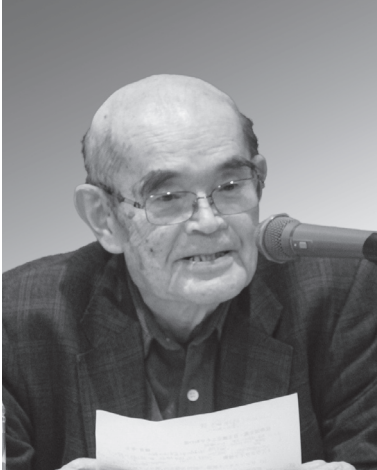


How to Build Independent and Peaceful World



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1. On the “Inter-Korean Reunification”

1) The Reality That Two Opposing States Exist Together

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers’ Party of Korea, stated the followings at a meeting of the Central Committee of the Workers’ Party of Korea (on January 4, 2024):

“The general conclusion our Party has reached in reviewing the long-standing relations between the DPRK and the ROK is that the reunification cannot be realized anytime soon with those in the ROK who have set it as their national policy of ‘unification by absorption’ and ‘unification of regimes’ in sharp contradiction to our line of national reunification based on one nation, one state and two regimes.”

Since then, based on this DPRK’s policy, inter-Korean exchange organizations on the DPRK side, such as the “North Side Committee for the Implementation of the June 15 Joint Declaration,” the “North Side Headquarters of the Pan-national Union for Fatherland Reunification,” and the “Ethnic Reconciliation Council,” were dissolved. They were followed by the dissolution of the “Overseas Committee for the Implementation of the June 15 Joint Declaration” by March this year, which had involved the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryon) and the Union for Democracy and Reunification (by ROK national living in Japan). Several websites for exchanges between the DPRK and the ROK,

such as “We Are the Same Nation,” have been inaccessible since January this year as well.

In addition, the northern section of the Gyeongui Line, the railroad connecting the DPRK and the ROK, which had been a symbol of reunification, was cut off, and the arch-shaped “Three Charters for the Reunification of the Fatherland” monument at the southern entrance to Pyongyang, built by General Secretary Kim Jong Il in 2001, was ordered to be removed.

The Korean Central News Agency on April 2, 2024 reported a meeting conducted by the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland. The meeting stressed:

“The Workers’ Party of Korea (WPK) and the DPRK government have declared those of the ROK concerned, who for 80 years had continued to regard the WPK and the DPRK government as their ‘main enemy’ and pursued only their policy of ‘collapse of the other government’ and ‘unification by absorption’ in collusion with outside forces. Then they condemned those clan of the ROK, while saying that the latter is not at all their partner for reconciliation and reunification, pointing out the ROK as the most hostile nation, the former’s constant main enemy or a thoroughly other nation. This is a new statement of the WPK and the DPRK government toward inter-Korean relationship and their policy of reunification.”

“The meeting also reached a consensus that there is no need for the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland that had been regarded as the all-national reunification front organization by then, to exist anymore in the reality that the inter-Korean relationship has become completely entrenched as relations between two states hostile to each other and the relations between two belligerent states, not the consanguineous or homogeneous ones any more. Accordingly, the meeting decided to officially dismantle the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland.”

This disassembling means that the preceding organizations and movements in support of the reunification of the DPRK and the ROK, which had been organized and active in Japan and other countries, accordingly would have lost their practical meaning. The key movement from now on will be only to interact with the DPRK—to officially recognize the DPRK as a nation in reality, to conduct exchanges, and to deepen mutual understanding and respect in this direction.

2) Response of ROK Yoon Administration, U.S., and Japan:

Building an Asian Version of NATO

On the other hand, the Yoon Suk Yeol administration of the ROK has conducted a major joint military exercise involving the U.S., ROK, and Japan. During the period of March 4 to March 14, 2024, they conducted a joint military exercise on a large scale called “Freedom Shield”, being extended over land, sea, air, space, and cyberspace, which was conducted not only by the ROK military, but also by the U.S. military, with the participation of the armed forces of 12 countries that used to be members of the “United Nations Command (UNC or UN Command)” during the Korean War, including the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, France, and the Philippines, under the command of the U.S. military.

