

Progressive Ideology Supports Genuine and Real Sovereignty of African Countries



Francis Fanuel Lyimo

Deputy Director-General, Board of Directors,
African Regional Committee for the Study of the Juche Idea;
Professor at Saint Augustine University of Tanzania

Introduction

Countries of Africa have achieved political independence, but they are still under neo-colonial domination. The continent of Africa is marginalized and it is in a humiliating status of being dependent on foreign aid and foreign investments from countries of Western Europe and the United States (US) and from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

Western Europe and the US dominate the New World Order which is a capitalist force which dominate the world economy and world affairs. In the capitalist New World Order, the marginalized and humiliating status of dependency of Africa transforms countries of Africa into appendages which are subordinate in the world economy and world affairs.

The political independence of African countries was achieved last century through the rise of African nationalism and political struggles of the masses of the people who were led by patriotic nationalist movements in each country of Africa. These were struggles against European colonial rule in order to achieve political independence in countries of Africa.

But the achievement of attaining political independence in countries of Africa has been followed by neo-colonial domination and exploitation in Africa. Political independence

under neo-colonialism without economic independence in a real sense makes the political independence less meaningful. Baran, P.A. (1960) wrote in 'The Political Economy of Growth' p. 4. "Independence and autonomy are little more than sham as long as the countries of Africa remain economic appendages of the advanced capitalist countries and as long as their governments depend for survival on capitalist patrons."

The continent of Africa is dominated by neo-colonialism and its capitalist globalization. This situation is detrimental to and inhibitive to the existence of genuine and real sovereignty in the countries of Africa. So countries of Africa have to struggle against neo-colonial domination and capitalist globalization to achieve genuine and real sovereignty.

Neo-colonial underdevelopment in Africa

Neo-colonial domination is negatively correlated to development in countries of Africa. Capitalist countries of Western Europe and the US are economically rich and they are powerful in world affairs. These capitalist countries promote 'development' and 'modernization' in countries of Africa under neo-colonial conditions.

The World Bank and the IMF are the financial pillars of the New World Order. These financial institutions are very powerful in the sphere of capital and they strongly influence specific economic policies and directions in Africa. The IMF and the World Bank promote 'Economic reconstruction' and 'Economic rehabilitation' under neo-colonial social, economic and political conditions. The IMF and the World Bank use foreign aid to impose conditionality for the African countries to comply with in order to qualify to be given foreign aid by donor countries, the IMF and the World Bank. The conditionality includes accepting multi-party democracy, liberalized free market economy; privatizes commanding heights of economy etc. Neo-colonial domination in Africa was justified by pretense that African countries do not have 'good governance'. African governments are presented as corrupt, lazy, indisciplined, inefficient and they violate human rights, etc.

Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) are imposed by the IMF and the World Bank to countries of Africa. Neo-colonial domination is done under the pretense of 'development' and 'modernization' through the IMF and the World Bank activities on 'Economic reconstruction' and 'Economic rehabilitation' in order to achieve economic growth and reduce poverty in Africa. But the SAPs humiliate governments of Africa and neo-colonial exploitation is

intensified to deepen poverty and underdevelopment in countries of Africa. Development has failed in Africa, despite of more than fifty years of post-independence and receiving foreign aid from capitalist donor countries and the IMF and the World Bank.

Neo-colonial exploitation in Africa has to be brought to an end, otherwise people of Africa will continue to suffer in poverty and the continent of Africa will continue to be marginalized. Neo-colonialism has continued to put Africa in humiliating status in world affairs and place it in the periphery in the world economy. In fact neo-colonialists consider the continent of Africa to have no hope for survival with countries which have genuine and real sovereignty.

Capitalist globalization and foreign aid and underdevelopment of African countries

Capitalist globalization is an economic phenomenon involving international economic relations. Countries of Africa are victims of foreign aid and foreign investments. Despite of receiving foreign aid and foreign investments from donor countries and the IMF and the World Bank, countries of Africa are in deepening poverty and the continent of Africa has become wretched. This is because capitalist foreign aid is a neo-colonial tactic and strategy to underdevelop the African countries which are recipients of foreign aid.

