

## Politics and History of U.S.-DPRK Relations

DPRK has long tradition of struggle against imperialist military intervention

By [Abayomi Azikiwe](#)

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Region: [Asia](#), [USA](#)

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*In order to acquire an appreciation of the events surrounding United States-DPRK relations it is first necessary to place the upcoming summit meeting between Marshall Kim Jong un and President Donald Trump in Singapore within a politico-historical context.*

There has never been a peace treaty signed after the armistice agreement of 1953 which ended the direct military engagement which lasted from June 25, 1950 to July 27, 1953. This war popularly known in the U.S. as the “Korean Conflict,” was a costly intervention for Washington.

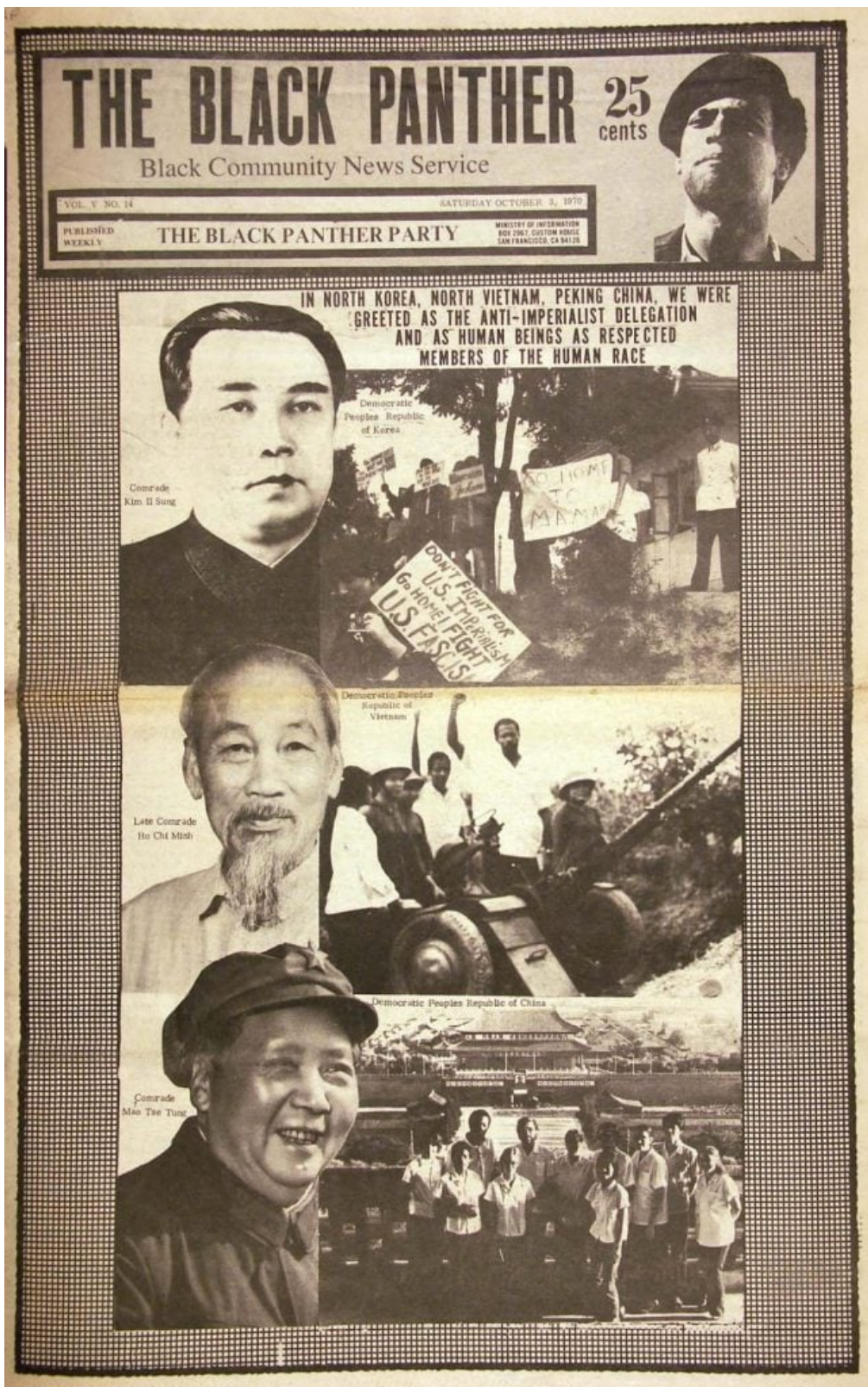
Tens of thousands of Pentagon, British and Republic of Korea puppet troops were killed in battle and several hundred thousands more were wounded and injured. The battle was viewed in the capitalist world as the opening of the post-World War II effort to roll back and destroy the socialist camp.

