

**PARK, SUMIN**

**Sumin Park**

Age: 15, Grade: 10

School Name: Loveless Academic Magnet Program (LAMP) High School, Montgomery, AL

Educator: Helen Lee

Category: Personal Essay & Memoir

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## **Cultural Invasion 2021**

### **The Warning**

*"History*

## The Next Target

*"Which country will be China's next target?"*

"Xiaomi has surpassed Apple to become the world's second-biggest smartphone maker for the first time ever..." CNN reported.

On July 16, 2021, news of Apple's defeat to Xiaomi in global smartphone sales dominated the media with heated debates. With an alarming annual growth of 83%, the Chinese company took 17% share of worldwide smartphone shipments, while Apple, the usual sales dominator, took 14% of the market.

Modifiers such as "fastest-growing business" and "hottest vendor" were placed in front of Xiaomi. However, ever since Xiaomi entered the global competition in the digital technology market, there was one adjective that they could never get rid of: Apple's copycat.

Lei Jun, Xiaomi CEO and co-founder, firmly denied the allegations pointed toward Xiaomi. Nevertheless, voracious web surfers were able to excavate plenty of evidence that flagrantly showed the similarities between Xiaomi and Apple products. For instance, Xiaomi's Mi 8 phone, released in 2018, was named as the "most blatant ripoff and clone" of Apple's iPhone X, which was released eight months prior. The only significant difference between the two devices was the price; Mi 8 cost \$425, while iPhone X was over double Xiaomi's price.

"I've said on many different occasions that if I had been called the 'Steve Jobs of China...' However, I don't want to be considered second to anyone," Lei Jun stated.

China will not end as a mere "copycat nation," but will extend to become a global dominance with their tactics of stealing technology, manipulating their currency, and exporting pirated products from the West. China has fired the first shot with its economic encroachment, and no one can predict where it will strike next.

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## On the Frontlines

China, Japan, and South Korea. For the past two thousand years, this trio of Asian countries has each developed shared yet distinct cultures. Many foreigners tend to generalize these three countries as the infamous "East Asian countries," but the prominent and exceptional characteristics of each nation are unmistakable.

China and Japan are usually distinguished by their key features and cultures. Images of delicate cherry blossoms and ancient samurais immediately flash through one's mind when asked to describe Japanese culture. Similarly, crimson Chinese dragons, crispy fortune cookies, and colorful paper lanterns flicker in people's memory at the hearing of the word "China."

However, South Korea is never truly noted for its special characteristics that developed through the rich period of four thousand years. The beauty of Hanbok, succulent persimmon, and the traditional Korean martial art taekwondo is hardly mentioned. Frankly, what could you ever expect for people to know when the first two related search terms for Korea are "Is Korea per... are "Threa pe ,," b nbo

vegetables, was equivalent to Korean kimchi; therefore, claimed that kimchi was *theirs*.

“If China plagiarizes the fermentation process of kimchi in the future, then South Korea’s traditional culture may disappear,” one apprehensive user wrote on Naver, a popular Korean online platform.

To these worrying Korean comments, Chinese users on Weibo, a Chinese version of Twitter, replied with comments such as “Even the pronunciation of kimchi originated from Chinese, what else is there to say?” and “South Korea’s version [of kimchi] is merely pickles.”

China, however, did not end with the kimchi controversy. Two months later, the Chinese targeted Korea’s traditional clothing, Hanbok.

In February of 2021, the hashtag “thief country” was viewed over 805,000 times on Weibo, a Chinese online platform. The Chinese stated that their traditional clothing, Hanfu, was copied by Koreans, and thus, Hanbok rightfully belonged to *them*.

“Even ants on the roadside would be shocked at how shameless the Koreans are,” wrote a Chinese Weibo user. “Actually what she really wanted to say was that Korea belongs to China,” another wrote.

The Chinese are claiming that Koreans, the obvious victim to this baseless argument, are the ones being “the thief country.” Koreans are now more than merely irritated— they are genuinely *concerned*. Hanbok and kimchi are one of the most prominent and unique symbols and representations of Korea. However, now, China, with its growing antipathy towards Korea, has attempted to *steal* our culture.

A citizen of any nation would become enraged if their country’s culture is stolen. In fact, even little children get angry when another child steals their toys. China is not blatantly carrying out a territorial nor economical invasion; China is usurping Korea’s culture and values. Our citizens will not stand by and let a mere copycat nation thieve our culture.

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### **Final Request**

Korean society has experienced an immense amount of change throughout the span of history. It has experienced and

countries of this major issue promptly without just shushing it, the Covid-19 virus might not have become a global panic; the lack of accurate communication was the initiator.

And our ongoing war with China is just like the spread of Covid-19.

Clueless Google surfers read uncorroborated, inaccurate information about so-called “Chinese” cultures, believe what they read was absolutely right, and spread their knowledge to the next clueless google surfer by writing a comment saying “Kimchi is Chinese! Cool!”

The truth is, this virus of misinformation will not stop spreading unless the voracious Google surfers quarantine themselves from the internet.

Yes, I am just one person out of 7.9 billion people on this planet; I *am* nothing more than a typical high schooler. I *am* a lunatic 15-year-old who dares to criticize the great and mighty nation of China: fearless and daring.

I have a burning passion in my heart to protect my home country. Absolutely nothing hab: o