

A voice for North Korea

Introduction

The hatred and vitriol that is being energetically directed at North Korea¹ by the mainstream media (MSM), commentators, and even comedians, is relentless. To this is added new rhetoric about pre-emptive nuclear strikes by America. This is all part of the build up to a new war, possibly a world war, that I have explained many times.

What is not being heard, almost anywhere, is a voice from North Korea to balance the commentary. Neither is the history of this country ever documented for the public.

This paper seeks to bring some balance to the shouting and give some salient facts that colour the situation.

It is a necessary paper for Christians so that they have perspective, background and true facts regarding an issue that could propel our nation into a world war.

[Statement: I have no contact, connection or association with North Korea. I have never been there and have never even studied the country until recently. I am not a Communist and, in fact, have criticised Communism as a failed political ideology that always ends up in totalitarianism and failed economies. My position on North Korea is neutral and my comments in this paper are based upon facts not propaganda or hidden agendas.]

The USA as the political opponent of North Korea

The number one imperialistic military aggressor of the last 100 years is certainly America on the basis of statistics alone. I have explained this a number of times and need not detail this again. America has engaged in about 100 interventions, coups, regime-changes, annexations, occupations, illegal wars, arming of terrorists, and creating jihadi terrorists. It has occupied and even taken over multiple nations on the basis of fabrications and false flags.²

It has decimated populations with nuclear bombs (Japan), cluster bombs (Iraq etc.), depleted uranium shells (Iraq), traditional weapons (Balkans etc.), napalm (Korea, Vietnam, Cambodia), chemical weapons (Korea, Iraq, Syria)³ and biological weapons (Korea, Vietnam).⁴ It even used geo-engineering to encourage torrential rains to flood the

¹ Actually 'The Democratic People's Republic of Korea' (DPRK).

² It annexed Hawaii in 1898 for the sugar business, deposing a queen. It took over the Philippines in 1901. It stole nations from Spain after a false flag (such as Puerto Rico in 1898). It annexed Texas from the Mexicans in 1836. It committed genocide of native Americans to steal their land and resources. It is occupying Afghanistan and Iraq illegally after conducting an illegal war. It has offensive military bases in Syria without permission. Etc. etc.

³ Such as tear gas shells, CS gas shells (both illegal in warfare), plus depleted uranium armour-piercing shells. The latter leaves a residue of toxic heavy metals which poison people, causing cancers, genetic effects, reproductive effects and neurological effects.

⁴ Such as Agent Orange: a herbicide and defoliant chemical used as herbicidal warfare programme 'Operation Ranch Hand' in the Vietnam War (also affecting Cambodia and Laos). As well as killing plant life and trees, it caused major suffering for 4 million people and killed animals. It damages genes and results in deformities in offspring, Hodgkin's lymphoma and leukaemia.

Ho-Chi-Minh trail in the Vietnam War ('Operation Popeye'). It continues to bomb nations illegally, especially with drones.⁵

It has set up military bases all over the world, even removing local populations on islands to achieve this, having 800 military bases in over 70 countries (Britain, France and Russia have 30 foreign bases in total). It has bases in Britain, Germany, Italy, Spain, Japan, the Middle East, Turkey, Syria, Iraq, Guam, Singapore, Afghanistan, Eastern Europe, Australia, South Korea and many other places.

It has naval carriers and strike groups patrolling waters in the South China Sea, the Mediterranean, the Western and Eastern Pacific and elsewhere. It has partially encircled Russia with an arc of military bases from Finland to Australia, raising the danger of conflict. It directly threatens North Korea. It directly threatens China in the South China Sea.

The USA intended to occupy the Korean peninsula after WWII and this is what led to the Korean War. The Americans refused to terminate this war with a peace treaty (it is legally still active) and have broken the armistice many times (see later). The North Koreans have constantly been threatened by American aggression and quite naturally seek means to defend themselves.

Any Communist threat from the north has now evaporated after the death of Stalin, de-Stalinisation under Khrushchev, the break-up of the USSR and the development of China into a market state. The militarisation of North Korea is chiefly to defend itself against US aggression, which is threatened and active, and this is what is stopping any hope of reunification.