The Kishida administration of Japan visited the U.S. in April this year and held a summit meeting with President Biden, and also held President Marcos of the Philippines in their arms, planning to form a political, economic, and a military encirclement network against China, the DPRK, and Russia. In other words, Japan and the U.S. are planning to build an Asian version of the NATO system through the revival of a zombie-like “UN Command”, with an aim at forming an encirclement against China and Russia that have been strengthening their ties with the DPRK.

2. Neoliberalism and War

Now, I would like to refer to the world situation in the 21st century in which Soviet “socialism” and Eastern European “socialism” collapsed, and then neoliberalism has conquered the world.

Neoliberalism has been introduced not only by the U.S., Europe, and Japan, but also by Russia and China, and then a great global competitive war is being played out. In the midst of this global development of neoliberalism, wars are actually being fought in Ukraine and Gaza, and the threat of war has arisen in Taiwan and the Korean Peninsula. Neoliberalism is an ideology and policy that promotes the free development of global market competition among the capitals of the world, although it appears to have nothing to do with wars that mobilize armed forces. In spite of this, why does the crisis of war occur?

1) Imperialism and War

In his article “Imperialism” (1917), Lenin considered capitalism in the period from the 1900s onward to World War I as the capitalism on the “imperialist stage”, and clarified its characteristics, especially the inevitability of imperialist war.

According to the Lenin’s theory of “Imperialism,” the followings were clarified:

The capital that is dominant on the “imperialist stage” is finance capital ^{Note 1}, which is the capital that combines “industrial monopoly capital” and “banking capital” through the holding of shares; through the domination of this finance monopoly, monopoly profits are acquired under the domination as such, whereas domestically, small and medium-sized enterprises and agriculture sector that were formed, have been plundered by the monopoly, and its profits become excess funds.

Excess funds formed under this monopoly is exported (invested) abroad, and as this investment realizes monopolistic profits, the country of being invested is controlled as a colony, and the acquisition and control of the colonies by countries controlled by the finance monopoly leads to wars for colonials capture—imperialist wars.

2) Inter-regimes conflicts

In Russia, where domestic contradictions deepened as a result of its participation in the imperialist war, a revolution took place under the leadership of Lenin, giving birth to the proletarian dictatorship or Soviet “socialism” ^{Note 2}. On the other hand, the capitalist countries were hit by the Great Depression in 1929, creating a crisis in the regimes. Under this crisis, fascist regimes in Germany, Italy, and Japan were formed on the one hand, and social welfare regimes in the U.S., U.K., and France on the other. However, the fascist regimes of Germany, Italy and Japan, focused on military expansion as well as state spending to maintain their regimes, and rapidly strengthened their moves to form external power blocs, which triggered World War II.

Under this war and crises in regimes, socialist regimes were established one after another in the DPRK, Cuba, China, and Vietnam under the leadership of their respective socialist parties. The world entered a new era based on the inter-regimes conflicts of capitalism versus

Note 1: It is important to capture the nature of pseudo-capital (stock certificates and corporate bonds).

Note 2: The actual socialism was triggered in the backward capitalist countries.

socialism.

However, from the 1970s onward, amid intensifying market competition among countries, crisis in the U.S. dollar—the dismantling of the dollar system—and the dollar crisis began, and stagflation broke out, mainly in capitalist countries. Stagflation triggered a crisis in which the economy could not recover with the expansion of fiscal spending and inflationary policies to maintain the capitalist system.

It is said that the only way to overcome this stagflation in a capitalist society is through the rationalization of reduction—in the end, this only way leads to thoroughly accelerate neoliberalism that reduces employment and promotes wage reductions.

