



# BULLETIN

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## KIM JONG IL

### BIOGRAPHY

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(February 1942 - March 1964)

Comrade **Kim Jong Il** was born in the secret camp on Mt. Paektu (Samjiyon County, Ryanggang Province) on February 16, Juche 31(1942)<sup>2</sup>, in a historical period when a new advance was being made in the development of the Korean and world revolution.

Comrade **Kim Jong Il's** family was a patriotic and revolutionary family in a way unprecedented in history.

His father, Comrade **Kim Il Sung**, was the father of Korean nation, the founder of socialist Korea and the leader of Korean people.

Comrade **Kim Il Sung** was a thinker, theoretician, politician and military strategist who performed outstanding exploits for the Korean and world revolution, as well as for the times and mankind.

His mother, **Kim Jong Suk**, was a communist revolutionary fighter who, under the guidance of Comrade **Kim Il Sung**, devoted her whole life to the struggle for the restoration of the country and the freedom and happiness of the people.

His grandfather, **Kim Hyong Jik**, leader of the anti- Japanese national liberation movement, was a pioneer in shifting the direction from the nationalist movement to the communist movement in Korea.

His grandmother, **Kang Pan Sok**, his grandfather's younger brother, Comrade

**Kim Hyong Gwon**, his uncle, Comrade **Kim Chol Ju** and his maternal uncles, Comrade **Kim Ki Jun** and **Kim Ki Song** were also revolutionary fighters who dedicated their lives to the cause of national restoration.

His patriotic and revolutionary family, all of whose members had fought for the country and the people through generations, became the foundation which rendered it possible for Comrade **Kim Jong Il** to grow acquiring the traits of a people's leader from his early years.

From his childhood Comrade **Kim Jong Il** was extraordinarily clever and wise.

From his early years Comrade **Kim Jong Il** possessed the power of keen observation, the power of clear analysis and extraordinary perspicacity with regard to things and phenomena.

He had a faculty for creative thinking, regarding every problem with an innovative eye.

Courageous and ambitious, Comrade **Kim Jong Il** did everything in a big way; he had a strong and daring character which enabled him to carry any difficult task to completion with his own efforts, once he started it.

Possessed of warm human love and broadmindedness, he was always generous, unceremonious and warm-hearted among people.

His unusual natural disposition was nurtured, so developing the traits and quality of a future revolutionary and leader, thanks to the exceptional education he received from his parents.

What his father had told about the lofty idea of *Jiwon* (Aim High)<sup>3</sup> cherished by his grandfather, about the struggle of his family in Mangyongdae who had devoted themselves to the country and the revolution through generations, about the patriotic predecessors of Korea, the anti-Japanese revolutionary forerunners and about the members of the Children's Corps embedded revolutionary spirit in his heart as a boy. In particular, the unremitting revolutionary activity of his father, Comrade **Kim Il Sung** and the personality of his mother, who was helping his father's revolutionary activity with all devotion, made the filial piety to his father in Comrade **Kim Jong Il's** heart sublimate into loyalty to the leader.

Indeed, Comrade **Kim Jong Suk** was a great mother of the revolution who laid the foundation to carry forward the revolutionary cause of the great leader Comrade **Kim Il Sung** through generations.

Growing up in the days of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle and in the period when a new country was being built, as well as in the flames of the fierce Fatherland Liberation War, Comrade **Kim Jong Il** cultivated uncommon qualities and disposition through his experiences of real life, and through his practical activity.

Witnessing the activity of Comrade **Kim Il Sung** who was handling all the problems, without a day's rest, in the building of a new country after liberation, and also spending his days at the Supreme Headquarters of the Korean people's Army accompanying President **Kim Il Sung** during the fatherland Liberation War, Comrade **Kim Jong Il** experienced many events to be particularly noted in history. Especially, during the war, he was greatly impressed by Comrade **Kim Il Sung**'s outstanding and seasoned ability of leadership, indomitable will, outstanding military wisdom and noble virtues.