If there is a war with North Korea, which despite its stupidity is currently being threatened, including a pre-emptive nuclear strike, it will be the fault of America and not North Korea. If this develops into world war (which is what the elite wants and which is likely given the alliances between North Korea and Russia/China) millions will die for no reason at all. Seoul will certainly be obliterated. However this could develop into a wider war whereby Russia and China attack the west, perhaps allied with Iran and Syria. In this scenario, much of Britain would be obliterated. Russia can destroy Britain with one new nuclear weapon (the 'Satan II').

Since North Korea is no threat to Britain or to any British interest, the American threat of war is insane. The media should be condemning America not North Korea.

This same kind of demonisation and fear-mongering occurred in the 1930s when the media spun stories to enrage Britons into hatred against Germany. Germany was no threat to Britain and Hitler admired Britain and wanted an alliance; neither was he bent on world conquest. However, the elite wanted war and Churchill was used to promote it. WWII need never have happened; but that is a different story. However, the terrible world war that erupted was due to elite plans and public manipulation; the same manipulation that is going on now.

History

The North Koreans have fought invasions from Japan for hundreds of years. In the distant past great sea battles were fought to defend the nation from the Japanese navy. It is

⁵ Such as Yemen, Pakistan Afghanistan, Somalia etc.

important to note that the mindset of Koreans has been formed by continual defence against outside aggressors. The highly respected South Korean film industry has produced movies illustrating some of this history, such as the excellent, *'The Admiral: Roaring Torrents'*.⁶

Modern Korea, dating from 1860 is characterised by anti-aggression and repulsion of foreign forces. In 1866 it sank the US ship General Sherman. It repulsed an invasion of the French fleet in 1866, the US fleet in 1871 and the Japanese warship Unyo-maru in 1875. However, the 1876 Kanghwado Treaty led to Korea being a semi-colony of Japan. This was followed by various uprisings and rebellions.

Another facet of history and the Korean psyche is a hatred of feudalism, which caused many problems in Korea right up to the modern age. This helped to foster interest in Communism.

Japanese occupation

The Japanese formally annexed and occupied Korea in 1910.⁷ The colonisation of Korea, as also of China, was brutal; in fact, the atrocities of the Japanese still haunt the North Korean people. However, the Japanese did construct mines, steel mills and hydroelectric dams to enable manufacturing, creating a Korean industrial working class.

Multiple rebellions by the Koreans and the Chinese led to the adoption of socialist ideas reacting to Japanese Right-Wing politics. One early leader was Kim Hyong Jik, father of Kim Il Sung who was eventually betrayed and imprisoned. In prison he learned of the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution. This convinced him of the need of a Communist proletariat revolution in Korea. On his release he shifted the centre of opposition to the Japanese from Pyongyang to the northern territory borderlands. Workers and peasants began to be organised into societies. This work was hindered when Kim Hyong Jik died in 1926.

The mantle passed to his son Kim Il Sung who is considered the great hero of Korea. His birth on Juche 1 1912 (15 April) was considered the start of the Juche era.⁸ He was lauded as an educated, patriotic leader who loved the Korean people selflessly who was determined to liberate Korea from the Japanese.

Kim Il Sung developed a revolutionary Korean guerrilla movement operating out of the northern territories and Manchuria to harass the Japanese.⁹ At the same time he developed a revolutionary Communist political party. He also organised a revolutionary army,¹⁰ which was founded upon young Communists. Guerrilla bases were set up along the River Tuman; weapons were stolen from the Japanese or manufactured and men were trained and mobilised. Japanese forces tried to crush the movement but were defeated. The victory at the Battle of Pochobo (1937) showed that Korea was not subdued and gave hope to the people.

⁶ Based upon the Battle of Myeongnyang (1597). It shows the defeat of the Japanese fleet of 330 vessels by the Korean fleet of 12 ships.

⁷ The 'Korea-Japan Annexation Treaty' (1910) which followed the fabricated 'Five Point Korea Treaty' in 1905.

⁸ The Juche ideology, formulated by Kim Il Sung, teaches that the masters of the revolution and reconstruction are the masses of the people. It is a man-centred world outlook and political philosophy. It values independence, nationalism, patriotism, creativity and work. It is vehemently anti-imperialistic.

