

BUILDING A REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

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On Sunday 7 October'07 the Friends of Korea held a very successful meeting at Marchmont Centre, London WC1, entitled 'Building a Revolutionary Party—the Korean Experience'. This was excellent opportunity for communists to come together to celebrate the founding of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) and to learn how the successes of the Korean revolution had been achieved in the very difficult circumstances which this tiny country faced—having to dispel firstly Japanese, and later American, aggressors from their land.

When Kim II Sung gathered a small band of heroes to form the first guerrilla units to take on the might of the Japanese Army no one could have imagined that this would become the People's Army that brought the American imperialists to their knees begging for an armistice in 1953.

Kim II Sung was the communist leader who built the Korean communist movement from the grass-roots in the 1920s to the WPK that was founded in 1945 and leads the Korean people from victory to victory in the 21st century.

The great leader of the Korean people was one of the giants of communism—the man who led the people in a war of liberation from Japanese occupation and then in 1950 defended that victory against invasion by the United States and its allies, who had been using the fledgling United Nations as a puppet. He then went on to lead his country in building its own, independent socialism, steering a careful path during the period of Sino-Soviet ideological conflict and managing to remain on good terms with both parties.

And after the demise of the Soviet Union and the loss of the eastern European socialist countries, an enormous setback for communism globally, when parties were becoming demoralised and failing around the world, Kim II Sung stopped the rot by summoning a global conference of communist and workers' parties in Pyongyang in 1992.

Kim II Sung led the Korean masses to victory against the brutal Japanese colonialists in 1945. He took up the gun again to defend their freedom when US imperialism and its lackeys invaded the north in 1950. The Americans were fought to a standstill and forced to sign a humiliating armistice in 1953. Though the American terror bombers had left north Korea in ruins, the masses rallied round the call of the WPK to rebuild their shattered country and lead the drive for a modern, independent socialist republic in the free part of the Korean peninsula.

In June 1950 the US imperialists launched an invasion of the north. The Americans and their puppets used everything at their disposal, including germ and chemical warfare, terror bombing and massacre in their bid to destroy the Korean revolution. But under the leadership of Kim II Sung the people stood firm and resolutely rebuffed the Americans, who had roped in their Nato allies, including Britain, into their insane adventure.

The Soviet Union, People's China and the other socialist countries rallied to Korea's aid. People's China in particular sent a million volunteers to fight side-by-side with the Korean People's Army in defiance of US threats to use nuclear weapons and dealt devastating blows to the United States and its satellites. In 1953 the United States bowed to the reality of military failure and world public opinion and sued for an armistice.

In the decades that followed Kim II Sung worked tirelessly for the peaceful reunification of Korea while creatively applying Marxism-Leninism to the concrete problems of Korean society emerging from feudalism and colonial slavery in the 20th century.

When the Korean War ended the WPK led the campaign for reconstruction. Industry was restored and expanded. Illiteracy was conquered, unemployment abolished and a comprehensive educational system established. The people began to enjoy free housing and medical treatment. By 1970 north Korea had become a socialist industrialised republic, an achievement that has made it a powerful beacon for socialism in Asia.

Kim II Sung knew that material prosperity and ideological strength were of equal importance to the people. He called this the twin towers. Though both couldn't advance simultaneously, when progress in one was made the other had to be advanced to catch up. Kim II Sung wasn't just a Korean communist. He was a great internationalist. The leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea championed the struggle for colonial freedom, non-alignment and Third World co-operation. He pioneered the call for south-south co-operation which is now bearing fruit today in the Shanghai Cooperation Council that includes China, Russia and three former Soviet republics of Central Asia and in the increasing co-operation between the oil-rich countries of Venezuela and Iran with Cuba and other countries confronting imperialism.

Kim II Sung, the great leader of the Korean revolution, died in 1994 but his work lives on in the WPK. His successor, Kim Jong II told the Korean people and the world that they could "expect no change from him" and with Kim Jong II at the helm, the WPK has won great victories in recent years. Natural disasters have been overcome. Diplomatic isolation has been broken and the intrigues of US imperialism have been exposed.

The Korean revolution is an inspiration to all communists and freedom-fighters throughout the world. The achievements of Democratic Korea today are based on the sacrifices of generations of Koreans in the past and the tireless work of the leadership of the Workers Party of Korea that follows in the footsteps of the great revolutionary leader Kim II Sung. With Kim Jong II and the WPK at the helm the Korean people will achieve the end of partition and the reunification of the Korean peninsula.

The history of the communist movement in Korea goes back a long time. In the 1920s there were many small and divided groups who could not form a united communist party. It was through Kim II Sung's work of organising anti-Japanese guerrillas that a new generation of communists developed. Kim II Sung emphasised the need for thorough organisational and ideological preparation for the party, emphasising the importance of armed struggle. Study courses were

organised for guerrillas, since he stressed that activists needed to be educated continually in order to avoid political degeneration.

The WPK represents the unity of the Korean working class, the peasantry and the intellectuals. The general line of the WPK is to enhance the ideological and cultural and technical aspects of the party's work. This can be understood by reading 'Historical experience of building the Workers' Party of Korea by Kim Il Sung and 'Historical lessons in building socialism and the General Line of our Party' by Kim Jong Il. □□□