He strengthened his conviction that because we were led by Comrade **Kim Il Sung**, it was possible for us to shape the destiny of the country and the people and win the war.

In the song *The Embrace of My Motherland*<sup>4</sup> written in 1952 Comrade **Kim Jong Il** gave a truthful depiction of his conviction and determination to be loyal to Comrade **Kim Il Sung**.

As we have seen, in his early days Comrade **Kim Jong Il** embodied his loyalty to Comrade **Kim Il Sung** in the noble heights. Later on this became the foundation of all his ideological and theoretical activity as well as of his practical activity.

Comrade **Kim Jong Il** finished the course of general education from September 1950 to August 1960.

In his boyhood, comrade **Kim Jong Il** energetically worked to learn after President **Kim Il Sung** at the head of young students and schoolchildren.

In his primary school days, Comrade **Kim Jong Il** sponsored the formation of a "Group for the Study of General **Kim Il Sung**'s Short Biography" with the Children's Union members of his class and involved himself in this work.

The aim of this study group was for the pupils to form a clear understanding of Comrade **Kim Il Sung**'s greatness through the study of his revolutionary history, and prepare themselves as pillars of the Korean revolution.

The "Group for the Study of General **Kim Il Sung**'s Short Biography" played a great role in making our younger generation, sons and daughters, faithful to Comrade **Kim Il Sung** in the days of the grim war, and later on the experience this group gained

in its activity became the foundation in intensifying the work of emulating Comrade **Kim Il Sung**.

In July 1953 the Fatherland Liberation War ended in the victory of the Korean people.

Following the war Comrade **Kim Jong Il**, having finished the Pyongyang Primary School No. 4, studied at the Pyongyang Middle School No.1, striving to acquire a wide range of knowledge.

Comrade **Kim Jong Il** sponsored a march to visit the areas of Pochonbo and Samjiyon, old battlefields of the anti-Japanese armed struggle, and led the first expeditionary rank.

This visit was significant because it opened up the route for the march to visit the revolutionary battlefields around Mt.Paektu which was launched afterwards throughout the country.

Comrade **Kim Jong Il** set forth the slogan “Let us learn for Korea!” and strove to establish Juche<sup>5</sup> among students and young people.

On September 1, 1957, Comrade **Kim Jong Il** went on to a senior class of the Pyongyang Middle School No. 1 (Later it became the Pyongyang Namsan Higher Middle School).

During this period Comrade **Kim Jong Il** paid great attention to doing away with the ideological venom of flunkeyism and dogmatism, and the flunkeyist and dogmatic ways of thinking which had caused enormous harm to the revolution through the ages and had been implanted even among young people and students to a considerable extent.

He closely studied and acquired in full the policies and revolutionary traditions of the Workers’ Party of Korea and enthusiastically learned the history, culture, geography and beautiful manners and customs of Korea, while assimilating foreign things to apply them to the actual situation of Korea.

Comrade **Kim Jong Il** frequently visited factories and rural communities with his schoolmates. At the practice workshop of the school he repaired trucks and electric motors and operated them, striving to become proficient with them.

The example shown by Comrade **Kim Jong Il** was of great help in encouraging his fellow students to establish a viewpoint and attitude of regarding our own things more dearly and developing them.

During his school days Comrade **Kim Jong Il** was very enthusiastic about the work of the Democratic Youth League(DYL)<sup>6</sup>.

From September 1957 Comrade **Kim Jong Il** worked as vice-chairman of the DYL committee of the school (the chairman being a teacher).

During this period the socialist transformation of the production relations reached the stage of completion in the country, and the grand march of Chollima<sup>7</sup> started with the result that a great change was taking place in the ideological state of the people.

Nevertheless, the work of the DYL did not rid itself completely of the old patterns of formalism owing to the evil consequences of the machinations of the anti-party, counterrevolutionary factionalists. The DYL organizations did not properly organize and conduct their work in conformity with their character as organizations for ideological education and to suit the new circumstances.