For its was the Red Army which broke the back of the Nazi forces in a series of battles between 1942-43 in Moscow, Stalingrad and other areas inside the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). The founder of the DPRK and the leader of the Korean Communist Party, later the Workers Party of Korea (WPK), Kim Il Sung, served alongside the Soviet and Chinese Communist Party comrades in both mainland China and northern Korea.

The Korean Peninsula had been subjected to Japanese interference and domination dating back to the later decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Korea-Japan Treaty of 1876 was followed by similar agreements of 1905 and 1910 annexing the peninsula.

Korea was occupied by Japanese imperialism for four decades until the conclusion of World War II and the defeat of Tokyo. During the years of 1945-48 there was the consolidation of socialist state rule and the formation of the DPRK.

All the while the U.S. under President Harry Truman was seeking to place surrogate leaders in the southern region of the Peninsula many of whom were former operatives of the Japanese rulers. Trade unionists, radicals, socialists and national revolutionary elements were targeted by the U.S.-backed regime in Seoul.



Black Panther newspaper in solidarity with DPRK, China and North Vietnam

When the invasion was carried out under auspices of the United Nations in June 1953, the communist forces were close to seizing control of the entire Korean nation. U.S. and British troops later invaded the north prompting the mobilization of 500,000 Chinese People's Volunteer Army (PVA) soldiers deployed by Communist Party leader Chairman Mao Tse-tung.

Imperialist troops were defeated in the north and later were a part of the largest military

retreat in U.S. history. After the armistice was signed in 1953 under President Dwight Eisenhower, Washington has maintained a large-scale military presence around the Peninsula.

#### U.S., Japan and Korean Relations: The Current Situation

Yearly joint exercises bringing together ROK and U.S. troops serve as a provocation to the DPRK and its people. The Pentagon has a permanent base in the ROK along with fighter jets, warships and nuclear submarines.

These threats are coupled with the constant harassment by the Japanese imperialist governments of today. A series of meetings bringing together the leaders of the DPRK and ROK have been met with trepidation and scorn by Tokyo as well as Washington. The last thing U.S. imperialism and its surrogates want is the mutual unification of the Korean Peninsula even under two separate social systems.

A recent article published in the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) noted:

“It is annoying that some forces are hindering the positive development, but the DPRK has invariably taken bold measures. The measures are hailed by the international community as they help the positive development of the situation. What matters against this backdrop is the ill purpose sought by Japan offending the world public in disregard of this situation, being displeased with it. Japan seeks to bring the situation back to the state of confrontation to divert public attention at home away from its bankrupt policy toward people’s living and high-profile graft and to invent a pretext for turning Japan into a militarist country and carrying out overseas expansion. Japan likes to wreck peace and break stability as it deems it a good chance for carrying out its ultra-right home and foreign policies. So it is quite natural that its policy invites the public denunciation.” (May 30)

This political trajectory of an attempt at normalization of relations for the North and South, have also seen closer cooperation with the People’s Republic of China under the leadership of the Communist Party headed by Xi Jinping. Kim Jong un has made two high profile visits to Beijing where important matters of interests involving the two socialist states were discussed. Socialist China is facing constant military encroachment by the U.S. particularly in the South Seas region.

A report appearing in Global Times emphasized the continuing threat of military aggression by Washington in the Asia-Pacific region. The article said that:

“China on Thursday (May 31) urged the U.S. to play a responsible and constructive role in the Asia-Pacific region, after Washington renamed its most expansive military command a move Chinese analysts warned could be a U.S. attempt at global hegemony. The Pentagon renamed ‘U.S. Pacific Command’ to U.S. Indo-Pacific Command,’ U.S. Defense Secretary James Mattis announced on Wednesday (May 30) at a ceremony where Philip Davidson was placed at the helm of the newly renamed command, CNN reported.”

