

Yasuo Ogata's speech within the discussion on Imperialistic Wars

SUMMER UNIVERSITY 2024 – PLENARY 4

Thank you so much for the invitation to the summer university in Mieres. From the Japanese Communist Party, located at the eastern end of the Eurasian continent, I send ardent greetings of friendship and solidarity to the European left to all of you.

Japan is a developed capitalist country, but it is dominated by the United States, and our strategic task is to break this domination, achieve true independence, and become a neutral and non-aligned country.

Our party platform defines the United States as imperialism, which declares a preemptive attack strategy, clings to military hegemony by spreading US military bases and military alliance networks around the world.

We prioritize the fight against it. We are proud to be at the front line against the US imperialism among developed capitalist countries.

The extreme genocide in Gaza is being carried out by Israel and the US imperialism that supports it.

And we are promoting the struggle of international solidarity to break this barbarism.

The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine has been two and a half years old, and the sacrifices of the people of both countries have become enormous, causing serious global impacts such as the world economy and the climate crisis. The UN General Assembly has condemned Russia for violating the UN Charter four times, with the support of 70% of member states, and called for the restoration of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

We are opposed to the hegemonism of the US and Russia, as well as the hegemonism of Israel, as its regional version.

The greatest concern for modern international peace is the military hegemonism of some major powers that violates the UN Charter.

The US condemns Russia's aggression in Ukraine, but defends Israel's attack on Gaza, that is a typical "double standard" to the UN Charter.

We strongly denounce it.

That is why what is needed today is the reconstruction and strengthening of the international order based on the UN Charter.

Any hegemonism that violates that order, regardless of the country, must be fought for the cause of peace.

The international community, including some NATO member governments, was already united in 2003 in the Bush administration's invasion of Iraq on the point of "protecting the UN Charter."

Since then, the UN Charter has become the banner of opposition to war and for world peace.

Now, I would like to talk about some aspects of the US domination in Japan. With the conclusion of the Japan-US Security Treaty in 1951, when the US occupation ended, and the revision in 1960, Japan is under American control in the fields of politics, economy, and military affairs.

There are 130 US military bases and facilities in Japan, and even in the capital Tokyo and its surrounding areas, huge air force and naval bases.

70% of the US military bases are concentrated in Okinawa, an island facing China across the East China Sea.

Okinawa has become an island of US military bases. So far, more than 1,000 Japanese people have been killed in crimes committed by US soldiers stationed throughout Japan.

Sexual violence against women in particular is frequent, and currently in Okinawa, the fact that several cases of assault on women were identified by the police but not reported to the Okinawa Prefectural Government.

This is becoming today's major issue.

War, military bases and gender, and individual dignity are absolutely incompatible. Furthermore, peacebuilding and gender equality are one hand in hand.

Now, in response to the militarization of Europe, the militarization of Japan is extremely dangerous.

In line with the US administration's demand, the Japanese government has doubled its military spending to 2% of GDP and acquired the ability to attack enemy bases.

It is also serious that Japan is relying on the US "nuclear umbrella" and participating in its nuclear strategy.

Furthermore, at the Japan-US summit meeting this April, the Japanese Prime Minister Kishida was pledged by the US President Biden to strengthen the Japan-US military alliance by placing the Japanese Self-Defense Forces under the de facto command of the US military, and to fight together as a "global partner" with the US military.

This implies that transatlantic NATO and transpacific Japan-US alliance are set to be tied, with the US at the center.

Japan also plays a role in inviting NATO to East Asia, and we hope to sound the alarm about Japan's dangerous role and, in response, fight back and strengthen cooperation for peace with the European left.

Japan is a country with peace principles, which states in Article 9 of the Constitution that it will not possess any military power and will renounce war. We are determined to work hard to create a peaceful Japan in accordance with this Constitution.

Why the Japanese Communist Party operating in Asia, value relationship with the European left?

Because as left-wing parties in developed capitalist countries, we have many things in common in terms of their methods of operation and the challenges they face, and they can learn from each other.

We search for strategic policies to win the majority of the people through elections under conditions overwhelmingly favorable to the ruling class.

No developed capitalist country has yet embarked on a new future society, or socialism, and our struggle will create an experience never before seen by humanity.

It is a difficult but grand undertaking with great potential.

Especially today, when the ruling powers of Western countries are strengthening their networks of military, political, and economic control, it is of utmost

importance for communist and progressive parties around the world to strengthen solidarity and cooperation on the issue of peace.

Our party opposes all forms of hegemonism and advocates a peaceful order based on the UN Charter.

We are opposed to the expansion of military blocs, including NATO.

As the only country in the world to have suffered atomic bombings during war, we are fighting for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

The climate crisis and gender equality are also essential issues for cooperation in order to achieve peace.

From the podium at the European Left Party Conference in Vienna in December 2022, I called for the advancement of a transcontinental joint struggle and solidarity, literally, between the east and west of the Eurasian continent. I call once again to advance a global, united struggle. Thank you for your attention.