⁹ Manchuria was invaded by the Japanese on a fabrication in 1931.

¹⁰ The Korean People's Revolutionary Army.

In 1937 Japan invaded the Chinese mainland and the oppression of Korea intensified. The Japanese launched a 200,000 strong punitive force, which the Koreans repulsed. After the fall of Germany the Koreans made a united attack by all forces and defeated the Japanese. Korean liberation was formalised in the unconditional surrender of Japan on 15 August 1945 (Juche 34).

After liberty from the Japanese at the end of WWII, North Korea began to modernise with Pyongyang becoming a centre for Christianity and western culture. The Japanese destroyed many churches and Buddhist temples but after the war temples and churches were rebuilt. Freedom of religion was afforded to all citizens.

Note

It is important to understand the fight of the Korean people against invaders and imperial powers that produced a national character exemplified in the Juche and Songun ideology. This explains why the imperialism of America results in a Korean national focus upon defence from American imperialism above all else. Koreans place the fight against foreign aggressors above everything and seek to maintain their hard fought for independence.

This is never explained to westerners who have celebrated exactly the same thing in their various nations and made national heroes of their own military geniuses (e.g. Alfred the Great, Sir Francis Drake, Admiral Nelson, Lord Wellington, Viscount Montgomery etc. in Britain).

It is ironic that the Korean fight for continued independence is very similar to the founders of America and the principles of the American Constitution. In fact the Constitution would condemn the current foreign policies of America which threaten nations thousands of miles away that pose no national security risk. The Founding Fathers would be on the side of the North Koreans as they were on the French revolutionaries!

Separation of Korea

In 1945 Roosevelt and Stalin arbitrarily divided the Korean people at the 38th parallel. This separated families living on both sides of the border. 16 million Koreans were in the American zone, 9 million in the Soviet zone.

Puppet leaders were installed, Syngman Rhee (south) and Kim Il-sung (north);¹¹ both claimed to be the legitimate government of the entire Korean people. In 1948, both governments formally declared sovereignty over all Korea.

In August 1945 the Soviets found a local people's committee established in Pyongyang led by a veteran Christian nationalist called Cho Man-sik, who was initially recognised by the Russians. In September Kim Il-sung arrived in Wonsan as a hero. Most Koreans wanted independence but Kim Il-sung supported the Soviet proposal of Soviet trusteeship for five years. Cho Man-sik opposed this in January 1946 and was arrested and then disappeared. The People's Committee became dominated by Communists and began instituting Socialist reforms. A Communist party was established under Kim Il-sung, who also formed a regular army and an air force, supplied by Russia. Pilots were trained in the Soviet Union and China on MiG-15 jets.

In 1946 a series of laws transformed North Korea into a Stalinist state. The UN opposed this but had no effect; UN supervised elections were conducted in the South only. In 1948 the DPRK was founded with Kim as premier. The Soviets only accepted the DPRK as the legitimate government of Korea, while the UN only accepted the Republic of Korea.

¹¹ Different sources either adopt or ignore the hyphen in the names; thus both Kim Il-sung and Kim Il Sung. The DPRK website uses the latter. I have been inconsistent on this in this paper but it is a minor detail.

A few years later in 1957 the US brought nuclear weapons to the peninsula and militarily occupied South Korea. The emergence of the Cold War meant that both the USSR and the USA tenaciously held on to interests in Korea.

Korean War [1950-1953]

The division of the Korean peninsula between opposing Cold War factions is the origin of today's tensions; in the fifties this erupted into a hot war.

The western media blames North Korea for starting the Korean War. The US is portrayed as intervening as the world's policeman for the common good and to protect South Korea. North Korea, and many independent historians, reveal that the US had been planning a military annexation of the peninsula and this was explained by General Roberts, 1949-1950 head of US occupation forces. This was part of a new wave of America aggression that had included interventions and coups in Cuba, Guatemala and Iran as well as fabricating an excuse to later wage war in Vietnam.

In this war over 4 million North Koreans died. Pyongyang was hit by 428,000 American bombs when its population did not exceed 400,000; the city was reduced to rubble. That's 1.07 bombs for every person. Museums provide hard evidence that the US used chemical and biological weapons to attack North Korea. Since the 1953 armistice (the war is not officially over) the USA has committed 8,000 breaches of the truce. One spy ship, the USS Pueblo, was captured.

