

**SONGUN-ALL-POWERFUL
SWORD OF THE PRESENT
TIMES**

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Foreword

In Korea, the unity and cohesion of the leader, the Party, the army and the people, the motive force of the revolution, has been consolidated rock-solid and the whole army and all the people are making a general onward march to build a great, prosperous and powerful country by dint of Kim Jong Il's Songun-based politics.

The Songun politics is an all-powerful sword and guiding banner of the Korean revolution and the symbol of dignity and honour of Korea.

To understand and learn Songun politics has become a contemporary trend of the world.

On January 29, 2003, Kim Jong Il gave to the senior officials of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea a talk, titled, *The Songun-based Revolutionary Line Is a Great Revolutionary Line of Our Era and an Ever-victorious Banner of Our Revolution.*

This book gives an explanation of the work.

The Editorial Board

CONTENTS

1. The Songun-based Revolutionary Leadership, Songun Politics, of Korea Is a Revolutionary Line, a Mode of Politics, Which Is the Inheritance and Development of President Kim Il Sung's Idea and Line of Attaching Importance to Arms	2
1) The Songun-based Revolutionary Leadership, Songun Politics, Is a Mode of Revolutionary Leadership, an Advantageous Mode of Politics, which Embodies the Idea of Giving Priority to Military Affairs.....	2
2) The Songun Politics of Korea Is a Mode of Politics Which Is the Inheritance and Development of President Kim Il Sung's Idea and Line of Attaching Importance to Arms	4
2. The Songun-based Revolutionary Line, Songun Politics, Is a Line, a Mode of Politics, That Accurately Reflects the Demands of the Times and the Revolution	5
1) Songun Politics Is a Mode of Politics Which Is Based on the Scientific Analysis of the International Circumstances of the Korean Revolution and of the Changing Situation	6
2) Songun Politics of Korea Is a Mode of Politics That Gives a New Scientific Clarification and Solution to the Issue of the Main Force of the Revolution.....	8
3. The Vitality of Songun Politics and Tasks for Holding Higher the Banner of Songun	19
1) The Vitality of Songun Politics Is Displayed in the Practice of the Korean Revolution and Reality in Korea	19
2) Tasks for Holding Higher the Banner of Songun.....	22

In the work, Kim Jong Il comprehensively systematizes the idea and theory of the Songun-based revolutionary leadership, Songun politics, on the basis of the analysis of the achievements and experience gained in the practice of the Korean revolution.

He gives a profound explanation of the essential characteristics, advantages, justness, originality, might and vitality of the Songun politics, and sets forth tasks for continuously demonstrating the might of the Songun politics to the full. In particular, he gives a new scientific and theoretical answer to the question about the main force of the revolution.

The work can be divided largely into three systems. The first system explains that the Songun-based revolutionary line, Songun politics, is a revolutionary line, a mode of politics, which is the inheritance and development of President Kim Il Sung's idea and line of attaching importance to arms.

The second system clarifies that the Songun-based revolutionary line, Songun politics, is a revolutionary line, a mode of politics, which correctly reflects the requirements of the times and the developing revolution.

The third system deals with the vitality of Songun politics and the tasks for materializing the Songun leadership.

In the beginning part of the work he says that the Korean revolution is advancing victoriously upholding the banner of Songun under the leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea, that the Songun-based politics of Korea is a politics the invincibility of which has been verified through the severe ordeals of history, and an all-powerful sword for victory in the revolution, and that it is an invariable conviction and will of the Party to defend and carry forward by force of arms the revolutionary cause which was pioneered and has won one victory after another by force of arms.

1. THE SONGUN-BASED REVOLUTIONARY LEADERSHIP,
SONGUN POLITICS, OF KOREA IS A REVOLUTIONARY LINE,
A MODE OF POLITICS, WHICH IS THE INHERITANCE AND
DEVELOPMENT OF PRESIDENT KIM IL SUNG'S IDEA AND
LINE OF ATTACHING IMPORTANCE TO ARMS

This part of the work is dedicated to the explanation of the essence and characteristics of the Songun politics, its inheritance and development of the idea of attaching importance to arms and the position of the Songun era.

**1) The Songun-based Revolutionary Leadership,
Songun Politics, Is a Mode of Revolutionary Leadership,
an Advantageous Mode of Politics, which Embodies
the Idea of Giving Priority to Military Affairs**

The Songun-based revolutionary leadership, Songun politics, is a mode of revolutionary leadership, a socialist mode of politics, that pushes ahead with the overall socialist cause by giving priority to military affairs and relying on the army.

