

WORKING PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, UNITE!

KIM JONG UN

OUR COMBATANTS IN THE FATHERLAND LIBERATION WAR ARE OUR REPUBLIC'S MOST HEROIC GENERATION

Speech at the Celebration of the 69th Anniversary
of the Great Victory in the War
July 27, 2022

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Esteemed comrade veterans of the Fatherland Liberation War,

Comrade lecturers and officials engaged in the management of revolutionary artefacts and sites associated with the victorious war, service personnel, and students from universities and revolutionary schools present on this significant occasion, along with our revolutionary elders,

Dear Pyongyang citizens,

Dear people,

Comrades,

Today is July 27, Victory Day, which we are greeting once again with a sense of great pride and cherished remembrance.

Although as many as 25 203 days have passed since this epoch-making miracle was achieved, our delight and glory in victory in the war remain just as they have always been. Today, as in every year, we are experiencing these same feelings once again, along with boundless emotion and pride.

Comrades,

I offer you warm congratulations on this great Victory Day, which is a source of such lasting glory

and honour for our motherland.

Esteemed comrade war veterans,

The country's situation is difficult, and recently we have been experiencing a public health crisis. But you have maintained your precious physical health. I am very grateful for this.

Thank you, indeed.

Comrades,

At this moment the whole country is recollecting the glorious lives of the martyrs of the Korean People's Army and the other revolutionary martyrs who dedicated their youth and lives in defence of the sovereignty and honour of their motherland. We pay noble tribute to them all, and pray for the immortality of their great souls and spirit.

Countless war martyrs, both sung and unsung, have left us, and many war veterans cannot be with us here. But they are all living in the embrace of the country they defended at the cost of their blood and lives, and are marking this glorious evening together with us.

In the hope that you, comrade war veterans, will live in good health and that a conference of war veterans as glorious as this one will always be held, I, on behalf of the Workers' Party of Korea and the government, pay noble tribute to the victors of the 1950s who gave our

people the privilege and infinite honour of celebrating the great victory in the war year after year. I also extend warm greetings to the war veterans and others across the country noted for their meritorious wartime service, who laid the foundations for the existence and development of our socialist state and who are still giving us encouragement as our spiritual pillars.

My gratitude also goes to the families of the war veterans and to all others who are working heart and soul to preserve the health and lives of the war veterans.

I would also like to avail myself of this opportunity to pay noble tribute to the martyrs of the Chinese People's Volunteers who shed their precious blood without hesitation, sharing their destiny with our soldiers and people in the same trenches in the fight against the imperialists' aggression. I also send warm greetings to the veterans of the Chinese People's Volunteers.

Comrades,

Of all the significant and auspicious holidays of our state, July 27 is a particularly proud one, in that we are celebrating victory.

For any country and people, there is no more honourable and splendid source of glory and pride than victory in a do-or-die struggle.

The Fatherland Liberation War was, for our Republic, a struggle for defending the existence of its territory and people, as well as a fierce confrontation, the first of its kind after the Second World War, between two poles—the democratic camp and the imperialist camp.

The fact that the US imperialists hurled not only their own forces but also significant numbers of troops from its vassal states to the Korean front shows the fierce nature and international character of the Korean war.

The young army of the newly-founded, two-year-old Republic, in confronting the imperialist aggressive army of the United States, the most ferocious army on Earth, and its vassal forces, faced nearly impossible odds.

However, as is recorded properly in history, the arrogant aggressive ambition of the United States to occupy our territory at a stroke and expand the sphere of its influence was met at its first step with an unprecedentedly powerful counterattack and outstanding bravery. After three years of desperate fighting, the signing of an armistice agreement completely frustrated this ambition.

The military capability of the US imperialists and their allies sustained a serious defeat in this war.

We defended the dignity, honour and sovereignty of our Republic, protected the environment for our state's independent development, checked the ambition of the US imperialists for world supremacy, and safeguarded peace for mankind by preventing a new world war. Herein lies the great significance of the Fatherland Liberation War in the history of our nation and the world history of warfare.

The great victory in the Fatherland Liberation War when, in the eastern half of the globe, we staunchly defended the most dangerous frontline in the anti-imperialist struggle, was a victory for defenders over aggressors, a victory for justice and the progressive over injustice and the reactionary, and a victory of great significance in human history. It proved the iron truth that no aggressors, however strong and superior they may be, can overwhelm an army and people that are determined to resist to the last.