Foreign aid and foreign investments in Africa enrich the capitalist donor countries and their financial institutions. Foreign capitalist initiated development leads to dependency, social and economic underdevelopment, loss of national pride, loss of human dignity, reduce self respect and confidence and increase poverty in Africa. This situation continues to make Africa humiliated and be in inferior status in world affairs and be marginalized in the world economy.

Globalization is a strategy pursued by capitalist nations to facilitate their ambition of world supremacy. It is also an ideology which promotes worldwide organizations and the vision of a borderless world. Globalization is a process of compressing the world through market expansion. The impact of globalization is to overlook or even ignore the boundaries of nation states which have political independence and turn the states into caretakers to look after and protect the interest of foreign Multi-National and Trans-National Corporations (TNCs). Under this situation the functions of the African states are reduced to keeping law and order, administering justice, policing, building and maintaining infrastructure, etc. Worse

still, these functions are paid for by taxes which are paid by people in countries of Africa. The African countries generate income for capitalist countries and the Multi-National and Trans National Corporations and they exploit countries of Africa in the global market.

Reliance on foreign aid and foreign investments has not developed countries of Africa. This is because the conditions attached to foreign aid and foreign investments are intended to serve the interests of the foreign donors and foreign investors. Myrdal, G. (1970) wrote in 'The Challenge of World Poverty' p. 344: "Both the US and British governments use aid to advance their countries' businesses". Foreign aid is used by capitalist countries of Western Europe and the US and the IMF and the World Bank to influence the economic, political and social policies of the countries of Africa in specific directions.

Foreign aid under neo-colonialism has not brought about development in Africa. Foreign aid has increased debt burden and consequently poverty in countries of Africa. Omimode, B. (1988) wrote in 'The Political Economy of Africa' Crisis' p. 280 "The 1980s came to be known as Africa the "lost decade" because it was Africa which financed donors through debt repayments".

Some governments of Africa rely on foreign aid from donor countries of Western Europe and the US and the IMF and the World Bank to balance their national budgets. African leaders who have the neo-colonial mentality praise the IMF and the World Bank and donor countries for foreign aid given to their countries. Such African leaders hope that their national economies will grow and eventually national development will be achieved. African leaders who think like this go to the extent of presenting statistical data of growth of their national economies by falsifying and fabricating or manipulating data to show 'success' in the economic performance of their countries to seek approval of the IMF, the World Bank and donor countries.

It is wrong for some leaders of Africa to accept and implement without considering critically the implications of implementing the conditionality and policies which are imposed on their countries by the IMF, the World Bank and the capitalist donor countries. It is also wrong to think that all government leaders in Africa are aware of the danger to African development involved in the capitalist globalization. As capitalist globalization is largely an economic phenomenon, it essentially has negative correlation with the development of the economies of countries of Africa in the context of neo-colonial domination. Capitalist economic globalization cannot achieve economic growth or economic development in countries of Africa. This is because in the world market, Africa is a price taker of its supplies of raw

materials and natural resources and Africa as a buyer of industrial products from the developed countries is also a price taker. The status and position of the African countries in the world market is that of 'price takers' of the prices determined and dictated by Western capitalist buyers and sellers of products and services in the global market.

Progressive ideology is vital to support genuine and real sovereignty in countries of Africa

Progressive ideology is vital to support genuine and real sovereignty in Africa. The Juche idea is a progressive ideology which can be adopted and adapted to guide African struggles against neo-colonial domination in order to achieve genuine and real sovereignty. Odinga, O. (1967) wrote: 'Not yet Uhuru' (Independence) in Kenya, which had won political independence but was dominated by neo-colonialism and Kenya did not have economic independence and economic development for the masses of the people in Kenya.

Genuine and real sovereignty should mean and imply a country to have economic independence, freedom of judgment, be self reliant and the country to be capable to exercise action as a sovereign state. Most countries of Africa do not have genuine and real sovereignty. Many countries of Africa do not have economic independence and they have fallen prey to neo-colonial domination. They depend on foreign support in form of foreign aid to balance their national budgets and to continue to survive with economies which depend on patron capitalists of Western Europe, the US, the IMF and the World Bank who dictate to African countries what they should do and what they should not do in order to continue be given foreign economic support to be invested for economic growth.

