

Youth Usher in a New Era Through Learning from Great Leaders

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Nowadays in the world, independent forces, including Global South are setting the trend of the new era.

Under this situation, it is required for us to study and disseminate the Juche idea that indicates a world of independence, peace and cooperation, organize and accelerate a new movement in the world, including Japan.

1. Founding and Application of the Juche Idea in Korea

Social history has always been developed by the new generation that believes in progressive thoughts.

The core of the struggle to open up a new era has always been the youth.

In Korea, President Kim Il Sung formed the Down-with-Imperialism Union (DIU) in 1926 and embarked on the path of revolution. At the time, he was only 14 years old.

Kim Il Sung studied Marxism-Leninism and in the process of applying it to the actual situation in Korea, he developed a Juche-oriented revolutionary line, which was the founding of the Juche idea.

In those days of 1930s, under the colonial rule of Japanese imperialism, the Korean people were deprived of their names, suffering severe exploitation and deprivation.

Those who had conducted nationalist movements and communist movements, however, were far removed from the popular masses and spent most of their time arguing in vain, hoping to win the approval of the then great power.

Giving a thought to how to win national liberation, how to realize socialism and communism to the end, under the circumstances of the colonial rule of Japanese imperialism, Kim Il Sung drew serious lessons from those activists who had been bogged in flunkeyism and dogmatism, while claiming to carry out the national liberation movement, and clarified a Juche-oriented revolutionary line.

On June 30, 1930, Kim Il Sung announced the “Path of the Korean Revolution” at the executive meeting of the Communist Youth League and the Anti-Imperialist Youth League held in Kalyun. He said as follows:

“The revolutionary struggle is led by the popular masses, and victory in the revolutionary struggle can only be achieved if the popular masses rise to the occasion. Therefore, the leader of the movement must naturally join the popular masses, awaken them and make them themselves the masters of the revolutionary struggle.” (Path of the Korean Revolution)

“Since we are undertaking the Korean revolution, we must start from the concrete reality of Korea and solve all the problems raised in the process of the revolution with our own strength.” (ibid.)

President Kim Il Sung further clarified to carry out the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal democratic revolution, we must not stop there, but continue the revolution, build a socialist and communist society, and eventually carry out a world revolution.

Kim Il Sung proposed that all anti-Japanese patriotic forces should be awakened and rallied to stand up in the anti-Japanese struggle to overthrow Japanese imperialism and that preparatory activities should be carried out to establish a revolutionary party from the base of the party organization.

Furthermore, Kim Il Sung expected to continue the revolution and to carry out socialist-communist construction after winning independence.

“After carrying out the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal democratic revolution, we must not stop there, but continue the revolution, build a socialist and communist society, and eventually carry out a world revolution.” (ibid.)

After the Kalyun Conference, Kim Il Sung fostered the youth as the core of the revolution and based himself on them and carried out his activities covering a wide range of the people.

The anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, which took place in the snowy jungle amidst the barbaric aggression and oppression of the Japanese imperialists, was severe one that lasted 20 years.

When Korea was liberated in 1945, Kim Il Sung was 33 years old.

After the liberation, the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) was founded in Korea with a core forged in the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, and in September 1948, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) was founded there.

President Kim Il Sung firmly guaranteed the succession of thoughts and leadership, while clearly outlining the path of continuous revolution to realize socialism and communism.

While learning from Kim Il Sung and assisting him, Kim Jong Il carried out many activities that Kim Il Sung could not do.

Kim Jong Il developed Kim Il Sung's revolutionary thoughts and formulated them as Kimilsungism, an integral system of idea, theory and method of Juche.

Kim Jong Il's ideological and theoretical activities further enriched Kim Il Sung's thoughts and gave precise answers to the problems arising in the construction of socialism and communism in the DPRK.

After the demise of President Kim Il Sung in 1994, the imperialists launched a violent campaign to dismantle the DPRK. The frustration of socialism in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, combined with severe its natural disasters, left the DPRK in a difficult situation.

