

THE VIETNAM WAR: A BOON FOR KOREA'S ECONOMY

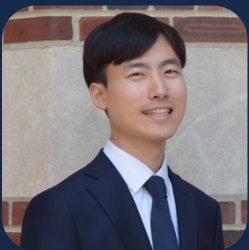
April 13, 2026 5p-6p Pacific Time |
April 14, 2026 9a-10a Korean Standard Time

SPEAKERS



Seung Joo Lee
Oxford University

How did geopolitics shape East Asia's economic development? Quite a lot, according to Oxford University's Seung Joo Lee, whose work has revealed an overlooked channel through which Cold War geopolitics helped shape the East Asian economic miracle.



Younghun Shim
International
Monetary Fund

Based on a new firm-level dataset connecting Korean export records with U.S. procurement contracts, Lee, in a recent paper, has shown that U.S. war procurement during the Vietnam War caused a substantial boom in Korea's exports – a leading factor that led to the country's industrialization. Economist, Younghun Shim, from the International Monetary Fund will add commentary.



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