Those who wrought this legendary miracle are none other than you, the war veterans present here, and the numerous comrades-in-arms you still remember.

The numerous battles the brave defenders of the country fought under a hail of bullets and bombs during the war gave rise to the priceless glory of victory. The

flag of our Republic, which they held in the vanguard of the advance and which was made redder by the precious blood of the sons and daughters of heroic Korea, became known to the whole world as a symbol of courage, victory and justice and as an immortal banner of the anti-imperialist struggle.

Comrades,

The unyielding spirit of the war veterans, who rose up without hesitation to face the crisis of a life-or-death war in the country's grimmest days, is felt more keenly now when the country is experiencing difficulties.

As everyone well knows, our combatants in the Fatherland Liberation War were ordinary young men and women. But they were also the laudable sons and daughters of the nation, who became anything but ordinary in the battles to defend their country.

Though unpretentious at their workplaces and schools, they had the courage to volunteer for military service and confront the US imperialist aggressor army. This was because they firmly believed in their Party and government and were convinced that they were sure to be victorious, and because they had a strong determination to safeguard their rights as the masters of their new country and new life.

With love for their benevolent system, home towns,

workplaces, parents and siblings, and with hatred for the enemy that was trying to deprive them of all these, our soldiers stoutly overcame the grim trials and heartrending pain of loss and, by displaying unrivalled mass heroism, struck terror and despair in the hearts of the brutal, heinous invaders.

The great Fatherland Liberation War clearly showed that something miraculous can be created when a people, however unpretentious and ordinary, defy death in defence of what belongs to them.

Even after defending the dignity and honour, the territory and sovereignty of their country at the cost of their blood, our war veterans continued to work selflessly, steadfastly, honestly and with devotion for their country throughout their lives, creating a model of a patriotic life for posterity. Herein lie the true features—the ennobling traits—of a human being, which can be found only in them.

Our priceless socialist system and the great, ever-stronger state we have today would be unthinkable were it not for the imperishable feats of the combatants in the Fatherland Liberation War, both sung and unsung, and the pure, devoted service of the victorious wartime generation.

The war veterans are, truly, our most heroic

generation as they laid an unbreakable foundation for our Republic in the face of the upheavals of history, and they are models for the great, unyielding Korean people.

The loyalty, courage and patriotism you have demonstrated throughout your lives are now pulsating in the hearts of our tens of millions of people. Because our revolution has in its genes such great and excellent features, created in the flames of the grim war in the 1950s, it is able to carve out its cause indomitably by its own efforts down through the generations, without succumbing to any setback or retreating, however severe the difficulties.

Comrades,

For us, Victory Day is much more than a day of celebration commemorating and reflecting on a chapter of heroic resistance.

This day serves as a valuable and significant occasion for us to judge whether we can proudly say, before the embodiment and witnesses of history who brought about the greatest victory in the harshest and grimmest of times, that our current struggle has inherited our great traditions, as well as for us to renew our confidence and courage, passion and mettle.

We are now entrusted with the heavy historic duty

of exalting to the heights in the current era the brilliant glory and honour of our state achieved by the victorious wartime generation 70 years ago, and of ensuring that they are inherited stoutly by the next generation.

Just as the victorious wartime generation did, so we should exert ourselves ceaselessly for the next generation.

Consolidating the nation's defence capability further on the strength of the heroic spirit displayed during the war is a fundamental guarantee for defending the national interests of the Republic and its independent development.

Our revolution stands in sharp confrontation with the United States which, ever since the Fatherland Liberation War, has bluntly subjected us to regular nuclear threats. Against this historical backdrop we must, above all else, raise our state's self-defence capability to an appropriate level. We have achieved this urgent historic task through an arduous struggle.

Our Republic has firmly safeguarded socialism and built up a formidable self-defensive strategic potential throughout nearly 70 years of fierce confrontation with the United States since the war. This is a victory which is not inferior to, and even greater than, that in the Fatherland Liberation War.

However, we must not rest on our laurels.

The United States, which did the gravest harm to our nation in its modern history, is persisting with its dangerous hostile acts against our Republic.

The United States, while instigating the south Korean authorities to provoke suicidal confrontation with the DPRK on the pretext of solidifying their “alliance,” is continuing to spread groundless rumours of a “threat” from us, in pursuit of its own military confrontation with us.

