AWESOME stories

- 0. KIM IL SUNG Story Preface
- 1. KOREA DIVIDED
- 2. RESULTS OF THE SPLIT
- 3. WHY WAR?
- 4. AMERICA INTERVENES
- 5. CHINA INTERVENES
- 6. DEATH AT CHOSIN RESERVOIR
- 7. STALEMATE
- 8. HEARTBREAK RIDGE
- 9. KOREAN WAR PICTURES
- **10. HOSTILITIES TODAY**
- 11. NUCLEAR WEAPONS

12. KIM IL SUNG

KIM IL SUNG



Kim IL Sung was the first ruler of North Korea. He is still revered by North Koreans who refer to him as their "Great Leader." After his death, the government of North Korea commissioned this portrait of him. It is online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

North Korea's political philosophy (popularized by its leader Kim il Sung since about 1955) is known as <u>chuch'e</u> (frequently referred to as *juche*).

It is, in *theory*, the application of <u>Marxism-Leninism</u> to the North Korean experience. It is, in *practice*, living one's life in a totally self-reliant country which is totally loyal to the country's leader. And it is impossible to even begin to understand life in North Korea without grasping what juche is all about.

The country's newspapers make the point. <u>Kim il Sung</u> came <u>to power</u> in 1946, at the height of Stalin's authority. (It is sometimes said that North Korea is the last remaining <u>Stalinist state</u> in the world.) By the spring of 1981, Kim il Sung was so firmly entwined in the daily <u>production</u> and fabric of North Korean society that its press published the following quotes:

Kim Il Sung ... is the <u>great father</u> of our people....Long is the history of the word father being used as a word representing love and reverence ... expressing the unbreakable blood <u>ties</u> between the people and the leader. Father. This familiar word represents our people's single heart of boundless respect and loyalty.... The love shown by the <u>Great Leader</u>

In North Korea, Kim il Sung is still regarded as the uniting force of the country and its people:

His heart is a traction power attracting the hearts of all people and a centripetal force uniting them as one.... <u>Kim II Sung</u> [here people are in line to see his birthplace] is the great sun and great man ... thanks to this great heart, national independence is firmly guaranteed.

How did the country's leader respond to such effusive statements? His 1992 New Year's message is a good summary:

I take great pride in and highly appreciate the fact that our people have overcome the ordeals of history and displayed to the full the heroic mettle of the revolutionary people and the indomitable spirit of chuch'e Korea, firmly united behind the party ... No difficulty is insurmountable nor is any fortress impregnable for us when our party leads the people with the ever-victorious chuch'e-oriented strategy and tactics and when all the people turn out as one under the party's leadership.

When Kim il Sung was no longer able to run the country, his son - the late leader, Kim il Jung - took over. Even though no formal succession had been established (because of Kim il Sung's <u>popularity</u> and national <u>adulation</u>), Kim Jung il remained firmly in control <u>during his lifetime</u>. He also enjoyed the benefits of juche (chuch'e), until he died in December of 2011.

Now <u>Kim Jong-un</u>, the son of Kim Jung il, has been named the latest member of the Kim dynasty to lead North Korea. One is left with no reasonable doubt that <u>Korea's current leader</u>, like his father and grandfather before him, intends to make sure North Korea has the battle power it needs to wage war both <u>offensively</u> and <u>defensively</u>.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/KIM-IL-SUNG-Korean-War

See Learning Tasks for this story online at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/KIM-IL-SUNG-Korean-War

Media Stream



<u>Kim II Sung</u> Image online, courtesy the official website of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Kim-II-Sung-</u>

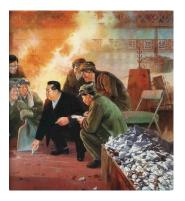


<u>Kim II Sung - Came to Power</u> Image online, courtesy the official website of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Kim-II-Sung-Came-to-Power</u>



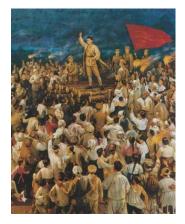
<u>Kim II Sung - Symbol of Korean Society</u> Image online, courtesy the official website of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Kim-II-Sung-Symbol-of-Korean-Society</u>

<u>Kim II Sung - Great Father of the People</u> Image online, courtesy the official website of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Kim-II-Sung-Great-Father-of-the-People</u>











Kim II Sung - Great Leader

Image online, courtesy the official website of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Kim-Il-Sung-Great-Leader</u>

Kim II Sung - Unbreakable Ties Between Leader and People Image online, courtesy the official website of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Kim-Il-Sung-Unbreakable-Ties-Between-Leader-and-People

Kim II Sung - People in Line to See His Birthplace Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons. View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Kim-II-Sung-People-in-Line-to-See-His-Birthplace

Kim II Sung - Popularity as Leader

Image online, courtesy the official website of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Kim-II-Sung-Popularity-as-Leader</u>

Kim II Sung - National Adulation

Image online, courtesy the official website of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Kim-Il-Sung-National-Adulation</u>