Then, at the time, General Secretary Kim Jong Il pushed forward Songun politics and waged struggles to protect and develop his own country with it.

It was Songun politics with which the People's Army could protect their own country and take on the challenges posed in the most difficult section of socialist construction and bring about an upsurge in the socialist construction.

General Secretary Kim Jong Il worked very hard with a belief that he would surely build a thriving socialist power where the people live happily, while continuing to wage severe revolutionary struggles.

Kim Jong Un, who also learned from Kim Jong Il, has been waging a new struggle that is different from the era of Kim Jong Il.

Saying that the revolutionary thoughts of Kim Il Sung and those of Kim Jong Il are unseparable, but they are integrated, Kim Jong Un formulated Kimilsung-Kimjongilism as an integral system.

Kim Jong Un clarified that Kimilsung-Kimjongilism is, in essence, the people-first doctrine.

General Secretary Kim Jong Un personally goes among the popular masses, elevates them to the highest position, and thus serves them.

Having held the Seventh Party Congress, and the Eighth Party Congress, and clarified the strategy and tactics for building socialism and communism, General Secretary Kim Jong Un is leading the struggle of the Korean people for the complete victory of socialism.

The fact that the DPRK has defied the US imperialists' measures to crush itself and is successfully promoting its revolution and construction in accordance with the requirement of the Juche idea is encouraging the people the world over in their struggles.

Meanwhile, after the end of World War II, those countries that had been liberated from the colonial rules of imperialism like in Asia, Africa and Latin America were aspiring after ideas and theories with which to ensure their independence, and promote their construction of a new society.

In the 1970s, the demand of the peoples of individual countries for their own independence and independent development increased and the study and dissemination of the Juche idea became active in many countries around the world.

In September 1976, an International Scientific Symposium on the Juche Idea was held in Madagascar. It was attended by over 1,000 people, including representatives from more than 50 countries and President Rachiraka of Madagascar, and proposed the establishment of a permanent international research organization of the Juche idea.

At an International Seminar on the Juche Idea held in Pyongyang in September 1977, with the participation of 73 countries and 4 international organizations, it was decided to establish a permanent international research organization of the Juche idea and to set up its secretariat in Japan.

Responding to the demand of the people of the world to learn from a progressive thought and apply it to the development of their own countries, the International Institute of the Juche Idea (IIJI) was established on April 9, 1978.

There were precious teachings and consideration of President Kim Il Sung for the establishment and operation of the IIJI.

President Kim Il Sung taught that representatives of the countries that had won their independence required to study the Juche idea in conformity with the realities of their own

countries, and that in this context it was important for the IIJI as an academic body to conduct a wide range of the study and dissemination of the Juche idea.

Thanks to the establishment of the IIJI as an academic organization, the world progressive people came to have an ideo-theoretical basis to wage their own struggles in independent manners.

President Kim Il Sung stressed that it is important for Juche idea researchers in individual countries to assimilate this idea in conformity with their respective realities, not assimilating the experiences and methods in the DPRK as they were and that the study and dissemination of the Juche idea should be conducted in individual countries independently and creatively.

2. Growing Global South vs. Imperialism in Its Final Gasp

Nowadays, countries in the world known as the Global South are emerging and exerting a great influence on the world.

The Global South used to be dominated by imperialism and suffered miserably. Those countries called developing or underdeveloped countries, which were once forced into poverty by the imperialist rules, are now developing through their own struggles to win their independence.

In 2022, in terms of the proportion in the world GDP, the proportion of the total GDP of newly-emerging developing countries surmounted that of the total G7's GDP.

In 2000, the total GDP of newly-emerging developing countries were about US\$5 trillion, but by 2022 it increased up to US\$40 trillion, eight-fold. In contrast, the total GDP of the G7 countries has only gone from about \$22 trillion to about \$40 trillion.

The Global South is not only developing economically, but also distancing itself from the U.S. and the West and conducting diplomacy on an equal footing based on its own interests.

The total population of the Global South, which do not support the U.S. & the West-led sanctions on Russia, accounts for 85% of the world's population.

