North Korean Reader

Alexander Arguelles
8: Seongun Politics: An Anti-Imperialistic and Independent Political Process Devoted to Country, Race, and People.............143
9: The Principle of Ethnic Autonomy is the Fundamental Principle of the Solution to the Unification Problem...................147
10: The Leader is the Nucleus of the Unified Solidarity of the Masses..............................................................152
11: The Essential Substance of Democratic Dictatorship of the People..............................................................................156
12: The Story of the Founding of the Republic Together with its Eternal Legacy...............................................................161
13: The Root Cause of the Inability to Solve the World’s Food Supply Problem.........................................................164
14: A General Understanding of Computer Crime.............................................................................................................170
15: The Abolition of the Use of Chinese Characters in Our Country and the Establishment of a Sole Transcription System by Means of Our Characters........................................................................176
16: On the Form of Language in the Novella Chains and the Heart, Which Truthfully Depicts the Spirit of the Anti-American Struggle of the South Korean People...........................................182
17: Human Beings Are Speech [Word Choice Reveals the Man]............190

Glossary.................................................................................................................................................................................199

Preface

This is an advanced level reader focused entirely upon North Korean speech norms, with all selections estimated to be between Interagency Language Roundtable (ILR) levels 3 and 4+. As preparation for working through this reader, students would be well advised to first work through my previous Dunwoody publication, the Korean Newspaper Reader, which introduces a wider selection of shorter and somewhat easier (beginning at ILR level 2) North Korean texts.

This reader presents seventeen selections from North Korean scholarly and academic journals from the 3rd and 4th quarters of 2007. Sources include: Journal of Philosophy & Economics, Journal of Historical Science, Political & Legal Research, Philosophic Research, Economic Research, and Culture & Language Study. Given the hostile extant state of relations with North Korea, such material is very difficult to locate, so I gratefully acknowledge the assistance of the staff of the C.V. Starr East Asian Library at the University of California, Berkeley, in making it accessible to me.

Because this is an advanced level reader, the publisher judged that it would be unnecessary to provide general vocabulary lists or a full-scale glossary of all words appearing in the texts. Nonetheless, those words, spellings, and constructions likely to strike a South Korean reader as being unusual have been signaled throughout in the original texts by being enclosed in boxes. Upon first appearance in a given text, if a different South Korean term or spelling exists, these have been given in order of appearance side by side with the North Korean variant at the bottom of the page, and those terms have been grouped into a mini-glossary at the back of the book.

The style of academic prose used in these articles is such that each paragraph is usually comprised of a single long sentence whose clauses are joined by conjunctive endings rather than by punctuation. Unpacking the arguments is thus indeed an arduous advanced level task, and to aid students in this, a full literal translation of all of the texts has been provided. As a result, although this book is primarily intended to be a training manual for advanced level development in the Korean language itself, those who do not know the language can also use it to gain insight into the North Korean academic mindset in the first decade of the 21st century. Anyone using this book for such intelligence gathering purposes should be advised that the translations were prepared first and foremost to aid language students in deciphering the original texts. Thus, my principle for translation was very different from what it would be if I were preparing a free-standing version, in which I would naturally strive to convey the sense of the argument in flowing English prose. Here, instead, I have endeavored to
최근 일본해상 《자위대》 활성화 미향성 등에 대한 금융활동개개를 위해 인도양자역으로 떠났다. 이것이 무엇을 의미하는가 하는 것은 명백하다.

보는바와 같이 일본활동들은 미국의 《반대로전협력》 구실임에 해외정착의 길을 열려고 발전하고있으며 미국은 이러한 그들을 점차전쟁활동대로 세력으론 고유한다. 이로 하여 미일사이의 군사적 공모목적이 더욱 강화되고있다.

이날의 국제정세로는 세계평화운동가들이 단결하여 반전전쟁을 향해 《평화》에만 의존한 평화주의로 실현될수 있다는것을 다시금 논속이 보이고있다.