To generally speak, the method of leadership is the system and method by which a party leads the revolution and construction, while the mode of politics is the system and method on which a State relies in realizing its unified leadership over and administration of society. Therefore, how to solve the problems of the mode of leadership and politics poses itself as a very important matter in any society and times.

The Songun-based revolutionary leadership, Songun politics, of Korea is, first of all, a mode of revolutionary leadership, a mode of

politics, which gives priority to military affairs over all other affairs of the State.

The present is the era of independence.

Priority must be given to military affairs in order to complete the cause of socialism amidst sharp showdown with imperialism.

Giving priority to military affairs means regarding military affairs as a priority of all national priorities and giving precedence to building up the national defence capabilities.

The Songun-based revolutionary leadership, Songun politics, of Korea is also a mode of revolutionary leadership, a mode of politics, that defends the country, the revolution and socialism and dynamically pushes ahead with overall socialist construction by drawing on the revolutionary mettle and fighting capabilities of the Korean People's Army (KPA).

The KPA is a group with the strongest sense of revolution and organization and fighting capabilities in Korea.

The KPA is the ranks of career revolutionaries, who stand, with arms in their hands, on the forefront of the struggle to accomplish the cause of socialism. For this reason, it constitutes the force with revolutionary mettle and fighting capabilities which no other social group can match.

Without relying on the KPA, it is impossible to defend the country, revolution and socialism and vigorously push forward overall socialist construction.

Therefore, the underlying aspects of Songun politics are that military affairs are of paramount importance, that the army is the hard-core unit, the driving force, of the revolution, and that the army must be strengthened.

The Songun politics is a superior mode of politics with features that make it essentially different from other modes of politics.

The essential characteristics of Songun politics are that it safeguards the security of the country and the gains of the revolution by developing the KPA into invincible revolutionary armed forces, and that it builds up the driving force of the revolution and pushes

ahead with overall socialist construction in a revolutionary and militant way with the People's Army as the hard core and main force.

Historically speaking, there were modes of politics that attached importance to armed forces, but they were all aimed at consolidating the basis of power or invading other countries.

However, the essence of Korea's Songun politics is not that it only gives priority to military affairs.

It aims at defending the country, consolidating the independent driving force of the revolution in every way and dynamically pushing ahead with socialist construction by strengthening the army into invincible revolutionary armed forces and holding it up as the main force of the revolution. This is the nucleus of the Songun politics, and herein lies the superiority of this politics distinguished from all other modes of politics.

2) The Songun Politics of Korea Is a Mode of Politics Which Is the Inheritance and Development of President Kim Il Sung's Idea and Line of Attaching Importance to Arms

Songun politics is a mode of politics whose basis and starting point is Kim Il Sung's idea and line of giving importance to arms, to military affairs.

The struggle of the masses of the people for the cause of independence, the cause of socialism, is accompanied by the confrontation of power with imperialism and all sorts of other counterrevolutionary forces. Therefore, military affairs emerge as a matter of key importance on which hang victory in the revolution and the rise of a country and a nation. A country and a nation can emerge victorious in the revolution, defend the successful revolution, and carve out its destiny independently only when it has its own powerful revolutionary armed forces.

The victory of the revolutionary cause and the independence and prosperity of a country and a nation are assured by revolutionary arms.

This is the principle of revolution and the law of revolution which were elucidated by Kim Il Sung and whose truthfulness has been verified in history.

Kim Il Sung held fast to the idea and line of giving importance to arms, to military affairs, in the whole course of leading the Korean revolution.

He organized an armed unit first in the early period of his revolutionary activities, achieved the historic cause of national liberation by dint of arms, and founded the Party and the State afterwards.

In each period and at each stage of the revolution after the liberation of the country, he always paid primary attention to military affairs and constantly strengthened the revolutionary armed forces, and thus laid a solid military guarantee for the victorious advance of the revolution and construction.

Kim Jong Il newly formulated Kim Il Sung's idea and line of attaching importance to arms, to military affairs, into a mode of socialist politics by developing them in depth as required by the changing situation.

By dint of Songun politics, he has been defending Kim Il Sung's military thoughts and exploits, and further exalting them on a new higher level, thus opening a vista for the victory of the Juche revolutionary cause.

2. THE SONGUN-BASED REVOLUTIONARY LINE,
SONGUN POLITICS, IS A LINE, A MODE OF POLITICS,
THAT ACCURATELY REFLECTS THE DEMANDS
OF THE TIMES AND THE REVOLUTION

The scientific accuracy of a politics is decided by how accurately it reflects the demands of the times and the revolution and the circumstances of the revolution and the changing situation, and it constitutes a criterion for determining the validity and superiority of a

revolutionary line and the politics.