Countries of Africa need a progressive ideology which should be enriched by the Juche idea to guide the struggles to achieve genuine and real sovereignty. African leaders who think Africa cannot develop without foreign aid have to re-orient their thinking from reliance on foreign aid and foreign investments as prerequisites for the development of Africa. Such African leaders might have been manipulated to surrender to neo-colonialism and capitalist globalization. Those African leaders who have been misguided by neo-colonial domination have misconceived understanding that implementing capitalist Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) would enable their countries to achieve economic growth and development of the African masses. Indeed, some African leaders have been accepting the conditionality imposed on their countries by the capitalist donor countries and the IMF and the World Bank but the

truth is that their countries have had no economic development for the masses of the people of those countries.

Brown, B. M. (1995) wrote in 'Africa's Choice: After Thirty Years of the World Bank' p. 168: "When all concerned, including the IMF and the World Bank experts point out that things are not working, the blame is directed to African leadership that it is incompetent, dictatorial, bad governance, lack of rule of law, no transparency, corruption and no respect for human rights". Despite of these accusations some African leaders persist believing in foreign aid and asking capitalist donor countries and the IMF and the World Bank to support their countries through foreign aid and foreign investments to enhance the development of their countries. This is a disgrace to the dignity of Africa. Under neo-colonialism African countries are forced to accept conditionality which is imposed on these countries in order to attract more foreign aid and foreign investments.

African countries need progressive ideology to guide their struggles for genuine and real sovereignty

Many countries of Africa do not have a progressive ideology to guide their struggles to achieve genuine and real sovereignty. This is the root of the crisis on Africa under neo-colonialism and capitalist globalization. Omimode, B. (1988) wrote in "The Political Economy of Africa' Crisis' p. 303: "The greatest danger that threatened Africa is the absence of ideology." Many countries of Africa have no conscious sense of political struggle to overcome neo-colonialism and capitalist globalization.

The Great leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) Kim Il Sung wrote in 'Let Us Step Socialist Construction under the Banner of the Juche Idea' (1983) pp. 14-15: "The Juche idea is a man-centered philosophy which reflected the Korean people's consciousness and cultural value." Kim Il Sung creatively developed the Juche idea as an ideology which guided successfully the anti-Japanese fascist imperialist domination and exploitation of the DPRK in the 1940s and the anti-United States imperialist aggression of the DPRK in the 1950s. The anti-imperialist struggles in the DPRK have made the country achieve genuine independence and real sovereignty. The DPRK is independent in economy, politics, culture and military against US military threats and economic sanctions.

Neo-colonialism of the capitalist countries of Western Europe and the US is guided by a capitalist ideology which is based on individualism, liberalized free market economy, laissez

faire, competition and globalization. Baran, A.P. (1960) wrote in 'The Political Economy of Growth' p. 4 :“Capitalist ideology was developed by classical economists”.

Countries of Africa have achieved political independence, but the neo-colonialists have resorted to making sure neo-colonial domination and exploitation would continue in Africa. Neo-colonialists adopted ideological penetration in Africa. The education system was used and the US had Peace Corps and the United Kingdom (UK) had Volunteer Service Overseas to work in Africa. Peace Corps and British volunteers were sent to Africa to breed neo-colonial understanding among the African educated elites that neo-colonial foreign aid was useful and necessary for the development in independent countries of Africa. The development of Africa should be supported by foreign aid and foreign investments to produce materials and natural resources from Africa to be exported for sale in the world market to get foreign currency.

Cheap labour of the Africans is used to produce raw materials. It is wrong to allow foreign neo-colonial investors to control the pillars or commanding heights of economy in Africa and hire the Africans to provide cheap labour in production activities. Lack of progressive ideology in Africa leads to no conscious and genuine African commitment to fight against neo-colonialism and capitalist globalization in Africa. Neo-colonialism humiliates, dominate and exploit the Africans. Lack of clear African ideological consciousness is an intellectual setback in Africa. Neo-colonialists and capitalists who globalize support this situation and they prevent or even destroy the development of social and political consciousness which could unite the African people against neo-colonial domination, oppression and exploitation in Africa.

