

# **Spirit of Self-reliance Clarified by Juche Idea**

## **—Matters Arising in Reunification of Korean Peninsula—**

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### **Abstract**

The study examines the prospect and challenges of the reunification of the Korean peninsula. Before the Korean war of 1950s, Korea was divided by the foreign forces. Findings indicate that foreign influence has been the major factor in creating and sustaining the division and that the economic sanction on the DPRK if not lifted by the US can mar the reunification efforts.

The study recommends amongst others the need for the US to reduce its overbearing influence in the region and allow both governments (North & South) to take their destinies into their own hands.

### **Introduction**

For the DPRK, its powerful war deterrent force is the only way out because no nation will contemplate any form of aggressive behaviour towards it.

It is instructive to note at this juncture that the US must learn from its experiences in Afghanistan, Iraq and recently Libya. The world had suffered enough of this kind of desperation to acquire resources and use of gun barrels to subdue innocent and peace seeking people. The action of the US is a recipe for chaos and lawlessness in the region which will push humankind to extinction.

The DPRK decided to take its destiny into its hands and besides, the United Nations Charter holds that all nations must be allowed to decide the nature of the

political system it deems fit to practice and in no circumstance should a relatively bigger nation lord it over the weaker ones.

## **Reunification of the Korean Peninsula: Prospects and Challenges**

The reunification of the Korean Peninsula has over the years preoccupied the minds of scholars and analysts, especially on the need to have a common ground for both countries (North & South) to relate and mingle in order to foster regional integration / unification. One of the prospects of the reunification of the Korean Peninsula is that the north and the south have attained high level technologies that could be transformed into producing high tech machines and equipment. The nuclear technology for instance can be redirected into the production of stable and high voltage electricity to power industries and other sub-sectors of the economies of the north and the south. This will allow for the massive production of goods and services for local and international consumption. Also, space exploration is another important area which if properly explored will help mitigate the challenge posed by climate change through early warning signals and adequate budgetary plans to arrest any catastrophe by both governments.

The north and the south have over the years obtained a reputation in the production and marketing of computer software and hardware. The reunification of the north and the south will further boost their confidence on the need to integrate in the interest of peace and stability. Arms race and stockpiling of weapons will no longer gain currency and shall be replaced with vigorous economic activities for the mutual benefits of the reuniting / reintegrating partners.

Nuclear technologies could be used in creating sophisticated medical instruments that could help medical diagnosis and identification of ailment treatment. The attainment of the above will make the region most sought after in the treatment and of both tropical and contemporary medical conditions around the world.

### **Challenges**

The US joint mission in south Korea is not only seen as a threat to the reunification of the Korean Peninsula and it further heightens tension and the

possibilities of the use of lethal weapons in the event of any escalation of the crisis. This singular act of the US stationing a military mission in south Korea made pundits and scholars believe that it was a preparatory military strategy to respond to any eventuality in the region. The US has in its interest of expanding its geo-political stronghold extended its deterrence from south Korea to Japan with a view of gathering intelligence to demonstrate might.

The irony of the whole matter is the fact that the US is trying to use its influence to prevail on the UN to compel the DPRK to suspend its nuclear program. The US, often boosting its weapons stockpile, insists that other nations must be prevented from acquiring one.

In June 2018, tensions between the United States and the DPRK were at least temporarily ameliorated when Comrade Kim Jong Un and US President Donald Trump held a summit meeting in Singapore. The summit raised hopes that the United States and the DPRK would avoid steps that could lead to war and that the DPRK nuclear threat would be resolved through further negotiations. The two leaders seemed to establish a personal rapport. They also signed a joint statement that committed the DPRK to “work toward complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula” and pledged joint efforts to “build a lasting and stable peace regime on the Korean Peninsula.”

### **Economic Sanction as Tool to Frustrate the Reunification Agenda**

The current economic sanctions by the US on the DPRK have long outlived its relevance because despite the sanctions, the DPRK have continued to relate with other parts of the world.

From the realist point of view, the economic sanctions placed on the DPRK have made the DPRK stronger and survive the sanctions through self-reliance.

The spirit of self-reliance as enshrined in the Juche Philosophy ensures that the people must take their destinies into their hands by attaining full-fledged political independence, economic sovereignty and military self-reliance.

The US and other allies must learn to respect the sanctity of nations and desist from unnecessary interference in a country's domestic affairs.