This part of the work clarifies the originality, validity and might of Songun politics as well as its scientific accuracy.

1) Songun Politics Is a Mode of Politics Which Is Based on the Scientific Analysis of the International Circumstances of the Korean Revolution and of the Changing Situation

Songun politics was formulated in accurate reflection of the demand of the rapidly changing situation.

Entering the 1990s, socialism collapsed in the former Soviet Union and the East European countries, giving rise to a great change in the world political structure and balance of forces.

By taking advantage of the collapse of the global socialist system, the reactionary imperialist forces intensified their offensive against the anti-imperialist independent forces; in particular, the US imperialists, who had emerged as the only superpower in the world, were more tenacious than ever in their pursuit of the policy of aggression and war, in an attempt to realize their ambition of world supremacy, resorting to high-handedness and arbitrariness in the international arena and violently encroaching upon the sovereignty of other countries.

The US imperialists and their followers stepped up their moves for military aggression on an unprecedented scale to destroy Korea by means of force on the one hand, while putting pressure to bear upon it in all spheres of politics, the economy, ideology, culture and diplomacy on the other to squeeze it dry.

Due to their schemes, the Korean revolution came to face the trials and hardships unprecedented in its history, and Korea had to bear the full brunt of the offensive of the imperialist aggressive forces, in direct stand-off with the US imperialists.

The showdown between Korea and imperialism was a showdown of strength; the anti-imperialist military front constituted the major front, the first lifeline, of the revolution, on which the destiny of the

country, the people and socialism would be decided. Korea had to strengthen the army by concentrating its efforts on military affairs and rely on it. In that way it was able to save the destiny of the country and the people, and lead the revolution and construction to victory.

This is the reason why Korea says the army means the Party, the State and the people. Had it neglected military affairs and failed to strengthen the army, it might have perished already, far from conducting the revolution and construction.

Songun politics is also a mode of politics by which one can defeat the enemy with a do-or-die determination and mettle in grim situation.

Korea's anti-imperialist, anti-US struggle was a grim war to defend the country and socialism.

It was only the KPA, the revolutionary armed forces, that could perform its mission and role as the standard-bearer of Songun politics.

The Songun politics of Korea embodies the KPA's high spirit of annihilating the enemy, and its unshakable conviction and will to emerge victorious at all costs.

Korea could overcome the difficulties and emerge victorious, as the entire army and the whole people with the former as the core formed an inseparable whole and fought heroically.

This practical experience of the Korean revolution has proved that the Songun politics, which gives precedence to military affairs and holds up the revolutionary armed forces as the pivot, is a powerful mode of politics of the present era, which makes it possible to defeat any enemy no matter how formidable, tide over any hardships and trials, and guarantee the victorious advance of the revolutionary cause.

The Songun-based revolutionary line, Songun politics, is a strategic revolutionary line, a mode of politics, that must be adhered to constantly so long as imperialism exists on the earth and its aggressive machinations continue.

2) Songun Politics of Korea Is a Mode of Politics That Gives a New Scientific Clarification and Solution to the Issue of the Main Force of the Revolution

Songun politics holds up the army as the main force of the revolution.

Kim Jong Il clarifies in the work that the Workers' Party of Korea put forward, for the first time in history, the idea of "precedence of the army over the working class," giving prominence to the army as the core unit, the main force, of the revolution.

By holding up the army as the main force of the revolution, Songun politics put an end to the previous view on the main force with emphasis on the class relations on the basis of the principles of materialistic concept of history, and advanced a fundamentally new issue on the hard core, the main force, of the revolution.

The preceding theories of the revolution considered that a man's sense of revolution is decided by whether he has property or not and that the most staunch proletariat must be the leadership class, the hard-core force, of the revolution.

On the basis of his deep analysis of the development of the times and the changed social and class relations, Kim Jong Il put forward, for the first time in the history of the revolutionary movement, the idea of "precedence of the army over the working class," which was originated from the concept that the army is the most revolutionary, organized and militant force.

The originality of Songun politics and its invincibility lie in the fact that it gives prominence to the army as the core unit, the main force, of the revolution.

The preceding revolutionary theories of Marxism viewed the working class as the main force of the revolution.

Having analysed the social and class relations in the Western capitalist countries in the mid-19th century, Marx identified the

working class as the most advanced and revolutionary class entrusted with the mission of liquidating the domination of capital and all sorts of exploitation and building socialism and communism, and defined it as the leadership class, the main force, of the revolution.

