

## Researching the Factors for Expanding the Social Security System in South Korea under Kim Dae-jung

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This study examines why the social security system in South Korea dramatically developed from 1998 to 2003 under the Kim Dae-Jung regime. Previous studies argued that labor movements—which demand social security—had an impact on the development of the exiting welfare states in Europe. However, their analytical methods cannot be directly applied to the case of South Korea because the political conditions during the development process of social security between the existing welfare state and South Korea were different. In South Korea, instead of weak labor movements, it was civic movements that, since the 1990s, demanded the development of social security. However, the demands of civic movements were not directly reflected in policy decisions because no parties represented them. On the other hand, the previous studies which forces on the reason why the social security reform was taken in South Korea did not explain the causal relationships between the reforms and the civic movements though they showed their correlative relationships.

This study introduces the concept of *political opportunity* in the course of policy-making. If the *political opportunity* were open, then the civic movements would have made an impact on the social security development in South Korea. This paper also tries to propose a new process for developing the welfare state in developing countries that do not have the same political conditions as those in the existing welfare states.