publicized with 5 Parliament parties

Proposing Publicizing BI Bill

BIP's campaign 3.

'Dignity and Equality for Everyone' According to the spirit of establishment, fight against the conservative and vested interests

Activities to reveal the truth of a disaster caused by bureaucratic insensitivity to safety

After Oct 29, 2022 Itaewon

disaster, participate in

Parliamentary audit committee

Criticize the Minister of Economy and Finance that passive at fiscal expenditure during COVID-19

> Call for paying UBI until the end of the pandemic

Propose windfall Tax Bill

Propose to retrieve excess profits from oil refiners and banks and use it at social welfare

BIP's campaign 3.



Yong Hye-In, Congress member of BIP requiring parliamentary Investigation on Itaewon disaster

Yong Hye-In, Congress member of BIP proposing windfall bill to retrieve excess profits from oil refiners and banks

Tentative Conclusion

Getting support from the public would be possible by suggesting BI as a **mission-oriented solution to the social problems**

BI politics to overcome the barriers of politics of vested interests must continue to **form broad political alliance**

BI politics would get support of the public when they **determinedly fight against vested interests/bureaucrats** for the safety/welfare of the public

Thank You

Thank you for your attention