Fully grasping this situation, Comrade **Kim Jong Il** paid close attention to the implementation of Comrade **Kim Il Sung**'s idea on the youth movement.

Comrade Kim Jong Il regarded the basic task of the school DYL organization to be to train members as revolutionaries, faithful to the Party and the leader, and as highly-informed and well-qualified builders of socialism. He ensured that ideological education for DYL members was intensified and that DYL organizations gave efficient guidance to the DYL organizational life, to study and to the work of the Children's Union organization, and organized all work in an original and broad way in conformity with the specific features of young people.

He carried on ideological education not in a stereotyped manner but in a varied and original way to suit the characteristic features of young people.

Comrade **Kim Jong Il** organized a visit of inspection to the old school and native village of Hero Ri Su Bok<sup>8</sup> in April 1958 to get young people to emulate the Hero's loyalty to his leader and his burning love of the country and the people.

Comrade **Kim Jong Il** saw that the ideological education of young people and students was switched from the method of exposing and criticizing negative practices to that of actively finding positive examples and publicizing them and widely popularizing them.

Comrade **Kim Jong Il** gave close attention to encouraging DYL organization to provide effective guidance for the organizational life of their members.

Comrade **Kim Jong Il** taught that the major task of DYL organizations was to lead

their members to study hard and that this was the keynote in the guidance given to the life in the DYL organizations, and actively organized and conducted contests on the subjects of study, seminars on various subjects and symposia on literary works and the like.

Saying that students must put all their energies into study, Comrade **Kim Jong Il** showed an actual example. Already in his middle school days he put more energy than others into study to acquire a wide range of knowledge, saying that enthusiasm was the source of creation. In his higher middle school, he avidly read the works of President Kim Il Sung and Marxist-Leninist writings as well as the textbooks on the subjects of his study. He energetically read books on special technical fields such as mechanical engineering, agronomy and animal husbandry as well as books on social sciences and literary works.

Comrade **Kim Jong Il**'s scholastic pursuits were very wide and profound.

Thanks to Comrade **Kim Jong Il**'s example and energetic guidance, the students' enthusiasm to learn was greatly stimulated.

Comrade **Kim Jong Il** also channelled his efforts into getting DYL organizations to encourage their members to establish the spirit of leading a voluntary organizational life.

Comrade **Kim Jong Il** ensured that DYL organizations gave assignments to all their members, inquired into their implementation from time to time and gave them every assistance. He also saw that all DYL members had a correct viewpoint about criticism and participated in criticism and self-criticism with a will.

Comrade **Kim Jong Il** was also deeply concerned about the work of the Children's Union organization and established the system under which qualified DYL members of the higher classes became assistant sub-branch instructors, taking charge of and guiding sub-branches of the Children's Union to help class teachers who were guiding its sub-branches. It played an important role in ensuring the guidance by the DYL organization of the Children's Union organization.

Thanks to Comrade **Kim Jong Il**'s energetic activity, the work of the school DYL organization got rid of the old patterns of the past and was conducted with originality and vigour.

In the course of this Comrade **Kim Jong Il**'s competent organizational ability was displayed.

Comrade **Kim Jong Il** became actively involved in the efforts to build socialism in

the van of his fellow students.

At the National Meeting of Young Builders of Socialism, in March 1958, Comrade **Kim Il Sung** said that under the leadership of the Party the young people must work out a bright new age, a new socialist era for themselves. He appealed to all the young people to dedicate their enthusiasm, wisdom and ability to socialist construction.

In those days Comrade **Kim Jong Il** took part in the work for the building of 20,000 family dwellings for Pyongyang City.

He brought his classmates' enthusiasm into full play and organized a technical innovation movement, thereby making it possible to bring about collective innovations to move much faster than formerly.

Comrade **Kim Jong Il** took part in the work of Taedong River bank protection. He involved himself in the construction of the Pyongyang School Children's Palace, motivating his fellow students to labour feats through skilful organizational and political work and by his working examples.

Comrade **Kim Jong Il** finished the course of higher middle school in August 1960.

