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# Buddhist, Environmental Movement, Religious Movement and South Korea

[\*abstract]

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## Abstract

In this study, I have tried to reveal the dual aspects of social movement of religious organizations through the case of South Korean Buddhist societies. Environmental movement is the most important area of religious organization's social participation in Korea since late 90s. In these movements, religious societies have been contributed to make the whole society to *reflect the compressed modernization process* and to search for the alternative way of life. A lot of movements were quite successful because of their rich resource mobilization potential including both material and social hegemonic one. However, in these movement process, most central element to successful mobilization was the construction of *narratives* that is sufficiently strong that they could interpret environmental issues as their own religious task: that is, *the secular* should be translated into *the sacred*. When this construction failed, mainly because of political-economic repression, environmental issues remained mere inner doctrinal controversy in religious societies. I will show different consequences of strength of narratives through the comparison between two representative environmental movements of Korean Buddhists: anti-movement against national development of *Mt. Chunsungsan* tunnel and *Mt. Bukhansan* tunnel.