This same story continued saying:

"Regardless of the name, the U.S. should act in a responsible way and play a constructive role in regional peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said at a daily briefing on Thursday.

China will closely monitor the change, defense ministry spokesperson Ren Guoqiang told the Global Times at a press conference on Thursday. Also at the Wednesday ceremony, Davidson's predecessor Harry Harris reiterated that China remains the US' biggest long-term challenge."

The nuclear weapons program and general military readiness of the DPRK and PRC must be analyzed within this foreign policy framework. Irrespective of the outcome of the Singapore Summit on June 12, hostilities over the control of the Asia-Pacific region will not be resolved. Ultimately U.S. imperialism should be isolated in the area allowing for the free development of relations among various states and their cooperation in the economic and scientific spheres.

Historical Relationship to the DPRK Among African Americans and Working Class People

At the height of the African American Liberation Movement of the late 1960s and early 1970s, the DPRK repeatedly expressed and demonstrated its solidarity with the struggle against racism and national oppression among oppressed people in the U.S. This was most profoundly exemplified by the alliance of the Black Panther Party and the WPK during the period.

**THE BLACK PANTHER, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1967 PAGE 10**

**Excerpts From:**

**On Intensifying Anti-Imperialists Anti-U.S. Struggle to Crush U.S. Imperialism, Unify The Father and Defend World Peace**

U.S. imperialism is the most barbarous and most shameless aggressor of modern times and the childlike of world imperialism. U.S. imperialism is working desperately to find a way out of its impending doom by aggravating international tension, stripping us arms drive and unleashing a new war of aggression. No place on earth is clear of the tentacles of aggression, stretched out by U.S. imperialism and no country is free from the menace of U.S. imperialism. U.S. imperialism extends its reins of aggression to all parts and all countries of the world—Asia and Europe, Africa and Latin America and big and small countries.

In particular, the U.S. imperialists' aggression and subversive maneuvers against the socialist countries have become more intensified in recent years. While stripping us of the barbarous war of genocide in South Vietnam, the U.S. imperialists carry on the brigandage acts of aggression against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and, having occupied the Cuban territory of Guantanamo, are incessantly perpetrating aggressive and provocative maneuvers against the Republic of Cuba. The U.S. imperialist maneuvers to provoke a new war in Korea have already reached a grave stage. They have made active preparations for another war against South Korea and set about committing military provocations more openly against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The U.S. imperialists have brutally suppressed the national liberation movements of the Asian, African and Latin American peoples and turned up as the vicious stranger of national independence. The U.S. imperialists are stripping us armed intervention in Laos and trampling upon the territorial integrity of Cambodia, while persisting in provocative acts against the Cambodian people. The U.S. imperialists instigated the French neo-colonialists to an aggressive war against the Arab peoples and are making a malicious attempt to stifle their struggle for national independence and a new life.

In recent years the U.S. imperialists have become more and more

disguised in their subversive activities and plots to overthrow the new independent national states. The U.S. imperialists have penetrated into the new independent countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America with "aid" as a bait to meddle in their internal affairs and having bribed and whipped together reactionary forces, are engineering reactionary military coups more frequently in some new independent states. By so doing, the U.S. imperialist strategy, to induce all forces of reaction to oppose socialism and the national liberation movement, in executing their policies of aggression and war, the U.S. imperialists count on the reactionary forces in many countries that serve U.S. imperialism as a guide aggression.

The typical example is Japanese and West German militarism. Under the active patronage of U.S. imperialism, the militarist forces that had caused so many miseries and sufferings in mankind have been revived rapidly in Japan and West Germany, and Japanese and West German militarism are growing up as dangerous forces of aggression in Asia and Europe. This is a grave development to which no one who truly values peace in Asia, Europe and the rest of the world is allowed to remain an onlooker.

