

Speech at European Regional Seminar on Juche Idea

We Need Common Independent Revolutionary Ideology to Resist Imperialism

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Today, we are living the period of strengthening the globalization, which means essentially that imperialism still survives. Crises are typical of capitalism, and they have existed as long as capitalism has been as an economic system. The crisis in capitalism arises from its own inherent laws. The capitalist must constantly strive to increase the degree of exploitation in order to maintain their position in the market. This is related to the law of the tendency of the rate of profit to fall.

The rate of profit is a measure that expresses the amount of profit relative to the capital invested. There is an internal contradiction in capitalism that causes the tendency of the rate of profit to fall. The falling rate of profit causes long-term crises in the capitalist system because capitalists try to compensate for the fall by increasing exploitation, lowering wages, worsening working conditions, and seeking new markets or speculative investments. In the long run, the falling rate of profit leads to increasing contradictions between labor and capital because workers are exploited more, and the capitalist system faces greater difficulties in maintaining itself.

Capitalists try to avoid the tendency of the rate of profit to fall by intensifying imperialist pressure. The pressure is increasingly directed to countries building socialism, such as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, China, Cuba, and Venezuela.

Let me give an example from Finland. When the crisis in Ukraine began (actually as early as 2014), the Finnish government sided with NATO against Russia. This policy has significantly increased Finland's military budget and driven Finland's economy into a permanent economic recession. Finland has closed its border crossings to Russia. As a result, Eastern Finland loses a million euros every day in missed revenue from Russian tourists.

NATO is building a network of military bases in Finland and Sweden. Both countries have given the United States dozens of base areas over which the local governments have no control. It is possible that the next imperialist attack on Russia will take place through Finland.

Supporting Ukraine and increasing military spending has led to the dismantling of the Nordic welfare state. Education levels are declining, and public healthcare is becoming increasingly difficult to access. At the same time, workers' conditions are being worsened, and the right to strike has been restricted.

The Finnish media is highly concentrated in the hands of big capitalists. There is no free and independent media in Finland today. It is virtually impossible to criticize the current government's policies. Due to this media monopoly, a significant part of the Finnish people has been brought to support the government's policies, despite the fact that this policy significantly has worsened their daily lives.

What I want to say is that capitalism can never produce well-being for all people. In capitalism, the rich get richer, and others suffer the consequences of imperialism.

We are still living in the era of the transition from capitalism to socialism. The transition from capitalism to socialism, from a class society to a classless society, cannot happen gradually but requires a revolution. The implementation of a revolution requires several things, but one of the most important is a unified ideology and understanding of how to build a revolution based on the circumstances of each country.

Changing people's ideological consciousness is harder than reforming society. Kim Jong Il excellently described on several occasions how strongly the bourgeoisie spreads reactionary propaganda against nations building socialism and socialist ideology in general.

Increasing ideological awareness is a crucial issue at the moment, especially in the Western countries. The bourgeoisie holds the upper hand in the ideological struggle. This results in capitalism's inherent individualism and the greed of individual capitalists being admired without criticism.

Capitalism has turned individualism into the unrestricted greed of a small group of

capitalists. This has maximized the antagonism in the society based on individualism. We have read that the world's 10 richest people managed to double their wealth during the COVID-19 pandemic. The vast majority of people are not free, but are subject to ever-worsening capitalist exploitation.

The bourgeoisie claims that socialism does not work because humans are inherently greedy. This is not true. General Secretary Kim Jong Il clarified this well in his work “Socialism Is a Science” (1994).

The transformation of a society based on individualism into one based on collectivism is an inevitable requirement of historical development. Collectivism is a natural human need. People can exist and develop only when they function as a social collective.

People can shape nature and society and satisfy their need for independence only through collective cooperation as members of the society. People also have an individual need for independence, but even then, it is a need to be an equal member of the social collective.

The individual's need for independence fundamentally differs from selfish greed, which disregards the collective and subordinates everything to individual interests. Such greed violates the independence needs of other members of the collective and is detrimental to the unity and cooperation of the collective.