조성철 기자
2008/01/30 8:48:19

Vocabulary

<table>
<thead>
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<th>North Korean</th>
<th>South Korean</th>
<th>English</th>
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<tr>
<td>방언</td>
<td>주전한</td>
<td>promote, propel, drive forward</td>
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미제의 《민권운호》 를의 반동성과 혜성

지자 김강남 | 출처 <학보(철학,경제) : 2007년 3호 | 발행지 DPRK PYONGYANG | 발행처 김일성종합대학출판사 | 경기한행문학번호 제19923호

오늘 미제국주의자들은 인권문제의 긴급발에도 미국사회의 반인도적인 인권행동을 피려고 다른 나라에 대한 간섭과 점착 행위를 경재하하려고 역할하게 전개하고있다. 미제는 미제의 정책이 《국제인권조약》이여 되는듯이 행해하면서 해마다 《국제인권보고서》를 발표하여 다른 나라들의 《인권문제》를 제작하도록 영향하고 《미제인권개선》을 위해 정치방식과 정치체제를 바꾸라고 알력까지 가하고있다. 특히 미제는 사회주의정치를 난이 드리고 행적가 전개하고있는 우리 나라를 독재를 가시처럼 여기면서 《인권문제》를 가장 우려할 우리의 사회주의제도를 위방하는 중요한 고려로 [2]용하고있다.

미제의 반사회주의, 반공화국책을 철저히 분쇄하고 인권마우선주의의 우리식 사회주의를 끝까지 홍보하려고 완성해나가려면 미제가해본다는 《민권운호》 를의 반동성과 혜성을 더욱 파악해야한다.

Vocabulary

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>South Korean</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>가라수고</td>
<td>가라수고</td>
<td>burying, concealing, blind to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>마치도</td>
<td>마치</td>
<td>just as though, just as if</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>거치</td>
<td>심겨이</td>
<td>what is worse, even, so far</td>
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Selection 2. The Reactionary and Nonsensical Character of the US Imperialists’ Discussion of the “Defense of Human Rights”

Author: Kim Kunnam
Place of Publication: DPRK Pyongyang
Publisher: Kim Ilseong University Press
Fixed publication number: 19923

Today the US imperialists, under the slogan of “defense of human rights” and concealing the inhumane civil rights circumstances of US society, are unscrupulously justifying and machining their interference in and invasive conduct towards other countries. Just as if they have become the “international human rights judge,” every year the US imperialists issue a holier-than-thou “annual human rights report,” assess the “human rights circumstances” of other countries as they please, and, what is even worse, go so far as to apply pressure to change political methods and political systems for the sake of “human rights situation reform.” In particular, the US imperialists see our country, which is holding the banner of socialism high and energetically progressing, as a thorn in its side, and they slander our socialism most egregiously in the “human rights issue,” in which regard we are actually most outstanding.

The US imperialists’ anti-socialist, anti-communist machinations seek to completely pulverize our style of socialism, which is the nucleus of the people’s masses, whom it will safeguard and defend as it goes forth to completion, and the US imperialists make too much of the “defense of human rights” argument, whose ridiculous reactionary character must be clearly understood.

More than anything else, the ridiculous reactionary character of the US imperialists’ discussion of the “defense of human rights” distorts the true essence of human rights as the right to autonomy of the masses of people being utterly obliterated by this sophistry that conceals the deplorable true condition of human rights in US society.

Now, although the US imperialists depict US society as a “society where all people are equal” and fancy themselves to be the “defenders of human rights,” what they call “human rights” are fraudulent “human rights.” The essential difference between true human rights and what the US imperialists carry on about as “human rights” has its root in a truly fundamental difference of opinion and point of view about the masses of people and the intrinsic special nature of human beings.

What the US imperialists carry on about as “human rights” is only money, and is a special privilege of those who are so wealthy that they can do anything they wish. The US imperialists’ inspired thinkers make the market economy the foundation of capitalist society, asserting that “a society in which one can invest or consume one’s own capital according to one’s own judgment, anyone can manage or spend his own wealth, and one is allowed to use one’s own income to buy all the possessions one might yearn for” is the very definition of the kind of society in which “human rights are protected.”

However... the imperialists do not even recognize such things as the right of the unemployed to labor, or the right of the homeless and orphans to eat and to live, as being human rights. That which the US imperialists carry on about as “human rights” can be shown to be merely a special privilege of a small minority of the capitalist class.

Human rights are intensively expressed when the masses of people’s right to autonomy in political, economic, and intellectual-cultural life is guaranteed and exercised.

In the United States, there is no doubt that the political rights of the masses of people are being violated. In the United States the working masses of people do not become the masters of politics and the masters of society, they become the object of politics, sacrificial victims for the sake of the benefit of the privileged classes. The actuality of American society is that poor people without money cannot participate in the political sphere of activity and so they must be socially discarded.

US elections are not competitions of political opinions, they are competitions of financial influence. The 2004 US presidential election was the most expensive election in history. In 1979, the US Supreme Court ruled that “individuals can use their own money without restriction in electoral campaigns.” It need hardly be said that such a ruling only benefits candidates who have much money... Under these kinds of conditions, it is self-evident that poor people who must work hard in order to earn a livelihood cannot even conceive of entering into electoral competitions.