This was the reflection of the reality of capitalist society in those times. Later, socialist revolutions emerged victorious in several countries of the world and socialist construction got under way with the working class as the main force. As a result, it had been recognized as an unbreakable revolutionary formula in carrying out the cause of socialism to conduct the revolutionary struggle and construction work with the working class as the core and main force.

However, Marx's theories and formulae, which had been set forth one and a half century previously, cannot accord with the present situation. The times have advanced far, witnessing great changes in social atmosphere, class relations and the status of the working class.

With the development of capitalism, especially with the rapid development of science and technology and the arrival of the IT age, the living basis of the working class has been changed and labour is being done on a more technological and intellectual basis. The ranks of the working class are becoming intellectualized, and the working masses engaged in technical, intellectual and mental labour are quickly outnumbering manual workers.

Moreover, the development of capitalism has consolidated the domination of monopoly capital and added to the prevalence of reactionary bourgeois ideology and culture, hindering the awakening of the working class to its class consciousness and its revolutionary assimilation.

In the context of both the circumstances of the times and the actual reality of the labour, social status and labour movement of the working class, the working class of the present times cannot be viewed to be identical with the working class in the period of industrial capitalism or proletarian revolution. It is as clear as daylight that Marx's theories on the working class and on its role do not accord with the present situation.

The changed environment of the times and the actual situation demand a new idea and theory, strategy and tactics, with which to awaken and rally the broad sections of the masses who are opposed to the domination of monopoly capital and the imperialist policy of aggression and war, train hard-core elements among them and expand and strengthen the revolutionary forces.

The limitations of Marxist revolutionary theories which viewed the working class as the main force of the revolution were that they failed to make a correct clarification of the role of the working class, changes and development of the class relations and law governing the remoulding of man in a socialist society.

The preceding theories based on the materialistic concept of history considered that the revolution is completed once the working class seizes power and establishes socialist relations of production. For this reason, they could not make a correct clarification of the law-governed course of socialist construction subsequent to victory in the revolution; in particular, they failed to raise the issue of remoulding man, ideological revolution, in socialist society.

For the first time in history, Kim Il Sung advanced the idea that the course of building socialism and communism is, in view of the class relations, the process of modelling the whole society on the working-class pattern, and gave scientific explanations of the role of the working class, the development of class relations and law governing the remoulding of man in socialist society.

Thanks to his theory on building socialism and under his leadership, the working class and other working masses in Korea have been transformed into socialist working people and they all work and live under the socialist system based on the principle of collectivism.

The Workers' Party of Korea has firmly equipped the masses of the people with the Juche idea and upgraded the process of transforming the whole of society on the revolutionary and working-class patterns by giving definite precedence to the remoulding of man, the ideological work, in the process of the socialist cause. This has brought about a radical change in the

socio-economic lives and politico-ideological traits of the Korean people.

The Korean people are revolutionary and boundlessly faithful to the Party and the revolution since they have been educated and trained in a revolutionary way in the embrace of the socialist motherland under the guidance of the Party and the leader. These days the masses of the people, who are solidly united behind the Party and the leader with one mind and will, constitute a powerful driving force of socialist construction in Korea.

Needless to say, there still remain class differences between the working class and the cooperative farmers, and the revolutionary and working-class assimilation of intellectuals cannot be said to have been completed in the country.

The working class is as advanced a unit of society as ever, and has a higher sense of class consciousness, collectivism and revolution than other working masses. Furthermore, it is still in charge of industry, the leading sector of the national economy; especially the workers in the key industries and in the munitions industry play a very important role in the revolution and construction.

That is why Korea treasures the working class and always pays deep concern to further revolutionizing it and enhancing its role.

In the work Kim Jong Il clarifies that holding the KPA up as the main force of the revolution was prompted by a new viewpoint and attitude towards the issue of the main force of the revolution and the role of a revolutionary army.

To hold the KPA up as the main force of the revolution is based on a new viewpoint and attitude towards the issue of the main force of the revolution.

The question of the main force of the revolution is one of the fundamental problems in strengthening the motive force of the revolution and enhancing its role in developing the revolutionary movement.

Which class, stratum or social collective becomes the driving force of the revolution is decided by its position and role in the revolution

and construction and its sense of revolution, organization, and fighting capabilities.

The question of the main force of the revolution cannot remain invariable in any era, society or revolution, nor is it a question that can be solved only on the basis of class relations.