If the countries of the Global South make more efforts to develop themselves independently, the realization of a world of independence and peace will be accelerated.

It is important for the countries of the Global South to make steady progress in the direction of independence, peace, and cooperation by changing their ideology and principles of behavior that have been influenced by the long history of U.S. and Western imperialist

rule, which has led them to worship and depend on the U.S. and the West.

Some of the countries of the Global South are trying to balance their diplomacy. It is important to trust and rely on the people of one's own country and to follow the path of independence, rather than to consider objective conditions such as a small population or the power of neighboring countries as a major factor.

In addition, the "democracy" propagated by U.S. and Western imperialism is a democracy for the capitalist class and the reactionary ruling class, which is fundamentally different from a democracy for the people.

However, in some countries of the Global South, leaders who have been once elected to represent the wishes of the people are stepping down when their terms of office expire. Excellent Leaders who serve the people must continue to govern their politics for the people. Otherwise, imperialism will strengthen its domination machination by taking advantage of the absence of politics.

On the other hand, there is some influence of globalization based on neoliberalism led by the U.S. and the West behind the emergence of the countries of the Global South. Neoliberalism is an ideology that the strong devour the weak, which is contrary to the path of the common happiness of peoples.

Some countries of the Global South have achieved economic development by accepting imperialist capital. However, the more their economies develop with imperialist capital, the more their subservience to imperialism.

It will be inevitable that the countries of the Global South have to strengthen their own in every respect by fostering economies that rely on their own resources and technology, and developing people-oriented politics.

While distancing themselves from the U.S. and the West, Russia and China are also taking their own paths, strengthening their cooperation with the Global South.

There is now a fierce confrontation between countries that are moving toward independence and U.S. and Western imperialism, which are inherent to aggression and plunder.

President Kim Il Sung said:

"Aggression and plunder are inherent aspects of imperialism, and imperialism thrives on them. Imperialism is the product of aggression and plunder, and it has grown fat on ceaseless aggression and plunder.

"There is no limit to the wild ambition and greed of imperialism. The fatter it is and the

fuller its stomach, the more ambitious and greedy imperialism grows, and the more persistent and violent its acts of aggression and plunder will become.” (“For the Development of the Non-Aligned Movement,” June 20, 1986).

Contemporary imperialism has been weakened by the struggle of independent forces and is facing a historical crisis. Imperialism is rushing to prepare even for World War III, in order to prolong its own life. The political ruling classes and the media of the imperialist countries are calculating that they can maintain their political position by fomenting the crisis of war.

The U.S. and Western imperialists have given Ukraine vast amounts of weapons to make the country fight against Russia and have induced public opinions by spreading malicious propaganda that Russia is committing human rights abuses there, etc.

The greatest violation of human rights is the war provoked by U.S. and Western imperialism, and war is the most detestable violation of human rights that indiscriminately takes the lives of the people.

The U.S. imperialists bombed Tokyo on March 10, 1945 indiscriminately, killing more than 100,000 people in just one day, and then on August 6 and 9, 1945 they dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The U.S. and the West have decided to launch a large-scale attack on Russia in this coming June by assembling the latest weapons in Ukraine. They pretend that if that fails to bring Russia to its knees, they will hold ceasefire talks.

Imperialism becomes more brutal as it becomes weaker.

When capitalism develops and reaches the stage of imperialism, it will come to form alliances between capitalist monopolies. A few wealthy individuals will secure a monopolistic position, and the accumulation of capital will reach tremendous levels, producing enormous surplus capital.

The domination of monopolies in capitalism leads to the export of capital. Lenin states:

“In countries that import capital, capitalism develops under the influence of the received capital, and the speed of development is greatly accelerated.” (“Theory of Imperialism,” Lenin).

Lenin also defined five characteristics of imperialism.

First, the centralization of production and capital has reached a very high stage of development, the result of which is the establishment of monopolies. The monopolies play a decisive role in the economic activity.

Second, that a financial Oligarchy has been established on the basis of “finance capital,”

which is a fusion of banking capital and industrial capital.

