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Eldridge Cleaver's Introduction to Kim Il Sung's Speeches

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Summary:

Eldridge Cleaver praises North Korea's efforts toward national liberation and suggests that Kim Il Sung's speeches should be inspiring to Americans.

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TRANSCRIPT OF TAPE ON INTRODUCTION TO KIM IL SUNG SPEECHES

There is a sharp contradiction between the small amount of time that people have for reading and the diverse mountain of material available to read, some of which is an absolute necessity if one wants to be in possession of the information that one needs in order to most effectively deal with the contemporary world situation. Much time, effort, and energy is consumed by fruitless to read because it takes a little while after beginning a book before one reaches the point where the decision whether or not to continue reading can be made. Usually when we read, even when we may distrust a book, we are a little blind because we don't want to make a bad decision by not reading the book, we may miss something that we really need. So we proceed to read it gaurdedly, suspiciously, until we have consumed enough to kn ow whether or not it strikes our mind with light. Everyone knows how many books are started and then cast aside never to be picked up again, never to be related to again. This is particularly true of books written by political leaders or by politicians. Many people will purchase a book by a politician or statesman just so they can display them on the bookshelf, or just so they will have them near at hand, as though by having the book in possession, through some metaphysical process one also possess the knowledge which is contained in the book. Reading a book can really be a dangerous venture, one that should be taken with the utmost seriousness. So It is for these reasons that I have always been reluctant to write book

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reviews or to write introductions for ~~a book~~ books.

But the manuscript that I have here before me is of a book that needs to be read, that needs to be studied, and understood particularly by American people . This book is a collection of political, theoretical, and philosophical writings , the thought ~~the philosophy~~ of Comrade Kim Il Sung, the respected and beloved leader of the forty million Korean people. It is about Korea and the struggle of the Korean people to survive, to exist, and to live, and to improve the quality of their lives . The book contains the ideas and reflects the heroic struggle that the Korean people have waged to improve the quality of their lives. But the reason that I urge this book, particularly for Yankees, for Babylonian Americans, for the two hundred and some odd million people inside the geographical confines of the United States of America, ~~this book contains valuable information~~ it contains valuable information about ~~America. About the United States of America~~.

~~Today throughout the world, all the negative man-induced faults or traits in the present world situation can be summed up in the phrase the U.S. imperialist aggressors, which I would say is the key image that the Korean people have of the United States of America. It is thru through reading books such as this one that we can understand and relate to the full meaning of this term, U.S. imperialist aggressors.~~ By reading this book

One thing that the United States of America doesn't have and never has had is a unifed national will defined and articulated, analyzed, and formulated in theoretical terms

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In Comrade Kim Il Sung, this is precisely by a genius, as what the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea has. I also think that this may be a threatening reality to Americans. In much too many respects life has always been very bad and very false in America. The American people have been cut off from experiencing many aspects of human reality precisely because the United STates of America has never achieved nationhood, never been a United People, And has never had a common bond of brotherhood and love an aspect of their daily lives and part and parcel of their entire existence, of the people. A nation that is internally liberated to the extent that its people can know this dimension of human reality is a rare nation, a very beautiful and wholesome nation and an exemplary nation. That is what the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea is. These writings by Comrade Kim Il Sung allow us to understand why this is true. This book allows us to understadd the struggle of the Korean people, the history of their struggle. It helps us to understand how the Korean people moved to deal with their struggle to survive. This book reveals a process. It reveals the internal mental life of the Korean people, under seige, surrounded in the North by the Soviet Union, bounded to the West by the Peoples Republic of China, sutt off from the South by the presence of American occupying army of the troops in South Korea, and cut off on the East by Japan, the monstrous, imperialist force of Asia.

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For over forty years, Comrade Kim Il Sung has been Korea's man of the hour. He personally organized, commanded, and led to victory the fifteen year armed struggle against the Japanes colonialists, who had ground down the Korean people under a cruel yoke of oppression. Through his brilliant thinking and superb military strategy, he rallied the Korean people, organized them into a powerful force and restored their national destiny into their own hands and their own control.

The Liberation of Korea came simultaneously with the end of the Second World War and the destruction of the Japanese empire. Like a vulture hovering in the air over a corpse, the United States of America swooped down upon the ruins of the Japanese empire with hopes of taking it over and arrogating to it's self the fruits of exploitation and domination once enjoyed by the Japanese. They took over the colonial apparatus in South Korea and plunged that half of Korea back into the nightmare of foreighn domination, exploitation and control. Not satisfied with the control of South Korea, The United States sought to extend the limits of it's conquered territory into the northern half of the country. Again, Comrade Kim Il Sung rallied the Korean people and led them in a defense of their homeland that was epic in it's dimensions and heroic in it's content.

The defeat of the U.S.'s war of aggression against the Korean people was an important turning point in the history of the world struggle against imperialism, foreighn domination, control, and exploitation. The great example of the Korean people's struggle, particularly against the United States, is a beacon light of hope to all the peoples of the world who are struggling for freedom, liberation, and national salvation.

