

North Korean Reader

Alexander Arguelles

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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 these 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》 함선이 미함선 등에 대한 급유활동재개를 위해 인디아양지역으로 떠났다. 이것이 무엇을 의미하는가 하는것은 명백하다.

보는바와 같이 일본반동들은 미국의 《반테로전협력》 구실밑에 해외침략의 길을 열려고 발광하고있으며 미국은 이러한 그들을 침략전쟁돌격대로 써먹으려 하고있다. 이로 하여 미일사이의 군사적 공모결탁이 더욱 강화되고있다.

이달의 국제정세흐름은 세계평화옹호[력]량이 단결하여 반제반전투쟁을 힘있게 [벌릴] 때에만 인류의 평화위업이 실현될수 있다는것을 다시금 똑똑히 보여준다.

조성철 기자
2008/01/30 8:48:19

Vocabulary

North Korean	South Korean	English
벌릴	추진할	promote, propel, drive forward

미제의 《인권옹호》론의 반동성과 허황성

저자 김금남 |
출처 <학보(철학,경제)> 2007년 3호 |
발행지 DPRK PYONGYANG |
발행처 김일성종합대학출판사 |
정기간행물번호 제19923호

오늘 미제국주의자들은《인권옹호》의 간판밑에 미국사회의 반인민적인 인권형편을 [가리우고] 다른 나라에 대한 간섭과 침략행위를 정당화하려고 악랄하게 책동하고있다. 미제는 [마치도] 저들이 《국제인권재판관》이나 되는듯이 행세하면서 해마다 《네례인권보고서》를 발표하여 다른 나라들의 《인권형편》을 제멋대로 평가하고 [지어] 《인권형편개선》을 위해 정치방식과 정치체제를 바꾸라고 압력까지 가하고있다. 특히 미제는 사회주의기치를 높이 들고 힘차게 전진하고있는 우리 나라를 눈에 든 가시처럼 여기면서 《인권문제》를 가장 우월한 우리의 사회주의제도를 훼손하는 중요한 고리로 [리용]하고있다.

미제의 반사회주의, 반공화국책동을 철저히 분쇄하고 인민대중중심의 우리 식 사회주의를 끝까지 옹호고수하고 완성해나가려면 미제가떠벌이는 《인권옹호》론의 반동성과 허황성을 똑똑히 파악하여야 한다.

...

Vocabulary

North Korean	South Korean	English
가리우고	가리고	burying, concealing, blind to
마치도	마치	just as though, just as if
지어	심지어	what is worse, even, so far

Selection 2. The Reactionary and Nonsensical Character of the US Imperialists' Discussion of the "Defense of Human Rights"

Author: Kim Keumnam

Source: Journal of Philosophy & Economics, 2007, vol. 3

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 machinating 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 is 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." In 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 Eunshim, 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 Jeongil 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 outmoded 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 machines and implements. Under conditions of this kind of backwards agricultural practices, it is not possible to achieve a decisive revolution in agricultural production.

Furthermore, outmoded 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 world-wide 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.