
Juche Idea and New Era for Independence, Unity, Cooperation and Self-Reliance in Africa



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Introduction

The study and dissemination of the Juche idea should be done in accordance with the demands of this century. This is because the Juche idea created by President Kim Il Sung of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and his great exploits in leading people's cause of independence has philosophical and socio-historical principles to guide revolution and

national construction in modern times. In the Juche idea, the popular masses are the masters and driving force for independence, unity, cooperation and self-reliance in Africa in this century.

Independence Is a Basic Human Right

The Juche idea formulated the essential characteristics of human being as independence,

creativity and consciousness. Independence is an attribute of people who desire to live and develop independently as masters of the world and their destiny. With ideological consciousness of independence, African people should fight against oppression and exploitation to become masters of their own destiny. With creativity and consciousness, Africans can transform their continent and shape their destiny in a purposeful and conscious manner. Conscious people plan rationally their activities and coordinate and control their activities correctly and purposefully in conformity with the conditions and circumstances in the process of cognizing and transforming their countries.

According to the Juche idea, human beings must defend their independence because human history is a history of struggle of the popular masses for independence. Defending independence is an absolute requirement of man as a social being and his inalienable fundamental right.

The Juche idea clarifies that people are social beings for whom independence is their life and soul and it should be defended. In order to defend independence, it is necessary to adhere to the independent stand in revolution and construction. This stand implies that people should make their own decisions and take responsibilities for solving all problems arising in revolution and construction in accordance with their own independent judgment. The independent stand grows out of the fundamental requirements of the revolution and construction, which are undertaken by the

masses to gain independence.

Revolution and construction are carried out by the popular masses and for them. The masses must solve the problems of the revolution and construction by their own efforts. An independent view point is necessary because revolution and construction are carried out in a nation state as a unit. Countries and nations are units that have been formed through history of colonization and struggle for independence. The people live within a nation state as a unit. Because revolution and construction are carried with a state as a unit, the people who carry them out are the masters of that country. The masses must take the attitude of masters towards the revolution in their country, that is independent stand. The historical lesson of the collapse of Socialism in many countries shows that if the people fail to maintain an independent stand, they will lose the achievements of the revolution and destroy the revolution and construction.

Independence must be adhered to in Politics

Among the principles of maintaining the independent stand is the principle of independence in politics. General Secretary Kim Jong Il wrote: "Politics is of decisive significance in social life. Without independence in politics it would be impossible to talk about independence at all." ("On the Juche Idea")

Reactionaries view politics as the means of governing people. The Juche Idea clarifies that politics is a social function of organizing and

controlling people's activities in a unified way, in accordance with the common interest of class and society. Politics unites different aspirations of the people to one direction in keeping with the common interests of a certain class and society.

Maintaining independence in politics means upholding national independence and sovereignty of the people, defending their interests and conducting politics by relying on them. Political independence is the first criterion of an independent sovereign state. An independent sovereign state should have independence in politics, self-sufficiency in economy and self-reliance in defence. Setting up a people's government is a prerequisite to ensure independence in politics. The popular masses right to independence is represented by the people's government.

Africa Needs Political and Economic Independence

The continent of Africa is currently in a state of political and economic hardships. Many countries of Africa are unstable politically and some of them have inadequate food, clothes and shelter for their people. Africa depends on outside the continent for imports. Many manufactured merchandise are imported from outside the continent of Africa.

Many countries of Africa have no capacity for sustainable development and they have no endogenous capacity as most factors for economic development are exogenous. The social

and economic problems of the countries of Africa are a result of the problems of colonization, oppression and exploitation. The present-day result of the centuries of imperialist disruption and exploitation are non-integrated economies that concentrate on producing unprocessed low priced raw materials for markets of foreign countries outside Africa. Many of the foreign manufactured products are exported into African at very high prices.

The result is that countries of Africa cannot balance their export earnings with their import bills. Many African countries cannot produce their own manufactured products because of lack of technical know-how and the imperialist disorientation of the economy is Africa.

African countries have been tied to perpetual dependence on the world market as price takers of the raw materials they sell and the manufactured products they buy. The consequence has been African countries are vulnerable to exogenous factors including adverse commodity prices, high interest rates, volatile exchange rates, increasing



Many people without any land of their own live on the riversides (in Kinshasa)

debt burdens and protectionism in the advanced countries. No sustained development can take place under these burdens which drain the resources essential for internal investment and growth. In fact the consequences of non-integrated or self sustaining national economies in Africa, are huge foreign debts, high illiteracy rates, poor housing, poor sanitation and high infant mortality rates.

Unity and Cooperation among Countries of Africa are Vital for Development

The struggle for independence is a common cause for all humanity. That is why people of one country cannot remain indifferent when they see independence of people in other countries being trampled down. Today imperialists interfere in the internal affairs of developing countries and violate the independent rights of the people. Under these circumstances the progressive people of the world must unite and fight against imperialism.

