

# Sovereignty, Independence and New International Relations

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Esteemed Mr. Pak Chol Jun, Vice President of the KASS,  
Esteemed Dr. Ogami Ken-ichi, Secretary General of the IJJI,  
Esteemed Prof. Edmond Jouve,  
Dear Juche researchers, comrades and friends,

It is with great pleasure that we are holding today in Sofia, the capital city of Bulgaria, this European Seminar on “Sovereignty, Independence and New International Relations”.

First of all, I congratulate all participants in the Seminar, present here or connected via internet, and I express thanks to all of you that come from many countries to contribute to our discussion. I express special thanks to Mr. Pak Chol Jun, Vice President of the Korean Association of Social Scientists (KASS), and to Dr. Ogami Ken-ichi, secretary general of IJJI, who make this event even more important. I want to express my acknowledgement and gratitude especially to Mr. Juha Kieksi and Mr. Lyudmil Kostadinov, who worked for the organization firstly in Helsinki, where the Seminar was originally programmed, and then in Sofia.

The very relocation of the Seminar, due to impossibility of obtaining visas

for some delegations, with many consequent inconveniences for other participants, including Dr. Ogami Ken-ichi and Japanese delegation and other delegations too, testify to the timeliness and importance of our theme, that in present days is absolutely crucial, probably like never before in history for the entire world.

In fact we are experiencing a period of extraordinary acuteness, in Europe as in the Middle East as in other parts of the world, of the confrontation between States that insist on carrying forward policies of imperialism and neocolonialism, on the one hand, and peoples and States struggling for their independence and sovereignty.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of its counterbalance, imperialism led by the USA as the only one left super power, did everything to impose its domination all over the world, establishing the rules of its unipolar “new world order” to subdue other states in the globalization and declaring as “rogue states” unsubdued and resisting states, like DPRK, Cuba, Iraq, Iran, Yugoslavia, Libya, Venezuela and others.

For this purpose, imperialism has never refrained from resorting to interference or meddling, sanctions, pressure or blackmail of any kind, not only economic or political, but also military measures through the use of force and aggression up to the most serious international crimes in order to impose its power, enslave other countries and subjugate other peoples in colonial or neocolonial conditions.

Nowadays we are living a period of decisive turn. The present international situation is characterized by the further aggravation of strife between peoples struggling for their independence and imperialist powers seeking to maintain and extend their domination. The demands of peoples aspiring for their independence and their sovereignty have strengthened, but declining imperialism, like a mortally wounded beast, unleashes its ferocious tail blows with aggressions that pose tremendous dangers for the whole of humanity. Imperialism still does not hesitate to strike by all means any attempt that counters its power, and puts different parts of the world in danger of wars. Wars that are no longer just regional ones but expose the entire world to the risk of a global war with use of weapons much more destructive than those imperialism itself has already criminally used against Japan at the end of the Second World War, thus causing a probable catastrophe for all humanity.

With the greatest cynicism, which does not take into account the cost of human lives, the governments of imperialist states unleash such wars declaring that they defend "democracy and Western values". They do this despite the clear opposition of the vast majority of their own peoples, whose protest demonstrations are often harshly repressed, and therefore they do this in violation of any democratic principle, any principle of that democracy which they say they want to defend with their wars against "anti-democratic" states; but in this way actually they mask the defense of a structure based on domination, exploitation and profit.

To pursue their misdeeds, they launch an all-encompassing media campaign, which bans any expression of the opposing society, including art and literature and other manifestations of culture, and makes any attempt at an objective examination, much less dialogue, practically impossible, trying to silence anyone who doesn't share their vulgate. Moreover, after pointing out the enemy to public opinion, this is identified in a government figure who is painted as the emblem of absolute evil, to be eradicated, reversed and destroyed; and all kind of violations of human rights, individual and social, especially the repression of often paid dissidents, are attributed to him, outlining a society in the darkest shades.

The qualification of the enemy country as a dictatorial and aggressive regime, together with accusations of violation of human rights, constitute the most recurrent ways to denigrate it and justify the aggression. This leaving aside the fact that many human rights in the accused countries, and in particular economic, social and cultural rights, such as the right to healthcare, education, work, housing and others, beside civil and political rights, receive a much more effective implementation than in the accusing countries, where reference is usually made to "freedoms" that only certain categories of people can enjoy.

The description of the facts is practically reversed, or the narrative is started from a chosen date, ignoring everything that happened previously, in order to present the counterparty's reaction to their aggressive behaviors as the aggression itself, thus justifying any crime and violation of international law as a defensive act.

