

Kimilsung-Kimjongilism and New Europe



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Esteemed Dr. Edmond Jouve, director general of the European Regional Society for the Study of the Juche Idea (ERSSJI),

Esteemed Prof. Matteo Carbonelli, secretary general of the ERSSJI,

Esteemed all those involved in the Korean Association of Social Scientists and comrades in Bulgaria,

It is a great pleasure for me to see you all again and have an important discussion.

And I would like to extend my most sincere congratulations to you on the success of this European seminar on the Juche idea "independence, sovereignty and international cooperation."

From 2018 to this year, there has been a series of historical events that heralded the arrival of a peaceful and war-free era, the aspiration of humankind.

It can be said that the new changes engraved in world history were created by Chairman Kim Jong Un's strong conviction for independence and peace.

Chairman Kim Jong Un met with the leader of the United States, which had been in a long hostile relationship, three times in a short period of time, creating a new climate for lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula.

Chairman Kim Jong Un, who has developed the DPRK toward the high peak of socialism while solidly uniting with the people, is driving the independence era. This has attracted the attention of the world and has strengthened his presence.

As the theme of this seminar, "independence, sovereignty and international cooperation" suggests, the Europeans are keenly seeking the right political philosophy and policy lines.

It is increasingly important to study and practice Kimilsung-Kimjongilism in order to analyze the current situation in Europe and explore the future.

Kimilsung-Kimjongilism has clearly articulated the ideas and theories for the full realization of the independence of the people, the peace of the world, and cooperation among countries, and has actually been embodied in the DPRK.

What is required of European countries today is to study Kimilsung-Kimjongilism, which is the guiding idea of our time, and to clarify Europe's new course.

1. To make countries, regions, and the world independent

Today, global independence is not a dream of the distant future, but a challenge that can be realized.

Chairman Kim Jong Un proposed independence of the world at the 7th Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea as one of three important tasks, along with accomplishment of socialist cause and independent reunification of his country. "To realize global independence is the common desire of mankind and a historic task of the times. An independent world is one free from domination and subordination, aggression and intervention, where sovereignty and equality for all countries and nations are guaranteed," the Chairman said.

How will global independence be realized? Global independence means the completion of independence on a global scale. The most

important task that all countries and nations must tackle in order to make the world independent is firmly maintaining independence by raising the banner of anti-imperialism and independence high. Independence is the life and dignity of countries and nations and the symbol of a self-reliant state. Therefore, firmly maintaining independence is a vital issue that affects the fate of each country and nation.

Next, we must fight against invasion and interference in internal affairs by imperialistic and dominant forces. The nature of imperialism is invasion and plunder, and there must be no expectation or illusion of imperialism. It is important for each country to believe in one's own people and to firmly protect one's own independence. Even after World War II, when imperialist countries fought each other over captures of colonies and the cost in human life was enormous, peace did not come to the world, and rule by imperialists continued.

The 1960s saw the spread of colonial liberation struggles in Asia and Africa against imperialism and the independence of many colonies, but many of the countries that achieved independence have again become more dependent on the imperialist countries, and more and more countries have become puppets of their former suzerain states.

In addition, leaders of some independent countries held reins of power as rulers. They sold their rich natural resources to imperialist countries, bought arms for them, fought for hegemony, and brought about civil war, and invited proxy war between imperialist countries.

Furthermore, the imperialist countries have developed subordinate alliances centering on US imperialism. Japan was occupied by U.S. forces from 1945 to 1950, but it was nominally independent by the San Francisco Peace Treaty signed in 1951. Still, U.S. military bases are still deployed throughout Japan, and Japan's politics, economy, and culture are under the control of the United States.

After World War II, US imperialism triggered invasion wars against Korea and Vietnam. Imperial countries such as France, Germany, and the United Kingdom have joined the war initiated by US imperialism and continued to dominate and plunder other countries.

Armed invasion by the United States and Europe continued into the 21st century, killing an enormous number of people in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria.

The reason why the DPRK alone is able to firmly maintain its independence in the world, while many countries succumb to imperialism and dominationism and are subordinated to them, is, first of all, that it is guided by the Juche idea and is adhering to its own revolutionary policy in all areas of politics, economy, and military affairs. The Juche idea teaches independence is the life for people, countries and nations. The DPRK regards independence as the life of the country and its people, and respects the independence of other countries and nations as well. It has been and continues to fight against imperialism, which seeks to dominate other countries.

Chairman Kim Jong Un states that independence is the political philosophy of the DPRK,

and it constitutes the core of the Kimilsung-Kimjongilist ideas of State building.

The DPRK has made progress by firmly maintaining independence at every historic stage. Chairman Kim Jong Un also stated as follows: "When the world socialist camp existed and the countries concerned maintained cooperative relations to varying degrees, our Republic adhered to self-determination and independence in carrying on the revolution and construction, and promoted socialist construction on the principle of self-reliance" ("On Socialist Construction and the Internal and External Policies of the Government of the Republic at the Present Stage"). The DPRK has not relied on or subordinated to socialist countries, but only by self-development, has led to the path of socialism.