People of Africa struggled against imperialism, colonialism and apartheid and won national independence. The struggle has also been waged against backwardness, poverty, diseases and underdevelopment and the countries of Africa have some achievements and some successes in social and economic development. This is attributed to the great Juche idea that has clarified independence as one essential characteristic of human being.

Building an independent, peaceful and

prosperous nation is the task of humanity in every country. Independence implies freedom from all kinds of domination, subjugation, aggression or war. The independence of countries of Africa is facing many challenges. Countries of Africa must defend national sovereignty, consolidate and develop the achievements of their independent states by eliminating poverty, diseases, backwardness and conflicts between and within nation states.

The great leader General Secretary Kim Jong Il wrote: "Preserving the Juche character and national character is imperative for the independent development of the country and nation and for success in realizing independence for the popular masses". ("On Preserving the Juche Character and National Character of the Revolution and Construction")

That means it is the duty of the popular masses to shape the destiny of their country and nation and their own destiny independently and creatively as masters of their destiny.

The independent development of Africa is the most desired goal in this century. Maintaining political independence and defending the sovereignty of every country is a noble activity of the people of Africa. Every country must pursue development goals and policies according to interests and realities of each country. Unnecessary pressure and intervention from foreign countries should not be allowed to destruct and destabilize countries of Africa.

Unity and cooperation among African countries must be instituted and accelerated.

The African countries must overcome the imperialist intrigues and actions of dividing and alienating African nations from unity. Africa must promote and defend sovereignty, equality, justice and impartiality.

The South-South cooperation will strengthen the countries of the south. Regional grouping such as the East African Community (EAC) should promote regional cooperation and collective self-reliance. Cooperation of the countries of the south is important for those countries in order to achieve economic independence through mutual economic and technical assistance and by meeting each other's needs. South-South cooperation represents a new form of international economic relations based on their common aspirations and interests to win their economic freedom and sovereignty.

The current level of South-South cooperation is undertaken at bilateral and regional cooperation levels. But if there is to be full-scale development of South-South cooperation, the developing countries must observe the principles of collective self-reliance, complete equality and mutual benefit on the basis the Juche principle of maintaining Chajusong (Independence).

South-South cooperation helps each country and promotes exchange on equal terms and in such a way as to benefit everyone concerned. This is an economic relationship between developing countries which should establish a global system of trade preferences so that trade between them can be expanded rapidly in conditions beneficial to them all. Barter and other forms of trade must be expanded

according to the interest of them all on the principle of mutual accommodation.

Developing countries should cooperate in agriculture so that self-sufficiency in food can be attained. Countries can cooperate with each other closely in the construction of irrigation systems, in improvement of farming techniques, in research on agricultural sciences and in production of farm machinery.

South-South cooperation should be strengthened in health work in order to eliminate diseases and preserve good health of the people. Countries of the south should promote exchange in the advancement of both modern and traditional medicines and organize and operate some hospitals under joint management. Cooperation in the field of science and technology is important for developing countries in making economic and technical progress. In addition the developing countries must develop and expand cooperation in exploitation of natural resources, industry, education and many other spheres.

South-South cooperation should be realized because the developing countries have similar past experiences and now fight to achieve the common purpose. These countries have rich raw materials and natural resources, good experiences and economic potentialities. Using these potentials, developing countries can consolidate their political and economic independence and set up a new international economic order.

The biggest challenge to cooperation of the countries of the South is that most of the countries pursue capitalist policies in the globalization and free market neo-colonialist new era. Under



Children, the bearers of the future of Africa

these conditions the free market and competition are extremely unfavourable to the countries of the south because of the continued transfer of wealth and resources from the countries of the south to the countries of the north.

Globalization era has obstacles for independent development of the African countries.

General Secretary Kim Jong Il wrote: "The imperialists' reactionary policy of suppressing the Juche character of nations and obliterating national traits is now taking on a new form in the guise of gangster-like fuss about the trend towards a 'monolithic' world." (Ibid.)

Globalization of the imperialists is in essence intended to subordinate African countries and other developing countries and realize the world supremacy to achieve western-style "free world". The imperialists force other countries and nations to adopt market economy and western culture and democracy and carry out policies of

"openness and liberalism". Their purpose is to dominate developing countries and exploit wealth from developing countries.

In the struggle against imperialist globalization, African countries should maintain the principle of independence and strengthen unity and cooperation in accordance with the Juche idea. Problems of Africa should be solved by Africans who are masters of their own destiny. Unity and cooperation of African countries is fundamental requirement for these countries to achieve independent development and overcome problems of globalization. This is because unity and cooperation are a mode of existence of a social being. African people should reject all sorts of imperialist intervention and build a prosperous Africa when there is unity, cooperation and self-reliance of the countries of Africa.