In Europe the Russian reaction to NATO's expansionism aimed at encircling Russia with enemy military bases, together with the establishment of a reactionary government that repressed and bombed the large Russian minorities in Ukraine, was

passed off as the responsibility of an aggression. This was made to conceal actually a US plan for global hegemony through a proxy war, in which European governments have tagged along, sacrificing their own peoples' interests. And this is carried on even in the awareness that, instead of peace negotiations, sending weapons and funding, in a continued escalation step by step in order to accustom public opinion to the already foreseen scenario of joint aggressive exercises, only causes further victims with the prolongation of the war.

The same imperialistic circles, that loudly protest because of civilian objectives hit in Ukraine, with an intolerable double standard look the other way and even express their support to Israelian government while throughout the Gaza Strip deliberate massacres and attacks against the civilian population have hit and razed hospitals and schools to the ground with all sorts of horrible behaviors that are repugnant to even a modicum of civil conscience. These massacres caused, directly or indirectly, the death of over 185,000 civilians equal to approximately 7.9% of the Palestinian population, as already noted on last 5th July by the English scientific journal "Lancet", in the short period of just nine months.

It is just in the period starting from that fateful 7 October always mentioned, as if nothing else had happened before in those territories, that many UN resolutions and pronounces of the International Court of Justice declare illicitly occupied - but in this case remaining without effect - and where an attempt at ethnic cleansing is underway to expel or annihilate the original Palestinian people. An attempt that recalls the genocide of Native Americans in the United States and is comparable at least to a contemporary phenomenon of fierce colonialism. All this occurs in serious violation of the most basic rules of international law and of every minimum humanitarian spirit, with the complicity of other imperialist states such as the United States, which give weapons and support, and, by misrepresenting the facts, claim to silence any criticism with specious and deceptive accusations.

Similarly, in other world regions imperialism continues its aggressive maneuvers. Let's just remember here that in Asian imperialism, claiming inseparable relations between the security in Europe and the one of the Asia-Pacific region, is trying to create another NATO-style bloc and pursue a military integration between NATO and colluded States in that region; it is also multiplying military

bases encircling independent sovereign states, and it is staging large joint military exercises against them, like “Freedom Edge” against the DPRK. In Latin America, considered by the US its courtyard, embargos and sanctions continue incessantly since many decades to strangle independent sovereign states, like Cuba or Venezuela, and to overthrow their socialist system by fomenting manipulated dissidents and even threatening military intervention after the unwelcome result of democratic elections, with the declared aim of ensuring... the security of the US. No need to spend other words to recall how so many states in the African continent are still subjugated by mechanisms of neocolonialism and imperialism.

But everywhere today more and more the peoples of the world are determined to realize their sovereignty with their social system and to safeguard their independence in a new type of international order, a real and equitable new international order.

The Juche idea offers a coherent system of principles to guide peoples to achieve these goals and its implementation in the DPRK shows how the Korean people succeeded in realizing its independence and sovereignty.

Independence and sovereignty are indeed the key principles of the Juche idea, as an original and unique man-centered theory according to which independence is the lifeblood not only of a man but also of a country and sovereignty is assured only when popular masses are the masters of their country.

President Kim Il Sung, elaborating these principles through the struggle of the Korean people, clarified that independence can only be achieved by relying on their own strength, without servility to foreign powers, and implementing a mass line, maintaining close ties with the people, listening to their voice and realizing their needs, in order to have domination and colonialism disappeared and full sovereignty realized.

Developing the Juche idea, Chairman Kim Jong Il highlighted the importance of Songun for defending independence of the country from imperialistic aggressions as well as for defending the achievements of social system from imperialistic interference with an emphasis on ideological work.

Despite hardships respected Comrade Kim Jong Un resolutely defended independence and sovereignty of the DPRK and, emphasizing the principle “people

first”, accomplished astonishing successes in building social achievements.

While advocating independent politics of one’s own country, based on the specific national situation, the Juche idea draws attention to the need to strengthen cooperation between all countries aspiring to independence and to launch an anti-imperialist joint struggle on an international scale.

The Juche idea, as applied by the Korean people, has already proved its vitality and ability to guide the struggle of peoples for their independence and sovereignty. The experience of the Korean people strongly encourages other peoples who advance along the road of anti-imperialism toward a new society.

Applying the Juche principles, it will be possible not only to build a system in which people is the master of its country, where no military bases of foreign powers exist and where decisions do not depend on foreign governments, but also to build a new model of international relations, based on peace, multipolarity, equality, cooperation and mutual profit.

Exploring these new perspectives, I am sure that the following discussion in next speeches will delve into various interesting aspects, which will make this European Seminar an important opportunity to deepen and disseminate the Juche idea and encourage progressive peoples to realize sovereignty, independence and new international relations in the world.