Stalinism - Kim Il-sung

From 1953 to the 1970s North Korea was more prosperous than South Korea. Kim Il-sung remodelled society on the lines of 'Juche', North Korea's nationalistic ideology. Stalinist collectivisation was practised with the state seizing control of private property and organisations. Pyongyang was rebuilt as a socialist city, with adoration of the leader building a cult of personality to secure obedience. The media was controlled and foreign travel was restricted. Political opponents were purged, power was centralised.

Inequalities emerged (as in the USSR and wherever socialist totalitarianism takes hold). The 'Songun Doctrine' resulted in a system whereby the population was sorted into social classes according to one's loyalty (see later). Different classes get different privileges, such as better education or jobs. Opposition to the state was silenced and prison camps appeared. However, the DPRK denies that these exist and affirms that Songun doctrine is all about putting military defence first in priority out of necessity.

Gradually, as ever, collectivisation failed to enhance prosperity and modernisation dissipated. North Korea was very dependent upon the USSR for trade and security. In the 1980s, the quality of life began to stagnate.

After the collapse of the USSR in 1991, North Korea suffered a great depression. The planned economy model stopped working and poor agricultural policies brought failures and meagre crops. Reserves were running out when Kim Il Sung died in 1994.

Kim Jong-il

Kim Jong Jong-il came to power and continued to put military defence of the nation first. This resulted in famine for the poor and rural areas. In the late 1990s it is estimated that a million people died. Starvation has been a characteristic of many North Koreans for years. Because this resulted in stunted growth, the military had to lower the minimum height of

soldiers. Many fled to China; crossing the DMZ¹² to the south was too hazardous, though some managed to do it.¹³ It is claimed that the majority of those fleeing are women.

Gradually, markets began to emerge naturally as a survival mechanism and these spread to include a wider range of goods and services. South Korea also began to give unconditional aid to North Korea ('the sunshine policy') and increased economic co-operation. After 2003, an industrial complex north of the DMZ allowed South Korean companies to hire over 50,000 North Korean workers. China also increased its economic relationship to become its most important partner. However, food shortages were still common.

In 2009 the regime issued a currency reforms to curb the rise of free markets and destroy private wealth but this caused rapid inflation and stopped progress and even derailed regime projects. This led to widespread criticism of the regime.

Kim Jong-un

In 2011 Kim Jong-il died and his son Kim Jong-un assumed leadership, who was little known to the Korean people and was only about 27-years old. He secured his power base with purges and promotions and hindered cross-border movement. There have also been some moves towards liberalising the economy to enable free markets.

Today the people are becoming more empowered and grassroots changes are occurring diminishing the power of the regime.

Sanctions

The UN, dominated by the US, imposed eight sets of sanctions on North Korea since 2006. The latest sanction is UN Resolution 2753, which ironically mentions the welfare of the Korean people. This is nonsense since the only people that will suffer will be the Korean poor in an action where the US seeks to collapse the North Korea economy.

The regime will not ever stop pursuing its missile and nuclear deterrent programme. President Putin has said that the Koreans would rather eat grass than give up their only defence and affirmed that sanctions are useless. Since the sanctions began North Korea has accelerated its missile programme. This is why China and Russia have been sensibly demanding a watering down of the UN sanctions.

Despite all the UN sanctions, and independent US sanctions, the economy of North Korea has grown strongly. The current sanctions, however, may damage the economy, which will affect ordinary people most.

Should an internal crisis erupt, this would become the most dangerous scenario of all and in the interests of nobody. If the regime felt threatened, the risk of a nuclear strike would be possible. Instigating such a crisis by economic sanctions is not only stupid it is reprehensible. Provoking an internal crisis (which seems to be the plan) is only slightly less dangerous than an outright military pre-emptive strike. Why is no one in NATO or the MSM condemning America? I wonder!

Missile tests

North Korea

North Korea carried out its first nuclear test on 9 October 2006.

¹² De-Militarised Zone, established after the Korean War.

