



Kim Jong-il

Current positions:

Chairman, National Defense Commission  
General-Secretary, Korean Workers' Party  
Standing Member, Political Bureau, KWP  
Chair, KWP Central Military Commission  
Marshal and Supreme Commander, Korean People's Army  
Director, Organization and Guidance Department, KWP  
Delegate (deputy), 12<sup>th</sup> SPA (Representing Electoral District 333)

Born: February, 1941, Khabarovsk, Siberia, Russian Federation [USSR] (claimed as 16 February 1942 on Mount Paektu/Changbai Mountain, DPRK-PRC border)

Family: Kim Jong-il is the first child and eldest son of the late DPRK President Kim Il-sung and his first wife. His mother is Kim Jong-suk (1917-1949), the orphaned daughter of an impoverished farmer from Hoeryong, North Hamgyong Province, who joined Kim Il-sung's guerilla unit in 1935. Kim Jong-il has one surviving sibling, Kim Kyong-hui, director of the KWP Light Industry Department, and several step- and half-siblings.

Kim Jong-il has seven children with five women. His oldest child is a daughter, Kim Hye-kyong (born 1968), whom he fathered with current Kim Hyong-jik University Dean (and alleged first wife) Hong Il-chon (born 1942). His eldest son, Kim Jong-nam (born 1971), is the only child from his relationship with former Korea Film Studios actress Song Hye-rim (1937-2002). He has two daughters, Kim Sol-song (born 1974) and Kim Chun-song (born ca. 1976) with his official wife, Kim Yong-suk (born 1947). In the late 1970's he began a

relationship with Korean-Japanese dancer Ko Yong-hui (1953-2004) from whom he has his youngest children: sons Kim Jong-chol (born 1980) and Kim Jong-un (born 1984), and a daughter, Kim Yo-chong (born 1989).

#### Education:

1948-1950: Namsan Kintergarten, Pyongyang

During the Korean War, Kim Jong-il and Kim Kyong-hui were moved to several safe houses south of Pyongyang, and in Jilin, China. From 1950 to 1952, he was tutored at home and is said to have attended an elementary school in Jilin.

1952-1953: Mangyongdae Revolutionary School, Pyongyang

1953-1954: Samsok People's School

1954: Pyongyang Fourth People's School

1954-1957: Pyongyang First Junior Middle School (Chair, Boys' League)

1957-1960: Namsan Senior Middle School (Chair, Democratic Youth League)

1960: Political Economy Department, Kim Il-sung University (matriculated 1964)

#### Positions held:

1961: (July) Initiated membership, Korean Workers' Party

1964: (June) Cadre, Organization and Guidance Department, KWP

1966: Chief cadre, Organization and Guidance Department, KWP

1967: (May) Section Chief, Cultural and Art Guidance Section, Propaganda and Agitation Department, KWP

1970: Deputy Director, Propaganda and Agitation Department, KWP

1973: (June) Director, Propaganda and Agitation Department, KWP

1973: (September) Secretary of Organization and Propaganda, Central Committee, KWP

1974: (February) Member, Political Committee, Central Committee, KWP

1975: (February) Awarded, title, Hero of the Republic

1980: (October) 6<sup>th</sup> Party Congress: Member, Central Committee, KWP  
Member, Political Bureau, KWP  
Member, Central Military Commission, KWP

1982: (February) Delegate (deputy), 7<sup>th</sup> SPA

1986: (November) Delegate (deputy), 8<sup>th</sup> SPA

1990: (April) Delegate (deputy), 9<sup>th</sup> SPA  
(May) Vice Chair, National Defense Commission

By the late 1980's Kim Jong-il held operational control over the Korean Workers' Party, as well as certain constituencies within the DPRK's security apparatus. As Kim Il-sung grew older, he ceded more control to his son.

1991: (December) Supreme Commander, KPA

1992: (April) Marshal, KPA

1993: (April) Elected, Chair, National Defense Commission

In July 1994, Kim Il-sung passed away, leaving his son to manage negotiations over the DPRK's strategic weapons programs, relations with South Korea, a collapsing economy and an impending famine. Under the pretext of a three-year mourning period for his father, Kim Jong-il spent the years 1994 to 1997 formalizing his own succession, and initiated little in the way of policy or action to solve the growing food crisis in North Korea. He took control of the Korean People's Army and instituted his own method of communications and control to quell any opposition and maintain regime security. Kim Jong-il relied on an informal management system where he assigned secondary officials with patronage connections to him to monitor and communicate about the activities of KWP officers and State and KPA executives, allowing him to assess compliance with his policies. He gained control over the DPRK's security apparatus, and the KPA, by suppressing a potential military coup in 1995, and purging members of the security services, particularly the State Security Department in 1997.

1997: (October) Elected, by the KWP Central Military Commission and Central Committee  
General-Secretary, KWP

1998: (July) Delegate (deputy) 10<sup>th</sup> SPA  
Re-elected, Chairman, National Defense Commission

In 1998, the DPRK Constitution was amended. Kim Jong-il did not become the President of the DPRK, or its formal head of state. At the first session of the 10<sup>th</sup> SPA, Kim Yong-nam declared, "The position

of National Defense Commission chairman is the highest state position. . .by commanding the state's political, economic and military capabilities in their entirety..."

2003: (September) Delegate (deputy), 11<sup>th</sup> SPA  
Re-elected, Chairman, National Defense Commission

In August 2008, Kim Jong-il had a stroke and recuperated over the subsequent three months.

2009: (April) Delegate (deputy), 12<sup>th</sup> SPA  
Re-elected, Chairman, National Defense Commission

Amid rumors of succession and deteriorating health, Kim Jong-il has made a record number of guidance visits to military and economic locales. With the the 12<sup>th</sup> Supreme People's Assembly, he may have initiated the systemic changes intended to facilitate succession through the National Defense Commission, either dynastic or through a collective leadership.