

Glorious 75 Years of Struggle for Independence and Well-being of Korean People



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This year greets the 75th founding anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea. The WPK has a glorious history. Under the leadership of the WPK, has been built a society on the Korean Peninsula which perfectly reflects the basic needs of the people. Theoretical work made by President Kim Il Sung, General Secretary Kim Jong Il and Chairman Kim Jong Un, has guided both the Korean people and the progressive people in the world on their struggles for independence.

The WPK was founded by the leadership of President Kim Il Sung on October 10, 1945. At that time Kim Il Sung outlined the importance of the founding of the Party and the role of the Party. He wrote:

“The Korean communist party must in no way be an organization for only a few. It must be a mass political party which is deeply rooted among the workers, peasants and other working masses. It must become the experienced General Staff of revolution which organizes and leads the construction of a new Korea.” (Kim Il Sung 1945, “On Founding the Party, State and Armed Forces in the Liberated Homeland”)

“Without maintaining kindred ties with the broad masses, the Party cannot become a genuine revolutionary organization. Without their protection and support, it cannot play its part as the vanguard of the working class.” (Ibid.)

Further, Kim Il Sung continued:



At a European Seminar on the Juche Idea "Independence, Sovereignty and International Cooperation" (in September 2019)

“To build the democratic people’s republic we must first, under the leadership of the working class, form a democratic national united front embracing various strata of the democratic forces, such as the broad masses of peasant, intellectuals and conscientious native capitalists. We will set up a people’s government on this basis.” (Ibid.)

This action plan, presented by Kim Il Sung 75 years ago in Korea, is still relevant in many other countries. There is widespread dissatisfaction in the Western countries to the problems raised from globalization and neoliberal economic policies. However, we do not have a common understanding of the situation or a common front against neoliberalism to change it. In Finland, for example, the Communist movement is divided into several small parties with minor ideological differences. These are parties “for only a few” as Kim Il Sung warned. The connection between those parties and the masses have been broken. This means that working for independence is very difficult in the Western countries. It requires a lot of groundwork.

We should be able to contribute to founding a democratic national front against neoliberalism, together with other progressive organizations, from a national perspective. In this work, knowledge of the strategy and tactics of the WPK provides a good model how this issue can be systematically promoted. The work done by the Leaders and the WPK for the development of the theory of socialism is very important.

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After the collapse of socialism in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, pressure against the DPRK increased. Imperialist forces tried by all means to destroy the Korean socialism. Disappearance of old allies and serious natural disasters weakened at the same time the economy of the DPRK.

These difficult times showed that the strength of DPRK lies in the Korean style socialism, Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism. The DPRK has been built as a result of establishing the foundation by solving systematic guiding principles of the Juche idea: The independent stand must be maintained, the creative method should be applied and the main stress should be placed on ideology.

Because of these guiding principles the DPRK was not dependent on the great powers, the people's ideological consciousness was good, defense was strong enough and socialism was also developed continuously. Thanks to these guiding principles, the DPRK survived the challenges of the 1990s and was able to continue to be a strong socialist state.

The collapse of the Soviet Union was due, among many things, to shortcomings in the application and development of socialist theory. The great merits of Marxism are in the critique of bourgeois economics and the revolutionary theory developed by Marx and Engels in the late 19th century. There were limitations in the application of Marxism-Leninism, which weakened the ability of the Soviet Union and socialist countries of Eastern Europe to



At a European Regional Seminar on the Juche Idea (in September 2019)

respond to the changing internal and external conditions.

General Secretary Kim Jong Il described in his several works these constraint. Kim Jong Il wrote:

“Marxism was a revolutionary doctrine which represented the era when the working class had emerged in the historical arena and was waging a struggle against capital. As such it made an immortal contribution to eliminating the exploiting class and the exploitative system and realizing the class liberation of the popular masses. But the times have changed and history has developed, so Marxism has acquired inevitable historical limitations. Marxism, in a nutshell, is a doctrine which clarified the conditions for realizing the liberation of the working class on the basis of the materialistic conception of history.” (Kim Jong Il 1992, “The Historical Lesson in Building Socialism and the General Line of Our Party”)

Instead, interpretation of Marxism-Leninism in the Soviet Union and the Eastern European countries was increasingly dogmatic since the 1960s. The changing world could not be interpreted creatively in the light of these doctrines.

The importance of role of people’s ideological consciousness and active role of masses did not be identified sufficient or it has not been duly recognized. General Secretary Kim Jong Il wrote:

“However, the theory of socialism in the preceding age, based on a materialist outlook on history, was not free from historical limitations. This theory did not regard the social and historical movement as a movement of the motive force, as a movement which begins and develops on the initiative and through the role of the popular masses, its motive force, but as a natural historical process which changes and develops due to material and economic factors.”

Kim Jong Il continues:

“Seeing material and economic factors as fundamental in the revolutionary struggle, the preceding theory of socialism failed to raise the task of strengthening the motive force of the revolution and enhancing its role as the basic way to carry out the revolution.” (Kim Jong Il 1994, “Socialism Is a Science”)

In the DPRK, Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism was applied wonderfully and in the process it was developed further. In Western Europe, many communist grouping adhere to Marxism-Leninism and are supporter of that ideology dogmatically. A few researches are done today



A view of Church of St. George, a site in Sofia

of dialectical and historical materialism, for example.

