



Rebuild and Transform Britain

theworker.org.uk

June 2018

Koreans take charge for peace

While publicity in the West concentrates on the summit between the North Korean leader and the US president, the reality is that Trump has been forced into the talks by the efforts of Kim Jong-Un and Moon Jae-In, the Korean leaders for the North and South. Initially Trump called the South Korean president, 'appeaser'.

Originally there were talks between Korean leaders in 2000 and 2007. The talks in 2000 resulted in a joint declaration and resolution of military issues. In 2007 there was active promotion of economic cooperation and meetings to resolve nuclear issues but the US did not fulfil its commitments so that North Korea had to rely on its own efforts to ensure its security. Its success in developing nuclear weapons and means of delivery has given the lie to the caricature of a backward prison state and won the people in the whole of Korea over to a renewed ambition for peace and unity.

Momentum for peace talks increased with the election of Moon Jae-In in South Korea on a platform of working for peace with North Korea and to develop cooperation and ultimately re-unification. The North Koreans took advantage of the winter Olympics and sent a large delegation of sports people and several high-level diplomats to the games. A top-level meeting between the leaders was arranged. The friendly summit between Kim Jong-Un and Moon Jae-In resulted in the 'Panmunjom Declaration' for peace, prosperity and re-unification. It officially ended the 1950 to 1953 war between North and South Korea, which until then had the status of an armistice.



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, left, walks with South Korean President Moon Jae-in at the border village of Panmunjom

A more detailed article can be found at theworker.org.uk

The Marketisation of Education



The government recently announced a new development of elite education through an investment programme in Grammar Schools. The scheme is in fact a Secondary Modern programme, as the majority of children will end up in these schools. There are over 167,000 children engaged in selective education nationally, which shows the government's ambition of dividing society, by funding further changes to the secondary state education model. This extends the marketization of learning through the formation of less regulated, independently managed business units through its Academy and Free Schools programme.

Communities that struggle with social isolation and poverty are further impacted by the lack of civil infrastructure, such as access to Dentistry and Doctors. The wealth divide is having an impact on life chances and longevity. Cynically, the Russell Group Universities such as Oxford and Cambridge are unwilling and unable to recruit from

the North of the Country and or to target groups such as the disabled or those from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities.

Labour's line must be, no single market and no customs union

Labour's position on leaving the EU has been inconsistent despite being a member of it making much of their 2017 Manifesto illegal. In June last year John McDonnell, shadow chancellor, seemed clear that in order to respect the referendum decision, Britain should leave the Single Market. By July he said leaving it had not been ruled out and in September called for its reform.

At this time, more clarity was shown by Barry Gardiner, Labour's international trades spokesperson. He said remaining in the customs union would make the UK a "vassal state", unable to negotiate sovereign trade deals. In November, shadow cabinet members voted with the government against continuing in the customs union, thus defeating an amendment laid by a coalition of Tory and Labour remainers.

In February this year, Frank Field MP, veteran anti-EU Campaigner, said that backing such a deal would be "ratting on" those who voted to leave the EU. But in

March, McDonnell said it was inevitable Britain would be in a customs union, while in April the unelected Lords passed an amendment calling for this.

The battle in government circles has been fierce. Liam Fox said a customs union would be a "sell out". Other Brexiteers told Theresa May that any such partnership would be "absolutely unacceptable", leaving the UK "in a worse position than before the referendum".

At the moment Prime Minister May is devising schemes for partnership with the EU. She and many on Labour's front bench seem equally confused, irresolute or duplicitous. None the less, on Perton on Sunday, Tom Watson, Labour's deputy leader put down Alistair Campbell's pro EU comments, saying Labour should listen to the whole of the British people.

A United Ireland – The Way Forward

The abortion referendum in Eire and the farcical negotiations between the Tory government and the European Union on a hard or soft border between the north of Ireland and the remainder of the country, each demonstrate the need for the removal of colonial political borders and the establishment of a united Ireland. Whatever your position on the EU, the absurdity of the border negotiations, based on a colonial administration from a bygone era, simply should not be taking place. The Tories' reliance on the reactionary and ultra conservative Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) is preventing Britain's exit from the EU taking place on its own terms.

Prime Minister May has tied her own hands with the DUP deal by ruling out any new trade barriers between the north of Ireland and Britain. As the country seeks to regain its independence from the EU, the time for restrictive thought should not be entertained. Britain needs to prosper and to do so we need to think more widely about what our role in the world is and how we are viewed.

Britain needs to renounce its imperialist past and establish the re-unification of Ireland as an integral element of leaving the EU. The abortion vote demonstrated how Ireland has changed, how it has become a confident and modern state, in complete contrast to the north with its restrictive and medieval practices where a woman has no right to choose and is compelled to travel overseas to have control over her own body.

The ideology cannot be reformed - it can only be removed. The uniting of Ireland would achieve this, pushing the DUP into the margins of relevancy and the dustbin of history. The uniting of Ireland would immediately solve the one issue that is likely to derail the exit negotiations by drawing a veto from the Republic.

Support for a united Ireland within the country itself has surged since the referendum in Britain, and any vote now on this issue is likely to go in favour of ending the artificial border. Furthermore, under the Good Friday Agreement there cannot be a border between the six counties and the rest of Ireland. So it makes sense to solve the problem by uniting the country, as it once was and should be again.



Extended versions of these articles can be found on The Worker website at www.theworker.org.uk
Contact: newsletter@theworker.org.uk