Through his incisive analyses of the historical experiences of the Korean people in struggle, Comrade Kim Il Sung has made original and important contributions to the storehouse of human knowledge both on the level of the

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struggle itself for independence and on the level of reconstructing society along the most advanced lines of socialist theory and practice.

Today, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is an earthly paradise, with an advanced social system, a highly developed technology, a brilliant national culture, and a healty people definitely on the move towards even greater achievements. The thinking that has guided this phenomenal development is that of Comrade Kim Il Sung. And it is this thinking that is contained in this book.

I bevlieve that a study of the Korean experience is one of the few possible avenues open to us for an understanding of just what the rulers of America are up to in Asia. Such a study will also shed much light and understanding upon the bloodstained role of the United States throughout Indo-China and particularly in Vietnam. An unbroken chain of aggression and war connects America's present adventure in Indo-China with the events leading up to the Korean War, the war itself, and the present occupation of South Korea by the troops of the Pentagon.

One of the saliant characteristics of the Korean people is that, unlike many other people, they have not forgotten the suffering and death to which they were subjected by invaders and aggressors, and they have a genuine sympathy and feelings of connectedness with the sufferings of those people who are still struggling for their freedom and liberation. By making available the wisdom of their own experience and also through material aid, the Korean people have won a very unique warm spot in the hearts of revolutionaries and oppressed people all over the world. Comrade Kim Il Sung can be credited with leading the Korean people to this genuine humanistic concern for their fellow human beings, and they have concretely backed up this concern with action.

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The lying propaganda machine controlled by the rulers of America has kept the American people in ignorance about the true nature of the struggles of the people of Asia to free themselves from beneath the bootheels of aggressors. This lying propaganda machine has outdone itself in the case of Korea, so that we have a situation today where a brilliant truth, bursting to be free, is still obscurred and hidden by a flood of mendacious State Department rhetoric and Pentagon double talk. The days of this veil of lies are numbered. This volume of writings and speeches of Comrade Kim Il Sung, which speaks eloquently for itself, will (explode) oppose? for ever these lies and this darkness, enabling us to enter into this world of tragedy and triumph and come away equipped to understand the Korea of today and the hidden history of American aggression against the Korean people.

I am glad that this book is available now to the American people, because it contains the information to give us some badly needed new ideas about the world we live in and the possibilities of human ascendancy to brilliant hights of achievement and peace.

All Power To The People!

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There are too many books published and too little time in which to read them. Because of this, there is the serious question of selection: which of these voulmes will truly give us the information needed to deal with the complex problems of the contemporary world?

Reading books--particularly those by political leaders--is potentially dangerous. For this reason, I have always been reluctant to write reviews or introductions for books. But the manuscript before me is one that must be read and understood by the American people, above all. It is a collection of writings by Comrade Kim Il Sung; it is about Korea and the struggle of the Korean people to survive. It contains their ideas and reflects the heroic struggle that the Korean people have waged to improve the quality of their lives. But the reason that I urgently recommed this book for the two hundred million peopple inside the geographical limits of the United States of America is that it contains essential information for those people in America.

In 1969, we went to Korea in search of something we have been seeking all over the world, something for which we have dedicated all of our lives, as have all the oppressed peoples of te world.

We found it in Korea. Let me explain. We speak of internationalizing our struggle, particularly against U.S. imperialism. In order to succeed, we must have an international analysis, and an unternarional strategy based on this analysis. This strategy must be implemented internationally, thought international tactics. I think that Comrade Kim Il Sung has provided these.

I see the earth as one big piece of land with one big body of water. I see one territory and I see Comrade Kim Il Sung speaking to all the people in this territory. I see them listiening to him and understaing what he is saying. He is shpwing us what is right before our eyes, but what we could not see as clearly as he could because we did hot have his perspective. But once

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To give us this insight, we needed a man like Comrade Kim Il Sung, with his long experience in the fight against imperialism, including the experience of guerilla warfare. He has taken what he knows and applied to it on an international scale. Because of his experience and that of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, our consciousness has been heightened to a level that makes us equal to the task of dealing with our number one enemy, U.S. imperialism.

One thing the United States lacks is a unified national will, defined, analyzed, formulated and articulated by a leader of genius. Such a leader is Comrade Kim Il Sung. This fact may be a threat to Americans. In too many respects, life has always been false in America. The American people have been cut off from reality precisely because the United States of America has never been a United People, never achieved nationhood, has never been bound by brotherhood and love as part of their daily life. A nation that is so liberated that its people can know this dimension of human reality is rare and exemplary. That is what the Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea is. These writings by Comrade Kim Il Sung allow us to understand the reasons. They show us the struggle of the Korean people and the history of this struggle. It helps us understand just how they have survived. Above all, it reveals to us the internal life of the Korean people under siege, surrounded in the north by the Soviet Union, bounded to the west by the Peoples' Republic of China, cut off from the south by the presence of the American troops in South Korea, and cut off from the east by Japan, the monstrous, imperialist force of Asia.

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All Power To The People!

Eldridge Cleaver

Algeria
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