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## Rebirth: History + Connect

### **Executive Summary**

As a part of my project Rebirth: telling adoptee's stories from an adoptee's perspective, I wanted to look at where adoptees went after they were adopted. I am working on the storytelling portion of Rebirth in another class, but wanted to add some context to the project itself so I expanded on the history of international South Korean adoption. I chose to only look at South Korea because the majority of the adoptees that I am interviewing, along with myself, were born there. I found inspiration from W.E.B. Du Bois and his maps representing what it was like to be black in America after slavery was abolished that he presented at the 1900 Paris World Exposition. I found that adoption was compared to an export or the adoptee as a commodity from my previous studies and from this I started looking at export maps.

I began with a timeline of South Korean adoption which was marked by the end of the Korean War in 1953. I thought a timeline would provide additional information for those who may not know much about the topic. The next graph is an export map found on Flourish, using the data from the French gov, the US gov, and Tobias Hubinette, I compiled the numbers for the top 14 countries that have adopted from South Korea. The play button on the top shows the numbers specifically for the US and France and ultimately shows how few are internationally adopted today. The last graph specifically shows the drop off over the last 30 years of

international Korean adoption. I referenced this in the timeline too, hyperlinking an article that discusses the repercussions of the 2012 adoption act.

The connect form embedded on the last page, is for adoptees who may be interested in telling their stories too or for anyone with comments about the website in general. I acknowledge that that may not be clear from just the form, but eventually I want to create something like what QueeringTheMap has done with showing where other queer people are in NYC and briefly sharing their experiences.

### **Methods + Workflow**

Discussing data visualization and the project outline it was initially hard to narrow down a topic, but I knew I wanted to do something about Rebirth. This project helped me map out what I wanted my website to look like for my project as a whole. So, I started with a vision for Rebirth and how I wanted to tell adoptees stories. Being a novice at website creation and understanding code, it is hard to condense the vision I have down to what is tangible for now, but I am overall really pleased so far with how this has turned out.

My overarching question was, “Where did South Korean adoptees go after they were adopted?”. I started with research and pulling numbers and relevant websites that helped me better understand how many adoptees left South Korea, when, and where they were adopted to. I also started by looking up general history about adoption in South Korea and why it became so popular. I struggled to find numbers that matched up so that is why the last map only shows US data starting at 1999, my hope was to start at the 1980’s as well to compare the numbers of the top two countries to have adopted from Korea. As previously mentioned, I

found inspiration from maps on Flourish and W.E.B. Du Bois and from there I was able to create the maps on my website.

## **Reflection**

I really appreciated this project. I enjoy creating data visualizations that are relevant to me. I struggled initially trying to narrow down the project and how to connect it to Rebirth in order to strengthen my overall narrative of the website. The classes we had about how to represent data in a meaningful way that tells a story made the process relatively simple because of the tools we were given and all that is out there that can be embedded into html. I learned more about how to extract data and have it help you tell the story you want to tell. I found Flourish to be particularly interesting and helpful due to the scope of the templates and how much of each template was customizable. Building the actual website was also quite the process, in connecting the correct sheets and figuring out some of the technicalities of what I wanted to show up and how, it was difficult. I wanted to use a template from W3Schools but found that I could more easily manipulate the code that I was used to just using the basic write up we learned. This project also taught me about finding other ways of doing things, so in a way problem solving. Working on this website was a lesson that there are multiple ways of doing things, for example with the connect page. I originally found on W3Schools a template of a contact section, but I was confused about how to extract that data, so I appreciated the tip to just embed a Google Form. Overall, this project was a challenge, but with the tools and the direct guidance and feedback, it made it academically enriching and interesting.

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