Comrade **Kim Jong Il** was admitted to the course of political economy, faculty of economics, **Kim Il Sung** University, on September 1, 1960.

On that day he was firmly determined to make his university days a period of preparation to succeed to the Juche cause.

Comrade **Kim Jong Il** said:

“As I enter the highest institute of science, I am more firmly determined to shoulder the future of the revolution upholding the noble intention of the leader.”

“I intend to make my university days a fruitful period to learn the leader's revolutionary idea more closely and make preparations to shoulder the Korean revolution.”

That day he climbed Ryongnam Hill and recited a poem, *Korea, I Will Glorify Thee*<sup>9</sup> in which he expressed his determination to carry the revolutionary cause of Juche to completion upholding the will of Comrade **Kim Il Sung**.

Having entered the university with great intentions, Comrade **Kim Jong Il** put all his energies into fully acquiring Comrade **Kim Il Sung**'s revolutionary idea, his revolutionary theory and leadership methods as well as accumulating all-round knowledge of nature and society.

In his junior and higher middle school days Comrade **Kim Jong Il** studied Comrade **Kim Il Sung**'s works and teachings in a systematic way.

Now he was studying Comrade **Kim Il Sung**'s works again including **Kim Il Sung**'s *Selected Works* in a chronologically rounded way. In particular, he firmly grasped the idea and theory of Comrade **Kim Il Sung** who was solving all problems of the revolution and construction in an original way, proceeding from the specific situation in the country.

He also studied, from the standpoint of Juche and in breadth and depth, the legacies of progressive ideas and theories and scientific and cultural legacies left by mankind, and particularly the preceding revolutionary thoughts and theories of the working class.

In the first period of his university days Comrade **Kim Jong Il** read through numerous works of former classes such as *The Communist Manifesto*, *The Capital*, *Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism* and *State and Revolution*. In some pages he went through he pointed out the limitations of the theories.

For instance, he wrote: "This theory does not suit our era," and "It is confined to describing the matter in outline, but has not unfolded the theory any further." He also elucidated his viewpoints on the given problems.

Comrade **Kim Jong Il** accumulated a wide range of knowledge not only on political economy, his specialized field, but also on many other fields such as philosophy and military science.

While devoting himself to scientific pursuit, he carried out a variety of activities in university days.

Comrade **Kim Jong Il**, first of all, paid deep attention to establishing a revolutionary outlook on the leader among the students.

Through many talks and seminars, he theoretically explained that the leader was the top-intellect of the revolution, the centre of unity and the supreme leader of the revolution.

In those days Comrade **Kim Jong Il** led the students so that they overcame the tendency to think highly of the preceding theories and a dogmatic attitude toward study, a damaging practice among students in those days. He ensured that they acquired a firm viewpoint on considering all problems of the revolution and construction according to the standards of Comrade **Kim Il Sung**'s revolutionary idea and solving them in the interests of the revolution.



Comrade **Kim Jong Il** emphasized to his fellow students the necessity to closely study President **Kim Il Sung**'s works.

He worked out the plan of study and the goal of study so that during the first and second years they studied and made abstracts of all his works contained in **Kim Il Sung**'s *Selected Works*, and in the third and fourth years they intensified the study of these works reading them again. Comrade **Kim Jong Il** saw to it that education in the revolutionary traditions was intensified to enable students to fully acquire the historic root of the Party and the revolution, and that great efforts were channelled into class education and anti-revisionist education to instil a firm working-class attitude and establish strong revolutionary principles.

Comrade **Kim Jong Il** was deeply concerned with combining theory with practice on the part of the students.

He involved himself in the production training at the Pyongyang Textile Machinery Factory (then the Pyongyang Textile Machinery Manufactory). He also took part in the project to widen the Wasandong-Ryongsong Road in Pyongyang.

He faithfully performed his duty as a student apprentice and a member of shock brigade.

