A New Variation of Modern Prejudice: South Korean Young Men’s Anti-Feminism and Male-Victim Ideology

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April 30, 2023

Abstract

In South Korea, anti-feminism is now rapidly spreading through the Internet among young men, and they started to identify themselves as a social minority or “victims” of female power. Despite their ramification to present South Korea, theoretically discussing, they are actually indistinct from the racism and sexism of White men that emerged at least a half-century ago. Although they look novel in phenomena, they share the same root of typical modern racism or sexism. The subtle sexist undertones hidden in their arguments were discussed by various psychological theories and empirical data/statistics. Additionally, various potential factors that may shape or accelerate their attitudes or behaviors were discussed on the basis of the threat-defense theory (Jonas et al., 2014). Such factors encompass behavioral/situational (overindulging violent or degrading Internet contents, verbal aggression), relational/epistemic (ostracism, attachment insecurity, pseudo-rationalism), and group levels (provocative interactions, polarization), some of which may also influence other groups than young men and ingrain or exacerbate extreme ideologies of other groups, including young women. Scrutinizing Korean online anti-feminism and male-victim ideology will help in understanding the psychological origins of various social extremities or radical ideologies beyond cultural barriers.

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