Today the U.S. imperialists are directing the spearhead of aggression particularly in Asia, and Japanese militarism is fanatically serving U.S. imperialism as its "shock brigade" in Asian aggression. In an absurd attempt to realize its old dream of Asian aggression against the U.S. imperialist backing, Japanese militarism has gone the length of working out war plans against Korea and other socialist countries in Asia and began stretching out its crooked hands of aggression over to other areas, too. The Japanese militarists at the bidding of U.S. imperialism are making active preparations for a new war and Japan is serving the U.S. imperialists as a supply base and attacking base for aggression against Asian countries. Under these circumstances, the struggle against Japanese militarism can by no means be neglected.

The struggle against Japanese militarism is part of the struggle against U.S. imperialism and a struggle to defend peace in Asia and the rest of the world. If the danger of Japanese militarism is underestimated and a resolute struggle is not waged against it, it is tantamount to encouraging the aggressive designs of the reactionary ruling circles of Japan and to consolidating the position of U.S. imperialism in Asia. The socialist

live in peace nor can aggression and war disappear. Apart from the struggle against imperialism, U.S. imperialism is particular, world peace cannot be safeguarded nor can national liberation and independence or the victory of democracy and socialism be achieved. There should be no illusion about imperialism; it is necessary for us to continuously intensify the anti-imperialist, anti-U.S. struggle, holding aloft

the banner of revolution, till imperialism is finally defeated. The Korean people do not want war but are never afraid of it. If the enemy forces a new war upon us, all the people will rise as one in a heroic struggle to defend the great socialist gains in the northern half of the Republic, attain the complete liberation and unification of the fatherland and safeguard peace in Asia and the world and will deal annihilating blows to the enemy.

In order to fight against U.S. imperialism and defend world peace, it is imperative to fight against the lackeys of U.S. imperialism and its allies. It holds an important place in



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Leading figures in the BPP including Central Committee members Kathleen and Eldridge Cleaver routinely traveled to the DPRK for seminars and conferences. In 1970, the then couple's second child was born in the socialist state. On a regular basis essays and speeches by Kim Il Sung appeared in the pages of the Black Panther newspaper published in Berkeley, California.

When Panther leaders Fred Hampton, Sr. and Mark Clark were slain by Chicago police at the aegis of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on December 4, 1969, the DPRK sent a statement of condolences. These acts of compassion and encouragement led to the serious study of the DPRK policy of self-reliance, known as Juche. This theory of revolutionary development stresses the importance of communist parties and states to rely on their own people and resources as a pillar in the maintenance of their independence and sovereignty.

In the early 1990s in the wake of the collapse of the socialist states and parties in Eastern Europe along with the USSR itself, the WPK held a conference of revolutionary organizations internationally that issued the Pyongyang Declaration of 1992. This document was a recommitment to socialist construction, anti-imperialism and the necessity of an independent foreign policy for the majority of peoples throughout the world.

On April 20, 1992 some 70 party leaders from around the globe wrote in part that:

“The representatives of political parties from different countries of the world who are striving for the victory of socialism publish this declaration with a firm conviction to defend and advance the socialist cause. Ours is an era of independence and the socialist cause is a sacred one aimed at realizing the independence of the popular masses. Socialism suffered a setback in some countries in recent years. As a consequence of this, the imperialists and reactionaries are claiming that socialism has ‘come to an end’. This is nothing but a sophistry to beautify and embellish capitalism and patronize the old order. The setback of socialism and the revival of capitalism in some countries are causing a great loss to the achievement of the socialist cause, but it can never be interpreted as the denial of the superiority of socialism and of the reactionary character or capitalism. Socialism has long been the ideal of mankind (humanity) and it represents the future of mankind (humanity). Socialist society is, in essence, a genuine society for the people where the popular masses are the masters of everything and everything serves them.”

This document written 27 years ago remains a source of inspiration to the working and oppressed peoples of the world. In honor of the legacy of the Pyongyang Declaration we ourselves remain committed to the struggle for national liberation and socialism in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

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*Note: This address was delivered at a public meeting held on Saturday June 2, 2018 in Detroit which discussed the history and contemporary situation regarding relations between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the United States. A scheduled summit later in the month between DPRK leader Kim Jong un and his U.S. counterpart Donald Trump in Singapore has drawn the attention of the international community. The meeting was sponsored by Workers World Party of Michigan at its headquarters in the*

*Midtown District.*

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