



Kim Il-sung
President of the DPRK

Born: 15 April 1912, Taedong County, South Pyongan
Died: 8 July 1994, Hyangsan County, North Pyongan

Family: Kim Il-sung (born Kim Song-ju) was the eldest child of Kim Hyong-jik (1894-1926) and Kang Pan-sok (1892-1932). He changed his name from Kim Song-ju to Kim Il-sung in 1935. Kim Il-sung had three children with Kim Jong-suk (1917-1949): Kim Jong-il (Yura, born 1941), Kim Pyong-il (Shura, 1944-1947) and Kim Kyong-hui (born 1946). He married Kim Song-ae (born 1924) with whom he had three children: Kim Kyong-il (born 1951), Kim Pyong-il (born 1953) and Kim Yong-il (born 1955). Kim Il-sung also seems to have several children born from other women to whom he was not married, one of whom was adopted by his daughter, Kim Kyong-hui.

Education and Partisan Activities: Kim Il-sung attended Baodagou Elementary School, Changdok Elementary School (in present day Pyongyang), Hwasong Middle School and Yumen Middle School, from which he was expelled for his first political activities. He began participating in (not in any leadership capacity as claimed by DPRK propaganda) anti-Japanese political activities in the late 1920's and joined the First Route Army of the North-east anti-Japanese United Army (of which he became commanding officer of the Sixth Division). It should be noted that when Kim Il-sung joined the United Army, he left behind a widowed mother and two orphaned siblings.

He was tutored in communist ideology and guerilla warfare tactics by a Chinese communist named Wei Zhengmin. In coordination with the Korean Fatherland Restoration Association (a group that he neither founded nor controlled) he led approximately 200 guerilla fighters in a successful raid on the town of Pochonbo, during which his unit seized control of the village. Kim Il-sung participated in several other raids, during which he compelled or kidnapped young Chinese and Koreans to join the guerilla units. Kim Il-sung liaised with the Soviets around 1939, and joined other members of the Chinese and Korean partisan units in the Soviet Union (via Siberia) in 1941. He was trained with other partisans (including Kim Chaek) at Okeanskaya Field Training School near Vladivostok. He met and married his first wife, Kim Jong-suk, while in Siberia. Kim Il-sung became a member of the 88th Regiment of the international squad of the Soviet Army. He landed at Wonsan in 1945 as a member of the 88th Regiment.

Positions held:

1945: (October) Executive Member, North Korea Branch, Korean Communist Party

1946: (August) Vice Chair, Party Congress of the Korean Workers' Party
(December) Chief Secretary, North Korean Branch, Korean Communist Party

1947: (February) Chair, North Korean People's Committee

1948: (February) Establishment of the Korean People's Army
(March) Vice Chair, 2nd Party Congress of the Korean Workers' Party
(August) Delegate (deputy), 1st Supreme People's Assembly
(September) Prime Minister, (first) DPRK Cabinet

1949: (June) Chair, Korean Workers' Party Central Committee

1950: (June) Invasion of South Korea; Chair, Military Committee
(July) Supreme Commander, Korean People's Army

1953: (February) Awarded, title, Marshal of the KPA
(July) Signatory, Armistice Agreement
(August) Awarded, title, Hero

1956: (April) Chair, Central Committee, KWP, 3rd Party Congress

1957: (August) Delegate (deputy), 2nd SPA
(September) Prime Minister, 2nd DPRK Cabinet

1961: (September) Chair, Political Bureau and Central Committee, KWP
4th Party Congress

1962: (October) Delegate (deputy) 3rd SPA
Premier, 3rd DPRK Cabinet

1966: (October) General-Secretary, KWP

1967: (November) Delegate (deputy), 4th SPA
(December) Premier, 4th DPRK Cabinet

1970: (November) Member, Political Bureau; Chair, Central Military Commission;
Member, Central Committee, KWP, 5th Party Congress

1972: (December) Delegate (deputy) 5th SPA
President, DPRK; Chair, Central People's Committee; Chair, National
Defense Commission

At the 5th SPA, a DPRK Constitution was adopted, making Kim Il-sung the DPRK's head of state (as President and Chair of the Central People's Committee). It could be said that the adoption of the 1972 DPRK Constitution established Kim Il-sung's dictatorship.

1977: (November) Delegate (deputy) 6th SPA

1980: (October) Permanent Member, Political Bureau, KWP, 6th Party Congress

At the Sixth Party Congress, Kim Il-sung's son, Kim Jong-il was officially identified and established as President Kim's successor.

1982: (February) Delegate (deputy), 7th SPA

In the summer of 1986, Kim Il-sung had a massive heart attack, but managed to recover. There are also accounts that he was the target of a coup.

1986: (November) Delegate (deputy), 8th SPA

1990: (April) Delegate (deputy), 9th SPA



An illicit photograph of the late DPRK President with the *hoksan* (tumor).

By the late 1980's Kim Il-sung was advancing in age and had several health problems, including high blood pressure. President Kim also had an inoperable benign tumor near his right shoulder. He was only photographed from his left side, and the tumor is said to have startled people who met or greeted President Kim, previously unaware of the tumor's existence. By the late 1980's, Kim Il-sung was semi-retired with most all of his administrative tasks franchised to Kim Jong-il through the directorate of the KWP Organization and Guidance Department. When the North Korean economy all but ceased to exist in the early 1990's, several accounts say Kim Il-sung emerged from retirement to attempt to solve the DPRK's economic problems and the impending crisis in the food supply.

1994: (July) Died, Hyangsan County, North Pyongan

Kim Il-sung died of a massive heart attack on, or around, 8 July 1994 at a summer home near the historic sites and International Friendship Exhibition in Mount Myoghyang. He was made the Eternal President of the DPRK. His official head of state residence, Kumsusan, was converted into a memorial hall and his embalmed body placed on permanent display.