¹³ It should be noted that because the DMZ has been uninhabited for decades it has become a glorious nature reserve by default, being home to critical species such as the Korean Tiger and the Asiatic Black Bear As well as plant and other animal species.

After this there were tests of one Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile (up to 5,500km), two Medium Range Ballistic Missiles (up to 3,000km), eight short-range (less than 1,000km) and other Medium Range Ballistic Missiles. Others have been surface-to-ship cruise missiles and unknown types.

On 4 July 2017 North Korea conducted its first test of an ICBM,¹⁴ which can potentially travel over 5.5 thousand kilometres, perhaps 7,500km.

On 3 September 2017 it tested an underground, 100 kilotonnes, hydrogen bomb (five times stronger than the one on Nagasaki) that set off a magnitude 6.3 earthquake felt in China.

So far in 2017 there have been 14 missile tests firing 21 missiles. Each test improves its capability. Kim Jong Un has tested more missiles than his father and grandfather combined, in less than six years. It seems that the ultimate goal of tests is to perfect a missile with a nuclear warhead that could reach the US. The CIA believes that North Korea will develop a missile that could reach Seattle in the next three years.

North Korea has also improved the missile transporters so that they can travel off-road by using tracks rather than wheels. This is because most of North Korea's roads are not tarmacked.

South Korea

As well as the American missile and troop bases, Seoul has conducted its own missile tests. A new missile was tested recently that could reach Pyongyang; this was an advanced air-launched cruise missile equipped with stealth characteristics. This missile was made by Germany's Taurus Systems and has a range of 310 miles.

The denigration of Kim Jong Un

In the same mould as the elite propaganda about Napoleon, Kaiser Wilhelm and Hitler, which drove us to war, so the elite MSM is constantly barraging the public with defamation about the North Korean president. Never is a North Korean defence against this castigation published.

This condemnation is also propelled through many other forums than the news. It appears in talk shows, comedy programmes, panel shows, political discussion, and even Hollywood movies solely devoted to portraying Kim Jong Un as a fat, insane, crazy kid.

Now since we know that the elite-controlled western media is fake news full of lies and propaganda to support elite agendas, we should take all this defamation with a large pinch of salt.

Now I am not saying that Kim Jong Un is not a despot, and perhaps a ruthless despot, but so are many national leaders that are allies of the west. The worst American ally was a leader of a former Soviet state that allegedly boiled political opponents to death. That did not stop the yanks from being his buddy so long as they could build military bases in his backyard.

Background

While the Americans portray him as a fat loser, Kim has a very pretty pop-star wife who sports a designer handbag.

¹⁴ Inter Continental Ballistic Missile.

He is also parodied as stupid, but Kim attended a private boarding school in Switzerland as a child. The massive recent technological development of weapons since taking office has shown that massive advances are taking place under his leadership.

So, what are the accusations against him?

He is a dictator

He may be authoritarian, but so are [and have been] many allies of the US; we could mention Pinochet or Suharto for example. Mugabe is a dictator that tortures his people yet the media never demands war on Zimbabwe. What about the dictatorships in Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Bahrain that are closely connected to the US? In fact, the evidence is that Kim is less despotic than the aforementioned people since decisions are made collectively.

So, no different from many American friends.

He executed his uncle

It is said that he executed his uncle, Jang Song-thaek, in 2013 after accusing him of treason and attempting a military coup. Well many countries, including Britain, still have the death penalty for high treason. America has executed many people in recent decades for far less than treason. Furthermore, the US is allied to many presidents that do appalling acts against traitors. Turkey's Erdogan very recently killed many people after an attempted coup (which was staged by the CIA) but then imprisoned and tortured many thousands of innocent people on the charge that they were involved; in fact it was merely an opportunity to get rid of political opponents. What about Saudi Arabia beheading multiple women in public? What about the Uzbekistan government boiling people alive in Jaslyk Prison? What about the 32 countries that have the death penalty for drug offences?

So, no different from many American friends and America itself.