It is the habitual policy approach employed by the United States to fabricate such rumours and spread them so as to make them sound plausible, and then to use them as justification for its attempts to intimidate us.

Just as they have always done, the US imperialists have recently been assiduously spreading rumours against the DPRK in the international arena, describing our state as the “main culprit” in undermining regional stability, and as a “dangerous state.”

The United States, while describing all the normal actions of our armed forces as “provocations” and “threats,” is openly waging large-scale joint war games. These are a grave threat to the security of our state. Such double-dealing behaviour—akin to that of a gangster—is driving DPRK-US relations to the extreme,

to the point of fierce collision, a course which will be impossible to reverse.

The US imperialists are obsessed with demonizing our state by manipulating international understanding and opinion of it. This stereotypical approach is designed to camouflage their aggressive nature as the enemy of world peace, and to justify their unlawful, hostile policy.

I have made it clear before that we should be ready both for negotiations and for confrontation—although more fully for confrontation—if we are to guarantee the security of our state.

The arrogant nature of the US imperialists remains unchanged.

We must confront the US imperialists to the last, on the strength of our ideology and arms.

I reaffirm that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is fully prepared to cope with any kind of military clash with the United States.

If the United States continues with its attempts to impair the image of our state and seriously infringe on our security and fundamental interests, it will face even greater anxiety and crises.

The government of our Republic takes this opportunity to send a serious warning to the south

Korean conservative regime and its hawks, who are going to ridiculous lengths in their acquisitiveness and claims of strength, having positioned themselves in the vanguard in implementing the US's hostile policy towards the DPRK.

Even tonight, at this very moment when fireworks are lighting up the night sky in celebration of Victory Day, the hideous warmongers and rogues on the land south of the 250-kilometre-long front line, in a great military frenzy, are perpetrating various military schemes designed to threaten our state.

The south Korean conservative regime, which took office this year, is guilty of pursuing appalling policies of confrontation towards their fellow countrymen, as well as acts of worshipping major countries and selling out the nation. These policies and acts, which surpass anything committed by previous conservative regimes, are driving the situation on the Korean peninsula to the brink of war.

The new south Korean regime has designated our government and army as their “archenemy.” Obsessed with the unwarranted fear that they must prepare to confront their fellow countrymen, they are raising the pitch of their malicious voices and resorting to every manner of evil and unjustified acts.

They are brazenly advocating “peace based on strength” and “security based on strength.” Putting up a bold front, they are claiming that they would not hesitate to launch a “preemptive strike” to neutralize our war deterrent.

South Korea is now working more frantically to develop weapons and strengthen its defence industry. Its aim is to mitigate even a little of its military inferiority as compared with ours. It is planning to bring in large numbers of strategic nuclear weapons from the United States and, under various pretexts, is stepping up its war drills.

However, we should recognize that the increasingly frequent boasts by the south Korean authorities with regard to their security, and their recent shameful conduct of various hues, are a product of their inevitable sense of unease at having to live under the nose of a nuclear state.

The various boasts of the south Korean authorities may be designed to reassure their people of how reliable and steel-strong are their security and advanced military strength. But I see them only as a sign of fear and helplessness.

Having established the concept of what they call the “Korean-style three-axis system,” the south Korean

authorities are making frantic efforts to promote their core fighting capability. But south Korea has no alternative other than to accept their military inferiority to us as their fate—a situation it will never be able to retrieve.

It reveals an unreasonable and highly dangerous, self-destructive attitude to talk about military action against our state, which possesses the ultimate weapons they fear the most.

If the south Korean regime and military ruffians are considering confronting us militarily and think that they can neutralize or destroy elements of our military forces preemptively by resorting to some special military means and methods,

They are making a grave mistake!

Any such dangerous move will be punished at once by a powerful force, and the Yoon Suk Yeol regime and its army will be annihilated.

The conservative regime in south Korea must admit before it is too late that it went too far right at the beginning, and that it should think seriously about any actions that may invite danger on itself.

We clearly remember the things Yoon Suk Yeol has said and done on several occasions before and after taking office.

We have also listened to the recent reckless remarks made by some military ruffians in south Korea, and are observing every significant military action they conduct with the United States.