Hence, regarding the working class as the main force of the revolution anytime and anywhere is an expression of a dogmatic approach towards the preceding theories, and is not correct in principle either.

Next, giving prominence to the KPA as the main force of the revolution is based on a new viewpoint and attitude towards the position and role of a revolutionary army in the revolution and construction.

Unfettered by any established theories or formulae, Kim Jong Il has categorically rejected any expression of dogmatic approach to and revisionist distortion of the preceding theories, and strengthened the army and upgraded its role as required by the development of the situation and the revolution, thus leading the revolution and construction to victory.

Kim Jong Il clarifies that to give prominence to the KPA as the main force of the revolution is essential to the accomplishment of the revolutionary cause of Juche, in view of its position and role in the Korean revolution at present and in the light of its revolutionary mettle and fighting efficiency.

At present the KPA constitutes the revolutionary ranks that defend the first lifeline of the Korean revolution. It defends the Party and the revolution, the country and the people by force of arms and at the cost of life in direct confrontation with the strong imperialist enemy. On the rifle of the KPA rest peace, socialism and worthwhile and happy life of the Korean people. This is the noble mission and the heaviest yet most honourable task of the KPA, for which neither the working class nor any other social group can substitute.

The KPA is the most revolutionary, militant and powerful group in Korea.

No group is equal to it in terms of the sense of revolution and organization and fighting efficiency.

The KPA is unfailingly loyal to the Party and the revolution and very strong in ideology and faith, and it is the most organized combat unit. It defends the Party and the leader and carries out the Party's policies at all costs, and fights to the death for the cause of the Party and socialism. The servicepersons, who defend the country and the revolution by force of arms, love their country more dearly than anyone else, are eager to defend socialism and fight uncompromisingly against imperialism and the class enemies with intense hatred against them.

The KPA brims over with the revolutionary faith, iron will and militant spirit.

It is stronger than any other collective of society in the sense of collectivism, organization, discipline and unity. The entire army is single-heartedly united behind its Supreme Commander, and moves as one under his command and directive; it arranges all forms of servicepersons' routine life and activities as required by the military rules and norms. The collectivist principle, organization and discipline have become the lifeblood and requirements of the routine life of the servicepersons.

The high sense of revolution and organization of the People's Army is reflective of the characteristic of the armed unit and the mettle unique to the revolutionary army, and constitutes a basis on which to upgrade its combat efficiency and improve its politico-ideological might.

Songun politics is a mode of politics based on the exploits of the Party and the leader that have developed the KPA into a powerful main force of the revolution.

The KPA has become able to fulfil its mission and role as the main force of the revolution, thanks to the guidance of the Party and the leader.

It is not that any army that takes part in the revolution or any socialist army acquires the traits and qualities befitting a revolutionary

army and, moreover, can become the main force of the revolution. Either the working class or an army can become a revolutionary class or revolutionary armed forces and play an important role in the revolution only when it is awakened and organized under the leadership of a revolutionary party.

Apart from the correct leadership of the party and the leader, it is impossible to train any hard-core unit of the revolution or to awaken and rally the broad sections of the masses around the revolutionary ranks.

The KPA has grown up into a genuine revolutionary army, an invincible army, to perform its honourable mission and duty with credit as the hard-core unit and main force of the revolution, thanks to the guidance of the Party and the leader.

President Kim Il Sung built the KPA into a prototype of a revolutionary army and laid eternal foundations for its development by brilliantly applying the principles and ways he had put forward for the building of a revolutionary army. He built it into an army of the Party and the leader, a genuine army of the people, and developed it as an armed unit of ideology and faith, possessed of all the politico-ideological traits proper to a revolutionary army. Under his wise leadership an independent and modern munitions industry was created, and thus the material and technical foundations were laid for the modernization of the entire army.

The exploits he performed for the building of the armed forces are the most valuable of his revolutionary exploits, and they are now proving their worth as the solid foundation and priceless assets for Korea to further strengthen the KPA and follow the Songun politics.

On the basis of President Kim Il Sung's achievements in army building, Kim Jong Il gave prominence to the KPA as the standard-bearer and main force of Songun-based revolution, and has directed all his efforts to strengthening it. Through continual field inspections of the KPA units, he goes deep among the servicepersons, taking care of them with love and trust. He sees to it that the servicepersons are edified and trained in a revolutionary way through

intensive Party political work within the army, and everything necessary for the army is supplied to the last item.

He has taken revolutionary measures to firmly equip the KPA with Korean-style strategy and tactics and radically improve its military and technical preparedness as required by the characteristics of modern warfare and tense situation.