Thus, Marxism-Leninism is not suitable as an ideology that explains the issue of the independence of nations at present. This requires developing the theory representative of all eras of humanity. Such a theory is Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism.

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We live in an age of globalization, which is characteristic of the reactionary, anti-people economic policies all over the world. This development began as early as the 1970s and has continued and expanded to our days. On the time of globalization, capital and goods move freely between countries. In each country, competitiveness will be improved in order to save jobs.

In Finland we often talks about competitiveness in relation to Germany. In practice, this means that wage and other achievements done by workers will be weakened in Finland, which will improve Finland's competitiveness. Similarly, capitalists in Germany will weaken wages and working conditions to improve Germany's competitiveness. As a result of this spiral, wages and working conditions are deteriorating across Europe. The big capital gets increasingly larger proportion of the added value made by workers. In this way, globalization is reflected to the daily life of every worker.

Kim Jong Il wrote:

“Since the popular masses are the masters of their own destiny they must be the masters of their economic life. Whether they become the masters of their economic life of not depends upon the economic system of the society, system

of ownership in particular.” (Kim Jong Il 1991, “Our Socialism Centered on the Masses Shall Not Perish”)

How can we apply Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism on conditions in Europe?

The working class has changed in comparison with the situation 100 or 50 years before. At the same time, ideological consciousness and the ability to recognize one’s own position in relation to the property-owning class has weakened. It is still the case that 98 % of the people do not own the means of production, i.e. they do not belong to the property-owning class. However, they do not recognize significance of class differences and the basic situation regarding the ownership of means of production.

General Secretary Kim Jong Il sharply described the change in the working class:

“The ranks of the workings class have been intellectualized and the working masses engaged in technical, intellectual and mental labor are quickly outnumbering manual workers. Moreover the development of capitalism consolidates the domination of monopoly capital and adds to the prevalence of reactionary bourgeois ideology and culture, which greatly acts to control the class consciousness, awakening and revolutionary assimilation of the working class. The working class of the present times cannot be identified with the working class in the period of industrial capitalism or proletarian revolution, in the light of either the situation of the times or the actual reality of the labor, social status and labor movement of the working class. The changed situation and the reality require a new ideology and theory, strategy and tactics with which to awaken and rally the broad sections of the masses who oppose the domination of monopoly capital and the aggression and war policy of imperialism, train hard-core elements among them and expand and strengthen the revolutionary forces.” (Kim Jong Il 2003, “The Songun-based Revolutionary Line Is a Great Revolutionary Line of Our Era and an Ever-victorious Banner of Our Revolution”)

In Europe, because of the crisis of neoliberalism and capitalism the situation of people has been worse. Citizens have become passive in social matters so that a third of the population does not vote at all because they do not see the possibility of changing the world by voting. This is understandable, because problems in reactionary economy politics have not been solved even if Social Democrats or the Conservatives are in power.

In recent years, the influence of populist, nationalists, extreme right-wing and even

fascist parties has grown in Europe. This has also happened in Finland. True Finns, a Finnish party is currently a second-largest party at the moment. Bourgeois nationalist parties look for the causes of social problems from immigrants, minorities, or bureaucracy.

The rise of these nationalist and fascist parties is part of the capitalist tactics of maintaining the power of capitalism. These parties are the channel for dissatisfaction of people to the issues that are irrelevant to a change.

General Secretary Kim Jong Il has opened up this issue in his book:

“Bourgeois nationalism reveals itself as national egoism, national exclusivism and big-power chauvinism in the relationship between countries and nations; it is reactionary in that it creates antagonism and disagreement between countries and nations, and checks the development of friendly relations between the various peoples of the world.” (Kim Jong Il 2002, “On Having a Correct Understanding of Nationalism”)

The rise of bourgeois nationalism and globalization are not different things, but two different aspects of the same thing. It is about the tactics of capitalism. Capitalism takes all the necessary steps to preserve its power, that is, to seize the greatest possible added value from the work done by the workers.

A progressive ideology plays an important role in the work for independence. The WPK has had excellent leaders throughout its history. President Kim Il Sung developed the Juche idea, General Secretary Kim Jong Il further developed the Juche idea as required by the era and the developing revolution. Chairman Kim Jong Un has developed the Juche idea on a new high level by strengthening the country’s defense and Korean socialism.

The leaders analyzed sharply right and timely changes in the world as well as the conditions for the construction of socialism in the DPRK land in their works. Because of these works, we have a huge theoretical library at our disposal that we can apply in our work in our own countries. Nowhere in the world has done so comprehensive analysis over the past 75 years as that done by the DPRK. This kind of research for independence in the Western countries is extremely difficult, because research funding, media, etc. are supervised by the bourgeoisie.

Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism is what a best guide to increase independence in Europe, Asia and America. We have a lot of work to do.