The reason why the DPRK is able to firmly maintain its independence is, in turn, the great power of its people who united around their outstanding leader single-heartedly. Chairman Kim Jong Un has the most excellent political philosophy and has a strong belief in realizing it.

Chairman Kim Jong Un formalized the essence of Kimilsung-Kimjongilism as the people-first principle. It is a political ideal of regarding the masses of the people as masters of the revolution and construction, relying on them and making selfless, devoted efforts for their interests. In the course of the endeavour to apply the people-first principle, the Party, the State and the people can form a community in which they share the same destiny with one another and move forward vigorously,

regardless of the difficulties they face.

Chairman Kim Jong Un has an extraordinarily strong belief, seeing it as his responsibility to make the world independent.

Chairman Kim Jong Un says that making the whole world independent is our general task and we should make an active contribution to the cause of global independence and play a pivotal role in promoting the world revolution. Similarly, the Chairman shows his determination to occupy the vanguard in the struggle for global independence, regardless of changes in the situation and relations around us.

Between last year and this year, Chairman Kim Jong Un held three summit meetings between the DPRK and the United States in Singapore, Hanoi and Panmunjom without regard to his own personal dangers.

In addition, Chairman Kim Jong Un met directly with Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin, and South Korean President Moon Jae In. Through these

meetings, he is strengthening the relationship of trust with the leaders of each country and leading the world toward peace.

2. For the revitalization of new Europe

There are many countries in Europe, each with its own culture and history. The political paths chosen by European countries can be broadly divided into three categories.

The first political course, as a capitalist nation, is the path to economic development through exploitation and invasion.

In the 18th and 19th centuries, the United Kingdom was the first in the world to revolutionize industry, promote mechanization, and develop capitalism. Industrialization has also progressed in Germany, France, and the United States, lagging behind the United Kingdom. In the course of the development of the machinery industry, British farmers were engaged in harsh factory work, and many low-



Juche idea researchers from various countries in Europe participating in the seminar

wage workers were created. Two policies were adopted to alleviate the dissatisfaction of workers who were overused in poor working conditions.

First, as a domestic policy, the UK implemented social welfare policies such as poverty relief and medical security. The UK, which exploited the greatest number of laborers, became the first country to adopt social welfare policy. The second is, as a foreign policy, it bared its fangs of imperialism to invade the world. Invasions were directed not only to the colonies, but also to the same imperialist countries, and World War I and World War II took place over market competition.

The second political course chosen by European countries is the path of socialism, which aims to free the working class represented by the Russian Revolution and a world free from war of aggression. In response to the contemporary demands, Marx elucidated the essence of capitalist society, pointing to a new path of socialism without exploitation for the working class. Lenin led the socialist revolution in 1917, leading the revolution to victory, in order to free workers from capital constraints and prevent war of aggression. After the revolution, he implemented a variety of social measures, including free medical care and education, and enhanced pension systems. The Russian Revolution brought the world's people the expectation that the socialism would eliminate the capitalist class and realize a peaceful world free from war of aggression.

The third political course is the road to a social welfare state chosen by the Scandinavian

countries. Nordic countries, such as Sweden, Denmark, Norway, and Finland, have taken a political course different from the policies implemented by Western Europe and the socialist road of the Soviet Union. Nordic countries have built a state that emphasizes social welfare, and the state has guaranteed to a certain extent the livelihoods of the elderly, the disabled and poor workers. The Scandinavian countries have attracted global attention as a model of well-developed social well-being even under capitalist system.

Nevertheless, the Nordic countries are eventually affected by neoliberalism and globalism, and the financial foundations that have supported the rich social welfare are shaken, and welfare policies are becoming more and more embarrassed. Northern Europe and Europe were the first regions in the world to enhance social welfare, but since the introduction of a neo-liberal economy, it has become clear that there are limits to the enhancement of social-welfare systems.

After World War II, the war-torn European countries came to form subordinate alliances with the United States. In the 1970s, U.S. unilateral control over the world, i.e., globalization, penetrated.

In 1993, European countries established the European Union and introduced the euro to defend themselves from the control of US imperialism. The EU seemed to be solidly united for a while after its formation, but relations between the member states began to flatten with the refugee issue.

The world's refugees are now the largest in

history. Of the world's total population of about 7 billion, about 1 billion people migrate abroad, and nearly 100 million people have become refugees. Half of them are women and children, forcing them to live harsh lives (UN Materials). The vast number of refugees and immigrants came from the war that US and European imperialism triggered in the Middle East and Africa. As the people of the Middle East and Africa became war refugees and surged into Europe, Populism that fueled exclusionism has emerged in each country and became politically influential. European countries in which Populism has great influence have become reluctant to accept immigrants. And conflicting interests within the EU have emerged.

The creation of the EU was not only for countering the rule of the United States, but also hoped that the people of each country would develop together as a new Europe that crossed national borders. In order to overcome the current difficulties and revitalize Europe, a new guiding idea is needed.