His energetic guidance has brought about a fresh turn in the politico-ideological traits and fighting spirit of the servicepersons, making the KPA's combat efficiency and might better than ever before.

Being an army of the Party and the leader and an army of its Supreme Commander, in name and in fact, the KPA has developed into revolutionary ranks of soldiers filled with the spirit of defending the revolutionary leadership at all costs, and the entire army from the Supreme Commander to the rank and file has formed an integral whole on the basis of revolutionary comradeship. In the KPA the Party's leadership has its firm place, a revolutionary and militant spirit prevails, and the traits of unity between officers and men and harmonization of military and political affairs are manifest to the full.

Its noble politico-ideological traits, revolutionary spirit and fighting mettle find a concentrated expression in the revolutionary soldier spirit.

The revolutionary soldier spirit, which was created and has been given full play in the KPA under Kim Jong Il's leadership, is a revolutionary spirit characterized by the spirit of death-defying defence of the leader, the spirit of carrying out tasks at all costs, and the heroic self-sacrificing spirit.

The revolutionary soldier spirit is the spirit with which the servicepersons fight for the Party and the leader, for the country and the revolution at the cost of their youth and lives, and with which they repulse any enemy no matter how formidable and break through any difficulties and trials.

The revolutionary soldier spirit is a noble revolutionary spirit symbolic and representative of the great Songun era. And it

constitutes a revolutionary and militant ideological and spiritual weapon, which makes it possible to create miracles and perform feats in the revolution and construction.

In the Songun era the working class, too, can perform its class duty and mission only when it is equipped with the revolutionary soldier spirit; and all other working people can maintain and add lustre to their honour of being masters of the State and society, their honour of being the socialist working people, only when they learn from the revolutionary soldier spirit.

When the entire army and all the people live and struggle with the revolutionary spirit and fighting spirit of the soldiers, united single-heartedly behind the Party, there will be no enemy in the world who would match them and no fortress they cannot conquer.

Since the KPA is the creator, personifier and pioneer of the revolutionary soldier spirit representative of the times and the most powerful combat unit that defends the outpost line of the Korean revolution, it constitutes the standard-bearer, hard-core unit and main force of the Songun revolution, and has been exalting the honour to a high degree.

Kim Jong Il clarifies in the work that Songun politics makes it possible to firmly maintain and apply to the letter the fundamental ideals and the basic principles of the revolution.

Socialism is the fundamental ideal of the revolution to realize the independence of the masses of the people, and socialist society is a society which embodies the class demands and aspirations of the working class. Apart from the intrinsic desire and class principle of the working class, it is impossible to realize the independence of the masses of the people nor complete the socialist cause. The Korean people are striving to build a great, prosperous and powerful socialist nation and reunify the country in the midst of a severe class struggle against the US imperialists and other enemies of all hues. The complex and grave situation of the Korean revolution demands that the edge of class struggle be sharpened and the working-class principle, the revolutionary principle, be maintained more thoroughly in all spheres.

Korea has upheld the banner of Songun politics in this acute confrontation with imperialism.

Songun politics makes it possible to firmly maintain and apply to the letter the fundamental ideals and the basic principles of the revolution, because the rifle of Korea is the rifle of class, the rifle of revolution, and it is the most powerful weapon in the anti-imperialist class struggle. It is also because the revolutionary soldier spirit of the KPA is the highest expression of class consciousness, the revolutionary spirit, of the working class.

It is for this reason that today the Workers' Party of Korea is quite serious and uncompromising in its demand for adherence to the class principle, the revolutionary principle, in all spheres of the revolution and construction and for further intensification of class education and revolutionary education among the soldiers and the people, as required by the Songun era.

When the Korean army and people are firmly equipped with a high level of class consciousness and the revolutionary soldier spirit in support of the Party's Songun-based leadership, the socialist class position will be further cemented, and the socialist cause will be defended and completed with victory under any circumstances.

Kim Jong Il also clarifies that Songun politics is an independent politics which embodies the Juche idea.

Embodying the Juche idea, Songun politics aims at defending and realizing the independence of the masses of the people, the country and the nation.

Independence is the life and soul of a social being, the masses of the people, a country and a nation. The man-centred Juche idea is an idea of independence, and all revolutionary struggles are for independence. The Juche idea correctly combines love for the masses of the people with that for the country and the nation, and the independence of the masses of the people with that of the country and the nation, and scientifically elucidates the ways for its realization.