We can no longer sit back and watch as Yoon Suk Yeol and his military gangsters commit such misdemeanours and follies.

If they continue to commit such acts as to aggravate the military tension by constantly picking a quarrel with our exercising of the right to self-defence and to threaten our security by invoking robber's logic, they will pay dearly.

They are being called a president with his head on the block and a regime exposed to extreme peril, and if they are to throw off this stigma, they must act with greater prudence and think before they speak. They would also be well advised to refrain from criticizing us now and then. Otherwise, not dealing with us at all may be a better option for them.

Comrades,

Our armed forces are now fully prepared to cope with any crisis, and our state's nuclear war deterrent is also fully ready to demonstrate its ultimate power precisely and promptly, true to its mission.

I affirm that the safety of this land and the system

and sovereignty of this country which you, war veterans, defended at the cost of your blood, are fully guaranteed by a more powerful self-defence capability and stout spirit.

We will grow stronger.

The government of our Republic will safeguard our state, people and sovereignty by dint of our ever-growing, comprehensive military capability and our resolute anti-imperialist, anti-US spirit and approach to the south and the enemy.

The situation for our revolution demands a more rapid change in our military capability, if we are to overpower and crush more thoroughly the enemy's desperate manoeuvres towards expansion of armaments and its dangerous military provocations. In order to carry out this historic task responsibly, our Party Central Committee has recently identified the tasks and strategy for developing our national self-defence capability, and is leading the effort for their correct implementation.

War is a merciless conflict between forces. Victory, though, always awaits the side that possesses sincere love and a strong faith. This truth is immutable, even in today's warfare in which a full array of state-of-the-art military technology is enlisted.

Our People's Army will keep channelling its main efforts into displaying to the full its political and ideological superiority, which is the source of its might and invincibility. In this way, it will grow into the world's strongest army—one that demonstrates its formidable strike power with a steadfast revolutionary spirit, unrivalled courage, and indefatigable fighting spirit.

Just as the victorious wartime generation did, so all the people should link their personal joys and sorrows to the destiny of the country, brave every hardship on the way of their advance with the spirit of wholehearted commitment to the patriotic road, and work for socialist construction with an unyielding will.

When we achieve innovations and successes at our posts and workplaces through a conscientious display of class consciousness, always mindful that the anti-imperialist class struggle is a struggle for defending not only our destiny but also our country, we will be able to step up our creation and construction and deal heavier blows to the hostile forces.

Those who must splendidly inherit the heroic spirit of the victorious wartime generation and adorn the country's future with great victories, are none other than our rising generations.

Our Party and government will always give priority

to preparing the millions of young people to be ardent revolutionaries and patriotic fighters who will stoutly carry forward the spiritual baton passed to them by the combatants in the Fatherland Liberation War.

Like the war veterans who demonstrated the way to act with courage in the theatres of war and defend their national flag, young people should all devote their burning hearts on the sacred road of national defence. They should also glorify theirs as another heroic era by performing miracles and labour feats with their youthful passion and mass heroism on all fronts of socialist construction.

The lecturers and officials across the country responsible for managing the revolutionary artefacts and sites associated with the victorious war must fulfil their responsibilities and duties as powerful disseminators and educators who implant in all the people, service personnel and rising generations the outstanding exploits of Comrade Kim Il Sung and our Party that led the country to victory in the war and the heroic fighting spirit of its defenders in the 1950s.

Comrades,

Time passes and rivers and mountains change. When one generation is replaced by another, a single living organism with inexhaustible vitality is formed

that is connected by a heroic fighting spirit—this is the source of the indomitable strength that is unique to our state and people.

Our Republic, which invariably carries forward the history and traditions of the great victory in the war, will be ever-victorious.

The exploits of the combatants in the Fatherland Liberation War, who saved our state and nation and defended their future in the grimmest years, will remain forever, along with our Republic that will be eternally prosperous.

Esteemed comrade war veterans,

By carrying forward the souls and spirit of the heroic wartime generation and struggling more powerfully and bravely, we will build without fail a powerful and prosperous socialist paradise on this land which you defended.

I say once again: Even if you do nothing more than remain healthy, that will be a great encouragement to us.

I ask you once again to take care of your health, and I sincerely wish every one of you a long life.

Comrades,

Long live our great July 27!

Long live the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, our glorious motherland!

KIM JONG UN

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