

www.krld.pl

Japan Must Choose the Right Way

Some time ago Hans-Ulrich Beller, a German professor, harshly criticized Japan for its wrong attitude toward the redress for the past.

Saying that it must be natural for Japan to feel guilty from the viewpoint of Germany and other countries, he expressed his dissatisfaction with the stubborn and obstinate attitude it persisted for more than 60 years after the Second World War. Pointing out that Japan had not depicted its past war crimes correctly in the textbooks, he gave detailed explanations of how Germany had settled accounts of the past war crimes after the war. Then he stressed that Japan must follow the example of Germany in making reparations for its sinful past so as to promote its relations with neighbouring countries.

As is well known Germany, one of war criminal states, has fully demonstrated its intention of making atonements for the past with practical deeds.

Such intentions were also clearly shown by other countries. Italy decided to pay reparations to Libya, which suffered under its colonial rule, by investing 200 million US dollars every year, 5 000 million in all, in a project of laying social foundations. Australian prime minister officially apologized for the forced labour and maltreatment suffered by the children who were forcibly drafted from Britain to Australia in the past to work in plantations. Recently the British government decided to compensate the losses suffered by independence fighters of Kenya against its colonial rule in the past and showed its will to do the same to other former colonial countries.

Only Japan is shunning itself from the current of the times, attempting to embellish its past crimes and repeat the history of aggression.

Recently Osaka mayor Hashimoto said in public that “comfort women” were needed for Japanese soldiers justifying the past sexual slavery system of Japanese army, eliciting strong public censure. Former Tokyo governor Ishihara said that army and prostitution come together with each other and that Hashimoto’s remarks are not wrong basically.

What should be called to account is that there are not only such representatives of the right-wing conservative forces as Hashimoto and Ishihara, but also countless politicians in the Japanese government who are steeped in militarism.

Prime Minister Abe started his work of this year by singing the Kimigayo, a symbol of the past Japanese imperialism.

Aso Taro, deputy prime minister and minister of finance, once made himself open to strong

criticism of the international community for his absurd remarks in praise of the “changing names into Japanese ones” the Japanese imperialists had forced upon the Korean people during its military occupation.

Chief Cabinet secretary and minister of education and science are noted for their historical viewpoint that denies the sex slavery crime of the former Japanese army.

Inada Tomomi, female minister of administrative improvement affairs, insisted that the system of Japanese army’s sex slavery was legal.

Incumbent minister of general affairs had in the past made a fuss about Tok Islet, inherent territory of Korea, claiming that it belongs to Japan.

Japanese politicians paid official visits to the Yasukuni Shrine, eliciting strong outrage from international community.

Japan’s deviation to the Right is geared to make Japan militarist. Militarism has become an ideological support for Japanese government in carrying out its war policy for overseas aggression.

Japan, ever since its defeat in the Second World War, has been on a headlong rush to a military power. In flat defiance of the current postwar constitution prohibiting Japan from having an army, it has started its reorganization of military structures aimed at its centralization. Its Self-Defence Forces have been reinforced both in quantity and in quality, equipping its ground, maritime and air forces with state-of-the-art military hardware and converting them into mobile task forces of offensive nature. It has literally completed its preparations for war with a great potential for satisfying the wartime need of equipment and materiel. It has also fully prepared itself for its eligibility for a nuclear state.

By doing so, Japan has changed its appearance from its no-war status in the postwar period to war-capable one at present, thereby emerging as a new fascist country that poses threat to peace and security of Asia and the rest of the world in the 21st century. This evokes great apprehension and wariness from the international community.

Former President of Germany Richard von Weizsacker said: Anybody who has no willingness to settle his past is not aware that where he is at this point of time and why he is there. And he, who denies his past, is apt to repeat it.

If Japan desperately avoids itself from its reparation of the past, it will surely repeat its past. Japanese politicians are liable to repeat the tragic fate of Tojo and other militarists who were brought to severe judgment of the history for realizing their wild dream of “Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere.” It is not fortuitous that they deserve the international criticism as political pygmies.

It is an unavoidable responsibility and moral obligation of a war criminal state to make

apology and amendment to its victims in light of international law and humanity. And it is the only way to win the trust of the international community.

There is no other choice for Japan, but to make unconditional and thorough apology and reparation to Korea and other Asian countries for its past war of aggression and colonial rule.