The politics that defends and realizes the independence of the masses of the people, the country and the nation on the basis of the

fundamentals and principles of the Juche idea is a revolutionary and scientific politics and a genuine politics of love for the country, the nation and the people.

Songun politics is a dignified and noble politics of love for the country, the nation and the people.

Songun politics that relies on the invincible revolutionary armed forces is a principled and righteous politics of anti-imperialist independence and politics of love for the country, the nation and the people, the politics which reliably defends and guarantees the demands for independence and interests of the masses of the people, and the sovereignty and dignity of the country and the people from infringement by the imperialist reactionaries.

As self-defensive revolutionary armed forces, the KPA is defending by force of arms the Party, the revolution, the ideology and system of Korea and the country and its people, smashing the enemy's war provocations and safeguarding the security and peace of the country.

Thanks to Songun politics, Korea is conducting the revolution and construction fair and square in its own way and as suited to the reality of the country and the interests of the Korean revolution and according to its own ideology and faith, holding aloft the banner of independence in the complicated and acute situation.

It is because it has strong military power it has built up and an ever-victorious strategy and tactics that Korea is firmly maintaining the independent principle in politics, resolutely rejecting all manner of outside interference and pressure, and pushing ahead with all its undertakings boldly as it intends, unfettered by anything.

Thanks to Songun politics, its independence remains firmly guaranteed and socialist Korea is demonstrating its dignity and honour, authority and might as a bulwark of independence.

Songun politics is a powerful politics of national independence which enjoys absolute support and trust of the masses of the people.

As Songun politics is a politics for the people to all intents and purposes and a politics geared to defending and ensuring the

independent rights and fundamental interests of the people, the Korean people support it absolutely and uphold it single-mindedly. The unfurled banner of Songun has become a great national banner inspiring the consciousness of national independence, self-respect, national pride and honour among the Korean compatriots in the north, south and abroad, and opening up the road to national reunification and prosperity.

All the Korean people in the south and abroad support Songun politics, saying that since Kim Jong Il pursues Songun politics, the United States dares not ignite a war and that Songun politics is a paragon of a people-oriented politics which saves the nation from disaster.

3. THE VITALITY OF SONGUN POLITICS AND TASKS FOR HOLDING HIGHER THE BANNER OF SONGUN

This part is dedicated to the explanation of how the vitality of Songun politics is displayed and the tasks for holding higher the banner of Songun.

1) The Vitality of Songun Politics Is Displayed in the Practice of the Korean Revolution and Reality in Korea

First, the military position of the Korean revolution has been fortified impregnably under Kim Jong Il's Songun-based leadership. The military might of the country constitutes the foremost national power in the struggle for independence and socialism and against imperialism. If one defeats the enemy on the military front, one will emerge victorious on all other fronts.

The KPA has grown up to be invincible revolutionary armed forces, and socialist Korea has emerged as a military power in the international arena.

Korea has defended the country, revolution and socialism, smashing all sorts of aggressive machinations of the enemy.

These days Korea is driving the United States to a tight corner, responding to the latter's vicious anti-DPRK isolate-and-stifle machinations with harder line.

Second, the revolutionary ranks of Korea have been united more solidly than ever and the single-hearted unity of the whole society has been further strengthened in the Songun era.

Today the servicepersons and the civilians have forged a genuine comradely relationship whereby they share life and death on the road of Songun-based revolution, and the whole society is brimming over with the beautiful trait of unity between the army and the people. The servicepersons are serving the people with devotion while the latter are taking loving care of the former as their own flesh and blood, assisting them with all sincerity and actively learning from the revolutionary spirit and fighting spirit of the soldiers. As a result, both the servicepersons and the civilians share the same idea and fighting spirit.

In the Songun era the People's Army is playing a pivotal, vanguard role in all spheres of the revolution and construction, while the people are treasuring the former and displaying the trait of supporting and assisting the army to the full, resulting in further solidity of comradely unity between the army and the people. And as a result of Kim Jong Il's Songun-based leadership and politics of love for the soldiers and the people, the single-hearted unity of Korea has been upgraded to a single-hearted unity of the whole Party, the whole army and the whole nation based on one ideology and faith and on comradely love and obligation. Furthermore, the politico-ideological might of the Korean revolution has been strengthened to an incomparable degree.

Third, the viability of Songun politics has been confirmed in socialist construction.

The KPA stands in the van in all spheres of socialist construction and has been performing feats of labour, setting shining examples. The officers and men have erected numerous monumental edifices and modern factories and made breakthroughs in the difficult yet important sectors of the economy through heroic struggle. They were the first to overcome manifold hardships and trials and created miracles and brought about innovations in all spheres, thus inspiring the working masses throughout the country to a revolutionary upsurge.

