The View and Understanding of Yugoslavia on the Korean War: an Analysis through Illustrations

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Abstract

Yugoslavia was always afraid of Soviet and its bloc's invasion by military power after Cominform (Informbiro) conflict in 1948. So, Korean War in 1950. has received as very important international occasion to Yugoslavia. Yugoslavia conceived Korean War as a collision between the West and the East, and started to analyze why occurred this collision in Korean peninsula instead of Balkan (Yugoslavia) which has been understood as peak of the Cold War.

In this study, on the basis of such backgrounds, I explained the view and understanding of Yugoslavia on the Korean War from the view point through illustrations in newspaper of Yugoslavia.

Among the various themes related to the problems of Korea and the Korean War in the illustrations, I focused on the following three points in this paper; First, Yugoslavia understands the origins of the division of the Korean peninsula and the Korean War such as a kind of Cold War caused by hegemonic policies of Super Powers; Second, Yugoslavia analyses the Korean War as an attack of North Korea on South Korea with the Soviet Union-made weapons; Third, Yugoslavia holds the view that the UN-led peace settlement rather than Power Game between Super Powers is necessary to end the Korean War and build peace on the Korean Peninsula.

Key Words: Korean War, Yugoslavia, Illustration, Cold War, UN

I. Introduction

After the Second World War, the tensions between the two blocs of the America and the Soviet Union were sharply increasing in international societies. Those days the conflict between the America and the Soviet Union over the solution of the problems in the Korean Peninsula were not the concerns of the

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Korean people alone but one of numerous international problems. The outbreak of the Korean War in June, 1950, in particular, was the touchstone of the UN for its leadership. Meanwhile in European countries, Yugoslavia, which was separated from Soviet and socialist bloc after the conflict of Cominform (Informbiro) in 1948, was one of the important international issues along with the problems of East and West Germany.

At that time, Yugoslavia and Tito had strong national pride because Yugoslavia was the only country in Eastern Europe which, during the Second World War, succeeded to make a socialist state by Partisans without the aids of the Soviet Union. However, Stalin, the leader of the Soviet Union, tried to keep the whole of Eastern Europe including Yugoslavia under its control, and this caused the conflict between Tito and Stalin. In 1948, the Soviet Union ousted Yugoslavia from Cominform by force, and after that Yugoslavia had political, economic, and diplomatic difficulties, and faced the risk of being attacked by the Soviet Union and the members of Warsaw Pact. But, the war broke out in June, 1950 in the Korean peninsula. Right after the breakout of the Korean War, Yugoslavia made it clear that North Korea started the war by attacking South Korea with the military support from Soviet Union, unlike other socialist countries that claimed that the war broke out by the attack of South Korea on North Korea. Such opinions of Yugoslavia appeared in the official newspaper of Party Politika, Borba and various diplomatic documents. Yugoslavia, who was making an analysis of the Korean War, came to the conclusion that the Soviet Union started the testing war on the Korean peninsula to see how the America and UN would react in the case that the Soviet Union invades Yugoslavia and Europe.

On the basis of such backgrounds, this study will deal with the theme of “the View and Understanding of Yugoslavia on the Korean War: an Analysis through Illustrations”. Among the various themes related to the problems of Korea and the Korean War in the illustrations, I will focus on the following three points in this article. In addition, on the basis of the three points to be mentioned, I will make an analysis of the understanding and the view of Yugoslavia on the Korean War and the situations at that time using the illustrations.

First, Yugoslavia understands the origins of the division of the Korean peninsula and the Korean War such as a kind of Cold War caused by hegemonic policies of Super Powers.