Third, it has reached the stage that capital exports are much more important than commodity exports.

Fourth, international monopolistic cartels of capitalists have been formed to divide the world.

Fifth, the capitalist powers have completed the division of their territories.

On the stage of imperialism, various problems appear in the world.

First, the population of the imperialist countries decreases as people move from the imperialist countries to the colonial countries and other imperialist countries.

Also, short-term workers and immigrants from economically backward countries will flow into the imperialist countries, forming low-wage labor forces in the imperialist countries.

In addition, the monopoly capitalists divide the workers and corrupt the labor movement as a whole by buying off opportunists within the divided labor movement.

The biggest problem caused by imperialism is its invasion and plunder over countries with violence.

As monopolies were formed by the development of capitalism, capital and production were concentrated on a global scale, and the world was divided by imperialism. The First and Second World Wars were wars between imperialisms to redive the colonies throughout the world.

Since the end of World War II, the U.S. has come to occupy the position of imperialist head, and other imperialist countries have become subservient and allied. The U.S. has maintained its world domination, politically by the UN, economically by the dollar, and militarily by the U.S. military forces.

The United States, faced with a crisis as a result of being weakened politically, economically, and militarily, launched “globalization,” adhering to it as a means of surviving.

However, “globalization,” which aimed to create a U.S.-centered world, has failed, and the imperialist countries have been weakened furthermore.

After the collapse of “globalization” launched by U.S. imperialism, it has launched a new world strategy and is making dangerous moves toward war.

In the 21st century, the U.S. is changing the contents of the subordinate alliances headed by itself.

At the inauguration of the Biden administration in January 2021, President Joe Biden

articulated the two pillars of the U.S. global strategy.

The first pillar of the U.S. global strategy is to rebuild the subordinate alliances of imperialism, and the second pillar is to cooperate internationally to solve global challenges such as global warming.

In its world strategy, the U.S. made it clear to focus on China with regard to it as its only competitor, and that the world would be divided into democracies versus despotisms, with the aspects of competition and confrontation. What President Biden put a primary emphasis on was rebuilding the alliances with Japan and the Republic of Korea. To attack China, the U.S. has developed the concept of an integrated deterrence strategy.

The integrated deterrence strategy of the U.S. is to force the allied countries to expand their military buildups and, in the event of a military conflict, to make the allies go to war under the commandship by the U.S. from the rear.

In terms of relations with China, if a military conflict over Taiwan is to occur, Japan would engage in warfare with China, with the U.S. commanding from behind. For this reason, a Ground Self-Defense Force station has been set up in the Yaeyama Islands, Okinawa and a system has been set up to focus on China.

Until now, it has been reported that the Japan-U.S. alliance has been promoted as an alliance to protect Japan and that Japan would never attack another country.

However, from now on, Japan will be the front line in any attack on China.

On March 3, 2022, former Prime Minister Abe Shinzo stated that Japan should consider introducing “nuclear sharing”, in which U.S. nuclear weapons are shared and operated by allied nations.

Until then, Japan had adhered to the three non-nuclear principles of not possessing, not producing, and not allowing the introduction of nuclear weapons, but then former Prime Minister Abe’s statement was a deviation from these principles.

In December 2022, the current Prime Minister Kishida Takeo made a cabinet decision to revise three defense-related documents. Among them, the Japanese government intends to clearly state the possession of an enemy-base attack capability and to double the Japan’s defense budget to 2% of GDP.

This means that Prime Minister Kishida has fully accepted the demands of the U.S. and that his subservience to the U.S. has reached the highest stage in history.

Japan is rapidly expanding its military forces and entering the path of war. In Japan, it

was believed that war would never happen and that nuclear weapons were merely a deterrent, but such complacency is a thing of the past.

It is very regretful that the Japanese government and media propaganda have led many Japanese to view China, the DPRK, and Russia as military threats to us, and then to support the government's increased military spending to counter these countries.

The U.S. intends to weaken and disintegrate Russia and China whenever the opportunity arises.