A progressive African ideology should unite the people in countries of Africa to resist neo-colonialism and capitalist globalization because social consciousness to be created using progressive ideology could make the people of Africa have a sense of self respect, national patriotism and make the Africans self confident and self reliant. The progressive patriotic people should use the mass media to promote a progressive African ideology for the struggle to achieve self identity, genuine and real sovereignty in the African states.

The Juche idea should be the basis of creating an African progressive ideology to support genuine and real sovereignty

Africa needs a people-centred ideology to support genuine and real sovereignty in countries of Africa. In order to understand the relevance of the Juche idea in the African

philosophy in the struggle for development and progress we need to understand the essence of the Juche idea. Kim Il Sung made public his work entitled 'On the Juche Idea' (1979). P. 41: "The Juche philosophy on its essence and substance is that the masters of the revolution and construction are the masses of people and they are also the motive force of the revolution and construction." The revolutionary struggles and construction work are undertakings for the good of the masses and must be carried by the masses themselves as the masters. That is what fundamental change means and implies and what social transformation calls for. The people of Africa are the masters of the struggle for genuine and real sovereignty in each African country and the decisive factor of victory in this struggle is the country itself.

The adoption and adaption of the Juche idea in the African philosophy should be understood by the Africans to mean adopting a development path of self reliance in Africa. Kim Jong Il made public his work entitled 'Giving Priority to Ideological Work Is Essential for Accomplishing Socialism', (1995) p. 1: "To develop the (liberation) movement, it is imperative for us to awaken the popular masses ideologically and rouse them to struggle" (for liberation).

A progressive African ideology should be created to reflect the wishes, hopes and aspirations of the African ordinary masses. The Africans have to carry thorough political education in organizing political organizations or movements for successful struggles. But some African ruling elites who have neo-colonial mentality and foreign support would argue against organizing and mobilizing the people in political education. Pro-neo-colonial ruling elites, would think that political education would mean indoctrinating the people to support their enemy progressive Africans. The reactionary pro-neo-colonial African elites might have received colonial or neo-colonial education which prevented them from getting correct political consciousness and awareness. They would not support the struggle against neo-colonialism because they are not capable to appreciate the power of the united African masses against neo-colonialism. That is why it is correct to say that Africa's post-colonial crisis is due to lack of progressive ideological consciousness among some Africans, particularly the greedy ruling elites.

The struggle for genuine and real sovereignty in countries of Africa cannot succeed without a progressive African ideology. Kim Il Sung wrote in 'Historical Experience of Building Workers' Party of Korea' (1986) p. 1: "In order to lay the masses' foundation for the liberation movement, it is necessary to awaken the masses and organize them". Although the people are the masters of the revolution, they need to be awakened and organized in order to play their

role as dependable political base in the struggle for genuine and real sovereignty.

There is hope for Africa to adopt and adapt the Juche idea's principles to enrich an African philosophy. Kim Jong Il made public his work (1997) entitled 'The Juche Philosophy Is an Original Revolutionary Philosophy,' which has been evolved and systematized with its own principles. The Juche idea is a way forward for Africa. The Juche idea does not contradict African traditional cultural values and beliefs. The similarity between the African traditional philosophy and the Juche idea is found in the common beliefs about man and his role and position in the world. Thus the Juche idea's principle of man-centred philosophy of revolution and construction is appropriate to enrich the African traditional philosophy of man-centred philosophy. In African systems of governance, people themselves are responsible for developing their own country for transforming it from what it is to what they desire it to be.

The Juche idea should be supported by intensified adult education. President Kim Il Sung wrote in his work (1982) 'Adult Education in Korea' p. 3: "Adult education is the education of working people who are engaged in socialist construction. It is of great significance in consolidating and developing a revolutionary world outlook and continually raising the level of general knowledge and technical and cultural standards".