During his practice at the Pyongyang Textile Machinery Factory he aroused the workers of the factory to launch a movement for model machines in maintenance and operation, personally handing lathe No.26. This movement became the inception of the "model machine movement of loyalty for emulating lathe No.26", which is now conducted as a mass movement.

Comrade **Kim Jong Il** joined the Workers' Party of Korea on July 22, 1961.

Then Comrade **Kim Jong Il** led his life at the university faithfully with a high degree of consciousness as a Party member, and with a sense of his great mission to the Party and the revolution. During his university days he actively assisted the leadership of Comrade **Kim Il Sung**.

He accompanied Comrade **Kim Il Sung** on tours of field guidance in North Phyongan Province, North and South Hwanghae Provinces, Ryanggang Province and South Hamgyong Province. He saw to it that Party organizations at all levels squarely tackled the implementation of Comrade **Kim Il Sung**'s instructions as the central factor in Party work.

He emphasized the need for Party organizations to fully embody the Chongsanri spirit and Chongsanri method<sup>10</sup> and definitely turn all work into work with people<sup>11</sup>,

into political work.

Attending Comrade **Kim Il Sung** on his tours of field guidance in the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Works and Nampho Smeltery, Comrade **Kim Jong Il** discussed with the officials concerned ways for successful technical reconstruction of the national economy. He also paid close attention to rural technical revolution. Inspecting many agricultural cooperatives in South Hwanghae Province and other parts of the country in company with Comrade **Kim Il Sung**, he gave instructions to introduce mechanization and chemical application to backbreaking farm work, and actively introduce advanced farming methods.

Comrade **Kim Jong Il** helped Comrade **Kim Il Sung** on the spot in his preparations for and guidance of the Changsong Joint Conference of Local Party and Economic Officials which aimed at developing local economies and radically improving people's living standards. Afterwards he visited mountainous counties such as Phungsan County, Ryanggang Province and Toksong County, South Hamgyong Province, and encouraged these counties to actively introduce the advanced experience of Changsong County<sup>12</sup>.

In order to realize Comrade **Kim Il Sung**'s idea of creating Juche-oriented socialist art and literature, Comrade **Kim Jong Il** gave valuable instructions on the need to identify literary works created by Comrade **Kim Il Sung** during the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, and represent them, creating operas and dramas conforming to the era of independence and effectively depicting the working-class leader.

In response to Comrade **Kim Il Sung**'s plan to establish TV broadcasting, Comrade **Kim Jong Il** took care of its preparations including the manufacture of equipment and testing of transmission and reception, thus ensuring the start of broadcasting.

Comrade **Kim Jong Il**'s activity in university days to assist Comrade **Kim Il Sung** contributed greatly to his achieving leadership.

Comrade **Kim Jong Il** paid deep attention to the improvement of the contents of the university education.

In his treatise *On Reexamining the Question of the Unification of the Three Kingdoms*, Comrade **Kim Jong Il** comprehensively analysed and criticized the "Theory of the Unification of the Three Kingdoms by Silla", and the "Theory of Silla's Orthodoxy", and put forward his view on the need of newly systematizing from a Juche-orientated stand the Korean history which had been distorted by flunkey historians. As it turned out, this was a great scientific discovery.

Comrade **Kim Jong Il** made it clear that the main features of a nation were the commonness of blood, language and territory, and that the commonness of the blood and language was the most important characteristic feature of a nation. Furthermore, he pointed out that the Korean nation was not formed during the Japanese imperialist colonial rule or after liberation, as was asserted by some scholars. He said it was a resourceful nation with a long history of 5,000 years, and its overseas compatriots also belonged to the Korean nation.

Comrade **Kim Jong Il** paid great attention to correctly elucidating the greatness, originality and validity of Comrade **Kim Il Sung**'s revolutionary idea.

At scientific seminars and during his discourses with fellow students, Comrade **Kim Jong Il** proved that by authoring the Juche idea Comrade **Kim Il Sung** established fundamentally new principles of world outlook, and brought all the theories of the revolution and construction, such as philosophy, economics and political theories, to a new level.