The Ukraine conflict is, in essence, a war between the U.S. and Russia.

The U.S. used Ukraine to provoke a war in order to attack Russia. The U.S. and Western imperialist countries are prolonging the war by pouring an inexhaustible supply of weapons and money into Ukraine.

On February 25, 2022, Turkey brokered a cease-fire deal, but Ukraine broke the cease-fire talks in accordance with the US wishes and escalated the war at once.

In 2023, the United States provided Ukraine with its most advanced main battle tank, the "M1 Abrams"; on March 27, the United Kingdom delivered its main battle tank, the "Challenger 2", and on the same day Germany delivered 18 of its main battle tank, the "Leopard 2." It is reported that 60 to 70 Leopard 2 tanks will be deployed in Ukraine in the future.

The imperialist countries are competing with each other to provide arms to Ukraine, which is a fierce battleground.

Similarly, Japan's Prime Minister Kishida, who had visited India since March 19, 2023, made a hasty visit to Ukraine. He issued a joint statement with President Zelensky, pledging hundreds of billions of yen in a grant aid to Ukraine and stating that Japan would join the war effort. Japan has already provided \$7.1 billion in military aid to Ukraine.

Meanwhile, Chinese President Xi Jinping visited Russia on March 19, 2023 and met with Russian President Vladimir Putin, and a joint statement issued on March 21 stressed that bilateral relations between China and Russia are developing at the highest level in history.

As for China's proposal for peace talks on the Ukrainian conflict, President Putin said that he appreciated China's objective and impartial position in international affairs and stressed the importance of peace.

Since the Ukraine conflict began, China's imports of energy resources from Russia have increased by 54%. Similarly, China's exports to Russia have increased by 77% in chemical products and by 47% in vehicles and transportation machinery. Economic ties between China

and Russia are growing stronger.

3. Studying and Disseminating the Juche Idea Is the Preceding Task of the Era of Independence

Today, the world is moving toward independence and peace.

The social movement in Japan must be a struggle for a fundamental change in the Japanese society itself.

In the developed capitalist countries, the situation that the working class is involved has been changed, so that the working class movement will never be able to win if it is conducted as an extension of the previous one.

In the Marx's time, workers were exploited in the process of industrial labor to produce goods.

Nowadays, in capitalist societies, workers are largely taken in by finance capital. Emphasis on labor has been shifted: from emphasis on the labor in the production of things to that on the labor in the generation of knowledge and technology. Within the domestic sectors of capitalism, intellectuals and technical workers have now become the value multipliers of capital, while agricultural and simple labor have been taken up by unstable labor forces from abroad.

With the development of capitalism, the capitalist class becomes a new and powerful exploiter, and intellectuals and technical workers tend to be taken in by the capitalists and play a role as the voice of the bourgeoisie.

In view of this situation, the social movement in the developed capitalist society must be carried out as a struggle to fundamentally improve the position of the working class, a struggle to establish an independent regime that enables the working class to become the masters of the society.

When I visited the DPRK, President Kim Il Sung talked to me as follows:

"You have talked about the labor movement in Japan, and I believe that the labor movement in capitalist countries, too, must not be conducted in the same way as it was done in the past.

"Nowadays, in the developed capitalist countries, the capitalists are exploiting workers in more cunning ways as technology develops more. The labor movement in the capitalist countries must become an active struggle to fundamentally improve the living conditions of workers, and it can achieve certain results if only it raises the banner of independence.

“Japan should not enter the path of militarism, but should advance along the path of independence.” (By Kim Il Sung, on January 19, 1987)

The social movement in the developed capitalist society must be linked to the anti-imperialist struggle.

Since imperialist exploitation and deprivation are conducted in global scope, it is important for workers in the developed capitalist countries to oppose such a policy to invade the developing countries, while conducting their movement in cooperation and solidarity with other countries.

For Japanese workers, of course, it is necessary to work for the improvement of working conditions and various issues in life. However, under the circumstances that the imperialist countries are increasing their expropriation and deprivation of other countries, it is more necessary to concentrate on their movement to oppose imperialists-oriented wars and make their own country independent.

