

“ History ” Building and Formation of Japan’s Image during Kim Il Song Regime

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The purpose of this paper is to make a study of the “ Japanese image ” held by the D.P.R.K. authorities, from a historical point of view.

We must consider that the “ Japanese image ” was NOT structured only by the historical experience related with Japan, nor the political image of her. Rather, it was made by the backgrounds and the factors mentioned below.

The D.P.R.K. was founded under extreme influence of the Soviet Union. This means that the early Kim Il Song regime was dependent upon the authority of the Soviets. But due to the ideological antagonism which has occurred between the two countries, the D.P.R.K. had to “ De-Sovietize ”, and shift over to an independent regime. The construction of the history of Kim Il Song, in my words the construction of “ His story ”, was only one part of the operation of “ De-Sovietizing ”.

By “ De-Sovietizing ”, and constructing an independent regime, the D.P.R.K. had to make their own revolutionary policy, and their own ideology as well. They started to make a revolutionary policy which manifests “ Juche ”, which has a nuance of “ independence ” in Korean, and an ideology which recognizes the North East Asian region from a stratified point of view. On the beginning, by using those policies and ideologies, the D.P.R.K. tried to improve the relation with Japan, which goal was to establish a diplomatic relationship. As a result, the Japanese image held by the D.P.R.K. authorities was influenced by this policy. But when they saw the rapid cooperation between Japan and the Republic of Korea, they sensed the possibility of the Containment Policy of the enemy, namely the United States, and the setback of the South Korean Revolution. By this recognition, the D.P.R.K. has constructed a logic that insisted that the Japanese militarists are reviving, and by using this logic, they started to criticize her. This was the logic of “ The revival of the Japanese militarists ” made by the D.P.R.K. From this point of view, when we are making a study of the Japanese image held by the authorities of the D.P.R.K., we can recognize the relationship between “ the D.P.R.K.’s recognition of the United States ” and “ the South Korean Revolution Policy ”

After this period, the D.P.R.K. started to connect the logic of “ The revival of the Japanese militarists ” with the “ His story ”, which I have mentioned above. So, as a result, the Japanese policy of her, got under the influence of these logics and connections. This is the historical path of the way she made her Japanese image.