However, the rationalization of reduction goes to the employment compression, which will reduce domestic demand and constrain the expansion of corporate accumulation. Thus, firms run to expand external demand. Exporting capital is expanded, and then more state aid to capitals is provided in this direction. This will increase external capital inflows and rises in wages aimed at securing and expanding export markets. This necessitates an expansion of fiscal spending. Export expansion will be supported by loans backed by fiscal funds, under which competition for markets among the major capitalist countries will intensify.

3) Neoliberalism and New Blocs

China has strengthened the export competitiveness of its industrial enterprises and entered the world market through its reform and open-door policies on the one hand. On the other hand, in response to the One Belt, One Road initiative of China, the major capitalist countries are also forming economic blocs in order to secure their markets. The finance capital that dominates U.S., European, and Japanese capitalism is leveraging the expansion of fund lending to form different economic blocs.

The U.S., which has lost competitiveness in the steel, machinery, and military industries in Germany and Japan, seeks to maintain and expand the global market by focusing exclusively on the military sector using advanced cutting-edge technology. The U.S. sells weapons to NATO members and Japan. To this end, by staging a real rivalry with China and Russia, the U.S. is deliberately creating a crisis of military power, including nuclear weapons in the DPRK and that of Korean integration.

The Kishida administration of Japan, following the agenda of the U.S. government, has embarked on a NATO-like (2% of its GDP) expansion of military spending by publicizing

the propaganda of a threat of war and the expansion of military strength, including the nuclear weapons of China, the DPRK in particular. This Kishida administration's massive military expansion with an attempt to build up Japan's capability for attacking enemy bases was agreed to at the Japan-U.S. summit on April 10, 2024. Under this policy of Japan with its debts more than twice the size of its GDP, totally non-productive military expenditures are on the increase, while the social welfare expenditures are being cut down, which leads to further impoverishment of the lives of the people, including workers.

3. The Path to Establishing Anti-imperialism, Independence, and Peace

Above all, we need to be a critique against the concept of the contemporary confrontation between the U.S. and China as well as the perception of the conflict as capitalism versus authoritarianism. It is necessary for us to have our own understanding. For instance, in capitalist view of current Russia and the current system of China, it should be impossible to regard current Russia and the system of China as "socialism." Then, it seems only possible to interpret Russia and China as authoritarianism. However, this is not a term that describes a characteristic of a nation. So, it is requested how to understand those countries and those regimes such as China, Russia, the DPRK and Cuba.

I should say that the DPRK and Cuba must be clearly viewed as socialist states, socialist regimes. China has not abandoned its socialist orientation. As General Secretary Xi Jinping of China has made clear, their goal is the realization of a Chinese-style socialist state. The DPRK clearly recognizes the workers and peasants as the masters of the society and as the driving force that support the society. Truly, this is their recognition of the DPRK as socialist Korea. The DPRK positions not only workers and peasants but also those who are the bearers of learning, art, and culture, as masters of the society.

What is the basis of socialism? I should say that it is indispensable to establish a concept of labour, that is, what sort of labour is essential for human beings to support and develop their human lives; and it is indispensable to form and develop a society on the basis of the clear understanding of labour that not only supports the material lives of the people, but also supports their spiritual lives and develops them.

Socialism is realized with each nation as a unit. Only within a state that determines and enforces socialist social norms as laws in the reality, can the popular masses, including

workers, become the driving force of the society.

Armed forces are not necessary if there is no threat of capitalist and imperialist aggression of destroying socialism. People do not need a power that oppresses them. People do not need armed forces when there is no threat of external hostile forces to themselves. Socialism will develop under the peaceful relations between people and people, between nations and nations.

Let us spread our conviction that the DPRK's armed forces are truly those to counter the threat of aggression by imperialism headed by the U.S., class armed forces so to speak, and that when the threat of aggression against the DPRK is eliminated, there will be no need for this country to have them, and that the DPRK is seeking to establish peace on the basis of mutually respecting independence of each nation.

For us, the Japanese people, it is our goal to form a Japanese state like socialism based on the organizational strength of the Japanese working people.