In the United States the broad masses of working people are being excluded from elections. In US “electoral law,” it has been ruled that one must meet 60-odd different kinds of conditions regarding gender, age, wealth, degree of knowledge, term of residence, occupation, race, ethnicity, etc., in order to be able to exercise the right to participate in an election. The United States in the one and only country in the world in which people sequestered in prison have been stipulated to be without suffrage. Indeed, US society, where dark skin color is a reason for extreme racial discrimination and
Selection 13. The Root Cause of the Inability to Solve the World Food Supply Problem

Author: Professor Shim Eun Shim, Ph.D.
Source: Economic Research, 2007, Vol. 4
Place of Publication: DPRK PYONGYANG
Publisher: Scientific Encyclopedia Press
Fixed Publication Number 19871
ISSN 1683-996

The food supply problem is the root problem that must be solved before anything else in the lives of human beings.

The Great Leader Comrade Kim Jong il taught the following: "In the lives of people, the most important thing is solving the eating problem."

If human beings wish to continue living, then their food supply must regularly and constantly be guaranteed. The sufficient and regular guarantee of foodstuffs is known as food security, and when food security is realized, then the food supply problem is completely solved. However, if rations cannot be provided in required quantity, then human beings cannot maintain a healthy life and they are seized by famine.

The world food supply problem is one of the important problems that could not be solved in the 20th century. Of course, in the 2nd half of the 20th century world agricultural production increased, and those many countries that could achieve regular progress in solving the food supply problem escaped from famine. If world grain production increased by 5 hundred million t in the period 1900-1949, in the time period 1950-1950, it increased astronomically from 8 hundred million t to 2 billion t. Although grain production increased thus, nonetheless no small portion of the citizens of the globe suffer from insufficient food supply and are afflicted with hunger and starvation. Today in various nations of the world there are more than 8 hundred million impoverished people, and 1 out of every 7 inhabitants of the planet goes hungry. In particular, the food supply problem is all the more acute in developing countries.

World-wide, approximately 60% of the people who are starving are in Asia and 30% are in Africa. Even in the Western capitalist nations that boast of their advanced civilization, 32 million human beings are starving. The people in tropical African nations suffer from extreme difficulty of obtaining food. In this place, the food supply problem is growing continuously worse and the percentage of African inhabitants who are starving people has reached 43%.

The root cause of this kind of famine is, first of all, because in many countries an outdated social system rules and thus is unable to carry out food production and provision in proper order.

As an aftereffect of the long colonial rule of the imperialists, in the field of agricultural economics of various developing countries, the management connected with agriculture still lags behind. In these countries, private farm managers who block the introduction of modern scientific know-how, large-scale latifundia, and primitive collective administration hold sway, and a medieval exploiting form of usury remains in existence. In many nations of Asia and Africa, very small scale peasant farmers work on overwhelmingly leased land, and so they can neither use modern agricultural equipment and mineral manure, nor can they obtain loans. Among them, the financial situation of the great majority is such that they cannot even ensure their own families sufficient foodstuffs. Representatively, in India there are approximately 60 million peasant farmers who have less than 1 ha of farmland, which they cultivate on the basis of conventional type agricultural machineries and implements. Under conditions of this kind of backwards agricultural practices, it is not possible to achieve a decisive revolution in agricultural production.

Furthermore, outdated social systems have huge restrictions in the provision of food supplies. The problem of foodstuffs, involving both increasing the production of grain and then dividing this equally to all people, can be solved through a rational and humane distribution system.

These days, the fact that many people lack foodstuffs and are consequently starving has not come about because food supplies are absolutely deficient. Severe hunger and starvation have emerged even at a time when the worldwide visible amount of stock of foodstuffs has been increased.

The World Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) has stipulated as an international standard for food security that all nations be able to guarantee an amount of extant visible supplies equal to the foodstuffs consumption of their citizens. According to this, the lowest level of food security corresponds to 1.7% of the amount of annual food consumption, or to an amount for about two months, regulated as the amount of foodstuffs storage needed to satisfy the worldwide requirement for rations. In the last time period, world food reserves—individual occasions excepted—have, for the most part, been maintained at this kind of level. In the 1970’s and in the mid-1990’s, world food reserves not only decreased to a 40-day supply, but 1 billion nearby citizens could not escape from persistent food shortages, and in the developing countries, every year 20 million people starved to death.