

President Kim Il Sung–Great Master of Theory and Practice of Revolution

Juha Kieksi

Deputy Director-General,

European Regional Society for the Study of the Juche Idea

Chairman, Society for the Study of Juche Idea, Finland

This year we spent the 110th anniversary of the birth of President Kim Il Sung. President Kim Il Sung was the most prominent statesman and an ideological theoretician in the 20th century. President Kim Il Sung is a master of both the theory and practice of the revolution.

Under the leadership of President Kim Il Sung, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea was established, which granted freedom and human rights to the Korean people who had lived under the slavery of Japanese imperialists for decades.

History has shown the unique power of the Juche idea in building society.

Marx first formulated the theory of socialism as a world view of the working class. Under Lenin’s leadership, the socialist revolution was carried out in Russia.

President Kim Il Sung said:

“Needless to say, we learned the theory and method of revolutionary struggle from revolutionary pioneers like Marx and Lenin. But we cannot dogmatically apply their revolutionary theory and method for ever. As years roll by, the nature of the times and the social circumstances change and the objectives of the revolution, too, change. As the objectives of the revolution change, its nature changes and its theory and method, too, ought to change.” (Let Us Uphold Independence. 1981. Kim Il Sung Selected Works vol. VIII p. 418-419)

President Kim Il Sung’s premise that the revolution must be built on the country’s own starting points and relying on its own strength has proven to be the only way to build a revolution. Relying on one’s own power requires economic independence.

Without economic independence, a nation is under pressure of other states. Other countries may tighten it by threatening to stop foreign trade, for example. If there is no economic independence, there is no political independence either.

Economic and political independence are the starting points for building an independent nation.

I would like to highlight an issue that President Kim Il Sung meritoriously developed and clarified, namely the understanding of basic attributes of man, independence and creativity.

Identifying the basic attributes of man and taking advantage of it in building a revolution is extremely important to the success of the revolution. It also ensures that revolution and socialism reflect always people's needs.

Unity of the people is important for the rapid construction of society. However, unity does not mean that the opinions and views of the masses are not taken into account. Creativity of the people means that the people themselves solve the problems that arise.

When the party listens to the people and supports the creativity of the people, the revolutionary spirit can be strengthened, and the revolution and construction work can be significantly accelerated.

I would also like to highlight the questions of ideological revolution raised by President Kim Il Sung.

As we know, three revolutions, an ideological, a technical and a cultural revolution are needed to guarantee complete independence. President Kim Il Sung stated that the ideological revolution is the most important of these.

The founders of scientific socialism, Marx and Engels, analyzed the capitalist society of the time and rightly described the phenomena of the economic base and superstructure of society. They could not, of course, have any experience of the challenges involved in building socialism. Lenin refined scientific socialism with the theory of imperialism, which was an excellent description of the situation in which capitalism was more than 100 years ago, and of course, this analysis is relevant today too, on the age of globalization.

Afterwards, it can be said that the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe socialist countries neglected the importance of the ideological revolution in the construction of socialism. To put it bluntly, it can be said that the study of scientific socialism was confined to universities. The ideological education of the citizens was not taken care of. At the same time, capitalist propaganda about the superiority of capitalism spread over the country by many different routes. Because the ideological revolution had been neglected, citizens were unable to respond to bourgeois propaganda correctly.

President Kim Il Sung had understood this issue correctly.

In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Juche idea has been promoted along with revolutionary practice.

The Juche idea created by President Kim Il Sung and developed and enriched first by General Secretary Kim Jong Il has now further been done so by General Secretary Kim Jong Un. Nowhere else in the world has socialist theory been constructed as scientifically and unwaveringly than in the DPRK, and nowhere else has the theory been tested in practice in the 21st century. When the theory is applied in practice, the challenges faced by practice can be solved quickly and the construction work of the revolution will not be slowed down. This also ensures that external factors do not become an obstacle to the progress of socialism.

It can be said that the work of President Kim Il Sung, in addition to the Korean people, benefited the working class all over the world. Relying on the Juche idea created by President Kim Il Sung, a revolution can be built all over the world.

Public dissatisfaction at capitalism is growing worldwide. We cannot accept that a few percent of the world's people hold most of the world's wealth. This results in constant famines and the enslavement of entire nations.

President Kim Il Sung was the most prominent theorist and statesman. I am sure that, on the basis of the Juche idea, we can start building a fairer world. Therefore, it is of paramount importance to study the theory of the Juche idea and its application in the DPRK and to disseminate the Juche idea. There is no idea in sight to solve global problems and increase the well-being of the people other than the unique Juche idea developed by President Kim Il Sung.