

Speech at International Seminar on Juche Idea in Pyongyang

Workers' Party of Korea's 80 Years of Devoted Service for People's Wellbeing

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Dear comrades,

Today, we are celebrating the 80th founding anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK). It is not only a moment of pride for the Korean people, but also for all of us who stand for peace, independence, and socialism.

We in Europe are now living in dangerous times. NATO and the United States have for years pursued an escalation of the war in Ukraine, and the pressure from the imperialists against peace-loving nations continues to grow. The roots of this conflict lie in the collapse of the Soviet Union and NATO's relentless expansion towards Russia's borders. The 2014 coup in Ukraine, which overthrew the democratically elected President Viktor F. Yanukovich, was only one step in this development.

Since 2022, Finland, too, has been drawn onto this dangerous path. Our government rushed into NATO, increased military spending by billions of euros, and at the same time dismantled social security and worsened the living conditions of ordinary people. Eastern Finland has suffered particularly from the closure of the border, which has cut off peaceful interaction and worsened the situation of the Russian-speaking minority.

Finland had already lost its economic independence by joining the European Union and later the eurozone.

President Kim Il Sung said that without economic independence there can be no political independence. With NATO membership, Finland has now lost its military independence as well. Today the border between Finland and Russia has become a NATO border, and it has become a permanent state of insecurity.

At the same time, democratic rights are being eroded: trade unions are under attack, freedom of speech is curtailed, and anyone who defends peace and independence is branded a "foreign agent."

When we look at the DPRK, we see a completely different path. For 80 years, the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) has guided the people in building a socialist society. Owing to decades of Japanese occupation followed by the devastating war launched by the American imperialists, the socialist construction was faced with extreme difficulties. Yet under the Party's leadership, the masses of people rose quickly, built industry, improved living standards and secured independence.

This achievement was possible thanks to President Kim Il Sung, Chairman Kim Jong Il, and today the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un.

In the West, governments listen only to the demands of international monopoly capital. In the DPRK, the Party listens to the masses of people. That difference is clear: in the West, where inequality deepens and social welfare is being dismantled, while in the DPRK people have advanced their living conditions and strengthened their society without surrendering their achievements to the profit of a few.

Our task in Europe is to study the Juche idea from our own conditions, to break the imperialist media monopoly, and to spread awareness of the benefits socialism offers. Dissatisfaction is growing among the people in Europe, but many do not yet see the link between militarization and worsening living standards.

The DPRK is an example for us. Its experience shows that strong defence and people's welfare can go hand in hand—if the fruits of labour are used to build its society, and not siphoned away into the coffers of monopoly capital.

Today, we can proudly declare: for 80 years, the Workers' Party of Korea has been the true vanguard of its people, a guardian of peace and independence.