

# NORTH KOREA



**A TOTALITARIAN STATE**

# Ideology: Juche



The founder of Juche was Kim Il Sung, the first leader of North Korea and grandfather to the current leader Kim Jong Un

Juche literally means self-reliance. As a political philosophy, it entails utter independence to the exclusion of any kind of outside influence

Like religion, Juche even promises North Koreans a kind of immortality through their dedication to the state.

In Juche human beings are defined as members of a sociopolitical community. There's no individual apart from the community. Immortality comes about in that if your body dies, as long as your community survives you'll have some sort of continued existence.



There are an estimated 40,000 statues of Kim Il Sung, the founder of North Korea throughout the country



Every home in North Korea is required to have portraits of Kim and his son and successor, Kim Jong Il, who died in 2011, displayed. The portraits are treated like sacred objects and must be kept clean and well-maintained.

# Cult of personality



When Kim Jong Il, the father of Kim Jong Un died, state media reported a giant lake of ice cracking in half, a red glow covering the mountain where the Dear Leader was born and, magpies gathering by the dozens in a single tree, in grief. These may seem far fetched by here is some footage of the reaction of the North Korean people to his death.

# North Korea's newest claim: Kim Jong Un can control the weather

[Kim Hjelmggaard](#), USA TODAY

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After releasing images this weekend of a smiling Kim on top of Mount Paektu, the nation's state media said the "peerlessly illustrious commander" can control "the nature."

When Kim "ascended" to the top of the 9,000-foot mountain through thick snow a blizzard gave way to "fine weather unprecedented."

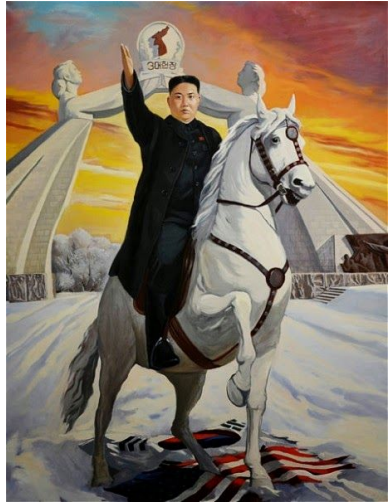
Kim Jong II, claimed that he was born on a secret military camp on the mountain and that his birth there coincided with the appearance of a double rainbow in the sky.



According to his official biography, his birth caused **a new star** to appear in the sky and he could walk and talk by 6 months old.

Kim Jong Il was a master golfer who shot **11 holes-in-one** in his very first game.

At various times North Korean state media has reported that his son started **driving at age 3** and is responsible for various **medical breakthroughs** in the treatment of cancer, Ebola and other serious illnesses



**“To my childish eyes and to those of all my friends, Kim Il-sung and Kim Jong-il were perfect beings, untarnished by any base human function. I was convinced, as we all were, that neither of them urinated or defecated. Who could imagine such things of gods?”**



**Kang Chol-wan, a defector writes of his childhood in North Korea**

# Fear, Repression and terror



A 2014 UN Commission of Inquiry found that abuses in North Korea were without equal in the world. They include murder, enslavement, torture, imprisonment, rape, forced abortions, and other sexual violence. North Korea operates secretive prison camps where perceived opponents of the government are sent to face torture and abuse, starvation rations, and forced labor. Fear of collective punishment is used to silence dissent. There is no independent media, functioning civil society, or religious freedom.



# Propaganda and censorship



Propaganda is information, especially of a biased or misleading nature, used to promote a political cause or point of view.



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# State-controlled economic policies

Pyongyang adopted three guiding policies:

- a self-sufficient national economy (produce everything yourself.)
  - Tariffs - taxes against imports. REACTION? Other countries raise tariffs against N.K producers
  - Inefficient businesses are protected. Lack of incentive to improve. No profit motivation of incentive to improve
  - A large bureaucracy is developed to take care of tariffs, restricting importers, etc.
  - What happens if there is a natural disaster as happened in 1995? SHORTAGES
- heavy-industry-first development
  - iron, steel, cement, coal - economy is not diverse enough to deal with downturns in certain sectors
- military-economy parallel development
  - Large-scale military spending draws off resources needed for investment and consumption.”