Jaiden Casapao, Noah Flores, Jay Park Feb. 15, 2017

April Revolution

**Name:** April Revolution

**Date(s):** March 1960 - May 1961

**Location:** Masan, Korea

**Secondary Sources:**

* "April Revolution." *Wikipedia*. Wikimedia Foundation, 14 Dec. 2016. Web. 14 Feb. 2017.

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/April\_Revolution#Background)

* Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training. "The Fall of South Korean Strongman Syngman Rhee - April 26,1960." Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training. Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training, 27 Apr. 2015. Web. 14 Feb. 2017.

(http://adst.org/2013/04/the-fall-of-south-korean-strongman-syngman-rhee-april-26-1960/)

**Primary Sources:**

* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Vakt2zW9bA> (shows footage of the revolution)

**Who Revolted?**

*What did most of the people who came together to revolt have in common? Class or caste? Race or ethnicity? Religion? Political affiliation? Or was it the people as a whole?*

All of the citizens and students that revolted all had the same reason to revolt against the government. They were part of the class/caste as citizens and students. Their ethnicity was Korean. Their religion wasn’t really mentioned, but according to some sites, majority of Korean’s in the 1960 were Christians. None of these people had any political affiliations. The jobs these people had were basically what any type of Korean citizen would work as, so like a salesman/saleswoman for example, and the students were still studying at the time. They were a whole when they revolted.

**Why did they revolt?**

*Why were people unhappy with their government? Why did they believe that revolution was the only way to make the change that they wanted?*

Many citizens thought that the election was corrupted and unfair. On March 15, 1960, an election occurred, where President Rhee, who has been part of the office since 1948, was fighting for president against 2 parties: Cho Bong-am, the representative of the small Progressive Party, and Cho Pyong-ok, the representative of the Democratic Party. Syngman Rhee accused Cho Bong-am of being a communist, while Cho Pyong-ok died of a heart attack as he was on his way to the USA to get a stomach operation, so Rhee won by default, although the citizens thought the election was corrupted. The way the citizens revolted was by protesting, and in order to change their president, they had to protest as a humongous, rowdy crowd.

Another revolution occurred, involving students. On March 15, 1960, after the horrible catastrophe from the protest, a student named Kim Ju-Yul gone missing until on April 11, his body was found underwater by a fisherman, leading to facts that the police shot him with a grenade, causing his skull to split and his eyes to be penetrated. The intention was the police were shooting for the protestants, but shot the wrong person,  so the chief of public security, tied rock on Kim Ju-yul’s dead body and threw it in the water so that it wouldn’t be found. On April 18, students decided to nonviolently protest at the national assembly to fight against police violence and were asking for new elections, although Rhee’s supporters attacked them. On April 19, more people joined the students that protested, except this time, they were demanding for Rhee’s resignation. On April 25, professors assembled with students and citizens, outnumbering the police and soldiers, which made them refuse to attack the protestors. As the students found out about the incident, they went berserk and planned a silent, nonviolent protest, causing more people to assemble with them and helped.

**How did they organize?**

*Was the revolution planned for a long time? Was it spontaneous? How did people find out about the revolution? Were there leaders who did the organizing?*

They organized with some student leaders. April 18th was a planned organized protest and the 19th was a march from the Korea university to the Blue house gaining numbers over 100,000 while marching. Then they engaged battle with police because of the police's open fire. 25th professors lead the group and military and police didn’t resist. So both were spontaneous and people found out by news and watching the march. Organized by students and professors. Not planned for a long time

**How did the people overthrow the government?**

*Did they take over government buildings? Did they assassinate leaders? Did they engage in peaceful demonstrations? Did they have the support of the military? Did they engage in acts of warfare?*

The people (students) continuously attacked and protested, forcing President Rhee to resign. They didn’t get police/military support and had to fight them. Lots of violence with injuries and deaths occurred. First, it was semi peaceful, but escalated to violence.

**How did the government respond?**

*Did leaders peacefully give in to the people’s demands? If so, how long did it take for them to give in? Did they fight back using military force?*

The government ordered the police to shoot the citizens during their protest for the election, causing the city to black out. Multiple grenades were thrown at the crowd of protestors, and the military and tanks were involved. The government did not give in peacefully, and the protestors stopped protesting after President Rhee resigned.

**How was the government the same or different following the revolution?**

*What type of government emerged after the revolution? Why?*

After Rhee resigned and Lee Ki-Poong (vice president) died, the rule of the L.P government came to an end. South Korea adapted a parliamentary system to remove power from the president. While Yun Bo-seon was elected on August 13, 1960 as President, the Prime Minister, who was Chang Myon, had more power than the president. On May 16, 1961, General Park Chung-Hee changed the rules from Second Republic of South Korea to military junta, and then changed to the autocratic Third Republic of South Korea.

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