According to President Kim Il Sung (ibid. p. 4), "Man is the master of everything and decides everything. In order to succeed in the fulfillment of all tasks in the building of a new society it is important first to make people more powerful." According to Juche idea's principles, what is most important is making man a powerful being in a way worthy of the master of the world. That is to get him to have a progressive thought and cultural and technical attainments.

Juche idea followers in Africa must rise up and fight against flunkeyism and dogmatism. Patriotic progressive leaders of Africa should go to the masses of the people, live with them, listen to them and learn from them. Juche idea followers should work with the patriotic, progressive people of Africa to awaken national and patriotic consciousness as masters of their own countries and to decide the destiny of their own countries.

The commanding heights of the national economy should signify the power of the people so they should not be owned and controlled by neo-colonial investors. The commanding heights of the economy are the basis of a country's genuine and real sovereignty. These are national patriotism, pride and self-reliance pillars of the economy. Privatization of the commanding heights of the economy and social assets in countries of Africa is contrary to the wishes of the popular masses in the African countries.

Dependent African capitalist middle class in countries of Africa are beneficiaries of the IMF and the World Bank supported projects or those projects which are supported by Western Europe and the US under neo-colonialism and capitalist globalization. Dependant African capitalist middle class and ruling elites who search for personal wealth and glorification should be made aware that neo-colonialism and capitalist globalization are the real enemies of development of countries of Africa. They should know that neo-colonialism and capitalist globalization are responsible for Africa's wretchedness and backwardness.

The greatest challenge on the Juche idea in Africa is to adopt it in the African situation so that the Africans concerned can understand its relevance to the solution of Africa's poverty and predicament. The Juche idea should enrich the African philosophy to create an African ideology which reflects the African reality derived from the historical experience of Africa as correctly discussed by Rodney, W. (1972) in 'How Europe Underdeveloped Africa,' Countries of Africa should have a common goal of struggling to achieve genuine and real sovereignty by overcoming and do away with neo-colonial domination, oppression and exploitation. Despite of the fact that all countries of Africa have achieved political independence and they have African governments, yet underdevelopment has persisted and deepened because of neo-colonialism and capitalist globalization which are detrimental to the development of Africa.

Development in countries of Africa has to serve the interests of the people of Africa. Development can only be achieved under the conditions of genuine and real sovereignty of African states. The people of Africa should learn a lesson from the history of European colonization of Africa and the impact of the current neo-colonialism and capitalist globalization in underdeveloping the continent of Africa.

The New Economic Order is based on private sector development and liberalized free market economy. The New Economic Order has roots in the history of capitalism. In the capitalist economic practices of neo-colonialism with laissez faire free market conditions there is continued underdevelopment in countries of Africa. Even in countries in which some growth has been recorded and applauded, but there has been no development to overcome poverty of the Africa's toiling cultivators and workers. Under neo-colonialism the Africans have no say to direct the way forward for Africa. If the African bourgeois middle class is brain washed with neo-colonial mentality, they are likely to follow without critical thinking foreign ideas and policies dictated by capitalist donor countries and the IMF and the World Bank in order to qualify to be given foreign aid and foreign investments.

Conclusion

The capitalist SAPs for development have been detrimental and inhibitive to meaningful development in countries of Africa. The hope for Africa to develop and prosper in social and economic sectors depend on the successful struggles guided by an African ideology which should be enriched by the Juche idea and culminate in achieving genuine and real sovereignty in countries of Africa.

Application of science and technology are pre-requisites for social and economic development in Africa. Industries and agriculture should be based on science and technology for effective economic and social development in Africa. Industrialization is essential for economic progress. Agriculture should apply science and technology in mechanization, chemical use, appropriate farm inputs and farming methods. Self reliance and co-operation among countries of Africa and with other developing countries is indispensable to freedom and development in Africa. All these pre-requisites for development in Africa culminate to the need of waging struggle by progressive and patriotic nationalists in order to achieve genuine and real sovereignty in countries of Africa. In reality, these should be struggles based Africa progressive ideology which is enriched by the Juche idea to fight against neo-colonialism and capitalist globalization which eventually will culminate to achieving genuine and real sovereignty in countries of Africa.