Since functioning within a social collective is a natural form of human existence, and since the need for independence can only be satisfied through collectivism, a society based on collectivism — that is, a socialist and communist society — is the most advanced and best suited to the independent nature of humanity.

The founders of scientific socialism, Marx and Engels, correctly described the phenomena of the economic base and superstructure of society by analyzing the capitalist society of their time. Naturally, they could not foresee the challenges that would arise in building socialism in the next millennium. Lenin enriched scientific socialism with his theory of imperialism, which was an excellent description of the situation in which capitalism was more than 100 years ago.

In the Western Europe, many socialist groups adhere to Marxism-Leninism or Trotskyism and are dogmatic supporters of that ideology. We need a continuously evolving socialist ideology based on national independence, from which we can formulate a common strategy and tactics for transforming society.

In the DPRK, Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism has been developed for almost 80 years,

taking into account the internal development of Korean socialism, the active and creative role of the masses, and the developments in the outside world.

Kim Il Sung's starting point of building a revolution from one's own circumstances and relying on one's own forces has proven to be the only successful and sustainable way to build a revolution. Self-reliance means economic independence. Without economic independence, a nation is at the mercy of other states. Without economic independence, there is no political independence either.

Recognizing and utilizing the basic characteristics of people in building a revolution is crucial for the success of the revolution. It also ensures that the revolution and socialism are always built based on people's needs.

The unity and consensus of the nation are essential for building society quickly. Consensus does not mean, however, that the people's opinions and viewpoints are not taken into account. The creativity of the masses means that the people themselves solve the problems that arise. President Kim Il Sung repeatedly emphasized the importance of this in party work.

Making full use of people's creativity requires a very broad degree of independence. But once independence has been achieved, there are no limits to the progress of the revolution. Any goals can be achieved through the consensus on the objectives and when human creativity has been harnessed to serve the building of socialism.

The development of the Juche idea founded by President Kim Il Sung has been continued excellently by General Secretary Kim Jong Il and General Secretary Kim Jong Un. Nowhere else in the world has a socialist theory been built as scientifically and steadfastly, and nowhere else has the theory been tested in practice in the 21st century. When the theory is applied to practice, the challenges that arise in practice can be quickly corrected, and the revolution and construction does not slow down. This also ensures that external factors do not become obstacles to the advancement of socialism.

Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism is the only revolutionary ideology that can be applied to everywhere in the world. This is because the basic nature of humanity has been correctly understood, and because Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism emphasizes independence and self-reliance and recognizes the unique circumstances and the needs of each nation.

Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism has proven its strength in the DPRK, where the socialist society has been strengthened, and the standard of living of people has been improved year by year despite extremely difficult external challenges such as the pandemic, natural disasters,

severe economic sanctions, and ever-increasing pressure from the imperialists.

No other countries could have survived such challenges as the DPRK. However, every nation has a chance to develop itself as a similar independent country. This requires the application of Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism to the specific conditions of each country.

The position of capitalism remains strong, with few exceptions. However, dissatisfaction among citizens is growing. We cannot accept that a tiny fraction of the world's population holds the majority of the world's wealth. This results in ongoing famines and the enslavement of the entire nations. Peoples should understand that it is not possible for any capitalist countries to improve their capitalist systems without any influence of imperialism.

I am confident that on the basis of the Juche idea, we can begin to build a fairer world. Therefore, it is of utmost importance to study the theory of the Juche idea and its application in the DPRK, as well as to spread knowledge about the Juche idea.

Especially in Europe, where many governments in many ways support and strengthen the spread of U.S. imperialism, this study is crucial. In this work, the European Regional Society for the Study of the Juche Idea (ERSSJI) has an important role, and we must increase the study and visibility of the Juche idea in Europe.

There is no other ideology in sight that can solve global problems and increase the well-being of the people than the unique Juche idea founded by President Kim Il Sung and further developed and enriched by General Secretary Kim Jong Il and General Secretary Kim Jong Un.