He is ruthless

Well this needs definition and evidence. It may well be that he is ruthless but I need to see testimony that is trustworthy to prove this. Again, many allies of the US have been extremely ruthless. What about the ruthlessness of America itself: spying on its own people in every telephone call, email and social media? What about locking people away without trial and without habeas corpus on trumped up terrorism charges? What about killing over a million people in Iraq? What about sponsoring and supporting ISIS to invade Syria? What about bombing Libya to destruction and then arming and financing al-Qaeda to kill a sovereign president? What about allies of America in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States that abuse, beat and behead women? What about the allies¹⁵ of America that were funded by the CIA and were filmed beheading children?

So, no different (in fact much less ruthless) than many American friends or America itself.

He is pushing for nuclear war

Well the only nations that have actually formally threatened nuclear war in recent years have been America and Britain. Hillary Clinton threatened to nuke Iran. President Trump has implicitly threatened a pre-emptive nuclear strike on North Korea. Nikki Haley, US ambassador to the UN, has threatened nuclear war. Ally of America, Michael Fallon (UK Defence Secretary) has threatened a nuclear strike on Russia.

I explain in this paper that the nuclear weapons programme is the only thing that is stopping the elite Neocons in America from waging war on North Korea, something they

¹⁵ Al-Zinki in Syria.

have wanted since 1945. It is a defence strategy that is necessary. North Korea (and Russia) has only stated that they will use nuclear weapons as a defence against American pre-emptive strikes.

Not only that but in April 2016 there was an offer from North Korea to suspend its nuclear programme if the US agreed to suspend military exercises in South Korea. President Obama rejected this offer. This alone proves American aggression.

Apart from that, if North Korea issued a pre-emptive nuclear strike against America or an American ally, it knows full well that an immediate response from America would be the total destruction of all North Korea within hours. Why would it do something suicidal?

So the severe threats of nuclear action come from NATO (Britain and America).

He hates Americans

Well, nothing much unusual here. Millions of people from many nationalities hate America for its constant acts of imperial aggression. However, Kim Jong Un has more reason than most. We should not forget that America murdered up to four million North Koreans in 1950-1951 and completely destroyed Pyongyang with more bombs than it dropped in the whole Pacific theatre in WWII.

He has good reason to hate Americans.

Conclusion

When you weigh it all up, there seems little reason to demonise Kim Jong Un any more than many other national leaders, and especially some vile allies of the US, past and present.

You are being conditioned by the elite MSM to hate Kim Jong Un and be frightened of the ambitions of North Korea. Do not fall for this propaganda.

Synopsis of the current situation in North Korea

Here I am partially indebted to a blog by Dr Timothy Anderson, Senior Lecturer at the University of Sydney, who has actually visited North Korea in August and interviewed many people in various positions: professionals, students, workers and farmers.¹⁶ I am also indebted to reports by Russia Insider¹⁷ and Russia Today.¹⁸

Background

North Korea is portrayed as a backward, primitive country; however, you can find long reports by Russians that have spent years inside the country that give a very different opinion. The fact that they have successfully detonated a home-made nuclear bomb makes them more technologically advanced than many large nations.

The Korean state is 3,250 years old with firm traditions. The Koreans had book printing 320 years before Gutenberg (i.e. in the European Dark Ages); examples can be found in Shinto monasteries in remote rural areas.

¹⁶ Information Clearing House, 12 September 2017.

¹⁷ An independent, American-led news channel based in Russia.

¹⁸ A state-sponsored Russian news channel.

North and South Koreans consider themselves one people and are fiercely nationalistic (after centuries of invasion). Though separated by politics, they are much closer than the west realises.

North Korea has a complex caste system, which is officially supported (Songun). In 1957 Kim Il Sung divided society into three main strata (friendlies, neutrals and hostiles)¹⁹ which were subdivided into 51 groups. While this is objectionable to the west one should consider that India has long had a bigoted caste system and Israel has an even worse apartheid where even certain Jews (Sephardim, Eritreans or Ethiopians) are beneath the pale, let alone Christians, Muslims, Palestinians and other Gentiles.²⁰

North Koreans are an accomplished people, being skilled in various disciplines, such as music or literature. The female vocal ensemble of the Korean People's Army has made its way into the international pop market. In fact North Korea has a full literacy rate of 100%, far better than the UK.²¹ It has one of the largest stadiums in the world, housing 150,000 people, that is used for its annual games that produces a world class spectacle of synchronised movement. North Korea even has its own dedicated computer operating system, built by its own engineers, that is an offshoot of Linux.

