
OUR COMRADE'S CHILDREN. THE NORTH KOREAN CHILDREN (ORPHANS) IN COMMUNIST ROMANIA DURING THE KOREAN WAR

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Abstract: After the outbreak of the Korean War, People's Republic of Romania reacted in almost perfect synchronism with the „peace loving camp” led by the USSR. Apart from the diplomatic and material support (funds and goods allotted from the state budget, or from fund raising campaigns), a special dimension of the Romanian support for the regime in Pyongyang consisted in sheltering or adoption of orphaned or wounded children. The present paper focuses on that particular and lesser known aspect of Romania's involvement in Korean War. As demonstrated in our paper, the accommodation and education of a few thousands of North Korean children (most of them orphans) from 1952 to 1960, had to do with the efforts related to helping a „friend in need”- DPRK, already engaged in „combating Imperialism” in Korean peninsula.

Keywords: Korean War, People's Republic of Romania, Propaganda, Communism, Fraternal Support.

Over the last two decades and especially during the last few years, various scholars (particularly historians), have paid significant attention to various stages of North Korea's history, focusing both on the war issues (Korean War) and also (or mostly) on the inter-bloc relations of the Communist states (concerning DPRK) before and after the signing of the Armistice (July 1953)¹.

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¹ There is a plethora of scholarly articles and papers and among these we should mention the contributions of Chen Jian (*Sino-Soviet Alliance and China's Entry into Korean War*-CWIHP Working Paper no. 1, June 1992), Kathryn Weathersby (*Soviet Aims in Korea and the origins of Korean War 1945-1950. New Evidence from Russian Archives*-CWIHP Working Paper no.8, November 1993) Charles K. Armstrong, („Fraternal Socialism”: *The International Reconstruction of Korea 1953-1962*- Cold War History 5, No. 2, May 2005), James F. Person, ed., (*New Evidence on North Korea in 1956* -CWIHP Bulletin 16, Fall 2007/Winter 2008), Charles K. Armstrong (*Juche and North Korea's Global Aspirations*-NKIDP Working Paper no. 1, April 2009), Shen Zhihua and Yafeng Xia (*China and the Post War Reconstruction of North Korea, 1953-1961*-NKIDP Working Paper no. 4, May 2012).