In many discourses such as *On the Emergence of Modern Revisionism* Comrade **Kim Jong Il** analysed the cause of the emergence of modern revisionism, its reactionary nature and danger during his university days.

He pointed out that the harmfulness of modern revisionism was its denial of the leadership of the working-class party over the revolution and construction; its yielding to intimidation by the US imperialists' nuclear blackmail policy, the spreading illusion about imperialism, withdrawal from the anti-imperialist struggle and the undermining of unity and cohesion of socialist countries and the international communist movement.

Comrade **Kim Jong Il** developed the revolutionary idea of the working class in depth.

In many treatises and discourses such as *On the Decisive Role of Ideology* (December, 1962) he developed a Juche-oriented philosophical world outlook, socio-historical outlook and other revolutionary theories.

Having elucidated the limitation of historical materialism, regarding the process of the development of social history as the process of natural history, he clarified the fundamental principle of the Juche-oriented socio-historic outlook which believed that social history changed and developed thanks to the creative struggle of the masses to realize their desire for independence. He pointed out the shortcoming of the view which suggests that ideological consciousness always lags behind real life because social being defines social consciousness. He elucidated a new view that progressive

idea of the era precedes actual life and that ideology plays a decisive role in the revolutionary struggle.

With regard to the nature of social revolution, Comrade **Kim Jong Il** said we should not regard revolution as mere replacement of a social system. He pointed out the need to formulate it from a new angle including the revolution in the ideological, technical and cultural spheres that continues after the establishment of a socialist system. Moreover, he explained the limitations of former theories on the types of revolution and formulated a new definition that anti-imperialist, anti-feudal democratic revolution should be regarded as an independent type of revolution.

In many discourses such as *The Working-class Leader Is Not an Individual* and *The Working-class Leader Plays a Decisive Role in the Revolutionary Struggle*, Comrade **Kim Jong Il** systematized and deepened the theory on the position and role of the leader, thus establishing for the first time a scientific theory on the leader.

In many treatises and discourses such as *The Validity of Our Party's Policy of Developing Local Economies* and *The Tae'an Work System<sup>13</sup> Is an Original System for Managing Socialist Economy*, Comrade **Kim Jong Il** scientifically proved the originality and justness of the line of building an independent national economy and of the basic line of socialist economic construction set by the Workers' Party of Korea.

Comrade **Kim Jong Il** published a treatise *On the Special Features and Aggressive Nature of Modern Imperialism* in January 1962.

On the basis of comprehensively analysing modern imperialism he drew the following conclusion:

“...Modern imperialism is one in which not only monopoly is based on domination. It is imperialism which has state monopoly capitalism as its political and economic basis, relies not on old colonialism but on neo-colonialism, does not exist in parallel with each other but has been regrouped in a subordinate way headed by US imperialism, is not growing in scope and strength but is rapidly falling into decay and ruin, making desperate efforts.”

Comrade **Kim Jong Il** pointed out that the aggressive nature of imperialism had not changed in the least but had become more vicious; he exposed the crafty, aggressive nature of the US imperialists' double-dealing tactics, and in particular of their “peace strategy”.

Comrade **Kim Jong Il** published his graduation thesis *The Position and Role of a County in Socialist Construction* on March 18, 1964.

He had been paying close attention to the rural question under socialism in those days. He wrote this thesis based on the data he collected while assisting Comrade **Kim Il Sung** over the whole course when the Changsong Joint Conference of Local Party and Economic Officials was prepared and held in July and August 1962.

In his thesis Comrade **Kim Jong Il** proved the validity of Comrade **Kim Il Sung**'s theory on a regional base in the building of socialism, and developed it in depth.

In his university days Comrade **Kim Jong Il** made a great contribution to the fulfilment of the revolutionary cause of Juche through his energetic, ideological and theoretical activities and by his practical activities. He enjoyed respect and trust among broad sections of youth and other people as an outstanding political worker by acquiring the Juche-oriented art of leadership, and leadership quality, in an all-round way.