The key to solving today's European challenges is Kimilsung-Kimjongilism. With the independence of European countries in line with Kimilsung-Kimjongilism, we will be able to realize a new community of equal, cooperative, and mutual assistance.

3. Fostering researchers with belief of Kimilsung-Kimjongilism and expanding study organizations

Currently, the number of researchers working

on study and dissemination of the Juche idea is increasing in various countries around the world, and exchanges are also becoming active. What are the points that Juche idea researchers should pay attention to in order to further develop the study and dissemination of the Juche idea?

The struggle to transform society is the cause of the people themselves. Accordingly, the activities for study and dissemination of the Juche idea must first rely on the people and push the people as master. In order for the people to play a leading role in the struggle, Juche idea researchers themselves must be deeply rooted in the people and put their energies into enabling people to have a consciousness of independence and organizing them. Individuals have limited power, and it is only by bringing together the endless efforts of the people that we can develop our society. For the happiness of the people, Chairman Kim Jong Un always goes among the people, listening to their voices, and gaining the power from the people.

Next, it is important for the study and dissemination of the Juche idea to be promoted in accordance with ideas, feelings, and demands of the people. In response to the simple and diverse needs of the people in their daily lives, Juche idea researchers must work while standing on the same horizon of the people and putting themselves in the shoes of the people. On the other hand, if the study and dissemination of the Juche idea is conducted only among a few elite people with subjective political remarks, many people will move away,

believing that it is carried out by a special person.

In addition, it should be noted that the study and dissemination of the Juche idea is always required to accept new people and conduct activities with broad masses. The people are the creators of history and the social and collective beings.

It is necessary to correct the tendency to study and disseminate the Juche idea self-directed or become salon where a small number of people conduct activities over a long period of time. In this regard, it is important for Juche idea researchers to form the collective of comrades with this idea as their faith and then embark on enlarging the ranks of the Juche idea study organizations in their own countries. So in order to carry out study and dissemination of the Juche idea with a wide range of people, it is necessary for those Juche idea researchers themselves to be convinced of this idea.

Human beings are conscious social beings, and in order to build a society in which the people are the masters, we need to find the right idea and make it our beliefs. The consciousness to fight with high ideal while being confident of the future is only strengthened by a deep study of the right guiding idea. When we have a bright vision for the future, we can move ahead with great power beyond any difficulty.

The Juche idea, which elucidated the nature of human beings, has made it clear that human beings are social beings with political life. It clearly shows that what is most important and valuable to humans is the realization of political

life, or independence.

The Juche idea has revealed that the future society is a society in which the independence of the people is fully realized. Previous ideas were not able to present the future in which people should proceed, as they have consistently analyzed the subjects to be overthrown or the economy. The future society previous ideas saw was nothing more than a society of material wealth and a society in which individuals enjoy a free life. With the ideas, it is impossible to meet the demands of the independent era in which the people appear as masters of history.

It is important for Juche idea researchers to learn only the guiding idea of the independent era, Kimilsung-Kimjongilism. Deep learning and practice of Kimilsung-Kimjongilism, the present guiding philosophy, is the only security to guarantee the victory of social change.

In addition, Juche idea researchers must make their own beliefs in the Juche idea, while at the same time creating a group of comrades who live in the same way as they do. In order to develop the study and dissemination of Juche idea, it is important to foster and organize people who work with beliefs in the Juche idea.

It is not a flat path to study a new ideological theory in a class society and to use them as one's own beliefs. In order to foster comrades with beliefs in the Juche idea, we have to think deeply about developing the independence of them on a day-to-day basis, plan activities, and devote themselves into their comrades. For those who are involved in the activities while giving priority to their own lives, it will not be possible to organize new Juche idea researchers

and foster them as promoters of the activities.

To constantly organize new members of Juche idea study group, and to continue and strengthen the first-ever study group is a struggle, and we must push forward with strong beliefs. If we plan and manage our activities in a disciplined manner while being deeply involved in the study of the Juche idea, we will surely be able to attract and grow new Juche idea researchers.

Once you have established a study group of the Juche idea, you should build a regional organization and work to develop it into a nationwide organization.

Furthermore, it is important to combine study activities of the Juche idea with practical activities for the people. It is important for the members of the Juche idea study group to put the Juche idea into practice by linking it to a variety of issues, including medical care,

welfare, and education, and to take root in the Juche idea according to the actual situation in their countries.

The Juche idea shows its vitality not only in a socialist society, but also in a capitalist society. There is a need to build a model of a new society that helps each other with the disabled, the elderly, women and children who are abused, deprived of dignity and suffering socio-economic hardship in a class society.

Practical activities by Juche idea researchers will advance through devoting themselves to realizing independence of the people while respecting them from the heart. In order to achieve global independence, I am determined to actively promote the study and dissemination of the Juche idea together with you all who participated in this seminar while deeply rooted in the people of my country.