

Peerlessly Great Man

The 20th century, characterized by unprecedented changes in the shaping of man's destiny, produced an outstanding statesman—Kim Il Sung, the eternal President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

He was a heaven-sent theoretician.

In the first half of 20th century when he was still in his teens, he embarked on the road of revolution to liberate Korea from Japan's military occupation (1905-1945). In the early days of his revolutionary career he authored the Juche idea with a profound insight into a new era that was in the making.

Today the Juche idea has a great number of followers worldwide. It holds that the masses of the people are the masters of the revolution and construction and are capable of propelling the revolution and construction; in other words, a man is master of his destiny and can carve out his own destiny. The idea gives solutions to all the theoretical and practical problems arising in opposing all kinds of domination and subordination and realizing the independence of people, and sets out ways and means for resolving them. It systematizes in an integral way the ideas, theories and methods for advancing and accomplishing the cause of independence for mankind.

On the basis of this idea, Kim Il Sung created the Songun idea.

The Songun idea defines that the revolution is pioneered, advanced and accomplished by force of arms; in other words, in order to realize the cause of independence in the face of acute confrontation with imperialism, one should, first of all, found a revolutionary armed force and, with it as the main force, strengthen the motive force of the revolution and carry out the revolutionary cause.

Guided by the Juche idea and the Songun idea, the Korean revolution has surged forward against all odds. Not only the Korean people but other progressive peoples of the world have been provided with a powerful ideological and theoretical weapon for national liberation and anti-imperialist struggle. This marked a new chapter in the history of human thought and heralded a new historical era of independence in which the masses carve out their destiny independently and creatively.

Kim Il Sung was a prominent statesman never before seen in history.

Throughout his life he mixed with his people, rousing them to overcome all manner of hardships and achieve unprecedented feats and miraculous changes.

During the anti-Japanese armed struggle he would say that as fish cannot live without water, so guerrillas cannot live without the people. Under his command the Korean People's Revolutionary Army (the predecessor of the Korean People's Army) waged a war against the Japanese imperialists with no backing from the state or a regular army to liberate Korea (August 15, 1945). The defeat of the US and its vassal

forces by the DPRK in the Korean war (1950-1953) just after its foundation, is also unthinkable apart from his extraordinary leadership.

During a talk with a foreign statesman he said that some foreign journalists had asked him how he could deal with state affairs if he just spent days visiting factories and farms, and that he had answered then that he considered it as mandatory as a head of state.

He was always with the people sharing weal and woe with them. Under his leadership the DPRK finished postwar reconstruction in three years though the US claimed that it would not rise on its feet again in 100 years, and launched socialist revolution. Then it achieved industrialization in a short span of 14 years, becoming a full-fledged socialist industrial power. Now it is a people-centred socialist state in which the people are masters of everything and everything serves them, a unique country that advances on the strength of their unity.

Kim Il Sung made an immortal contribution to carrying out the cause of independence of mankind. The world has big and small countries, developed and developing countries, but they should not be ranked one above the other and one must not dominate the other—it was his dictum. He set forth the slogan “Peoples of the world who advocate independence, unite!” to assist many countries in their struggle for national sovereignty and independent development and promote the movements of progressive countries which aspire after anti-imperialist independence, such as the socialist movement and non-aligned movement. The foreigners he met from the liberation of Korea to the last year of his life topped 70 000 from 136 countries.

He was an incarnation of humanity with noble virtues. In history there is no record of such a statesman who deemed love for the people as a banner of the revolution and bestowed warm affection on them all his life. He was addressed as the “fatherly leader” in his lifetime, and after his death “eternal President.”

After meeting him people would admire his lofty affection and virtues.

A head of state respected the President, calling him his elder brother, and other foreigners followed him as their father. Stalin and Mao Zedong who enjoyed world fame and authority, and Josip Broz Tito well-known for his self-respect also trusted and revered him.

Even those with different political view and religious belief and politicians of the countries hostile towards the DPRK also spoke in high praise of him.

A researcher at the International Peace Foundation of the US recalled that ex-President Carter had said that he was deeply impressed by President Kim Il Sung and he respected him as a political leader. He continued to say that in his own opinion President Kim Il Sung was a warm-hearted leader.

Kanemaru Shin, the former vice premier of Japan, said that President Kim Il Sung

was a great statesman who could not be found in the world history, adding that he shed tears from the moment of meeting the great man and it was regrettable to meet such a statesman in the twilight of his political career.