

Last summer I visited the Seodaemun Prison History Hall in Seoul where my grandpa took me with my cousin. I wondered why my grandpa took me on a Saturday afternoon to show me this. It seemed my grandpa wanted me to value my roots after being away so long and to know where this peace came from. What I saw and heard there were about the great story and incredible people about the 3.1 Movement. Through this experience, I came to understand the true spirit of the 3.1 Movement.

If I had watched the 3.1 Movement, it would be hard but inspiring because thousands were crying and shouting but the unified energy made it more effective and powerful. The way people fought together for the country 107 years ago is still true today. My dad pointed out that our people have a history of overcoming similar crises by carrying on this spirit. He explained it when people in Korea collected gold to help pay off the Korean national debts. This is an unbelievable story.

The 3.1 Movement was not only an independence movement, but also a foundational step that helped shape the Korea we know today. If we were still under the Japanese rule past 1945 we would be a developing country and relying on other countries and that cost money which would make Korea poor. By bringing independence sooner, it gave us the confidence to compete with world. The confidence is what transformed Korea into the economic and cultural giant that everyone looks up to nowadays.

The 3.1 Movement also inspired other countries to break away from their colonial rulers and was one step closer to end anti-colonialism. Even though colonialism was over, wars between countries continue to break out in the world today and there has not been a stopping point. So like the lessons of the 3.1

Movement we can learn that sometimes fighting is not the only way to settle an argument. There are plenty of other non-violent ways to settle an argument. This also applies to kids. When kids go to school there are a lot of disagreements and arguments so the kids can use some tricks like settling on something they both like to settle our differences and move forward together in peace.

The three lessons I learned from the 3.1 Movement are very clear. The 3.1 Movement was the moment our people realized the power of unity how much we can achieve when we all stand together. This collective strength gave us the confidence to rebuild our nation from the crisis and shape the Korea we live in today, which I believe built Korea into the cultural and economic power country. The lesson does not stop in the past. It teaches us the true value of peace, which is a lesson needed for kids like me in the world. The legacy of sacrifice and courage will guide us toward a brighter, more harmonious future.