While western commentators constantly portray North Korea as being in abject poverty, luxury 'pimped-up' jeeps in the streets of Pyongyang suggests otherwise.

Technology

Due to Songun doctrine, centring the exchequer on defence first, the rural areas have little technology. Villagers still plough with oxen and use trucks with wood-burning engines. However, that is not uncommon in Southeast Asia; many rural villagers in India are just as poor and rely on oxen and buffaloes.

Politics

While North Korea is socialist, it is no longer Marxist. It abandoned Marxism in the 1970s when it ceased to be taught in schools. After the break-up of the Soviet Union in the 1990s, the DPRK was hit hard economically and people starved; this led to the allowance of private entrepreneurs. Even before the 1990s North Korean politics was not so much Socialism as Juche.

Government is not an absolute autocracy; decisions are made collectively but headed by Kim. The Central Committee, the Politburo of the Workers Party of Korea and the President of the Politburo make collective decisions. Russian reporters have stated that the government and the army behave in an extremely rational manner. The army has its own Politburo headed by the Deputy Head of the Party's Politburo.

Far from being in abject subjection to a power-mad despot, most North Koreans are proud that their country is standing up to an imperial aggressor and there is no fifth column. The people Anderson met were intelligent, educated, confident and full of self-assurance, especially the women. The reigning philosophy [Juche] stresses creativity and self-reliance. Anderson visited schools, hospitals, farms and museums.

Most ordinary people want peace but do not want to beg for it and are angry that Korea has been occupied by the American military for over 60 years. Of necessity, the nation is on a constant war footing and the military is at the centre of government. They are a very tough

¹⁹ The lowest caste includes former landowners, lawyers and Christian priests.

²⁰ Israel is dominated by Talmudic Ashkenazi Jews.

²¹ In fact, British university graduates have been found to be only partially literate and numerate.

people and prepared for nuclear war. One teacher said, *'Let there be nuclear war. We have a lot of tunnels underground, we'll hide there and wait, we'll play the accordion, we'll have a good time. And when it's over, we will go out and build socialism'*. The ordinary people of NATO nations are not prepared for nuclear war; tunnels and bunkers only exist for the elite and the top 1-%.

Sanctions

The isolation of North Korea is not desired by its people but it is US-driven economic sanctions and military threats that have caused it. These sanctions not only cause hardship to civilians but, as with Iraq, they kill children.

The energy embargo won't hurt North Korea as it has plenty of coal and hydroelectric power.

Anderson visited a new 300-bed children's hospital in Pyongyang where a boy was having a cranial CT scan with a German made Siemen's machine. This test, like all medical services, is free (unlike in America where it costs a fortune). The new range of sanctions means that North Korea cannot buy such machines or get parts to maintain them. Doctors are outraged and called the sanctions 'inhumane'.²²

When the UN commissioned a human rights report about North Korea, it did not even visit the country. US citizens are banned from visiting North Korea in case people begin to see the truth. Past history has taught us that we cannot trust the elite dominated mainstream media about the situation in North Korea. The Stalinist collectivisation in the past was certainly bad but the west does not know what life is really like today.

The current threat

The threats issued by the North Korean president have merely been responses to the threats made against North Korea by the US president. One should also note the repeated US refusals to convert the 1953 armistice into a peace treaty. The North Koreans reasonably say that reunification of all Korea is only possible if America withdraws its military.

The nuclear capacity of North Korea is a vital part of its defence against American aggression. Without this America would have invaded and destroyed the nation long ago. It was the Americans that began this escalation by bringing military bases and nuclear capacity to the North Korean border in the fifties.

The lessons of Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Libya and Iraq have been learned by the whole world; you need nuclear weapons to deter American attacks; get rid of them and you will be invaded if suits America Neocons.

Even ex-US president Jimmy Carter has stated that there can be no peace while the American military threat is present in the peninsula.

Some geo-political analysts suggest that there will never be a hot war between the USA and North Korea because it will lead to a nuclear holocaust affecting everyone. Other analysts say the very opposite. Then there is the possibility of a nuclear strike occurring quickly due

²² Dr So Yong, Telemedicine Centre, North Korea.

to some hothead decision.²³ Whatever the case, the tensions are real and the dangers are significant.

