

Challenges of the 21st Century and The Juche idea

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Distinguished dignitaries on the dais, ladies and gentlemen and friends from the media,

It is with a deep sense of responsibility and I feel so privileged to speak today on the subject of the challenges of the 21st century and the Juche idea.

The 21st century is not merely a continuation of history—it is a battlefield of contradictions, where the fate of humanity hangs in the balance. From ecological collapse to economic exploitation, from imperialist aggression to cultural erosion, the problems confronting us are not isolated incidents, but the cumulative product of a global system built on domination, inequality, and spiritual decay. It is well known to everybody the present situations prevailing in the world, where one super power is trying to suppress the other smaller countries and war like situations, are created in major parts of the world.

These are not natural problems. These are man-made crises, arising from an inhumane world order — one that has prioritized capital over community, dependency over dignity, and greed over life itself. And in this moment of deep historical importance, we must ask: What can lead us out of this dark tunnel? What philosophy can empower humanity to reclaim its future? Which may finally lead humanity to the path of peace, progress and prosperity.

The answer lies in the Juche idea, or the ideology of self-reliance, independence, and people-centered development, which is the philosophy founded by President Kim Il Sung and further by Chairmen Kim Jong Il and nurtured by respected supreme leader Kim Jong Un, who understood that a nation must be the master of its own destiny, and that the masses are not followers, but creators of history.

I. Imperialism and Global Subjugation

Let us first look at the geopolitical crisis.

The world today is not peaceful. It is under the boot of imperialist powers, primarily led by

the United States and its allies, who interfere in the internal affairs of sovereign nations under the banners of “human rights,” “democracy,” and “security.” But these are nothing more than weapons of psychological warfare justifications for domination, regime change, and economic plunder.

Iraq, Libya, Syria, Afghanistan — how many nations have been shattered in the name of “freedom”? How many millions have been displaced, starved, or killed, while so-called democratic powers extracted resources and imposed their will?

The Juche idea teaches that political independence is the foundation of all other forms of independence. Without sovereignty, there can be no peace, no dignity, and no true development. This is why the DPRK, under the banner of Juche, has never surrendered to external pressure. In other words, even if people are not in the face of war, not in the face of sanctions, not in the face of isolation, those who lose their sovereignty lose everything.

II. Economic Dependency and Neocolonialism

Secondly, the global economic order remains one of neocolonial dependency. Developing nations, especially in Africa, Latin America, and parts of Asia, remain trapped in the grip of international financial institutions and multinational corporations. The IMF (International Monetary Fund) and the World Bank, under the guise of “development assistance,” impose austerity, privatization, and debt traps ensuring that wealth flows upward and outward, away from the people who created it.

The Juche-oriented economics rejects this model. It does not believe in the “development” imposed from outside. It asserts that a country must build its own economy by relying on its own natural resources, the strength of its own people, and its own technical capacity with strong guiding leadership. Only then can a nation safeguard its independence and raise the living standards of its own people in a sustainable manner.

In the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK), despite decades of sanctions and pressure, those dedicated Korean people have built industry, agriculture, and science on the basis of strong willpower self-confidence under the guidance of great leaders. This is not related to backwardness — it is a form of resistance. It is the self-preservation of economic sovereignty in the world dominated by profit-hungry giants.

III. Cultural Imperialism and the Crisis of Identity

Another less visible but equally dangerous threat is cultural imperialism. The dominant powers seek not only to conquer territory and resources, but also to dominate the minds of people, especially the youth. Through mass media, advertising, and consumer culture, they promote a worldview of individualism, materialism, and rootless cosmopolitanism—severing people from their age-old traditions, their history, and their collective purpose.

The Juche idea affirms that a nation must protect and advance its national culture. Language, customs, history—these are not relics of the past, but vital instruments of ideological strength. People who forget who they are will be easily enslaved. The Juche idea defends the right of every nation to raise its people with pride in their identity and confidence in their own path.

IV. Environmental Collapse and the Moral Failure of Capitalism

We now face perhaps the greatest threat of all: ecological collapse. Climate change, mass extinction, and the poisoning of our air, water, and soil threaten life itself. Yet the root of this crisis is not simply carbon—it is capitalism. The insatiable thirst for profit, production for its own sake, and the endless exploitation of nature has led us to the brink of disaster.

With the Juche idea, its principle of people-centered development offers an alternative harmony between man and nature, guided by planned economy and responsible stewardship. Instead of profit, the guiding principle must be the well-being of the people and the preservation of the environment for future generations. This demands no charity from the rich, but a complete restructuring of the global order.

V. Role of the People: Masters of the Revolution

Comrades, at the heart of all these struggles lies the truth: the people are the decisive force in shaping history. The Juche idea rejects the notion that the elites, markets, or foreign powers will bring liberation. Only when the masses become conscious of their role, organized in unity, and armed with ideology, can they overcome these crises.

This is the era not of submission, but of awakening. This is the time not for despair, but for action.

We are not just here to discuss the issues only, but we have to practice and face the situations. As we are entrusted with history, the challenges before us are immense—but so too is our potential to solve the problems. If we hold fast to the Juche idea,

1. We will not only endure, but we will prevail.

2. We will defend sovereignty against subversion.
3. We will build prosperity without submission.
4. We will secure peace through strength.
5. We will inspire the world with our example of dignified independence.

Conclusion: The Revolutionary Road Forward in the Juche-oriented Way

The combined problems of the 21st century are interconnected—and they require a unified ideological response. The Juche idea is not a local or outdated ideology, but it is a revolutionary philosophy for all humanity or for everyone who wishes to live with dignity, for every nation that refuses to be ruled, and for every individual who believes that man is the master of his own destiny.

Let us fight imperialism with independence.

Let us fight exploitation with self-reliance. Let us fight despair with an ideology. Only by walking the path of the Juche idea—the path of self-respect, unity, and unwavering faith in the people—can we overcome the darkness of the present and illuminate the future for mankind.