Taking their cue from the revolutionary spirit and fighting spirit of the soldiers, the working class and other working masses have brought about a sweeping innovation in overall socialist construction. By dint of Songun politics that relies on the People's Army as the main force, Korea has been able to endure the severe "Arduous March" and forced march, open up a road towards building a great, prosperous and powerful socialist nation and push forward the revolution and construction in a bold and positive way despite the difficult situation.

Korea's experience shows that if all the working people uphold the banner of Songun and work as the People's Army do, it is possible to conquer the fortress of cutting-edge science and technology, build an economically powerful country, establish an assiduous manner in the management of livelihood and a noble way of cultural and emotional life throughout society, and provide the people with affluent lives, all in a short period of time.

Fourth, Songun politics has registered a turning-point in the cause of national reunification and furthered the international solidarity with the Korean revolution.

Thanks to Songun politics, which is imbued with the principle of national independence and the spirit of love for the country and the people, and Korea's policies for national reunification based on it and its positive efforts, the historic inter-Korean summit was held in Pyongyang in 2000, where the June 15 North-South Joint Declaration was adopted. This was followed by further development of inter-Korean relations of reconciliation and cooperation in several sectors. The trend of struggle against the US and other foreign forces

and for independent national reunification is mounting to a crescendo on an unprecedented scale in south Korea.

Songun politics, which is opposed to imperialist aggression and war policies and defends the independence of the country and the nation, is winning support from broad social circles and the progressive peoples of the world. It gives a blow to the aggressive forces of imperialism and encouragement to the anti-imperialist independent forces in the international arena, promoting the cause of making the whole world independent.

2) Tasks for Holding Higher the Banner of Songun

Upholding the banner of Songun under Kim Jong Il's leadership Korea has traversed a victorious road, pushing its way through raging storms and creating miracles in history.

The Songun-based revolutionary line of the Workers' Party of Korea is a great revolutionary line of the present era and an ever-victorious banner of the revolution.

Despite the present complicated and acute situation in and out of the country, Korea holds the banner of Songun higher than ever.

First of all, great efforts should be directed continuously at strengthening the army.

The might of Songun politics is precisely the might of the army; its superiority and might can be given full play only when it is firmly prepared politically and ideologically, militarily and technically.

The Workers' Party of Korea's leadership over the KPA should be intensified. The Party's leadership is the lifeblood of the KPA.

The KPA should be strengthened as the first defender, as a revolutionary army, that fights death-defyingly in support of the Party's idea and leadership, so that it can inherit and add lustre to its glorious history and tradition as an army of the Party and the leader.

The more complex and tenser the situation is, the more efforts should be made to intensify politico-ideological work and military

training in the KPA so that all the servicepersons can heighten their revolutionary vigilance under any circumstances and conditions and keep themselves ever ready to repulse the imperialist aggressors without any mercy whenever they attack wherever.

Next, the politico-ideological and military position of the revolution should be fortified rock-solid by firming up the single-hearted unity of the army and the people.

There is nothing to fear or impossible to do when the army and the people fight in single-hearted unity.

The tradition of unity between the army and the people of treasuring and loving each other and sharing weal and woe should be given further play in the Songun era.

It is important to establish a sound habit of attaching importance to military affairs throughout society.

The work of consolidating the defence capabilities of the country is an undertaking of the entire Party, the whole country and all the people.

All work should be organized and conducted on the principle of giving precedence to military affairs, energetic efforts made to build up the military might of the country, the civilian forces strengthened and the whole country turned into an impregnable fortress.

It is also imperative to expedite overall economic construction while giving precedence to the defence industry, as required by the Songun era, so as to support the Songun politics both materially and technologically, and radically improve the people's standard of living in a short span of time.

In the last part of the work Kim Jong Il emphasizes that all the officials and working people must cherish the validity and invincibility of the Songun idea, Songun politics, as their unshakable faith, work and live at all times as required by it and strive to make the whole society overflow with revolutionary mettle and militant spirit.

He writes that the army and people of Korea have burnished the new era of the revolution as the Songun era, expressing his firm will to victoriously advance the cause of the Korean revolution and bring it to completion under the banner of Songun.

Kim Jong Il's work, *The Songun-based Revolutionary Line Is a Great Revolutionary Line of Our Era and an Ever-victorious Banner of Our Revolution* is a comprehensive systematization of the Songun-based revolutionary line, Songun politics, the vitality of which has been verified in Korea.