Another issue is that nuclear strikes on North Korea would affect Russian territory. Vladivostok and Hassan are only a few miles away from North Korea. Destruction of Vladivostok would start a world war with the first action being a retaliatory nuclear strike against America; Texas would be wiped off the map. If Britain supported the US in attacking Korea or Russia, Britain would be wiped off the map in one strike alone.

Some statements by the DPRK

Human rights

- All people are guaranteed political freedom according to the Juche idea.
- The liberties and cultural well-being of citizens are guaranteed.
- Everyone aged 17 can vote and stand for election irrespective of sex, race, occupation, status or education. [This is a year earlier than British citizens.]
- Freedom of speech is guaranteed as well as free movement, assembly and the right to complain.
- There is religious freedom.
- All people can participate in state administration
- All people have the right to rest and work, to education, free medical care and free scientific, literary and artistic pursuits. Women are accorded equal status with men. Special privileges are afforded to mothers and children. Marriage and family are protected by the state. [Several things here are better than western nations like the US.]
- Working people are guaranteed inviolability of person and home, and privacy of correspondence.

Foreign relations

- The government seeks to further friendship and solidarity with all nations on the basis of independence, democracy and peace.
- It seeks to frustrate aggressive interference by imperialists.
- It has established diplomatic relations with over 140 countries. It promotes economic and cultural exchange and co-operation. It has joined over 210 international organisations.
- Committees supporting Korea's unification have been organised in many countries.

I cannot verify that this is practised in reality, but this is stated by the government.²⁴ I do know that the government arranges for visitation of North Korea over and above normal tourism in order for people to investigate all aspects of the nation for themselves. It arranges for people to inspect all aspects of social infrastructure (schools, hospitals etc.) and talk freely to various workers. How far this is manipulated is hard to say but it seems to be done fairly according to people that have used this service.

My problem

The big problem for me is the situation of the rural poor farmers and rural peasant class. That these have been starving for years is undeniable because many have fled south or into China and the official height of people has diminished.

²³ Trump fired 59 cruise missiles into Syria without congressional or UN sanction. Obama started wars without congressional sanction. US drone strikes occur daily in foreign nations without oversight. Israel has recently bombed Syria against international law. Trump is bombing Somalia illegally. Etc., etc.

²⁴ Korea-dpr.com

Now I understand that the problem is a lack of resources because money is ploughed into security systems. But as this paper explains, that defensive strategy is necessary to safeguard the nation. After decades of fighting for independence from an external aggressor, the North Korean mentality is centred in putting security above all else. This is understandable.

Now I do not know whether money is squandered in other areas or if it is wasted by the regime on favoured status groups. If it is then this would be reprehensible, but I have no information to judge. Trying to get hard facts on this is difficult since many websites are clearly propaganda machines full of misinformation. Also the testimony of former North Korean citizens cannot always be trusted since many fake informants have been used before by the elite to create propaganda lies.²⁵

Conclusion

Left alone it is possible that North and South Korea could find a rapprochement. Already, North Korean workers have been employed in the south and South Korea has given massive aid to the north. North Korea has also been active in organisations supporting reunification. However, the presence of American military bases and missiles in South Korea is an impossible barrier to peace.

America does not want a peaceful solution if it means a Socialist factor in the peninsula, even if part of a shared government. If it really wanted peace it would have transformed the armistice into a peace treaty and would not have repeatedly broken the truce. Neither would it threaten North Korea with a naval strike group off the coast.

America is frightened that a peace treaty could include a greater Russian / Chinese influence extending to South Korea and the loss of nuclear, army and naval bases in that part of South-East Asia.

Another issue is the American elite demand for constant war to make huge financial profits and keep the military industrial complex going. What America wants is a traditional, troop-based war with air-cover and backed by naval strike groups for resources, to drop lots of bombs that each cost millions.

The problem in the Korean tension is America.

Paul Fahy Copyright © 2017
Understanding Ministries
<http://www.understanding-ministries.com>

²⁵ Note the refugee girl that lied about babies being thrown out of incubators to promote war with Iraq.