

# The DPRK: Is it a Failed State?

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# Review

- When did South Korea become a real democracy?
- Who was Kim Daejung and why was he given the Nobel Peace Prize?
- Why do South Korean political parties change their names so often?
- What are the three dramatic transformations of South Korea since 1960?

# The DPRK: A Review

- In the 1950s and 1960s was one of the world's most successful Communist economies. Economic Decline starting in the 1980s, and then economic collapse in the 1990s. A slow recovery is under way, but the north remains far behind the south.
- Growing isolation from the rest of the world, again starting in the 1980s. North Korea doesn't understand how it looks to the rest the world. Many North Koreans think the rest of the world envies them for their wise leadership.
  - A Communist dynasty: the third Kim ruler in a row: Kim Il Sung 1948-1994
    - Kim Jung Il 1994-2011
    - Kim Jung Un 2011---

## the DPRK in The 1990s

- 1994 Jimmy Carter visits North Korea, and Kim Il Sung dies
- He is succeeded by Kim Jong Il (A Communist Dynasty!) Kim Jong Il becomes the new supreme leader (though his dead daddy is still the president!)
- North Korea goes into economic decline in 1989, has yet to fully recover. It has fallen far behind South Korea. The 1990s are called the “arduous march.” A significant percentage of the DPRK population remains malnourished.
- Relations between the North and the South have warmed up for a while, when Kim Daejung and Roh Moohyun promoted reconciliation (Sunshine policy) but they have gotten worse since then, especially since North Korea refuses to give up its atomic bombs. The over-the-top rhetoric from North Korea doesn't help, either.

# The Son also rises

- Kim Jong Il --a Communist dynasty
- How did he manage to grab and keep power even after daddy died?

The Party Centre (Kim Jong Il) placed men loyal to himself in key positions in the military, the bureaucracy, and the party.

- Why has North Korea now adopted a “Military-First” policy? (since 2003)
- Why has it built nuclear weapons?

# Life in the Kim's DPRK

- what happens to people who step out of line in the DPRK?
- Why has there been no major visible opposition to the government? Should most of the people who have left the DPRK be called political refugees or economic refugees?
- What happens to many North Korean women when they sneak into China?
- What happens to North Koreans who make it to the ROK?

# The Kim Jong Un Era: From Republic to Kingdom

- Why did Kim Jong Un become the new leader?
- Is he really in control?
- Why did he kill his uncle Jang Sungtaek?
- Who really runs the DPRK, the military, the party, or the government?
- Has North Korea already begun to change? What has changed in Pyongyang over the last few years? Is the gap between Pyongyang and the rest of the country growing?

# Is Reunification possible?

- Growing economic and cultural disparity between the DPRK and the ROK
- South Koreans are losing interest in uniting with the north.
- three scenarios:
  - The north collapses and is absorbed by the South.
  - Increasing economic integration of north and south leads to a free trade zone which will lead to growing administrative coordination and eventual union in a Koryŏ federation with local autonomy.
  - Or the DPRK may fall under China's control.