The first task of applying the Juche idea to reality is to make our own country independent.

It is only under the condition that the popular masses are pushed forward as the masters of the movement, get united and all activities are served for them, can the Juche idea be applied to the movement of making our own country independent.

Without making the popular masses the masters of the struggle, nor getting them united, but letting a small number of politicians steer the state's politics, this leads to being subservient to imperialism, and being apart from the popular masses. Those politicians who are separated from the popular masses will fall into populism, which will lead to corruption.

The corruption of politicians in imperialist countries, where politics is conducted away from the popular masses, is increasing, and the future of these countries is dimming.

After making each country independent, there must be a social revolution to establish a people's government in which the popular masses truly become masters of politics.

After the establishment of the people's government, people's struggle will go on to the stage of realizing the independence of the people completely, which can be said the struggle for socialism and communism.

On December 30, 1986, President Kim Il Sung delivered a policy speech entitled “For the Complete Victory of Socialism”. It can be said that President Kim Il Sung made a speech that encouraged to advance along the complete victory of socialism when the former Soviet Union began to collapse.

President Kim Il Sung talked to me as follows when I was received by him:

“Because there have been arisen various aspects about the issue of the transitional period from capitalism to socialism, I made a speech on this matter in front of the activists of the ideological activity section of our Party.

“The issue of the transition period from capitalism to socialism must be considered from a Juche-oriented stand.

“We are waging the struggle for the complete victory of socialism even under difficult conditions with many military burdens because our country is divided and we are in direct confrontation with US imperialism.” (By Kim Il Sung, on January 19, 1987)

President Kim Il Sung made it clear that the complete victory of socialism could be achieved by strengthening the people’s government and thoroughly carrying out the three major revolutions of ideology, technology, and culture.

In pushing forward our activities to make Japan independent, it is important to form a group of people who have studied the Juche idea in depth and who hold it as their own belief.

To make a deep study of the Juche idea and form a group of the youth that hold it as their own belief before anything else—This has been proposed as a preceding task not only in Japan but also in the world.

The younger generation will shape the future of the country and open up a new era.

When I asked him to tell me about Comrade Kim Jong Il, President Kim Il Sung talked about him as follows:

“I believe that the young people like you can develop the study and dissemination of the Juche idea more vigorously than the older ones.

“Let me tell you one story that happened in China a long time ago. When the Chinese Confucius went for a ride in his rickshaw, the children were playing at building an earthen fortress (a mud castle) by the roadside. Confucius told the children to get out of the way while he was in the rickshaw. One of the children then said that the rickshaw should be dodging the castle, and where was the law that the castle should dodge the car? Confucius was surprised to hear the child’s words, because the child was right. So, Confucius got out of the rickshaw and continued to ask him how many people lived in the village. The child then asked Confucius how many eyebrows you have, saying he wanted to ask this one by himself instead. Confucius was at a loss for words. The child said to Confucius if you do not know how many eyebrows you have above your eyes, how would he know how many villagers there are?

Hearing these words, Confucius said, ‘Those born later should not be taken lightly. Because, it is since they are promising.’ This word means to be in awe or fear of those born later because they may develop further in the future. This is an interesting story showing that the growing new generation can do more work than the old one. We think that you, a young person, will be able to do everything even better in the future.” (By Kim Il Sung, on January 19, 1987)

The study and dissemination of the Juche idea is the process that while one makes a deep study of the Juche idea and disseminating this idea, one makes a steady effort to apply this idea to the reality. This work may take ten years and 20 years. But we should surely accomplish it with conviction.

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In line with the demands of the times when the forces of the Global South and others are advancing forward under the banner of independence, we must vigorously advance the movement to make our own country independent.

Let us study and disseminate the Juche idea, uphold high the banner of independence, and advance along the path to victory, while cooperating with each other and being united.

(Lecture given at a Symposium on Global Independence and Peace held
in Tokyo on April 22, 2023)